HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE of Texas
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, May 26, 2017

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Brian Cooper, Chief Clerk to the Parliamentarian, who is retiring after more than three decades of service to our country.

Brian Cooper has dedicated his career to ensure the good management and orderly function of the U.S. House of Representatives. As Chief Clerk to the Parliamentarian, much of his work has gone unnoticed. But it has not gone unappreciated.

From time-keeping to processing bills to preparing for joint sessions of Congress, Brian Cooper has played an integral role in maintaining the integrity of the House of Representatives.

After more than three decades of service, this public servant has more than earned his wings of retirement.

Brian Cooper made the House work better and he will be missed by his many friends and colleagues, whom I join in wishing him well as he embarks on a new chapter in his life of service to others.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALL-EN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER ARMY STAFF SERGEANT (SSG) KENNETH RAY BRADLEY

HON. TRENT KELLY of Mississippi
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, May 26, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Army Staff Sergeant (SSG) Kenneth Ray Bradley who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our nation on May 28, 2003, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. SSG Bradley died of a heart attack while serving in Baqubah, Iraq.

SSG Bradley was assigned to Company B 588th Engineer Battalion, Fort Hood, Texas. The Utica native was a 19-year Army veteran. According to the Associated Press, SSG Bradley enjoyed music. Cleveland Washington, SSG Bradley’s first cousin, said he liked musical instruments. “He was left-handed,” Washington said. “He blew the trumpet and played the guitar. He always liked music and was in a band.”

People who grew up with SSG Bradley and served with him in the Army memorialized him on the “Falling Heroes of Operation Iraqi Freedom” website.

Sergeant First Class (SFC) Lee of Washington said he was a great leader. “I remember that he was a great NCO and a great leader,” SFC Lee said. “He is a true hero and will never be forgotten. God bless his family, friends, and brothers-in-arms.”
During Operation Iraqi Freedom, Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Andrew Robertson served as company commander of Charlie Company, 1–155th Infantry Regiment, MS Army National Guard, Biloxi, Mississippi, serving operational control under 2–11 Armed Cavalry Regiment (ACR), U.S. Army. He says there were no greater people than the Charlie Company soldiers who endured being in the most dangerous and highest casualty area of operations as part of OIF III under Task Force 155 Heavy Brigade Combat Team. "In 2005, there were no greater Americans than our fallen patriots, Charlie Company Infantrymen and their families. None greater. This, I believe, America needs to know," LTC Robertson said.

SGT Varnado is survived by his wife, Sharond Shavers, and son, Kannon Varnado.

SGT Varnado’s sacrifice to protect our freedoms will always be remembered.

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IN RECOGNITION OF REV. JOHN BEATTY KAHL’S 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. RICHARD HUDSON OF NORTH CAROLINA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Friday, May 26, 2017

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Reverend John Beatty Kahl for his 25 years of dedicated service to our community as an ordained minister.

Rev. Kahl attended Lenoir Rhyne College where he graduated magna cum laude with a triple major in math, physics, and chemistry. As a driven scholar, he received the American Institutes of Chemistry Award his senior year of college and became a member of multiple academic honor societies. While in college, he enlisted in the Navy and went on to Officer Candidate School where he was commissioned as an officer.

After graduation, Rev. Kahl served his country for four and a half years as an officer in the United States Navy. During his service as a Submariner on the USS Key West, he felt God pulling on his heart to pursue another career. This calling led Rev. Kahl to attend Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, where he graduated cum laude. He was ordained as a minister on May 29, 1992 at Lenoir Rhyne College. Now, he is not only the head pastor of the Church in Hattiesburg. He spoke to the audience during the service and was quoted in an Associated Press article.

“Once again we come together in a small community to honor a soldier,” MG Cross said. “It comes to mind that over 1.2 million people have paid the ultimate sacrifice in our 228-year history that we might be free.”

Mississippi Army National Guard Brigadier General (BG) John Rhodes served as the 1–155th infantry battalion commander in 2005. BG Rhodes recently said SFC Parker will be remembered along with those who died with him.

“SFC Parker, SPC Bryan Edward Barron, SGT Audrey Daron Lunsford, and SGT Daniel Ryan Varnado are remembered in many ways, but we knew them as warriors who represented something larger than themselves,” BG Rhodes said. “They operated in a hostile environment and faced the dangers of combat on a regular basis. Yet, if given the choice, they would not have wanted it any other way. They sacrificed their lives trying to provide a better life for people who they didn’t even know. This is who they were and what they represented. They exemplified the modern day Mississippi Riflemen. Stand Fast, Mississippians! Stand Fast!”

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