

I urge my colleagues to support this measure in honoring Judge Russell B. Sugarmon, an exemplary American and titan of his time.

IN HONOR OF MR. TOGO DENNIS  
WEST, JR.

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 20, 2018*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding leader and dear friend of longstanding, Togo Dennis West, Jr. Sadly, Togo passed away on Thursday, March 8, 2018. A funeral service will be held on Tuesday, April 24, 2018 at 2 p.m. at the Washington National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.

Togo D. West, Jr. was born to Togo D. West, Sr. and Evelyn E. Carter West in Winston-Salem, North Carolina on June 21, 1942. He graduated from Akins High School in 1965 as valedictorian, was a member of the National Honor Society, and an Eagle Scout with Bronze Palm. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering and a Juris Doctorate degree from Howard University, where he graduated first in his law school class in 1968.

In 1969, he entered the United States Army as a Commissioned Officer in the Judge Advocate General's Corps. He also served as a staffer in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs for four years.

In 1975, Togo was appointed Associate Deputy Attorney General by President Ford. He then served in several capacities in President Carter's administration including General Counsel to the Department of the Navy from 1977 to 1979; Special Assistant to both the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Defense in 1979; and General Counsel to the United States Department of Defense from 1980 to 1981. In 1993, President Bill Clinton appointed him the United States Secretary of the Army. As the second African-American to serve in this position, Togo oversaw the transition of the Army from a post-Cold War organization to a contemporary fighting force. He also was the driving force behind initiatives that granted women more opportunities to serve within the ranks and a strong advocate for harsher penalties for sexual misconduct. In 1998, President Clinton appointed him Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs. During his tenure, he was a strong advocate for increased funding for veterans medical care and benefits.

Outside of his government service, Togo was also actively involved in the community. He presided on a variety of boards and served in a number of organizations at the local, state, and national levels. Over the course of his life, he received numerous awards and commendations, including the Legion of Merit and the Meritorious Service Medal; Distinguished Eagle Scout in 1995; and the Silver Buffalo Award and the Silver Beaver Award.

George Washington Carver once said, "No individual has any right to come into the world and go out of it without leaving behind distinct and legitimate reasons for having passed through it." We are all so blessed that Togo West, Jr. passed this way and during his life's

journey did so much for so many for so long. His leadership, his counsel, and his prominent presence will be greatly missed.

Togo is survived by his loving wife, Gail; his two daughters, Tiffany and Hilary; two wonderful grandchildren; and a host of other family members and friends.

On a personal note, the West family shares a special relationship with the Bishop family. My wife, Vivian, Togo's wife, Gail, and Hilary shared membership in the Metropolitan D.C. Chapter of The Links, Inc. Togo and I are both Eagle Scouts and share the honor of having been named Distinguished Eagle Scouts by the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Moreover, Hilary served as valued member of our congressional staff in Washington as she started her career ascension in Washington.

Mr. Speaker, my wife Vivian and I, the members of the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate, along with the more than 730,000 people of the Second Congressional District, honor and salute Togo West, Jr. for his outstanding achievements, service, and public distinction. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join us in extending our deepest condolences to his family and friends during this difficult time. We pray that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith in the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

GOLFER AND SPECIAL OLYMPIAN,  
SHAUN LINSEY

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 20, 2018*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on any beautiful day down in Houston, Texas, you can find Shaun Linsey driving perfectly hit golf balls down the range. His father, Mark, is Shaun's biggest fan and competitor. Mark and Shaun have competitions between the two from time to time, but it's always in good fun.

At age three, Shaun's parents were told he was autistic and that he wouldn't ever be able to speak. Shaun has defied the odds, and with the help of his mom, Linda, Shaun is able to both speak and compete in the sport he loves.

Shaun has since picked up the game of golf and has become wildly successful. Even though his golf skills were impeccable, Shaun found he wasn't accepted in regular competitions. That's when he and his family turned toward the Special Olympics. The great program gave the young golfer a chance to compete and win. Shaun has done more than just compete in golf competitions. He and his dad have won area, state, and even placed in national competitions.

Shaun is one of the best golfers around, and that's a true testament to his determination in continually striving to better himself. Becoming a great golfer takes a lot of hard work and it is evident Shaun has put in many hours on the golf course to get to where he is today.

I am honored to be able to speak of Shaun's accomplishments in his life. I am also honored to say Shaun hails from our beloved Houston. His tenacity and passion for life is incredible and he truly exemplifies what it means to be a Special Olympian.

Keep golfing Shaun. We can't wait to see what else he accomplishes down the road. And that's just the way it is.

CHARITY GRIMSLEY

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 20, 2018*

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

Charity Grimsley is a student at Drake Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Charity Grimsley 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 Charity Grimsley 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. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 20, 2018*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on March 14, 2018 I missed a Roll Call vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "YEA" No. 105.

CONGRATULATING BAKER'S  
CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

**HON. LARRY BUCSHON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 20, 2018*

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Baker's Creek Baptist Church in Eureka, Indiana for 200 years of service and fellowship in Southwest Indiana.

Dating back to 1818, the Baker's Creek Baptist Church is the second oldest church in Spencer County. It has served not just as a place of worship, but also as a refuge for those in times of trouble and means of encouragement for men and women of faith, including influential Americans such as President Abraham Lincoln.

Through the Lord's grace and the devotion of leaders like Pastor James Carl Jones, Baker's Creek Baptist Church has remained a place for the congregation to worship and come together as a community.

I am grateful for Baker's Creek Baptist Church's rich history of service over the past 200 years and excited for what the future holds. Again, congratulations on achieving this tremendous milestone.