

CONGRATULATING PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT CHIEF KEVIN MCGEE ON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2019*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize an individual who has made an incredible mark on our community. This year marks the retirement of Chief Kevin McGee from the Prince William County Fire and Rescue Department. This will conclude an almost 40-year career for Chief McGee, all with the Prince William County Fire and Rescue Department.

Chief McGee joined the Fire and Rescue Academy in 1979 and rose through the ranks, becoming Battalion Chief in 1991, Assistant Chief in 1998 and was appointed Chief of the Fire and Rescue Department in 2007. Chief McGee also holds the distinction of having served at every rank of the Fire Department, enlisted and officer, on his way to serving as Chief. His tenure as Chief saw significant benefits for Prince William County including the reduction of false fire alarms by 82%. Chief McGee also led a review of Prince William County's emergency operations plans in order to adapt them to better respond to the threat posed by terrorism. He helped to modernize the department with the introduction of Geographic Information Systems, a computer-aided dispatch system, the Public Safety Radio Communications System and the E-9-1-1 and fire and rescue mobile data systems. All of these improvements helped the Fire and Rescue Department better serve the residents of Prince William County.

Chief McGee's efforts have been recognized by numerous entities and his leadership has led to the Department receiving several awards and citations, including the Governor's Award for Outstanding EMS Agency in 2003 and the 2019 Northern Virginia EMS Council's EMS Agency Award.

I was first elected to Congress shortly after Chief McGee was appointed Chief of the Fire and Rescue Department. I had worked with him previously during my time as Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors on various regional boards and commissions. The partnership that we had built during my time in local government continued in Congress.

I was fortunate to do several ride-alongs and facility tours with the Chief and saw firsthand his dedication to the men and women who served with him and to the residents of Prince William County. One case in particular will always stand out. Chief McGee and I worked together to get federal benefits restored to a Prince William County first responder who fell in the line of duty. The Justice Department had originally denied the claim, but working with Chief McGee we were able to get that decision reversed and make whole in one small way the family members of that first responder.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Chief Kevin McGee on his almost four decades of service to Prince William County and to Northern Virginia. Though he may be retiring, I suspect that he will continue to remain engaged on the causes that are close to his heart and he will never be

far from a fire station in Prince William County. I wish him all the best in retirement.

RECOGNIZING JUNETEENTH

**HON. ANTONIO DELGADO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2019*

Mr. DELGADO. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Juneteenth, the oldest known celebration commemorating the end of slavery in the United States.

At its core, Juneteenth is a bittersweet celebration of deferred liberation.

While the Civil War ended at Appomattox on April 9, 1865, it took more than two months for word of General Robert E. Lee's surrender to reach Texas. When General Gordon Granger, stationed in Galveston, heard the news on June 19th, he issued a proclamation that announced the freedom of 250,000 slaves in the state. By that time, more than two and a half years had passed since the Emancipation Proclamation took effect on January 1, 1863.

Speaking at Gettysburg, President Abraham Lincoln had prophesized that the Civil War would bring a new birth of freedom to America. However, for the quarter of a million slaves in Texas that freedom would come much later. And for millions of black Americans, the end of slavery meant new forms of oppressive labor practices, racial violence, police brutality, and the Jim Crow era.

While there have been tremendous strides for racial equality in the last 70 years including *Brown v. Board of Education*, the Civil Rights Act, affirmative action, and the election of our first black president, we know that we have a long way to go. We must continue to uphold our enduring commitment to equality and strive for a more just society for people of all creeds and colors.

On Juneteenth, we remember the untold millions who suffered the horrors of slavery and celebrate the liberation of a people. We do so while keeping our eyes toward tomorrow, knowing that our best days as a nation are still ahead of us.

IN HONOR OF U.S. ARMY COLONEL WILLIAM HENRY SHAW, III

**HON. DOUG LAMBORN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2019*

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of U.S. Army Colonel William Henry Shaw, III. Colonel Shaw was born on May 16, 1962, in Vidalia, Ga., the eldest son of William Henry Shaw, Jr. and Nancy Peterson Shaw. Having received a Distinguished Military Award while attending North Georgia College, Colonel Shaw joined the Army in 1984 as a 2nd lieutenant in the infantry and reported to Fort Benning Georgia. As an Infantry Officer he served in both a Mechanized Infantry Battalion and as the Commander of an Airborne Pathfinder Detachment. After leaving Ft. Benning he transferred to Special Forces. Colonel Shaw retired after serving for 30 years with 25 years in the Special Forces.

Some of his assignments included assistant to the commandant at his alma mater; professor of military science at Auburn University where he earned a master's degree; missions to establish refugee camps for our Kurdish allies in the Gulf War; commander of Charlie Co. Europe based in Stuttgart, Germany; commander of SF forces in Djibouti, Horn of Africa; Battalion Commander / Deputy Commander of Combined Forces Special Operations Command (Afghanistan); and the Commander of Afghanistan National Army Special Operations Advisor Group. His last assignment was in Stuttgart as liaison between U.S. special operations and our European embassies.

During his distinguished military career, Colonel Shaw received the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, two Bronze Stars, six Meritorious Service Medals, three Army Commendation Medals, two Joint Service Achievement Medals, two Army Achievement Medals, the Combat Infantry Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Military Freefall Badge, Pathfinder Badge, Air Assault Badge, Canadian, Israeli, British Airborne Badges, and Ranger and Special Forces tabs.

Colonel Shaw was a Ranger, Pathfinder, and Green Beret who loved skydiving. Nothing was ever more important to Billy than his beloved family connections as well as his countless friendships. He had the unique ability to connect with people from all walks of life and to keep those friendships strong throughout the years. Billy was a Christian, a Rotarian, N.G.C. girls' basketball trainer, an avid hunter and sportsman, a trustee of the Ligon Foundation, and an avid supporter of many veterans' organizations. He will be remembered for making a difference in this world.

IN HONOR OF TEXAS WOMAN'S UNIVERSITY'S CELEBRATION OF TEXAS' CENTENNIAL RATIFICATION OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2019*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Texas Woman's University centennial celebration marking Texas' ratification of the 19th Amendment.

On June 28, 1919, Texas became the ninth state in the nation to ratify the 19th Amendment, which granted women the constitutional right to vote. First introduced in the U.S. Congress in 1878, the 19th Amendment prohibits the restriction of voting rights based on gender. Texas was the first state in the south to ratify the amendment, which was adopted nationally in 1920.

From its inception, Texas Woman's University (TWU) has sought to educate women from Texas and across the country. The university opened in Denton, Texas in 1902 as an all-girls school, and was primarily attended by young women from rural areas seeking vocational training. For more than a century, TWU has led significant advances in education, pioneering multiple academic programs for women entering the workforce. In 1994, TWU became fully co-educational, yet continues to focus on women's education.

Historically, TWU has been long connected to the women's suffrage movement in Texas.