

medics in performing hundreds of lifesaving surgeries for our service members.

As Colonel Crozier embarks on a new chapter in life, it is my hope that he and his family may recall, with a deep sense of pride and accomplishment, the outstanding contributions he has made to the William Beaumont Army Medical Center and to the United States Army. I would like to send him my best wishes for continued success in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2016

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I was not present during roll call vote numbers 382 and 389 on July 7, 2016. I would like to reflect how I would have voted: On roll call vote no. 382 I would have voted NO. On roll call vote no. 389 I would have voted NO.

GULFPORT HIGH MARINE CORPS JROTC NATIONAL TITLE

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2016

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the following students of the Gulfport High School Marine Corps JROTC who recently won the Civilian Marksmanship Program's Three Position Air Rifle National Championship in Camp Perry, Ohio: Rebecca Cook, Katy Nevins, Gabrielle Phelps, and Jillian Tyler. These outstanding young women brought the national title home to Mississippi, and I am proud to honor their achievement.

Under the leadership of Lt. Col. John Owens and team coach Tammy Smith, the Gulfport High School rifle team is no stranger to the national stage, but the win serves as the program's first national title.

These four young women have demonstrated that hard work and dedication will achieve success. As the team competed in a series of events, they defeated 30 other teams from across the United States.

This team has continuously shown true leadership and commitment when the team finished first in their regional competition by shooting a record-setting two-day total. At the competition, Rebecca Cook earned medals for placing third on the first day and placing fifth on the second day. Katy Nevins received a bronze medal, finishing third in her age division. Jillian Tyler holds the highest score for the entire match.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to send the entire Gulfport High School Marine Corps JROTC team my congratulations.

Semper Fidelis.

HONORING SOPHIE SEPTOFF FOR HER SILVER KNIGHT AWARD

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2016

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Ms. Sophie Septoff, recent graduate of the Nova Southeastern University School and recipient of the Miami Herald's Silver Knight Award for the category of Music and Dance.

Sophie, who is legally blind, founded the "Dance in the Light" program at the Light-house of Broward through which she teaches blind and visually impaired children the art of dance. Her love for the arts and passion to help others succeed has helped countless children in our community.

Sophie is a talented, smart and poised young woman with a kind heart. I applaud Sophie on her achievement and I am grateful for her compassion to those around her. She represents the best in our community and has set forth a stellar example for other young adults on how to be a caring citizen.

I am confident Ms. Septoff will be incredibly successful in her future endeavors at Georgetown University and wish her all the best.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FARM REGULATORY CERTAINTY ACT

HON. DAN NEWHOUSE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2016

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce my legislation, the Farm Regulatory Certainty Act. In 2015, a federal judge ruled in a citizen suit that dissolved manure nitrates constitute a "solid waste" under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), and held four Washington State dairies culpable of "open dumping" due to their nutrient management practices. A farmer myself, I firmly believe farmers have and must continue to lead the charge on good stewardship and conservation. While I agree there are a number of statutes that do govern nutrient management practices, Congress never intended for RCRA to be one of those statutes. Moreover, the EPA's regulations confirm that agricultural wastes, such as manures and crop residues, were not intended to be governed under RCRA. This misguided ruling has placed farmers across the country in a legal gray area. It is unfair for agricultural nutrients to be exempt from law, then have a court find farmers at fault for non-compliance with the very law they are exempt from. Farmers need certainty as to what rules apply to them.

The legislation I introduce today would clarify and reaffirm that RCRA was not intended to govern nutrient management activities. Moreover, this bill would prevent farmers who are already engaged in legal action and who are diligently working with the state or federal government to address nutrient management issues from being targeted by citizen suits.

We want to continue to encourage farmers to be good stewards, and create an environment where farmers can feel comfortable working with state and federal regulatory

agencies to address stewardship issues—not have farmers fear that documents and samples provided to regulators will be acquired by third-parties and used against them in these "double-jeopardy"-like lawsuits. This common-sense legislation will clarify Congress' intent on this statute, and work to restore a relationship of trust and confidence between farmers and regulators.

TRIBUTE TO CAROL AND GARY BARRETT

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Carol and Gary Barrett of Hamburg, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on May 29, 2016.

