

HONORING PASTOR BILL COATES
OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
GAINESVILLE

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 5, 2018

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the career of Pastor Bill Coates of the First Baptist Church of Gainesville. After 20 years of service to the church, Pastor Coates delivered his final sermon on August 19, 2018.

A native of South Carolina, Pastor Coates spent most of his childhood knowing that he would eventually join the ministry. In 1998, he and his family moved to Northeast Georgia so that he could become Senior Pastor at First Baptist Gainesville.

Pastor Coates always referred to First Baptist Gainesville's congregation as the "people of the church" to remind them that they are the Lord's people first and foremost. During his tenure, First Baptist Gainesville expanded, adding a new banquet hall and the church's Jubilee Garden to accommodate a growing family of members. Pastor Coates also led groups of Georgians to serve in places like Ireland and Panama.

As a leader, Pastor Coates looked beyond his own needs, focusing on the spiritual growth of others in the Gainesville community. His selflessness ultimately led him to retire, a decision that he hopes will pave the way for new leadership to make a positive impact on the many faces of the congregation.

Pastor Coates' servant heart touched the lives of many. I want to thank him for the 20 years he dedicated to First Baptist Gainesville and hope his retirement is filled with both rest and new adventures.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT
OF COLUMBIA SPECIAL ELEC-
TIONS HOME RULE ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 5, 2018

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Special Elections Home Rule Act. This bill would give the District of Columbia complete authority to set the date of special elections for local offices, which other jurisdictions have. Our bill simply removes a Home Rule Act limitation on the District that is not only inconsistent with the self-government granted by the Home Rule Act, but is also counterproductive.

This bill follows legislation we got through the Congress in 2012 that gave the D.C. Board of Elections ("Board") more flexibility to set the date of special elections for local offices to maximize voter participation. Although we sought complete authority for the District over the scheduling of special elections, the 2012 law, the District of Columbia Special Election Reform Act, did not include this home-rule principle. D.C. should have complete authority over a matter that is unrelated to any other congressional district and has no relevance to Congress.

The Home Rule Act originally required the Board to hold special elections on the first

Tuesday 114 days from when the vacancy occurred and allowed the Board to schedule special elections on the same day as the next general election if that election occurred 60 days from when a special election would otherwise have been held. This inflexibility led to special elections being held on religious holidays and forced the District to hold a special election separate from an upcoming general election, costing the District hundreds of thousands of dollars in extra election costs. The 2012 law required the Board to hold a special election on a Tuesday occurring between 70 and 174 days after the vacancy.

Our bill is an important step to perfect home rule for the District. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

RISING TO THE CYBER
CHALLENGE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 5, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we are in a new age of warfare. Once was a time when bombs, bullets, ships, planes, tanks, and artillery were all that great powers needed to vanquish or intimate their foes. Now with the rapid rise of the information age, any nation can possess digital weapons to undermine our military edge or disrupt our way of life. These new weapons, existing in cyberspace, can reach anywhere, at any time, and do enormous damage but go virtually unseen. They may not always result in the immediate deaths, but like a virus, they disable our defenses and cripple the basic mechanisms we need to support life—eventually costing American lives. Their ever expanding abilities could one day even effect life on a scale that rivals the most destructive nuclear weapons man has ever produced.

We have learned that in our new age, it does not take large industrialized states to develop advanced cyber weapons. We have seen impoverished and isolated nations like North Korea prove they possess cyber capabilities that challenge the defenses of our great nation. We have only just entered this new era of cyber-enabled competition, and the full ability of state-sponsored cyber weapons has yet to be realized. But given the remarkable advance of technology today, we must ensure that we have all the tools and resources necessary to compete and win in cyberspace as we would at sea, in the air, or on land.

But this is not a contest limited to the military or our traditional security agencies to defend against. Our enemies are using their cyber weapons to undermine our economic strength and threaten the very foundations of our democracy. This new age of cyber-enabled warfare, poses risks that require government and the private sector to work together to secure our greatest secrets and guard our most precious rights. Like so many challenges we have faced before, we can overcome this one if we demonstrate our resolve and unshackle America's innovative talents.

That is why I am proud to be an original co-sponsor to Mr. YOHO's bill, H.R. 5576, the Cyber Deterrence and Response Act of 2018. This bill will set the policy and direction for our

federal agencies to effectively combat the rising cyber challenge. The authorizations in this bill focuses our approach towards state-sponsored cyber activities and allows the President to use our tools of national power to deter and degrade our cyber opponents. Much like our methods to combat terrorism, this bill creates a process to designate adversaries who use cyber weapons against us. We can then bring sanctions to bear on those individuals and entities that are exploiting the cyber realm to wage war or weaken the U.S. Through this bill, our enemies will find that their misbehavior in cyberspace has real costs and that America is already prepared to take on this new challenge.

And that's just the way it is.

IN RECOGNITION OF LEO J.
DELANEY FOR A CAREER OF
SERVICE TO THE U.S.

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 5, 2018

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Leo J. Delaney on four decades of service to our nation's defense. Leo will retire from the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) on September 30. Mr. Delaney grew up in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania and joined the Air Force following graduation from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He served as an officer in the Air Force for six years.

Following separation from military service, Leo embarked on a civil service career with DIA at the Department of Defense. His career there spanned over three decades during times when America was engaged in the Cold War, Desert Storm, and the 9/11 attacks and their aftermath.

Leo's service in DIA was notable and unique in terms of responsibility, diversity of subject matter, and success. His years of executive service spanned the development of and brought improvements to the entire scope of DIA's collection, analysis, and supporting activities. He received numerous awards throughout his federal service, including being honored twice by the president with the Presidential Rank Award of Meritorious Service.

It is an honor to recognize the Leo as he celebrates his long career and begins retirement. He is a patriot and a committed professional who contributed significantly to our country's well-being. On behalf of both a grateful nation and myself, I extend sincere congratulations and best wishes to Mr. Delaney for the next chapter of his impressive story.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. TED
STARK

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 5, 2018

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Ted Stark on his retirement from federal service.

Ted served forty years as a member of our Federal Law Enforcement Agencies. I commend Ted on his longevity of service to our