

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.

Mr. Branch started his federal service in 1978 at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard as a Contracting Intern with the Naval Regional Procurement Office before transitioning to Naval Air Systems (NAVAIR) Command as a Contract Specialist in 1980. While serving at NAVAIR, he supported HARM, HARPOON, T-45 and F-14 Weapon Systems. From 1986 to 1993, Mr. Branch served as Branch Head and Deputy Division Director for Sea Combat Systems, Undersea Weapons and Shipbuilding at Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA).

In 1993, he became a member of the SES as the Director, Shipbuilding Contracts Division, at NAVSEA. He went on to serve as Executive Director, Acquisition and Business Management for the Navy, responsible for policy and oversight of contract operations throughout the entire Department. While in this position, he also served as Project Executive Officer, Acquisition Related Business Systems. In this role, he was responsible for the formulation and execution of a multi-year effort transforming the Navy from a paper-based to an electronic acquisition system.

From 1999 to 2006, Mr. Branch spent time in the private sector where he specialized in acquisition and project management education as well as training and consulting for the federal workforce and its associated contractors. He also served as the Chief Procurement Officer for the Government of the District of Columbia as the agency head responsible for procurement operations, policy, and for formulating legislative proposals for local and Congressional consideration.

In 2006, Mr. Branch became the first civilian Director of Contracts at the Naval Sea Systems Command where he led one of the largest and most complex procurement organizations in the Federal government for two years. As the senior civilian for contracting at NAVSEA, Mr. Branch was responsible for the contractual oversight of the Nation's most complex shipbuilding and weapons systems procurement programs. His duties involved the obligation and expenditure of approximately \$25 billion annually.

Elliott Branch will finish his career after spending the past 10 years as Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Acquisition and Procurement in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Research, Development and Acquisition. He has served as the senior career civilian responsible for acquisition and contracting policy that governs the operation of the Navy's world-wide, multibillion-dollar acquisition system. Mr. Branch was the principal civilian advisor to the Navy Acquisition Executive for acquisition and procurement matters, serving as the Department of the Navy's Competition Advocate General and is the leader of the Navy's contracting, purchasing, and government property communities.

I am proud to represent Mr. Branch in Congress, and I thank him and his family for his honorable service to our nation with the United States Navy. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Branch fair winds and following seas as he concludes a distinguished career of public service.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF COACH OTIS WASHINGTON

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 28, 2019

Mr. RICHMOND. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of a great man who exemplified the true meaning of being a trailblazer, Coach Otis Washington. From St. Augustine High School, to Louisiana State University (LSU), to Southern University, Coach Washington positively touched the lives of so many young men. Through the game of football, he taught valuable lessons about the importance of leadership, perseverance, and teamwork.

Coach Washington was a giant whose career transcended wins, losses, first downs, and touchdowns. A man who dedicated his life to making others better, he also broke down barriers to make one of our most venerated institutions better. As the first African-American coach hired at LSU, he paved the way for all of those who have since followed in his footsteps and reached coaching heights once unknown and unseen. In his earlier days, Coach Washington played a pivotal role for St. Augustine High School when the integration of the Louisiana High School Athletic Association was in its nascent stages. During his time there he amassed a remarkable 113-17 record despite pervasive racial tension.

As we look back on his storied life, his profound commitment to excellence on every level was clear and his on-field success was unmatched. Today I offer my deepest condolences to his family during this difficult time as they cope with the pain of losing someone so dear to so many people.

The state of Louisiana is forever indebted to Coach Washington for all he did for the community. Moving forward, it is now the responsibility of all of us he impacted to passionately carry on his legacy of greatness, selflessness, and leadership.

Madam Speaker, I celebrate the life and legacy of Coach Otis Washington.

RECOGNIZING WORLD WAR II VETERAN FELIX J. LISOVICH

HON. GUY RESCENTIALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 28, 2019

Mr. RESCENTIALER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Felix J. Lisovich, a World War II veteran from Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania.

In 1943, three weeks after graduating from Charleroi High School, Mr. Lisovich enlisted as a Surgical Technician in the United States Army. After completing his training, Mr. Lisovich deployed to the Pacific Theater from March 1944 to January 1946, where he participated in amphibious operations to liberate the Philippines and he encountered kamikaze attacks from Japanese fighter planes.

In 1945, Mr. Lisovich fought in the Battle of Luzon with the 172nd Infantry Regiment, 43rd Infantry Division. During the battle, he engaged the enemy under intense fire and aided casualty evacuations while tasked with cap-

turing a hill overlooking Rosario-Damortis Road. Mr. Lisovich was wounded by grenade shrapnel while aiding a fallen soldier and survived multiple banzai attacks.

For his service and his actions in World War II, Mr. Lisovich was awarded the Combat Medical Badge, Bronze Star, Good Conduct Medal, Purple Heart Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal with two bronze stars and one arrow, Army of Occupation Medal, and the Philippine Liberation Medal with one bronze star.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Lisovich represents the very best of southwestern Pennsylvania. Please join me in recognizing Felix J. Lisovich for his service, courage, and sacrifice.

JENNY FORREST

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 28, 2019

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate Jenny Forrest, who will be attending Columbia University in New York beginning this August to earn her Master of Business Administration. Jenny has been an invaluable member of Team Walden for more than three years.

Starting as an intern in my Washington, D.C. office, Jenny rose to staff assistant, for a moment, before rapidly rising to the role of scheduler, all without skipping a beat, even as she learned that she would soon be scheduling for a committee chairman.

Anyone who is familiar with the inner workings of Capitol Hill—whether you're a member of Congress, a staffer, reporter, or advocate—knows that the title “scheduler” simply does not capture the sheer importance and scope of the role.

Schedulers are the gatekeepers of time, a precious and finite resource on the Hill for any Congressional office, but especially for Team Walden and especially for the Energy and Commerce Committee. Schedulers are constantly asked to “hold,” “make,” and “find” time for people with competing interests and either ignorance or disregard for the fragile house of cards that is a congressional calendar.

One would expect and understand schedulers to be short-tempered, overwhelmed, and perhaps even difficult to work with; but anyone who had the pleasure of interacting with Jenny knows nothing could be further from the truth.

If you walked into 2185 Rayburn House Office Building for the last couple of years, you were always treated warmly with a smile from Jenny. She was the face of the office at the front desk, and thankfully so.

If you ever reached out to Jenny to request time for a meeting, an interview, or a speech, you were always treated with fairness, honesty, and a kind directness. If there was no time to be made, held, or found, there would be no mistake about it if you were talking to Jenny.

And if you were an Oregonian visiting for business or pleasure—especially from Oregon's Second District—Jenny went out of her way to make sure you felt at home on the Hill and was ready, at the drop of a hat, to be your tour guide, restaurant recommender, or trip advisor in the nation's capital. Jenny respected and understood well that she, along