

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