

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MIKE BOST**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2019*

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, on February 12, 2019, I was unavailable to vote in the House. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on Roll Call No. 76 and yea on Roll Call No. 77.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BRENDA L. LAWRENCE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2019*

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, on February 11, 2019, I was not able to cast my votes during the vote series due to prior obligation in my District. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted: Yes on H.R. 1065—Social Media Use in Clearance Investigations Act of 2019 (Sponsored by Rep. STEPHEN LYNCH/Oversight and Reform Committee); and Yes on H.R. 1079—CASES Act (Sponsored by Rep. GARRET GRAVES/Oversight and Reform Committee).

## USPS INTERPRETATION OF RSIA

**HON. DON YOUNG**

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2019*

Mr. YOUNG. Madam Speaker, it was my pleasure as Dean of the House of Representatives to swear you in at the beginning of this Congressional Session. I pledge to work with you on all matters affecting our Nation and my home State of Alaska.

I want to bring to the attention of my colleagues, and the United States Postal Service (USPS), which receives a certain level of federal funding for forgone revenue due to free and reduced rate mail under the Financial Services and General Government (FSGG) Title of the appropriations package, an issue that is critical to safe and stable passenger air service in Alaska.

Alaska is unique in comparison to other States within our Union in that we have special mail service to provide roughly the equivalent of universal postal service, on par with the rest of the country, to remote Alaskan communities throughout my State which are not connected to the U.S. road system. By way of aviation, vital "bypass" mail service is provided via air carriers to towns and villages all over Alaska. This service is critical to the State of Alaska and to my constituents. USPS has jurisdiction over this program and, from time to time, has implemented its interpretations that diverge from Congressional intent of the Rural Services Improvement Act (RSIA)—a law that I helped develop with my former Senate colleague Ted Stevens, and which governs the USPS mail-delivery system for Alaska.

The intent of RSIA is very similar to the intent of the USPS funding included in the Financial Services appropriations bill—to ensure

that rural postal delivery is maintained at prior year levels and to prevent the closure of important rural post offices.

There is only one airline in Alaska that now delivers mail and passengers "from the first to the last mile" to the far reaches of the State—to Native communities, to communities on the Aleutian chain, and the northern-most towns and villages in the State. This airline, Ravn Air, has been disadvantaged by the USPS's interpretation of RSIA that does not grant the air carrier the status as an "existing mainline carrier" under the statute. This status will help further ensure that viable passenger service and mail delivery is maintained throughout the State.

From time to time, it is fair and appropriate for USPS to objectively reevaluate its interpretation of RSIA to provide an updated application of the law and to consider Ravn for this status.

I intend to follow up with USPS and its new Commissioners regarding this request. The entire Alaska Congressional Delegation has previously written USPS on this matter and I will continue to reach out to my Senate Colleagues for review of this with USPS in light of changes within USPS itself, and changes in the airline industry and marketplace in Alaska.

I thank my colleagues and with that I will vote for passage of the Financial Services bill as part of the final FY '19 Appropriations package.

## IN HONOR OF THE OUTSTANDING CAREER OF GRAHAM T. "BUBBA" MOORE, JR.

**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2019*

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Graham T. "Bubba" Moore, Jr. on his nearly fifty years of outstanding service to our community as he retires from Barnhill Contracting Company, located in North Carolina's Eighth Congressional District.

Graham—or Bubba as he's known to his friends—started his career in 1973 and retires today as the Vice President of Barnhill Contracting Company after 46 years of service in Fayetteville, North Carolina. He graduated from North Carolina State University in 1973 with a degree in engineering, and in that same year he married his lovely wife, Betty Gail. Together they've raised two children, Landis and Gray, and one grandchild, Evelyn.

Over the years, Bubba has become a pillar of the community. While the list of his community involvements is quite extensive, Bubba has time and again stepped up to help our soldiers, veterans and their families—no small feat considering Fayetteville is home to Fort Bragg, the largest military installation in the world. Bubba has served as the Vice-Chair of the Ft Bragg Special Activities Committee, Chairman of the Military Affairs Council of the Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce, and on the Board of Directors for the Sandhills Military Council.

On top of these public positions, Bubba has always been known as someone who wanted to help our troops behind the scenes. Bubba went to visit soldiers in Afghanistan at Bagram Air Field in Kandahar and delivered Christmas

gifts and Holiday Cheer to our deployed soldiers. He also helped organized family trips for Gold Star family members and was instrumental in supporting children of deployed soldiers attend exclusive productions of "Disney on Ice" at the Crown Center. These were things that may not have received public attention, but that didn't matter to Bubba; he just cared about giving back to the place he's called home for so long.

