

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in commemorating the life of Coach Phil Ratliff for his service to the student athletes of Marshall University, James Madison University, and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte; in addition to the countless lives he impacted in his community.

RECOGNIZING DONALD ELLIS
WILLIAMSON, M.D.

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2015

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the long and devoted public service of Donald Ellis Williamson, M.D. After serving more than two decades as Alabama's State Health Officer and three years as the state Medicaid Commissioner, Dr. Williamson is stepping down from these positions next month.

Dr. Williamson attended the University of Mississippi School of Medicine, graduating Cum Laude in 1979. He pursued his internship and residency at the University of Virginia, and was certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine in 1982.

With his education complete, Dr. Williamson then began his long career in public health. After serving four years as the State Tuberculosis Control Officer in Mississippi (1982–1986), he held a series of positions in the Alabama Department of Public Health. He began as the Director of the Division of Disease Control (1986–1989) before serving as the Director of the Bureau of Preventive Health Services (1989–1992). On November 18, 1992, he started his service as the head of the Department.

During his tenure, Dr. Williamson became known for addressing key public health issues, such as disaster preparedness and advancing the health of children, in the name of improving health for all Alabamians. For example, in recent years, he led the state health efforts related to Hurricane Katrina in 2005, and also those related to the April 2011 tornadoes. He was responsible for the design & implementation of the state's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), known as ALLKIDS. This was one of the first Children's Health Insurance Programs in the nation and lowered the rate of uninsured children in Alabama from 20 percent to under 7 percent. He was also intent on doing a better job of reducing infant mortality and increasing children's immunization rates.

I wish Dr. Williamson all the very best as he steps down from the Department of Public Health and moves into his new role as president of the Alabama Hospital Association. I know that he will bring fresh insight to the Association and carry the organization to new heights. I look forward to working with him in this new position.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
MASON GREGORY

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2015

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Mason Gregory of Mooreville, Mississippi who joined his Heavenly Father on Monday, October 12, 2015.

Only 12 years old, Mason was a 7th grade student at Mooreville Middle School. He excelled at sports and was a member of the Mooreville Junior High Football team as well as Saltillo Park and Recreation baseball.

Outside of school, Mason was an active member of New Hope Baptist Church where he loved being a part of the youth group.

Mason spent most of his time outdoors, and his favorite activity was hunting with his dad.

Full of happiness and love, Mason was adored by his family, friends, and teammates.

Survivors include his parents, Bert and Angel Gregory of Tupelo; sister, Anna Gregory; grandparents, Mike Seawright (Norma) of Flora and Betty Stembidge (Mike) of Mooreville; his special cousin, Ally Grace Bounds who was like a sister to him.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Anderson and Nudeane Gregory.

My thoughts and prayers are with Mason's family and friends during this difficult time.

HONORING DONNA CARPENTER
FOR RECEIVING THE SOUTHEAST
TOURISM SOCIETY'S BEACON
AWARD

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2015

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Donna Carpenter, who serves as President and CEO of the Cabarrus County Convention and Visitors Bureau, for receiving the Southeast Tourism Society's Beacon Award. The Beacon Award recognizes an individual who best exemplifies outstanding leadership in the pursuit of excellence and who has advanced the tourism industry.

Ms. Carpenter joined the Cabarrus County Convention and Visitors Bureau as President and CEO in 2009, but has been actively involved in the Charlotte area for nearly fifteen years. Ms. Carpenter has been instrumental in the improvement of the Cabarrus County and Charlotte-area tourism industry, working with leaders in the area to improve infrastructure development and create long-lasting relationships between local municipalities. One of Ms. Carpenter's greatest achievements during her time at the Cabarrus County Convention and Visitors Bureau has been her leadership in ensuring the implementation of the "Destination 2020 Plan," a proposal to develop Cabarrus County as a premier travel destination and outline key components for reaching this goal.

Furthermore, Ms. Carpenter has worked tirelessly to grow the image of Cabarrus County's tourism industry and connect with visitors and residents alike. Under her leadership, the Cabarrus County Convention and Visitors Bu-

reau office, as well as the Visitor's Center, were relocated to better serve the area and act as a central hub for visitor activity. As a result of her efforts to improve the tourism industry in our area, the Cabarrus County Convention and Visitors Bureau was accredited by the Destination Marketing Accreditation Program by Destination Marketing Association International in 2013.

