

made throughout history, and continue to make today.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. RICHARD  
S. MONSON

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

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 18, 2018*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to extend my personal congratulations and best wishes to Mr. Richard S. Monson. Richard has been the driving force behind Southwest Georgia Farm Credit in Bainbridge, Georgia for 18 years and currently serves as the President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO). He will be retiring on July 31, 2018.

A native of Maryland, Richard received a Bachelor's of Science degree from West Virginia University and a Master's degree from Clemson University, both in Agricultural Economics. He also attended the Graduate School of Banking at Louisiana State University.

For over three decades, Richard Monson has been a highly trusted leader in the financial services industry and in rural America. He has built an impressive career, beginning with his work with the West Virginia Farm Commission's prison farm system. Richard went on to serve as a Data Management and Research Analyst in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology at Clemson University. He joined the Farm Credit System in 1986, when he became a Senior Economist at AgFirst Farm Credit Bank in Columbia, South Carolina. He later joined Farm Credit of Southwest Florida in Arcadia, Florida, where he served in a variety of roles including Commercial Loan Officer, Chief Operating Officer, and Chief Lending Officer. He became the President and CEO of Southwest Georgia Farm Credit in 2000 and has since distributed \$89 million of member dividends to the company's farmer owners with more than \$900 million in assets.

Richard's diligent commitment to financial services and rural America has also been mirrored by his involvement in the community. He has served on the Board of Trustees of Edison College in Fort Myers, Florida and as the Chairman of the AgFirst Presidents Group and the Georgia Cooperative Council.

Dr. Benjamin E. Mays often said: "You make your living by what you get, you make your life by what you give." We are so grateful that Richard Monson has given his time and talents to provide a premier financial institution for the farmers of Southwest Georgia. A man of great integrity, his efforts, his dedication, and his expertise are unparalleled. Southwest Georgia shines a little brighter because of Richard Monson.

He has accomplished much in his life, but none of it would have been possible without the love and support of his wife, Linda, and their two daughters, Katie and Kristen. After retirement, Richard will enjoy spending time with the family he cherishes so dearly.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife, Vivian, and the more than 730,000 residents of Georgia's Second Congressional District, in extending our sincerest appreciation and best wishes to Mr. Richard

S. Monson upon the occasion of his retirement from an outstanding career in financial services supporting agriculture in Southwest Georgia.

VETERANS CEMETERY BENEFIT  
CORRECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. DAVID P. ROE**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 16, 2018*

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD an exchange of letters in connection with S. 2372, the VA MISSION Act.

COMMITTEE ON RULES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
*Washington, DC, May 10, 2018.*

Hon. PHIL ROE,  
*Chairman, Committee on Veterans' Affairs,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROE: On May 8, 2018, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs ordered reported H.R. 5674, the VA MISSION Act of 2018. As you know, the Committee on Rules was granted an additional referral upon the bill's introduction pursuant to the Committee's jurisdiction under rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives over rules and joint rules of the House.

Because of your willingness to consult with my committee and make necessary changes to the legislation regarding this matter, I will waive consideration of the bill by the Rules Committee. By agreeing to waive its consideration of the bill, the Rules Committee does not waive its jurisdiction over H.R. 5674. In addition, the Committee on Rules reserves its authority to seek conferees on any provisions of the bill that are within its jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference that may be convened on this legislation. I ask your commitment to support any request by the Committee on Rules for conferees on H.R. 5674 or related legislation.

I also request that you include this letter and your response as part of your committee's report on the bill and in the Congressional Record during consideration of the legislation on the House floor. Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

PETE SESSIONS,  
*Chairman, House Committee on Rules.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, DC, May 10, 2018.*

Hon. PETE SESSIONS,  
*Chairman, Committee on Rules,*  
*House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding the Rules Committee's jurisdictional interest in H.R. 5674, the VA MISSION Act of 2018, and your willingness to forego consideration of H.R. 5674 by your committee.

I agree that the Committee on Rules has a valid jurisdictional interest in certain provisions of H.R. 5674, and that the Committee's jurisdiction will not be adversely affected by your decision to forego consideration of H.R. 5674. As you have requested, I will address the necessary changes to the legislation and I will support your request for an appropriate appointment of outside conferees from your Committee in the event of a House-Senate conference on this or similar legislation should such a conference be convened.

Finally, I will include a copy of your letter and this response in the Committee Report

and in the Congressional Record during the floor consideration of this bill.

Thank you again for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

DAVID P. ROE M.D.,  
*Chairman.*

CELEBRATING BERNICE MAY HOYT  
OF GREENE COUNTY

**HON. JOHN J. FASO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 18, 2018*

Mr. FASO. Mr. Speaker, it is with immense respect and great honor that I rise today to recognize Bernice May Hoyt for receiving the Outstanding Contribution by a Senior Citizen Award for Greene County. This designation honors an exceptional senior citizen in Greene County who has demonstrated an unyielding commitment to the betterment of the community.

From volunteering at her local church and assisting her elderly neighbors, to donating her time and services to the Mountain Top Food Pantry, Bernice has given selflessly to provide for her friends and neighbors, and especially for area seniors. Through her actions, Bernice has improved the quality of life for countless individuals and has become a cornerstone of the Greene County community.

I am grateful for Bernice's years of dedication to the Greene County community, to the 19th District, and to New York state. I wish her the best as she continues to serve as an inspiration to all who have the pleasure of crossing paths with her.

IN HONOR OF DON HANSEN'S RE-  
TIREMENT FROM HANSEN &  
PECK LAW FIRM

**HON. LIZ CHENEY**

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 18, 2018*

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to Don Hansen on his retirement.

This is a momentous occasion and I hope that he will take the time to reflect upon all his hard work over the past 50 years working as an attorney in Newcastle, Wyoming. I thank him for his contributions to Hansen & Peck and to our community.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Don Hansen on his retirement. I wish him the best in future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE GREATER  
DENTON ARTS COUNCIL

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 18, 2018*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Greater Denton Arts Council as it celebrates its 50th Anniversary as the home for Denton's artists and community organizations.