I wish Bubba a long and happy retirement, and I know I speak for countless people in the community when I say he will be missed at Barnhill Contracting Company.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Bubba for his incredible career and service to our community.

## IN HONOR OF JOHNNIE MAE BROOKS-DALE THOMPSON

**HON. KEVIN BRADY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2019*

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, today, I rise in recognition of an inspiring member of our community and graduate of Texas' first African American Women's College, Johnnie Mae Brooks-Dale Thompson.

This Texas trailblazer was born in Houston on September 17, 1925, and graduated high school at the young age of 14. Johnnie Mae then enrolled in Mary Allen Jr. College—the first black women's college in the state of Texas. During her time at Mary Allen, Johnnie Mae was a strong academic student and her skills in mathematics allowed her to become a member of the prestigious Kappa Epsilon Honor Society. Outside of the classroom, Johnnie Mae was able to foster her love of music—which was developed early on in her childhood—by taking advantage of Mary Allen's music program and singing in the college choir. While working in the school library, Johnnie Mae discovered a deep passion for education that propelled her to earn her master's degree from Texas Southern University in 1951.

Johnnie Mae was able to combine her passions of education and music as a fifth-grade music teacher in Navasota, Texas—a job that gave her ample opportunity to spread her love of music to new generations.

It comes as no surprise to those who know her best that Johnnie Mae's professional career was defined by her commitment to living a service-oriented life. No matter what she was doing, be it teaching music to children, volunteering in her local church, or educating the future generations of Texans—Johnnie Mae did it with an infectious attitude of positivity and joy. Whether it's through her involvement in the church or her rigorous social schedule, Johnnie Mae continues to be a prominent figure in her community, even now at the age of 93.

Johnnie Mae Brooks-Dale Thompson has led a life of selfless service and spiritual devotion—always embodying her adage: "Before you do something that is nice or negative, think how you would feel if someone did this to you." Let us celebrate not only institutions like Mary Allen College, but also individuals like Johnnie Mae. I know I join her family, friends, and the entire Eighth District of Texas

in honoring all she has accomplished thus far in her extraordinary life.

HONORING CHARLES BALDINGER

**HON. JIM COOPER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2019*

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Charles Baldinger of Nashville, Tennessee.

While attending the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, Charlie was diagnosed with anaplastic astrocytoma—a rare Stage 3 malignant brain tumor. He found the bad news after a near-fatal accident. As a cadet, Charlie fell 20 feet during a rope-free bouldering set. The fall resulted in a trip to the hospital where it was discovered that he had a brain tumor.

Nevertheless, Charlie graduated from West Point, was commissioned as an Infantry Officer, but then was forced to medically retire. Yet he kept learning and kept excelling. Charlie earned his master's degree from Lipscomb University. Charlie began treatments while at Lipscomb and allowed its College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences to use his body for research. He underwent test treatments that allowed data to be gathered for the purpose of better understanding how to treat cancer. Even during his illness, Charlie continued his service to others.

Charlie passed away peacefully on January 6, 2019. He was a brother, son, grandson, husband, and friend, who will always be remembered by his loved ones.

CONGRATULATING CAL OZAKI

**HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2019*

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise to call your attention to a notable retirement taking place at the nation's lead nuclear energy research and development laboratory.

For the last thirty-one years, Cal Ozaki has served in leadership roles at the Argonne-West/Idaho National Laboratory facilities in Eastern Idaho.

As director of INL's Campus Development office, Cal played a principal role in developing the laboratory's campus in Idaho Falls.

As laboratory liaison to the DOE Office of Nuclear Energy in Washington, D.C., Cal was a one-stop office for the agency to access INL facilities and capabilities.

As director of INL's Facility Operations and Maintenance office, Cal was responsible for 2 million square feet of laboratory space, support facilities and infrastructure.

Finally, in his current position, manager of Public Affairs & Strategic Initiatives, Cal has helped educate his fellow citizens about INL's important clean energy and national security work.

But today's recognition cannot just focus on Cal's professional accomplishments. I also would like to mention his decades of remarkable public service.

