

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