

Barkoff was not only a mentor to his students, but also to so many involved with the franchise bar. Countless lawyers admired his leadership in guiding them through the franchising business model. Those who had the pleasure to work with Barkoff will remember him for his gentleness, intelligence, and great sense of humor.

As an early pioneer of franchise law, Barkoff laid the fabric of franchising in Atlanta. The Southeast Franchise Forum, of which he was a founding member, is a regional organization in Atlanta as part of the International Franchise Association, established to foster professional relationships throughout the franchise community and to enhance the reputation of franchising through the exchange of information, ideas and solutions.

Our home state of Georgia is a thriving franchise hub containing 26,500 establishments, creating 275,800 jobs, and producing \$22.7 billion in economic output. There are 345 franchise companies headquartered in Georgia today, and Barkoff directly contributed to this economic boom in our city by ensuring these well-known brands operated with the highest standards of compliance in franchising.

Rupert will always be remembered by his family, friends, and colleagues as a trusted friend, a great mind, and a devoted family man. His children and his grandchildren, who affectionately called him "Umps," cherished the many Michigan football games they attended together. He is survived by his wife Susan, his two sisters, his three children and their spouses, and his many grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Our condolences go out to Rupert's family and friends.

**HONORING THE WORK OF LONNIE G. BUNCH III**

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 18, 2019*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Lonnie G. Bunch III in his new position as the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, one of the highest positions in the museum world. He will be the 14th Secretary of the Smithsonian, responsible for 19 museums, nine research centers and the National Zoo, together employing 7,000 people with a \$1.5 billion budget annually.

On June 16th, Bunch will begin his tenure as Secretary, leaving his position as the director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC). He is the ideal person to tackle the challenges and opportunities of the Smithsonian.

Bunch is owed the lion's share of the credit for the creation of NMAAHC. What started as a broad mandate from Congress, one staff member and no collection, NMAAHC has grown to become one of the great gems in the nation's capital. NMAAHC has had over 4 million visitors since its doors opened in 2016. Bunch's political and fundraising talents brought \$270 million in federal money and \$317 million in private donations for NMAAHC before it opened in 2016.

Bunch began working for the Smithsonian in 1989. He spent 11 years At the National Mu-

seum of American History, where he worked, in part, as the museum's associate director for curatorial affairs. He left to work as the president of the Chicago Historical Society and later as the curator of history and program manager for the California African American Museum.

As a student, he attended American University in Washington, D.C. and received his master's and bachelor's degrees in History. He will be the first historian to be Secretary of the Smithsonian. He is also the first African American to lead the Smithsonian in its 172-year history and the first museum director to be named Secretary in 74 years.

Among Bunch's many accomplishments is writing various books, ranging from the black military experience to the American presidency to diversity in museum management. He has taught at several universities over the years, including American University and George Washington University, and has traveled both domestically and abroad for lectures and presentations.

In 2002, Bunch was appointed by President George W. Bush to the Committee for the Preservation of the White House and reappointed by President Barack Obama in 2010. In 2005, he was named one of the most influential museum professionals of the 20th century by the American Association of Museums.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Lonnie G. Bunch III for his many achievements and in congratulating him on his new role as the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.

**HONORING AVIS WARNER, LEON SMITH, JOHN PLANTIER AND PATRICE CIANCI FOR THEIR DEDICATED COMMUNITY SERVICE AND FOR BEING AWARDED SENIOR OF THE YEAR**

**HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 18, 2019*

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize four North Country residents for their selfless dedication to their communities. Each of these individuals was awarded the Senior of the Year recognition by their respective Warren and Hamilton County Offices at their annual Office for the Aging Luncheon on June 7, 2019.

Avis Warner of Hamilton County has been a tireless volunteer with the Wells Volunteer Ambulance Corps where she currently serves as its Captain. Additionally, she volunteers with the Wells Senior Club, the Wells Volunteer Fire Company, the Wells Improvement Club, the Wells Fish and Game Club, the Wells Snowmobile Club, The Wells Central School Board and The Wesleyan Church.

Leon "Lee" Smith, also of Hamilton County, organized a redemption center to raise money for the Wells Volunteer Ambulance Corps (WVAC). Thanks to his vision, they were able to raise \$60,000 which allowed the WVAC to purchase a new ambulance. Mr. Smith also volunteered with the Town of Wells to create a directory for local events, businesses, and organizations. Finally, Mr. Smith volunteered with the Algonquin Snowblazers, the Cub Scouts, and the Wells Fish and Game Club.

John Plantier of Warren County has served the Hadley Luzern Library for over two decades. He spent many of those years as the library's President and as a member of the board. As President, he exhibited a very hands-on management style that saw him performing tasks at all levels. He was just as often presiding over board meetings as he was helping with routine maintenance. He was always ready to literally go the extra mile; giving rides to doctors' appointments to those without transportation, and delivering books and meals to homebound residents. John is also a member of the Lions Club and the Hadley Luzerne Historical Society.

Patrice Cianci volunteers with the Bolton Health Committee to deliver meals to homebound seniors in the northern Lake George area. She also helps deliver gifts to these seniors during the holiday season. Patrice has made herself a crucial asset to the team at the Warren County Office for the Aging that helps ensure seniors around the Lake George area can comfortably remain in their homes.

These four individuals have made a lasting impact on their communities and have positively impacted the lives of many North Country residents. I am proud to serve such amazing and generous people in Congress and I hope to live up to their example every day. On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I would like to thank Patrice, John, Lee, and Avis for their service to the North Country and congratulate them on this well-deserved award.

**COMMENDING THE AUBURN HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS TENNIS TEAM**

**HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 18, 2019*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to commend the Auburn High School girls tennis team, which captured the Virginia High School League (VHSL) Class 1 team state title on June 8, 2019. The Eagles put on a first-rate performance, defeating an excellent team from Rappahannock High School by a score of 5-4.

This marks the second consecutive season in which the Eagles have captured the VHSL Class 1 state championship. A victory from Auburn's No. 1 doubles pair Haley Gordon and Molly McMichael clinched the title, capping off just under 5½ hours of competition on the day between the two squads. I applaud the hard work and dedication of all members of this year's Auburn High School girls tennis team, and congratulate the administrators, teachers, coaches, parents, students, and fans. In particular I would like to recognize the contributions of the team's seniors, and their head coach Conrad Nester. Congratulations on a great end to the season.

**HONORING OONI ADEYEYE ENITAN BARTUNDE OGUNWUSI, OJAJA II**

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 18, 2019*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor His Imperial