Cal currently serves as an inaugural trustee at the new College of Eastern Idaho. He is a

past chairman for the Idaho Falls Chamber of Commerce and served on the board of directors for the United Way and Eastern Idaho Economic Development Council. And, for the last 25 years, Cal has participated in community delegation exchanges with the Idaho Falls-Tokai Mura, Japan, Sister City program. With a smile on his face and a hearty laugh in the air, Cal has made a significant contribution to the quality of life for all of us in Eastern Idaho. Cal and his wife Cindy are pillars in the Idaho Falls community and their legacy of service and giving back is greatly appreciated.

It is my great honor to congratulate Cal on a notable career, thank him for his public service, and wish him and his wife, Cindy, all the best in retirement.

RECOGNIZING THOMAS C. BALLARD AS THE OKALOOSA COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

**HON. MATT GAETZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2019*

Mr. GAETZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Thomas Ballard as the Educational Support Professional of the Year for Okaloosa County, Florida.

Mr. Ballard is a P.E. Classroom Assistant at Mary Esther Elementary School. For many years, Mr. Ballard has served the Okaloosa County School District with exceptional passion and an unwavering commitment to excellence.

Prior to his service with the school district, he served as a full-time firefighter with the City of Mary Esther from 1981 to 2009. Mr. Ballard's exemplary contributions earned him numerous awards; such as the "City of Mary Esther Life Saving Medal" and the "Military Order of World Wars Award of Appreciation".

Sharing his invaluable experience gained as a firefighter, Mr. Ballard graciously assisted in the creation of his school's Crisis Plan.

He continually demonstrates his dedication to his school and community by participating in additional duties such as acting as a member of the school safety committee and serving as a volunteer firefighter at Florosa Fire Department.

Mr. Ballard displays incredible devotion to helping students and children in his community feel safe and happy. He generously donates his time to proactively address needs identified in the community as evidenced by his organization of the first official Volunteer Umpires for the Mary Esther Little League.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Thomas C. Ballard for his many contributions and for his profound impact in the Okaloosa County School District. I offer my gratitude for his service and wish him all the best for continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2019*

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I mistakenly voted AYE, when I meant to vote NO on

Roll No. 81 (Buck of Colorado Amendment No. 2) to H.J. Res. 37—Directing the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Republic of Yemen that have not been authorized by Congress.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BETA LAMBDA CHAPTER OF ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY, INC.

**HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2019*

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise today to recognize a significant milestone in one of the pre-eminent organizations, not only in the Fifth Congressional District of Missouri, which I proudly represent, but throughout the region—the Beta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated. As a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity myself, I am especially proud to recognize this great accomplishment. It is truly an honor to celebrate the Beta Lambda Chapter's Centennial observance on February 17, 2019 in Kansas City, Missouri.

The Beta Lambda Chapter was chartered in January 1919 with ten charter members who laid a strong foundation of fraternal fellowship in the Greater Kansas City Metropolitan Area. The effort to organize the Beta Lambda Chapter in Kansas City, Missouri began in April 1918, upon the request of graduate members of the fraternity who resided in Kansas City. An application for the Chapter was made during the 1918 convention held in Cleveland, Ohio by Brothers T.C. Brown, W.H. Bruce, L.H. Norwood, Thomas Taylor, J. Oliver Morrison and Guy Booker. Favorable action was taken by the convention and the Chapter was established in January 1919 making it the second oldest graduate chapter and first graduate chapter west of the Mississippi River. The charter members of the Beta Lambda Chapter were all outstanding members of the Kansas City community and of their respective professions. Faced with cultural realities of the early Twentieth Century, these charter members found in each other a source of mutual support, enlightenment and a retreat of friendship and fraternity. Each sensed a significant void created by the pervasive permanence of American institutional racism and exclusionary practices that were predominant during that era. Throughout its history, the Beta Lambda Chapter has proudly upheld the high standards of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated was founded in 1906 at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. Our founding Jewels are Henry Arthur Callis, Charles Henry Chapman, Eugene Kinckle Jones, George Biddle Kelley, Nathaniel Allison Murray, Robert Harold Ogle, and Vertner Woodson Tandy.

Beta Lambda has been privileged to host the Thirteenth Annual Convention in 1920, Twenty-Eighth Annual Convention in 1940, Thirty-Sixth Annual Convention in 1950, Seventy-Fourth Annual Convention in 1988 and Eighty-Eighth Annual Convention in 2008. Beta Lambda won the "McGee Memorial Cup" as Outstanding National Chapter from 1945 to 1947. Additionally, the Beta Lambda Chapter won National Alumni Chapter of the Year in