In addition to her work within the Cabarrus County and Charlotte-area tourism industry, Ms. Carpenter is actively involved in our community. She is a member of several area organizations and serves on multiple boards, including the Cabarrus County Chamber of Commerce. As a proud alumnus of the university I am extremely grateful for her involvement on the University of North Carolina at Charlotte's Advisory Board. Clearly, Ms. Carpenter is an asset to our area, and I look forward to seeing all that she will accomplish in the future.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in congratulating Donna Carpenter for receiving the Southeast Tourism Society's Beacon Award, as well as her dedication to making Charlotte and Cabarrus County a world-class tourism destination.

COMMENDING THE WORK OF DR.
EARL BROOKS, II

HON. MARLIN A. STUTZMAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2015

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the fifteen-year tenure of Dr. Earl Brooks, as President of Trine University in Angola, Indiana.

Having once been a student at Trine University, it is an honor to recognize Dr. Brooks for his many years of service to the academic community in Northeast Indiana.

During his fifteen years at Trine, Dr. Brooks has significantly increased enrollment while maintaining a remarkable, above-average career-placement percentage for his students. He transitioned the university from undergraduate to graduate and doctoral degree status and even moved university athletics to the NCAA.

Mr. Speaker, I submit an article from the publication, Business People, highlighting Dr. Brooks' fifteen-year tenure and his many notable accomplishments.

In closing, I would like to thank Dr. Brooks for his distinguished service and wish him well as he continues to lead Trine University.

[From Business People, August 1, 2015]

GIVING CREDIT WHERE IT'S DUE

(By Jon Detweiler)

While The American College President Study reports a downtrend nationally in average leadership tenure—from eight and a half years in 2006 to an average of seven years in 2011—Trine University President Dr. Earl D. Brooks II completes 15 years at the helm, with ongoing plans firmly in place for years to come. When Brooks stepped into leadership 15 years ago, he was the youngest college president in the state. Now, he ranks second on the list of longest tenures at Indiana colleges and universities.

Why is Trine celebrating Dr. Brooks' tenure? What has defined his success over the past 15 years? His list of accomplishments is

too long to enumerate here, but some highlights include:

Total enrollment up from 1,350 to 3,800; 78% of that increase experienced over the past five years, with an additional 15% projected for Fall 2015

Transition from undergraduate to graduate and doctorate degree status

Upgrade of athletic programs from NAIA to NCAA

Successful completion of the largest capital campaign in Trine's history (\$90 million) and raised 55% of current \$75 million Invest in Excellence campaign

Update and revitalization of the physical campus through a \$100 million investment in new projects, including eight new apartment-style student housing units

Renovation of the Health Sciences Education Center

Expansion of welcome/admissions center

New university center and library

New athletic and recreation center, complete with a new stadium

Renovation of the administration building and the T. Furth Center for Performing Arts

Renovation of Ford Hall, home of the Ketner School of Business

Construction of the Jim and Joan Bock Center for Innovation & Biomedical Engineering

New College of Engineering and Business

Full-time faculty bolstered by 60%, from 53 to 89

A career-placement average of 99.7% for Trine graduates, compared to the national average of 75.6% as reported by the National Association of Colleges and Employers in 2013-2014

To celebrate what has been accomplished under Dr. Brooks' leadership, however, must lead naturally to a discussion of why he has been so successful. "I started in the classroom teaching, which I still love," says Brooks. "You never grow tired of that exposure to young people." After teaching biology and physiology, Brooks worked his way up from classroom professor to department chair, then to school dean. At universities in Tennessee and Delaware, he served as both vice president for academic affairs and executive vice president/chief operating officer, eventually becoming immersed in the various operations of a college campus.

But three years into his role as chief academic officer at Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate, Tennessee, Brooks awakened to the crucial function of fundraising and development. Consequently, his academic history and his fundraising experience together produced a love for administration that prompted his desire to pursue the presidency. "I'd learned through that process the two most critical areas for the success of an institution," says Brooks: "The enrollment aspect and the fundraising aspect." He attributes part of Trine's success as a team to understanding and focusing on those two priorities. "Financially, enrollment and fundraising drive the institution."

The fact that higher education has seen drastic changes during Dr. Brooks' tenure emphasizes its focus. "Higher education has become more and more of a business," he says. "We've learned to operate like a business." Schools are becoming consumer-driven now, which makes the student a customer. "Kids arriving today need an education with a career in mind."

Trine's astonishing 99.7 percent career-placement average for graduates is hardwired directly to the school's career focus. "We're fortunate to be a school that is more professional-oriented in our degree offerings, which gives us a clear advantage," says Brooks. Possibly the greater advantage for students, however, is the school's connection to local business and industry. By ar-

anging practicums and internships with local companies, the faculty sets up its students to gain valuable experience outside the classroom and to build relationships with potential employers. "The key to success today—particularly on the education side, but also the job-placement side—is that linkage to business and industry," says Brooks. In fact, all new programming at Trine is seen through the lens of its potential for career outcomes.