Carol and Gary's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, I hope it is filled with happy memories. May their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Carol and Gary Barrett on this momentous occasion.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CARLOS CURBELO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2016

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on roll call No. 385, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

IN CELEBRATION OF AMBASSADOR MARION H. SMOAK'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2016

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service and career of Ambassador Marion H. Smoak as he celebrates his 100th birthday. Ambassador Smoak has dedicated many years to public service and deserves to be commended for his service and dedication to our country.

Ambassador Smoak received a bachelor's degree in English and History from The Citadel in 1938. He went on to receive a law degree from the University of South Carolina Law School in 1941. Shortly after receiving his law degree Ambassador Smoak served in the Army and was stationed in Berlin and New Caledonia, Japan, holding the title of Judge Advocate with the 11th and 82nd Airborne Divisions. Following his tour abroad, he began

teaching at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in the Law Department.

Upon leaving his position at West Point, Ambassador Smoak became a legislative liaison officer in Washington, D.C. In this position, he assisted in drafting legislation and performed liaison duties with Congress, the Department of Justice, the Department of State, and the Department of Defense. During his time in Washington, D.C., Ambassador Smoak became Chief of the Legislative Drafting Division for the Judge Advocate General. He served as Chief until his retirement from military service in 1961, leaving with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Following his retirement from the Army, Ambassador Smoak returned to Aiken County, South Carolina along with his wife, Mary Frances Meister, and their three children, Fred, Mary Frances, and Pat. Serving as a practicing attorney in Aiken County, Ambassador Smoak sought office in the South Carolina State Senate and went on to win the election in 1966. Ambassador Smoak was among the first five Republicans that served in the South Carolina State Senate since Reconstruction. While in the State Senate he served on six committees that included: Agriculture, Atomic and Nuclear Energy, Commerce and Manufactures, Military, and Veteran Affairs. Ambassador Smoak fought for the Compulsory School Bill, realigning voting precincts, and compulsory auto inspections. From 1967 to 1968, he also served in the State Constitutional Revision Commission.

Upon completing his term in the Senate, Ambassador Smoak went on to work at the State Department as the Deputy Chief of Protocol and Chief of Protocol for the President and the Secretary of State from 1969 to 1974. During his time at the State Department Ambassador Smoak participated in many significant events including: the inauguration of President Prastrana of Colombia in 1970, the inauguration of President Echeverria of Mexico in 1970, and the funeral of King Frederick IX of Denmark in 1972. When he retired from the State Department in 1974, he was given the title of Ambassador. His glorious career continued when he was named Co-Chairman on the Committee of Finance for then Presidential candidate Ronald Reagan. Ambassador Smoak went on to practice law at Shipley, Smoak, and Henry of Washington, D.C., where he practiced International Law and officially retired.

Among all his involvement and activities, Ambassador Smoak served as Director of the Ackokeek Foundation and the American Friends of Jamaica. He also served as President of Georgetown Club of Washington and the Fairfax Hunt of Northern Virginia, and assisted in the production of the Red Cross Ball in Palm Beach, Florida as Diplomatic Chairman. Currently, Ambassador Smoak is a member of the Chevy Chase Club and the Metropolitan Club of Washington, the Everglades Club and the Palm Beach Polo and Country Club of Palm Beach Florida.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the career and noble service of Ambassador Smoak. It is with great pride that we thank him for his service, and wish him continued health and happiness with his friends, family, and loved ones.

HONORING JUDGE ROGER L. GREGORY OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2016

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to congratulate Judge Roger L. Gregory on his ascension to the rank of Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit on Saturday, July 9, 2016. As the highest ranking judge of the Richmond-based Fourth Circuit, Judge Gregory will preside as "first among equals" over 15 active and two senior judges that are responsible for appellate cases rising from Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina—a jurisdiction that includes almost 30 million people.

Judge Gregory's service on the bench is historic in a couple of respects. He is the first African American to serve on the Fourth Circuit, which was the only remaining federal circuit in the nation where all of the judges were white. He came to the Fourth Circuit as a recess appointment of President William Jefferson Clinton on December 27, 2000. Despite the bipartisan support of the Commonwealth of Virginia's two U.S. Senators, John Warner (R) and Charles Robb (D)—and the fact that the Fourth Circuit had several vacancies—Judge Gregory's nomination in June 2000 to the Fourth Circuit was effectively blocked by Senator Jesse Helms of North Carolina who opposed efforts to diversify the courts.

