

contributions to numerous reports, testimonies, and cost estimates in just about every subject area covered by CBO, including the economy, national security, and health care.

T.J.'s service to the nation did not begin with her work at CBO. She came to CBO from the Defense Department's TRICARE Management Activity (now the Defense Health Agency), where she was an Associate General Counsel, providing guidance to the Director and staff on policy and legal issues involved in delivering quality health care to military personnel, military retirees, and their dependents.

Although T.J. is retiring from civilian service, she will continue her exemplary military career. For nearly 27 years, she has served as a member of the Air Force's Judge Advocate General Corps. She first served on active duty in various locations, including Alaska, Korea, Germany, Iraq, and Afghanistan. During that time, T.J. defended the Air Force against tort claims, prosecuted criminal offenses, taught at the U.S. Air Force Academy, commanded a cadet squadron, and was a military assistant to the General Counsel of the Department of Defense. Since transferring to the reserves more than 14 years ago, she has served in the North American Aerospace Defense Command and United States Northern Command, the Air Force Space Command, the Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center, and the Pacific Air Forces. She remains active as a colonel in the selected reserves today.

Her colleagues in CBO and on the Hill appreciate her hard work, keen insights, sense of humor, and steady hand. They will especially miss her generosity with her time and knowledge, her patience, and especially her kindness.

I know my colleagues join me in extending our thanks and appreciation to T.J. for her service to our country. We wish her well in her future undertakings and hope that the nation will continue to benefit from her expertise and commitment.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE METROPOLITAN AREA AGENCY ON AGING

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 3, 2019

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 25th anniversary of the Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging (MAAA). For 25 years, this nonprofit organization has served as a trusted advocate and resource for older adults and caregivers in the Twin Cities seven-county metropolitan area, helping seniors age well in their homes and communities.

As part of the history of the Older Americans Act, in 1972, the Metropolitan Council was designated the first Area Agency on Aging (AAA) for the Twin Cities metro area. MAAA was founded in 1994 as an independent, nonprofit organization and designated the AAA to carry out Older Americans Act services and programs. In 1997, Senior LinkAge Line call centers were established at MAAA and AAAs across Minnesota. In 2000, the National Family Caregiver Support was enacted by Congress and in 2001, MAAA established the Metropolitan Caregiver Service Collaborative. In 2004, it launched Sustaining

Minority Elders in Their Communities—an initiative to provide technical assistance and funding for organizations serving minority elders. The Upper Midwest Pension Rights Project became part of MAAA in 2009. It provides free legal counseling to residents of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, North Dakota, and South Dakota who have questions or problems related to their pensions. In 2011, MAAA became the fiscal sponsor for ACT on Alzheimer's—a statewide collaboration that began in Minnesota and led to the creation of a national initiative—Dementia Friendly America. In 2015, MAAA hosted the regional White House Conference on Aging.

Over the years, MAAA continues to adapt and expand the connections, services, and programs it oversees to better meet the needs of our aging communities. In 2015, MAAA founded Innovations for Aging, a wholly owned nonprofit subsidiary to expand its health promotion and wellness work. In 2016, Juniper was started in partnership with AAAs across Minnesota, and with Innovations for Aging as the managing partner. It provides evidence-based programming to help adults manage chronic health conditions, prevent falls, and be fit. Today, MAAA has grown from a staff of eight to employing 108 staff and is located in Arden Hills. In 2018, with Older Americans Act funding, MAAA and its community-based partners served 24,366 older adults and caregivers with critical service including chore and homemaking services, meals, rides, and caregiver consultation. More than 35 percent of those served were minority or Native elders. Through the Senior LinkAge Line and the help of its volunteers, MAAA served 66,673 people and answered 43,000 Medicare Open Enrollment calls last year.

Madam Speaker, the steadfast leadership, unbiased information, and assistance that MAAA provides to the aging communities in the Twin Cities metro are commendable and deserve to be celebrated. Please join me in honoring the 25th Anniversary of the Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging.

CONGRATULATING GORDON HIGGINS ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 3, 2019

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hall County Schools' spokesman and athletic director Gordon Higgins on his retirement.

Higgins first moved to Hall County in 1980, starting as a teacher and coach at Johnson High School in Oakwood, Georgia. Now, at the age of 71, Higgins is retiring after devoting 47 years of his career to education, 39 of which he spent working as an administrator, an educator, and a coach in Hall County.

When Higgins first began teaching in Hall County in 1980, there were only three high schools serving a population of approximately 60,000. Over the last five decades, the population of Hall County has exploded to over 200,000 people, and there are now eight high schools across the district. For the last 39 years, Higgins played a critical role in guiding and shaping the school district through this season of incredible growth, and he focused

heavily on the fact that with growth comes an increased need for accountability. He made continuous efforts to increase the role of athletics in the local community and maintained a close relationship with local media outlets to ensure the community stayed informed on any news coming out of the Hall County School District, whether positive or negative.

During his tenure, Higgins partnered with various individuals and organizations for the betterment of the student body. Within the athletic department, Higgins helped implement new safety standards for tending to student athlete injuries by partnering with Dr. John Vachtsevanos to implement the Immediate Post-Concussion Assessment and Cognitive Testing Program, which has given Hall County athletics staff the ability to quickly determine whether a student athlete has suffered from a concussion and should receive medical attention.

Higgins also worked tirelessly to help prepare students for the workforce by working with the Hall County Chamber of Commerce to create partnerships between Hall County schools and local businesses to make work-study programs available to students.

Higgins says what he will miss the most is the people. The community of students, teachers, and parents he has served mean much to him and his family, and Higgins certainly means the world to our community. He has served our students and our community as a role model, teacher, administrator, and coach, and the Hall County School District is forever better because of his dedication. I want to thank Gordon Higgins for his commitment to our students and our community, and I wish him all the best in his retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE BENJAMIN MILLS CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 3, 2019

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Benjamin Mills Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

During the Revolutionary War, Benjamin Mills served as a private and then as a 2nd lieutenant in the Maryland troops. His wife, Elizabeth, was also a patriot, having sewn shirts for the soldiers. After the war, the Mills family left Maryland to live in Pennsylvania. The family moved west, settling in Paris, Kentucky where Benjamin, Sr. died in 1822. Son Andrew and his family then migrated to Illinois in 1827 and settled in the southern part of Bond County, where hundreds of their descendants still populate the area.

On June 16, 2019, the Benjamin Mills Chapter, in coordination with the Illinois State Regent, Gloria Perkins Flathom, will dedicate two official NSDAR plaques in honor of Camp Ground Cumberland Presbyterian Church and Old Camp Ground Cemetery.

The Old Camp Ground Cemetery was established around 1830. Buried there are Revolutionary War soldier Joseph McAdams, Mary Trotter Mills, daughter of Revolutionary War