

Court Administrator Chrissy Dahse has been working with Brenda for a decade and will miss her “warm smile”. Chrissy says Brenda can always be counted on for “a thoughtful answer and an honest opinion. Her commitment and dedication to The City of Willis is unmatched.”

During her tenure, Brenda considers the move from a General Law to Home-Rule form of government as Willis’ greatest accomplishment. While she may not know quite as many people who come into City Hall now as she used to, her vast and unmatched contribution to the City of Willis and its citizens has set an amazing example of service.

Assistant City Secretary Marissa Quintanilla summed up how Willis feels as they prepare to wish Brenda a happy retirement, “It’s hard to say goodbye to a person so valued and respected and who is in my opinion the “City of Willis.” Marissa has spent the last 13 years working with Brenda and personally knows how hard it will be to fill her shoes. For 35 years Brenda Burns has been an example of public service and selfless contribution to the City of Willis, Texas.

Through all of this change the City of Willis has been able to rely on one constant, Brenda Burns. She has become synonymous with Willis and her love for her hometown has shone through her entire career. Thank you, Brenda, for your service and the great example you have set.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2016

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call Vote number 181 on H.R. 5052, I mistakenly recorded my vote as Nay when I should have voted Yea.

EMILY KIMBALL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Emily Kimball for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Emily Kimball is a 12th grader at Arvada West High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Emily Kimball is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Emily Kimball for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2016

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed Roll Call vote numbers 180 and 181. Had I been present, I would have voted aye on both.

IN RECOGNITION OF FIONE EVANS & ABBIE O'BRIEN, SECOND PLACE WINNERS OF 2016 NATIONAL C-SPAN STUDENT CAM VIDEO CONTEST

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2016

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Fione Evans & Abbie O'Brien, who participated in the 2016 National C-SPAN Student Cam Video Contest. The 7-minute entry entitled “National Immigration Issues” earned Fione and Abbie 2nd Place in the nationwide contest.

In the video, Fione and Abbie covered a variety of aspects regarding immigration, currently facing the United States. The two students inquired what actions should be taken for individuals that reside in the United States without legal status and how to best provide for those seeking asylum. The video featured interviews with local leaders Scranton Mayor Bill Courtright and Congressman LOU BARLETTA, as well as an interview with U.S. Park Rangers Dennis Mulligan & Kathleen Durkin of the Ellis Island Immigration Museum. C-SPAN footage of politicians speaking about immigration policy was included in the piece to show the scope of positions within the national debate. The two advocated for a fair but compassionate approach to resolve current immigration issues and urged lawmakers to work together. Fione and Abbie concluded their video by urging presidential aspirants to make immigration a top priority of their message.

It is an honor to recognize the achievement of these two industrious young women. I extend my congratulations and applaud Fione and Abbie on a job well done. May they continue to strive for excellence in their education and achieve ever greater honor in the future.

HONORING HUNTER D. HALL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2016

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Hunter D. Hall. Hunter is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 324, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Hunter has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Hunter has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous

merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Hunter has earned the rank of Tom-Tom Beater in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Hunter has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Hunter collected items for care packages and sent them to members of the United States Marine Corps deployed overseas.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Hunter D. Hall for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

GOING TO THE CHAPEL DIFFERENT THIS TIME BY INA HUGHS

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2016

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, Ina Hughs, a longtime columnist for the Knoxville News-Sentinel, has written a very honest and entertaining column about her upcoming marriage at the age of 75.

First, I want to congratulate her and her husband-to-be. Second, I want to call this enjoyable column to the attention of my colleagues and other readers.

Third, I will recall a story I heard in the News Sentinel many years ago when Senator Strom Thurmond was running for re-election one month short of his 94th birthday.

Someone—either the Senator or somebody on his staff—had found a 105-year-old woman who had been a babysitter for Senator Thurmond when she was 16 and he was five.