If Dr. Brooks had a word of advice for his peers, he might add two elements to the list of reasons why he has succeeded as a leader. "Don't be afraid to take a risk. Be bold," he says. "Be bold in your vision, stick to your beliefs, listen to the market but don't be afraid to take a calculated risk." Second, drop the long-range planning. "I'm not sure that long-range planning fits higher education," he says. "Ten-year plans don't fit, so we've adopted a philosophy we call a rolling three-year plan."

Here again, a look at why Dr. Brooks has succeeded must be cut short, primarily because the president would rather talk about who has made him successful. "People make the institution. You try to hire great people with talents greater than yours and not be threatened by that," he says with warmth and a wry smile. Indeed, the plaque on his desk reads, "There is no limit to what a man can do or where he can go if he doesn't mind who gets the credit."

Whether luck or talent, Brooks has the knack for attracting good people to an organization at all levels—faculty, staff, board of trustees, donors and, of course, students. "You need good people to lead an amazing transformation," he says.

And while Brooks is no longer in the classroom, he still finds multiple ways to engage the students. He maintains an open-door policy with them, an ideal that one might question until Brooks hands you his business card, which includes his home phone number. "That connection with students is something that just never goes away," he says.

This year, Trine University is celebrating the 15-year tenure of its president, Dr. Earl D. Brooks II, and for good reason. He has done much and he has gone far, and for that, he deserves a fair share of the credit.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FRANK DAVIS

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2015

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Frank Davis of Concord, North Carolina, who passed away on August 24, 2015. We send our prayers and sincerest condolences to his wife, Joan, and the entire Davis family.

Born on November 7, 1944, Mr. Davis dedicated his life to serving our nation's students. After receiving his degree from Berry College, Mr. Davis taught high school English in a nationwide linguistic research and development project in Rome, GA. After completing this project, Mr. Davis transitioned to the field of higher education, where he served three decades as an admissions and chief development officer at several universities, including his alma mater. In 1998, Mr. Davis joined The Cannon Foundation, later becoming the Foundation's Executive Director in 2000.

I had the honor of becoming friends with Mr. Davis during his time at the Cannon Foundation, and I was immediately struck by his hum-

ble attitude and sincere dedication to service to others and to improving educational opportunities for all students. Not only that, he inspired each of us to be better people and to give back to our communities through kindness, charity and service.

I recently had the honor to present Mr. Davis posthumously with the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, the highest award the Governor of North Carolina can bestow. The Order was created in 1963, and has been presented to honor persons who have a proven record of service to the State of North Carolina. While Mr. Davis made his mark in other states, like Georgia and Alabama, it seems like he always had North Carolina on his mind.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in commemorating the life of Frank Davis for his commitment to his community and the numerous lives he impacted throughout his life.

HONORING RICHARD K. DONAHUE

HON. NIKI TSONGAS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2015

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, the City of Lowell, Massachusetts is well-known for its historic contributions to this nation, from its roots in the founding of modern industry, to world-renown authors and artists, to public officials who helped shape the national conversation. Lowell recently lost one of those titanic figures with the passing of Richard K. Donahue.

Richard Donahue will be remembered across Massachusetts and the country for his expertise and leadership in the legal world, as well as his acumen and achievements in politics, policy and business.

A valued citizen of Lowell, his professional career existed on the national stage, through his storied involvement in the successful campaign of President John F. Kennedy, his tenure as a confidant and advisor at the Kennedy White House, as a highly-regarded and nationally respected lawyer, and as President of NIKE, a major worldwide company. He was an exemplary role model for young Lowellians coming of age in the 60s and 70s, setting a standard of excellence and accomplishment that he made seem quite easy.

As much as Dick was a national figure, he never lost touch with his home city. He remained deeply committed to Lowell throughout his entire life. Dick represented the fighting spirit and dedication to community that is Lowell's trademark. He always had the community's best interests at heart.

His wife, Nancy, the founder of Merrimack Repertory Theater has been its guiding light from its inception. Dick and Nancy's tremendous philanthropic support to the theater and across the region reflected their unflagging generosity and willingness to share the fruits of a very successful life and devote it to the best interests of the City of Lowell.

Dick also understood that the City and its University rise and fall together, and devoted himself to being a leader at the University of Massachusetts Lowell, helping to position that institution for future success.

Even in recent years, when Dick's health was not good, you'd still see him attend events he thought were important. It reflected