Judge Gregory made history again when he became the only person in United States history to have been appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals by presidents of two different political parties. He was reappointed by President George W. Bush, with the support of Senator John Warner and newly elected Senator George Allen, and confirmed by the U.S. Senate on July 20, 2001.

During the past 15 years on the bench, Judge Gregory has developed a reputation as a distinguished and brilliant jurist. He is seen as a leader in forging consensus in the Fourth Circuit and providing legal analysis that has helped to evolve the thinking of the court. Judge Gregory was on the panel of judges that heard two groundbreaking cases that were eventually heard by the U.S. Supreme Court. In 2014, Judge Gregory was part of the Fourth Circuit's unanimous ruling in *King v. Burwell* to conclude that the government's interpretation of the final rule implementing the premium tax credit provision of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act should be given deference. On July 28, 2014, Judge Gregory was part of the Fourth Circuit's majority decision that ruled 2–1 in *Bostic v. Schaefer* to strike down Virginia's ban on same-sex marriage as "impermissibly infring[ing] on its citizens' fundamental right to marry." The Supreme Court eventually affirmed the ruling in *King v. Burwell* and denied a writ of certiorari in *Bostic v. Schaefer*, letting that decision stand.

Judge Gregory's legal stewardship was displayed in the case of *Henry v. Purnell*, an important case about excessive force by police and qualified immunity. In the original three-judge panel opinion, he filed a dissenting opin-

ion. But when the case was heard en banc, before all the judges of the Fourth Circuit, Judge Gregory amassed a wide 10–3 majority of the court to support his position and hold that the use of force was objectively unreasonable. Judge Gregory's reasoning in his Fourth Circuit dissents was also the basis of two U.S. Supreme Court's majority decisions. One case that reversed a Truth-in-Lending Act decision in the *Koons Buick Pontiac v. Nigh* (2004) and another that approved Judge Gregory's approach in *FEC v. Beaumont* (2003).

Equally remarkable is Judge Gregory's personal story and professional successes. Roger Gregory was born in Philadelphia, but was adopted by a family and raised in the "Heights" section of Petersburg, Virginia. On reflecting on his parents, Judge Gregory said "I think about my parents. They worked in a tobacco factory and had very little formal education. They got up early and worked more time to earn wages so I could learn my letters."

Judge Gregory "learned his letters" and then some. He attended segregated schools until the eleventh grade and became the first person in his family to graduate from high school. He graduated *summa cum laude* from Virginia State University and earned a law degree from the University of Michigan in 1978. He also holds honorary degrees from Virginia Union University, Virginia State University, Virginia Commonwealth University, Widener University and Saint Paul's College.

After a stint at corporate law firms, he formed the law firm of Wilder & Gregory with former Virginia Governor L. Douglas Wilder. He practiced law at Wilder & Gregory and served as managing partner and head of the litigation section of the firm until his appointment to the Fourth Circuit in 2000.

Judge Gregory is widely admired and respected by his colleagues on the bench and in the Virginia Bar. He has supported numerous charitable, legal, and educational organizations and currently serves on the board of trustees of the University of Richmond and the John Marshall Foundation. Judge Gregory is a past rector and member of the Board of Visitors of Virginia Commonwealth University and served on the Board of Visitors of Virginia State University, where he taught as an adjunct professor of Constitutional Law.

Judge Gregory is an active member of Good Shepherd Baptist Church, in Petersburg, Virginia, where he serves as Artistic Director of the Drama Ministry. He is a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and the Alpha Beta Boule of the Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity.

The appointment of Roger Gregory as Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit will be celebrated by many who value the wisdom of a wise jurist who holds the deepest respect for the U.S. Constitution. This honor is celebrated especially by his wife Velda Edwards Gregory; his daughters Adriene, Rachel and Christina; and Kai, his only granddaughter and the "apple of [his] eye."

Mr. Speaker, I offer my heartfelt congratulations to Judge Gregory. The people of the Fourth Circuit should be reassured that they have a defender of justice and fairness.