This 105-year-old endorsed the almost 94-year-old and called him a “fine young man.” I hope Ms. Hughs and her “intended” will be a fine young couple.

GOING TO THE CHAPEL DIFFERENT THIS TIME

Well, I have a bit of news. Not breaking news worthy of interrupting regularly scheduled programs. But rather shocking nevertheless. Close friends with whom I first shared this—well, their reaction over the phone was a long silence, howling laughter, and then they dropped the receiver.

I am getting married.

In three days.

I met him and his late wife in the early 1960s, when he and my husband served churches in the Norfolk area. As couples we became friends. Over time our families exchanged Christmas cards, but then a few years ago he and I landed in the same area in retirement. His wife sadly died of invasive cancer, and I had been single for some 20 years.

Shortly after the news got around town, I called a friend to wish her a happy birthday. When she read on the caller ID who I was, she answered by saying, “Oh, goody! You’re calling to ask me to be a bridesmaid?”

After my daughter digested the news—in great joy—she asked what was I going to wear. Did I want her to go with me to David’s Bridal?

“Honey,” I said, laughing, “I don’t even own a dress. How do you expect me to wear a gown?” She made me promise I’d find a friend with better taste in clothes than me to help find my outfit so I wouldn’t embarrass the family.

I am not doing any of that young bride stuff except maybe the old-new-borrowed-

blue. The something old, of course, will be me. At 75, what else could you call it? The Zombie Bride?

The borrowed item will be white pants I inherited from my older sister, who will no doubt be peering over a cloud from heaven saying, "Don't you have any clothes of your own? What on earth did you wear before I died and you got all mine?"

Something blue? That would be a necklace my younger sister gave me for my 21st birthday back in the previous millennium: a strand of white and blue pearls to match a blue jacket that is new, closing out my four-part matrimonial couture.

I do worry a bit that I'll look like a sea captain: white top, white pants, blue jacket. But it doesn't have brass buttons and I won't have on the cap. Or, Lord forbid, a veil.

And we aren't throwing rice or birdseed or rose petals. If there's any throwing to do, it'll be me sick with nerves. Blushing, teary-eyed and bashful is charming in youth. It just makes old women look wrinkled, frog-eyed and acutely geriatric.

Although I am 100 percent sure I won't be left at the altar, I find it humbling and altogether amazing that my intended (Where, pray tell, did that word come from? Does that mean every relationship that doesn't end in marriage is unintended? I think not.) is willing to cast lots with me at our ripe old age.

Me of the elastic-waist pants. Me of age-spotted hands. Me of trifocals and bunions. I sleep in socks. On the rare occasions I do wear a bathing suit, it's always under a cover-up. I often fall asleep in the recliner and drool. I sometimes break wind when getting out of the back seat of a car, and if you find that funny you are either under 50 or your grandmother is dead.

We are like the old couple that came into the drugstore holding hands. "Do you sell wheelchairs and canes?" they asked.

The pharmacist answered, "Yes. We have a whole back room full of the latest models."

"Do you sell magnifying glasses?"

"Yes. Right over there."

"Heating pads? Walk-in bathtubs? Medical alert systems? Adjustable bed rails? Blood pressure kits? TV sound amplifiers?"

"Yes. Yes. Yes."

"We'd like to use you as our bridal registry."

So, my friends, never say never. One day you, too, might have your friends dropping the phone.

MARAWAN ALTAWHEEL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Marawan Altaweel for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Marawan Altaweel is an 8th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Marawan Altaweel is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Marawan Altaweel for winning the Arvada

Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

CONGRATULATING THE PIPER HIGH ROCKETRY TEAM ON QUALIFYING FOR THE 2016 TARC FINALS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2016

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the members of the Piper High School Rocketry Team from Broward County, Florida and their advisor on qualifying for the 2016 Team America Rocketry Challenge (TARC) Finals, being held this weekend in The Plains, Virginia. Piper High School is one of only 100 teams from across the United States to qualify.

