

the Fifth Circuit in 1979 and the Supreme Court of the United States in 1981.

Alan D. Monroe is highly respected in the field of real estate law. Among his many prestigious accomplishments, he obtained his Board Certification by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization in Commercial Real Estate Law and Residential Real Estate Law in 1988. Additionally, he has held memberships in the State Bar of Texas, the Hidalgo County Bar Association, and the American Bar Association.

Alan D. Monroe is a multi-faceted lawyer with years of experience and a wealth of knowledge. Upon graduating from the University of Texas School of Law, Alan D. Monroe served as an Associate with Kelly, Looney & Alexander in 1976. He became a partner of the firm in 1980. Seven years later in 1987, he established his own practice named the Law Office of Alan D. Monroe. On July 1, 2002, Alan D. Monroe became partners with Byron Jay Lewis and Mark S. Peña. They renamed the firm Lewis, Monroe & Peña.

Alan D. Monroe is known for both his successes and his generosity, constantly sharing his knowledge with peers. He taught courses in banking law for the American Bankers Association from 1989 to 1991. He also served as a chairman of the Real Estate Section for the Hidalgo County Bar Association from 2009 to 2011, and he coauthored Creative Solutions to Complex Title Problems, which was presented during the 28 Annual Advanced Real Estate Law Conference in 2006.

Alan D. Monroe is looking forward to devoting his time to his wife, Banceliza, and his children: Rebecca Monroe, Jessica Martinez and her husband Daniel, James Alan Monroe and his wife Mary Beth. He especially cherishes time with his grandsons, Luke Martinez and Tom Monroe.

Mr. Alan D. Monroe will retire officially on June 30, 2019. To say we are grateful for his contributions would be a grave understatement—he has earned the respect of many throughout his decades of service. His work ethic, dedication and professionalism have made a lasting impact on many, especially those who have had the privilege of working with him.

Madam Speaker, I commend Alan D. Monroe for his work in the real estate industry that has produced great lasting results for the Rio Grande Valley, South Texas, and beyond.

RECOGNIZING THE 2019 FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2019

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. These individuals have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety and have been awarded the prestigious Valor Award by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce.

This is the 41st Annual Valor Awards sponsored by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce. This event honors the remarkable heroism and bravery in the line of duty exem-

plified by our public safety officers. Our public safety and law enforcement personnel put their lives on the line every day to keep our families and neighborhoods safe. This year's ceremony will present 123 awards to recognize extraordinary actions above and beyond the call of duty in a variety of categories including the Lifesaving Certificate, the Certificate of Valor, and the Bronze and Silver Medal of Valor.

Twenty awards will be bestowed upon first responders who serve with the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department in recognition of their exceptional service. It is with great pride that I include in the Record the names of the following Valor Award Recipients:

SILVER MEDAL OF VALOR

Lt. Rudy Iturrino,
Lt. Edward Payne
Lt. Mark Fernandez
Master Technician John Capps
Master Technician Luis Mata
Master Technician Joshua Morrison
Master Technician Robert Pickel
Technician Dominic Runfola
Firefighter Stephen Langone
Firefighter Christopher Murray
Fire Medic Robert Elam

BRONZE MEDAL OF VALOR

Lt. William Hyden Jr.
Lt. Angel Medina
Firefighter Christopher Murray
Firefighter Jonathan Shao

CERTIFICATE OF VALOR

Lt. Lawrence Mullin
Technician Jason Dolan
Technician Andrew Reedy

LIFESAVING CERTIFICATE

Captain II Felicia Barnes
Lt. William Schnaekel
Madam Speaker, I congratulate the 2019 Valor Award Recipients, and thank each of the men and women who serve in the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of our community, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2019

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, on June 10, 2019, I was not present for the recorded vote on roll call no. 242, roll call no. 243 and roll call no. 244. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 542, H.R. 2539, and H.R. 2590.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF GEORGE ALBERT GAINES, JR.

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2019

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a life so rich in purpose

and experience that it would be a shame not to commit a place in the record of this body to commemorate it.

In August, a selfless servant of considerable character, Mr. George Albert Gaines, Jr. of Elberton, Georgia, will celebrate his 100th birthday in the company of friends, family and loved ones.

Born August 17, 1919, in Elberton, Georgia, George Albert Gaines, Jr. has spent 100 years demonstrating why his life—a life of service, leadership, and fortitude—is worth celebration and reflection.

In 1940, George began what would ultimately become a 31-year career in the military by joining the National Guard Unit in his hometown of Elberton, Georgia. As a member of the Greatest Generation, and a veteran of World War II, George served under General George S. Patton in North Africa, Corsica, and Italy, where he earned a Bronze Star in April of 1945 for his leadership on the battlefield, and for courage in the face of enemy fire.

After the war, George worked in the granite industry, capably managing Atlas Granite Company from 1947 to 1964. He later resigned from Atlas and took a position as the full-time executive officer with the Georgia National Guard, where he assumed command of the 1st Battalion, 214th Artillery, with units in Elberton, Washington, Thompson, Sparta and Waynesboro, Georgia. While in that position, George received the Distinctive Service Medal for exceptionally meritorious and distinctive service.

In addition to serving his country, George has been devoted to serving his community throughout his lifetime. He served on various boards, including the Elbert County Board of Education, and has been active in many civic and community organizations, including the Sons of the American Revolution, the Salvation Army, the Rotary Club of Elberton, and the Elberton Granite Association, of which he was once the President. He has been a devoted member of the First Baptist Church of Elberton and has served the congregation in many leadership positions over the years.

On behalf of the people of Northeast Georgia, please join me in thanking Mr. Gaines for his service and celebrating 100 years of a life well lived.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. A. DONALD MCEACHIN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2019

Mr. MCEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on June 10, 2019 during roll call no. 242, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 542, the Supporting Research and Development for First Responders Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea." I was also unavoidably detained during roll call no. 243, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 2539, the Strengthening Local Transportation Security Capabilities Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea." I was unavoidably detained during roll call no. 244, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 2590, the DHS Overseas Personnel Enhancement Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."