

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING OFFICER ROBERT CARROLL ON BEING NAMED OAK LAWN'S TOP COP OF 2019

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 17, 2019

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Officer Robert Carroll of the Oak Lawn Police Department for being named the Village's Top Cop of 2019. The Oak Lawn Lion's Club bestows this award on a distinguished member of the force after being nominated by his or her peers and selected by a committee of police department leaders.

Officer Carroll has served the Oak Lawn community as an exemplary first responder. While performing his duties, Officer Carroll has put his life on the line to make numerous felony arrests and to keep the Village of Oak Lawn safe. Officer Carroll has received several letters from citizens recognizing him for his compassion and professionalism in the line of duty. Officer Carroll is an exceptional member of the Oak Lawn Police Department and his record stands as a shining example for others seeking to serve Oak Lawn and our larger Chicagoland community.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Oak Lawn Police Officer Robert Carroll. I congratulate him on his accomplishments and thank him for his service.

TRIBUTE TO SYDNEY STROTHER SMITH III

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 17, 2019

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I pay tribute to Sydney Strother Smith III of Abingdon, Virginia, a faithful servant of his God and country.

Strother was born on August 1, 1941, to Strother and Betsy Smith. His father was one of the Army's last commissioned cavalry officers, and during young Strother's baptism at Fort Knox on December 7, 1941, news from Pearl Harbor interrupted the service. As his father fought in World War II as a tank commander, Strother lived in Richmond with his mother and grandfather. They remained there after his father returned from the war.

Hoping to follow in his father's footsteps by joining the military, Strother enrolled at the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington. A fall from cliffs broke his back, however, and ended hopes of a military career. Among his roommates at VMI, he was the only one not to die in Vietnam, convincing him that God had a different purpose for his life.

Strother is known as a dedicated and effective organizer of the Republican Party in Virginia. He was the founding president of the Young Republicans Club at the University of

Richmond and served as vice president of the statewide Young Republicans Federation, where he helped expand the number of clubs statewide and met his future wife Barbara. He managed his father's successful campaign for the Virginia House of Delegates as a Republican at a time when Virginia was still largely controlled by the Democratic Party and went on to manage other campaigns for the House of Delegates, United States Senate, and House of Representatives. After moving to Washington County to practice law, he became an active member of the county party and instilled it with new blood. He served as chairman of the county party from 1974 to 1980 and, along with Professor Ray Hancock, organized the College Republicans at Emory and Henry College, my alma mater.

Strother also achieved distinction in his legal career. He became one of the youngest attorneys to argue in front of the United States Supreme Court and would return several times, as well as appear before the Virginia Supreme Court. He was drawn toward cases in which he championed the underdog. One example unfolded over 25 years as he represented an elderly Kentucky mountain man, John Johnson, and eventually Mr. Johnson's heirs against the industrial giant Bethlehem Minerals. Mr. Johnson claimed rights over the coal on his property, and Strother argued his case up to the Kentucky Supreme Court, then to the U.S. Supreme Court, and back to Kentucky. When the case was finally resolved, Mr. Johnson's heirs and co-litigants were awarded \$37 million in damages, and willful trespassing became part of mineral rights law. Strother relished such cases and often engaged in them on a pro bono basis, about which his wife sometimes noted that his family had bills to pay, too.

Strother was an active member of the Anglican Church. He was a chancellor, canon lawyer, and a priest ordained in 1987, and he helped to found and rector six parishes. He also belonged to numerous civic organizations. He was an Eagle Scout as a boy and a scout leader as an adult, a member of the Sons of the Revolution, and a reenactor with the Mountain Men of Revolutionary War fame. An amateur pilot, a published poet, a joke collector and storyteller, he is a man of seemingly endless talents but one: punctuality. His nickname, the "Late Great Strother Smith," reflects his habit of being late to just about everything, including his wedding. The one exception: voting, which he would always be in line for by 6 am.

Strother's family includes his wife of 53 years, Barbara Ann Smith; daughters Ambler Dumler and her husband John, Sydney Smith and her husband Tim Gilhool, and Beth and her husband Andy Stockner; brother, Richard Smith and his wife Sarah of Alexandria, VA; sister Rev. Caroline Parkinson of Nashville, TN; and grandchildren Josef, Marshall, and Aidan Dumler, Jimmy and Molly Gilhool, and Virginia, Josie, and Cora Stockner.

TRIBUTE TO BLAKE EDWARD BUTLER

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 17, 2019

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a public servant and American patriot, Blake Butler, who passed away suddenly on May 3, 2019 at his home in Yerevan, Armenia. Today I ask that the U.S. House of Representatives join me to honor and remember the life of Blake Edward Butler.

Blake Butler joined the U.S. Department of State in 2009 as a U.S. Foreign Service Officer. In 2018, he began his tour as the Human Resources and Financial Management Officer at U.S. Embassy Yerevan. From 2015 to 2018 he served as the Assistant General Services Officer at U.S. Embassy Buenos Aires where he led the team that provided logistical support to 14 different U.S. government agencies and close to 400 employees. Blake's other assignments included General Services Officer at U.S. Embassy Baghdad; Environmental, Science, Technology and Health Officer at U.S. Embassy Paris; and Vice Consul at U.S. Embassy Port-au-Prince. Prior to joining the Foreign Service, he worked as a civil service employee for the Department of State as a budget analyst and in the office responsible for the President's foreign travel. He was the recipient of multiple Department Superior Honor and Meritorious Honor Awards. In addition to his service with the Department of State, Blake valiantly served in the U.S. Army's Reserve from 2001 to 2011 and was deployed overseas on multiple occasions.

Blake was the loving husband of Sara Hurst Butler, who previously worked in my office, and the proud father of Everett Ian Butler. Blake received his BA from Baylor University and his MBA and Master's in Health Administration from Texas Woman's University.

As we look at the incredibly rich history of our country we realize that this history is comprised of men, just like Blake, who chose a life of public service. I am grateful for Blake's service to our country and my thoughts, prayers and deepest condolences goes out Blake's wife, son, parents and brother. There are no words that can relieve their pain and what words I offer only begin to convey my deep respect and highest appreciation. I hope they know that the goodness Blake brought to this world will always be remembered.

ROYAL ROTH

HON. STEVE SCALISE

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 17, 2019

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate my friend, Royal Roth, on his well-deserved retirement after a long and

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