In order to qualify for this event, the Piper High School team had to design a rocket capable of flying to an altitude of 850 feet with a flight duration of 44 to 46 seconds, while carrying two raw eggs and return them to Earth uncracked. To make this more difficult, this year the eggs had to be placed perpendicular to each other in the rocket, complicating rocket body design.

TARC is the world's largest student rocket contest—approximately 5,000 students participate each year. The competition gives middle and high school students a chance to pursue further study and careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), and is a critical piece of the aerospace and defense industry's strategy to build a stronger workforce development pipeline.

It is important to recognize not only the achievement of the Piper High School Team in qualifying for the TARC finals, but also the interest and drive that makes these young people want to participate in STEM oriented extracurricular activities, so I want to personally recognize each of them here today: Joseph Callahan, Shaun Cochrane, Jared Eckert, Adam Husein, Amit Lalchan, and Benjamin Liang. I also want to thank their advisor, Mr. Walter Weidler, for inspiring the interest of these students in science and engineering. It is educators like Mr. Weidler who are responsible for keeping America at the forefront of technology.

Mr. Speaker, I am extremely proud of these students, and of all of the students in Florida and the United States who are engaged in STEM education. They represent the future of this great nation.

REMEMBERING JUDGE THOMAS A. RYMER

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2016

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of the Hon. Thomas A. Rymer, who passed away on April 15. He was ninety-one years old and had dedicated his career to public service on behalf of the State of Maryland and Calvert County.

I was privileged to be Tom's friend for decades, and I was deeply saddened by his passing. He served in the Maryland House of Delegates from 1971–1987 and was Majority Whip for a good portion of that time. During part of that period, I served as President of the Maryland State Senate, and we worked together on a number of occasions. During his tenure, Tom fought for school funding that invested in education for students in Calvert County. He spearheaded efforts to build roads and infrastructure and encourage development in what was then a very rural part of our state. Tom was also a tireless advocate for justice and equal opportunity.

Judge Rymer was born in Asheville, North Carolina, and he moved with his family to Washington, D.C., in 1939. A student at the University of Maryland when World War II broke out, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and was commissioned as an Ensign. After serving our nation honorably, he returned stateside and finished his degree at Cornell University in New York in 1948. He then went on to earn his law degree from the George Washington University in 1955.

During the 1950's, Tom worked as an engineer with the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission and served in a number of civilian roles with the Navy, Air Force, and Secretary of Defense's office. When he left the Pentagon in 1964, he was serving as chief of the Air Force Military Construction Program.

From 1966–1970, Tom served the people of Calvert County as State's Attorney before running for the House of Delegates. In Annapolis, he chaired the Calvert County delegation and served as Chair of the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland from 1979–1982. He also chaired the Joint Ethics Committee. Tom was well respected in the Assembly, lauded for his integrity and honesty and for his mentorship of younger lawmakers. After leaving office, Tom was appointed to sit on the Calvert County Circuit Court. He served until his retirement in 1995.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my condolences to his beloved wife of four decades, Grace Mead Rymer. My thoughts and prayers are also with his sons Gary Rymer, Ronald Rymer, and Thomas Rymer Jr.; his stepchildren, Grace Mary Brady, Robert Manual Garrett, John Michael Garrett, Nell-Marie Chaney, William Francis Garrett, and Allan Garrett; his fifteen grandchildren and step-grandchildren; and his ten great-grandchildren. Sadly, his stepson Thomas Garrett passed away last year. Many of the Rymers and Garretts continue to live in Calvert County, on which their father and stepfather leaves a lasting impact that will surely benefit generations to come. I join in thanking Judge Thomas A. Rymer for his service to Calvert County, to the Fifth District, to the State of Maryland, and to our nation, and I hope my colleagues will do the same.

IN HONOR OF GULINDA LOUISE ESTERS-SMILEY

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 11, 2016

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to the life of my sister-in-law, Gulinda Louise