

have to continue to fight. From the streets to the court rooms, the right to a voice—the right to a vote has been fought for. For this upcoming election, North Carolina will not have to be subject to new voting laws that would make voting harder, not easier for eligible voters. This is a great victory for voting rights—for democracy and for the principles this country was built on.

Many states however are not as fortunate as North Carolina. Since the 2013 Shelby v. Holder decision, over 22 states including my home state of Alabama, implemented new oppressive voting laws affecting thousands of eligible Americans across the country. In 2013, the Supreme Court charged Congress with the responsibility of creating a modern formula for states and local governments to obtain federal preclearance before implementing changes to voting laws or practices.

Last year, I introduced a bill, the Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2015, which addresses the residual problems left behind by the Shelby v. Holder ruling. It has been 3 years since this Supreme Court ruling and over a full year since I introduced the Voting Rights Advancement Act. We, the Members of Congress cannot and should not continue to overburden the courts because we refuse to act. Political gridlock has no place in the voting rights of our people, and especially in an election year.

Former President Lyndon B. Johnson reminded us all when he said “voting is the first duty of democracy.” I implore my colleagues to remember why we are here. We have a great work to do. We work for the American people and we are guided by the Constitution of the United States of America. I urge my colleagues to support any and all advancements in voting rights—this is not an act of “good heart”—this is our duty.

IN HONOR OF THE RETIREMENT OF OXFORD MAYOR LEON SMITH

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 6, 2016

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize Mayor Leon Smith, who has served as Mayor of the City of Oxford Alabama since 1984.

Leon Smith was born in Selmer, Tennessee on March 11, 1940. He was married to Delone Banks of Jasper, Alabama (deceased) and was blessed with four sons: Gary, John (deceased), Terry (deceased) and Danny (deceased). Mayor Smith was also a self-employed businessman over the past 30 years.

Mayor Smith was elected as Mayor of the City of Oxford in 1984. He is a member of the First Baptist Church of Oxford. He has served as Commissioner of Oxford Baseball for Youth, Past League President and Coach of Oxford Football for Youth, Past Exalted Ruler of Elks (four consecutive terms), a member of the Jacksonville State University Board of Directors, a Board Member of the American Association of Retirement Communities and a Member of the Masons and Shriners.

Mayor Smith has served on the Alabama League of Municipalities, the National League of Cities, the East Alabama Regional Planning

and Development Commission, the Cerebral Palsy Board of Directors, the Jacksonville State University Citizens Advisory Committee, the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council, the Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee and the Technical Review Committee for Anniston Army Depot.

Mayor Smith has dedicated his life to being a public servant to the people of Oxford and Alabama.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Mayor Smith and wishing him well in his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO IZARD COUNTY AND THE CITY OF HORSESHOE BEND

HON. ERIC A. “RICK” CRAWFORD

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 6, 2016

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to rise today to commemorate IZARD County and the City of Horseshoe Bend as a Purple Heart County and a Purple Heart City. I am honored and humbled to represent so many veterans throughout the First Congressional District of Arkansas. IZARD County is home to over 1,400 veterans and Horseshoe Bend is home to nine (9) Purple Heart recipients. As a veteran of the United States Army, I have a great admiration and the utmost gratitude for all the men and women who have selflessly served our Nation.

The Purple Heart is our Nation's oldest and one of the most recognized military medals. It was originally established by General George Washington on August 7, 1782, as the “Badge of Military Merit.” On February 22, 1932, the 200th anniversary of General Washington's birthday, it was renamed the Purple Heart Medal by the Army War Department. The Purple Heart may be awarded to members of the Armed Forces or to any civilian national of the United States who has been wounded, killed, or who has died or may die of wounds received while in combat against an enemy, while a member of a peacekeeping force, while a Prisoner of War, as a result of a terrorist attack, or as a result of a friendly fire incident in hostile territory. Since its inception, the Purple Heart has been awarded over an estimated 1.9 million times to those wounded or killed while serving our Nation.

On September 12, 2016, a special duel ceremony will be held to establish IZARD County and the City of Horseshoe Bend as a Purple Heart Community. The contributions and sacrifices of the men and women from the State of Arkansas, IZARD County, and Horseshoe Bend who served in the Armed Forces have been vital in protecting the freedoms every American enjoys today.

Mr. Speaker, please join me once again in recognition of IZARD County and the City of Horseshoe Bend as a Purple Heart County and a Purple Heart City.

HONORING DALLAS POLICE CHIEF DAVID BROWN AND HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE DALLAS POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 6, 2016

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Dallas Police Chief David O'Neal Brown. Chief Brown has proudly served in the Dallas Police Department since 1983 and was appointed police chief in April 2010. After more than 33 years of service to the people and City of Dallas, Chief Brown has announced his plans to retire.

Under Chief Brown's leadership, the Dallas Police Department has become a shining example for our nation of what it means to be an effective, community-oriented police force. At a time when community relations between police and the communities they serve remains tense, Chief Brown demonstrated that connecting with the community and maintaining professionalism in the field can go a long way to keeping our communities safe without unnecessarily inflaming tensions.

Chief Brown's bravery and commitment to the great State of Texas was especially apparent during the tragic attack in Dallas this year, which has amounted to the deadliest incident for law enforcement in the United States since the September 11th attacks. The shooting claimed the lives of four Dallas Police officers and one DART officer, while injuring nine others. Instead of responding with violence or an impulsive reaction to the brutality that we witnessed that fateful night, Chief Brown demonstrated incredible professionalism by trying to recognize the root cause of the tension and to continue working to end the divisiveness between the citizens and law enforcement through alternative means.

The Dallas Police Department is comprised of some of the most capable and professional law enforcement officers in the country. Chief Brown's leadership within DPD has not gone unnoticed and I, along with the people of Dallas, am incredibly grateful for his service. I wish Chief Brown tremendous success in his future endeavors and extend my most sincere appreciation for his service to the City of Dallas and the State of Texas.

IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF JAMES G. PATTERSON

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 6, 2016

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize the life of James G. Patterson.

August 22nd marks the birthday of Mr. Patterson who served his country in Korea until the conflict ended on July 27, 1953. Mr. Patterson returned to Alabama in the late 1950s and joined the Alabama National Guard. He served at the integration of the University of Alabama in June of 1963 and during the third Civil Rights march from Selma to Montgomery in 1965.