

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO BRIAN C. COOPER

HON. PAUL D. RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2017

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Brian C. Cooper, who is retiring from the Office of the Parliamentarian after 35 years on Capitol Hill.

Brian is the son of Dolores and Ellsworth Cooper, and the youngest of seven children. He is a native of Baltimore, Maryland, and has lived in the city (in the same house he grew up in) for his entire life. Brian is a graduate of Frederick Douglass High School, whose notable alumni include the Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. Brian received a scholarship to the Community College of Baltimore (now Baltimore City Community College), where he received his degree in commercial and graphic arts.

Brian's first job on Capitol Hill came in September of 1982, when he was hired in the stock room of the Longworth Building, working in Publication and Distribution Services. Throughout the 1980s and early 1990s, Brian held a variety of positions on Capitol Hill, including work at the House Post Office and Document Room, before moving up to become staff assistant for the Small Business Committee and later the Government Operations Committee. In these roles, Brian learned the intricacies of the legislative process and the inner workings of House operations—skills that would serve him well when, in 1995, he was hired as an Assistant Clerk to the Parliamentarian.

Brian would spend the next 22 years in the House Parliamentarian's Office, and became Chief Clerk to the Parliamentarian in 2009. For over two decades, Brian has been a fixture at the House rostrum, dutifully assisting the presiding officer in timekeeping, recognizing Members on the floor, and preparing and reviewing reams of legislative paperwork for the House. Brian has also prepared the House for joint meetings to receive foreign dignitaries and other guests, and joint sessions of the House, including state of the Union addresses. As clerk, Brian also supervised House "documentarian" pages, and created the first computer network for the Parliamentarian.

An accomplished artist, Brian remains active in his artistic endeavors, which run the gamut from pencil drawings, watercolors, and oils, to photography, and architectural design. His retirement will offer new opportunities to continue these pursuits. His other retirement plans include travel and spending more time with family—including his numerous nieces and nephews. A devoted Baltimore sports fan, Brian will surely find his way to Camden Yards many times in the upcoming years to cheer on his beloved Orioles.

A consummate professional, Brian has spent his career on Capitol Hill committed to assisting with an orderly and accurate legislative process, observed in a fair and non-

partisan manner. Brian is a quintessential institutionalist, always striving to continue the traditions and customs of the House, and to pass on his institutional knowledge to others. The House of Representatives has known few individuals more dedicated to its proper functioning and legacy than Brian Cooper.

COMMENDING LOCAL 2017 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES FOR THEIR DECISION TO ENLIST IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AND OUR COMMUNITY SALUTES OF FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA FOR HOSTING THE SIXTH ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL ENLISTEE RECOGNITION CEREMONY

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2017

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 11 Fredericksburg, Virginia area high school seniors who plan to enlist in the United States Air Force after graduation. These students have excelled in their academic and extracurricular activities, and I offer my sincere congratulations upon their high school graduation.

I commend these student leaders for their selflessness and courageous decision to serve their country as members of the United States Air Force:

Ashford, Jasmine; Beaty, Carter; Bratcher, Constance; Burton, Meghan; Erikson, Evan; Evertz, Kayla; Hibbs, Richard; Malpica, Alexis; Mathews, Adam; Papapetrou, Alexander; Smith, Christopher.

These students will be honored by the Greater Fredericksburg Chapter of Our Community Salutes at their 6th Annual Military Enlistee Recognition Ceremony on Saturday, June 3, 2017 at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, VA.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking these young men and women and their families for their dedication to serving this great Nation. We owe them and the many Americans who have served and will serve a debt of gratitude.

THE HOLY SEE

HON. FRANCIS ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2017

Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the special diplomatic relationship between the United States and the Holy See.

As a non-hegemonic sovereign, the Holy See plays a unique role in world affairs through its use of the soft power diplomacy through moral persuasion that only it can

exert. This gives the Holy See unparalleled influence in diplomacy and as a mediator in international disputes.

The United States and the Holy See have complemented each other in the past in combatting extremist ideologies, such as Nazism and communism, and on promoting human rights. From 2005–2008, I witnessed this firsthand as United States Ambassador to the Holy See. President Bush and Pope Benedict XVI worked together on combatting human trafficking, AIDS in Africa, promoting religious freedom and in denouncing radical Islamic extremism.

The strength of this relationship depends on how highly each president views the Holy See's soft power in world affairs. President Trump's choice to visit the Vatican on his first overseas trip is a good step toward a close relationship between the United States and the Holy See going forward.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE TAYLOR AUXILIARY POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR THEIR WORK PROTECTING THE CITY OF TAYLOR

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2017

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Taylor Auxiliary Police Department for their work protecting the City of Taylor and its residents. The auxiliary plays a critical role in protecting the city and supporting the work of the Taylor Police Department with individuals from all walks of life.

Established in 1962 as a volunteer civil defense organization to assist the Taylor Police Department, the Taylor Auxiliary Police play a key role in safeguarding the public. In addition to helping the full-time police department staff community events like high school sports events and assisting with regular police patrols, the auxiliary police also serve as a reserve force to assist the City of Taylor in the event of a disaster or emergency situation. Additionally, the auxiliary has partnered with the city to further crime prevention initiatives, including Taylor on Watch, an education and outreach program that shares best practices for neighborhood and community safety. These initiatives have helped make Taylor a safe city to live and work.

The Taylor Police Auxiliary is critical to safeguarding the city from crime and other threats. Each member of the auxiliary is well trained and credentialed, and the approximately 45 officers provide thousands of hours of annual community service and protection to the city and its residents. In the past, the Taylor Auxiliary Police have helped provide traffic control during a visit by President Obama, as well as helping secure the annual Taylor Summer Festival and other community gatherings. These individuals perform the critical work of ensuring that the residents of Taylor remain

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