

COLONEL JEFFREY SMITH

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 28, 2019

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to commend Colonel Jeffrey S. Smith, United States Air Force, for his outstanding devotion and selfless service to the United States of America. Colonel Smith will retire on June 01, 2019, from his present assignment as the Commander of the 173rd Fighter Wing at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Oregon.

Colonel Smith entered the United States Air Force Academy in 1991 and became a proud graduate in 1995. His first mission took him halfway around the world to Kadena Air Base in Japan, and then Elmendorf Air Force Base in Alaska. During his time in Japan and Alaska, Colonel Smith engaged in Operations Southern and Northern Watch in Iraq and kept the skies safe in the aftermath of regional conflicts. In 2002, after Colonel Smith attended United States Air Force Weapons School at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada, he was deployed to Incirlik Air Base in Turkey to help the United States prepare for a pivotal mission to root out terror from this world: Operation Iraqi Freedom. In 2003, he executed the mission to equip the next generation of fighter pilots with the skills and knowledge needed to defend our great nation in the skies. This mission brought Colonel Smith back to Nellis Air Force Base, where he served as an F-15 instructor at the United States Air Force Weapons School, as the 57th Wing Weapons Officer. In 2005, he made his way to what would become his home, Klamath Falls, Oregon, where he joined the 114th Fighter Squadron at Kingsley Field as an F-15 Flight Instructor. Colonel Smith wore many hats at Kingsley. He served as Chief of Academics, Chief of Syllabus Development, Chief of Scheduling, Functional Check Flight Pilot, Assistant Director of Operations, Chief of F-15 Student Training, Director of Operations, 173rd Maintenance Squadron Commander, 173rd Deputy Maintenance Group Commander, and 173rd Maintenance Group Commander. This proven sustained superior performance, seasoned operational knowledge, and superb leadership made him the best choice to serve as the Commander of the 173rd Fighter Wing.

For the community in Klamath Falls, and also the dedicated men and women at Kingsley Field, Colonel Smith is the epitome of leadership, professionalism, and a supportive mentor. He led with both valor and rigor. Under his valued leadership, he directed over 1,050 personnel, from widely varying backgrounds, to ensure that airmen at the base strategically excelled as an elite fighting force. As the only place in the country where pilots still train on the F-15, Kingsley Field has become an incubator for second-to-none (unrivaled) fighter pilots.

For the people in Klamath Falls, Colonel Smith's influence stretches far beyond the expansive skies over Kingsley Field, ensuring the larger community benefits from Kingsley Field's presence. Whether partnering with the local university, providing job opportunities, or staying engaged with the community, he always brought a "Klamath-first" mindset to his work. He led the effort to extend the Department of Defense's lease in Klamath Falls

through the rest of this century. As one of the largest employers in the region, Kingsley Field remains a strong economic driver. We partnered and hosted both Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson and the Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee MAC THORNBERRY, the first time either an Air Force Secretary or Armed Services Committee Chairman has ever visited Kingsley Field. Colonel Smith has positioned Kingsley Field and Klamath Falls for a bright future.

For a man of his caliber, who demonstrated superb leadership, dedication, and sacrifice throughout his service to our great nation, it seems no amount of recognition is sufficient to say thank you.

Madam Speaker, it has been an honor to know and work alongside him for many years. On behalf of a grateful nation, I join my colleagues today and congratulate Colonel Smith for a lifetime of service to his country. We wish him, his wife, Lindsay, and their two children: Luke, 11, Alex 9, only the best wishes as he retires from the United States Air Force.

IN MEMORY OF THOMAS BRYTE
HUGHES

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 28, 2019

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, Thomas Bryte Hughes passed away peacefully in Lake Tahoe on May 18, 2019, surrounded by family.

A fourth generation Sacramentan, Tom was born on February 20, 1937 to Ruth Bryte Hughes and Gordon Stanley Hughes. Tom was the younger brother of Gordon Bryte Hughes (1935 to 2017).

After attending Sacramento High School and graduating from Menlo School, Tom enlisted in the United States Army, stationed primarily in Nuremberg, Germany. He recalled that time as instrumental to his formative years. Upon returning to Sacramento, he attended Sacramento City College, Sacramento State, then met Martha Reese. They were married in 1961.

Tom's 50 year career in the automobile industry began with his love of cars, and was influenced by his dear friends and business partners Rusty and Roy Jacobes.

Tom developed an early love of Lake Tahoe from trips with family and friends. He loved to share stories of his hijinks both on and off the lake, where he spent countless hours enjoying his boats, 'Splash', 'Tomsfoolery', 'ML Crisis' and 'Senior Crisis'. His family and friends were often encouraged to "say goodnight to the lake" with him at the end of an evening.

Tom was a Life Member of the Sutter Club, where he loved nothing more than his domino game over, lunch with friends, which he continued until the last week of his life. He also belonged to The Pioneers, Royal Order of Raccoons, The Grandfathers, Tahoe Yacht Club, and The West Shore Club.

Tom is survived by his wife of almost 58 years Martha (Reese), his children Jennifer Dowley (Doug Longyear), Howard Hughes (Katy) and Meredith Lyons (Carter). He was fondly known as "Grumpy" to his seven grandchildren: Meg and Tommy Dowley; Reese and Stephen Hughes; and Elizabeth, Katie and Molly Lyons.

Tom loved cars and boats, he loved Lake Tahoe, he loved his friends, and most of all, he loved his family.

A celebration of Tom's life will take place on Wednesday, June 5th at 11:00 a.m. at The Sutter Club. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to The Shriners Hospital for Children in Sacramento or the North Lake Tahoe Historical Society.

SETTING EVERY COMMUNITY UP
FOR RETIREMENT ENHANCE-
MENT ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2019

Mrs. BEATTY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong support for the Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement Act, H.R. 1994, otherwise known as the SECURE Act.

This bill will make it easier for all hard-working Americans to have access to retirement savings plans to create a brighter financial future for themselves and their families.

In today's economy, far too many Americans do not have adequate access to traditional retirement savings vehicles such as an employer-sponsored 401(k) plans and pensions.

In fact, as of 2016, only 30 percent of American households had access to a defined-benefit plan and only 52 percent participated in a defined-contribution plan.

These statistics are even starker for minority families.

According to recent studies, while African-Americans participating in employer-based retirement plans were on par with White families, participation rates have dropped to 41 percent in 2013, compared to 65 percent for White families.

This bill would expand access to employer-sponsored retirement savings plans for all Americans and incentivize increased contributions to employee retirement accounts by employers.

It would also provide a tax credit for small businesses to defray the costs of providing their employees certain 401(k) retirement options that include automatic enrollment, which has proven to increase employee participation and result in higher retirement savings.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

RECOGNIZING ELLIOTT BRANCH
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RE-
TIREMENT FROM THE DEPART-
MENT OF THE NAVY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 28, 2019

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Mr. Elliott Branch, who is retiring from the Department of the Navy after more than 34 years of faithful service to our nation, culminating in his service as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Acquisition and Procurement for the past 10 years.