

to a wide range of local boards and commissions. That requires a lot of candidates. Another tradition, minority representation, guarantees no political party gets to elect every member of a town council, board of selectmen or board of education. Our law seeks to encourage a variety of voices in local government.

Political parties in many towns struggle to find enough candidates to fill their slates. The hyperpartisanship that mars our national politics recedes in many communities seeking citizen volunteers to manage local affairs. Plenty of parties will welcome unaffiliated voters onto their tickets for municipal elections.

If you get your news from cable television, you may properly think that much of contemporary politics is an endless series of screaming matches. Town politics does not often descend into the bear pit. Go to a meeting of your local planning and zoning commission and you will not be able to tell the Democrats from the Republicans. It's a collection of citizens trying to manage or attract development to their community. If you can spot the nuances of a traffic study or possess some ideas on how a town can manage a decline in the number of school-age children it will educate in the next decade, welcome.

As a candidate for local office, you'll be more a part of a team than a member of a fire-breathing partisan tribe. The desire to serve will be your platform. In most instances, a campaign for a town office comes with few complications. Almost everyone wins. In some towns with a nine-member board of education, for example, there are only ten candidates. Minority representation rules have been adopted to give no party more than five members. Only one of the ten candidates, assuming a full slate by each party and no third party candidates, will lose. And there are plenty of other places for that person to serve in community government.

I've saved the best reason for last. You will meet wonderful people whose friendship will endure after your service concludes. I was reminded of this gift on Monday when John Mitchell, South Windsor's beloved former mayor, died. Mitchell, 84, may have been our community's longest performer of good deeds.

Born in Manchester, he lived and worked in South Windsor for most of his adult life. He started a fuel oil business as a young man, and it thrived through the unflinching melding of enterprise, knowledge and a buoyant personality. He served on the town council for more than a decade and enjoyed two terms as mayor in the 1980s, a time of historic growth in town.

Mitchell's service to others was not limited to elective office. He remained active in the local chamber of commerce and was a stalwart in the Rotary Club for decades. He loved community events. Almost 40 years ago, he thought that since so many strawberries grew on the shrinking numbers of South Windsor farms, there ought to be a June festival, and local Republicans ought to create it. I can attest to the amount of work a strawberry festival requires. Mitchell's enthusiasm made it impossible to do anything but enjoy the challenge. The strawberry festival has long been what he envisioned: an annual June Saturday that thousands have enjoyed.

Mitchell was active in providing college scholarships to local students as recently as last month. We'll never know the vast number of people he lifted and encouraged with his private generosity. We helped with a few

local campaigns in the past decade, and I was reminded of his joy in the battle. His sense of humor grew sharper, and he displayed a rare wonderment at growing older.

So think about running for something. You will help your town. If you are very lucky, you will get to know someone like John Mitchell.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN H. RUTHERFORD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2019

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Madam Speaker, I was unavailable and missed Roll Call Vote 465. Had I been present, I would have voted Nay on Roll Call No. 465.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHNNY (SAL) GARDNER

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2019

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. Johnny (Sal) Gardner and his coaching career.

Starting in 1967, Coach Sal has devoted his life to his community coaching the city's youth in football, baseball and basketball.

During his years as the head football coach at Oxford, he achieved over 225 wins and had a 49-game winning streak from 1999 to 2005.

He also coached baseball for 47 years where he won or tied for the area championship four times, had numerous playoff appearances and coached over 550 athletes, including my children, during his tenure there. He won two state championships in youth baseball in 1985 and 1990.

Madam Speaker, please join me in thanking Coach Sal for his dedication to our local youth.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, due to an error, I voted "nay" on Roll Call 460 (Amash of Michigan Part B Amendment No. 50 to H.R. 2500). I intended to vote "yea".

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF THE HONORABLE ROSS PEROT AND HIS MONUMENTAL IMPACT ON OUR NATION

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2019

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of the Honorable Ross

Perot and his monumental impact on our nation.

Mr. Perot is well known for being a wildly-successful, self-made businessman who ran for President twice, the first time receiving a recorded-breaking 19% of the vote as an independent candidate. Today, I would like to recognize him for his unparalleled service and sacrifice on behalf of our country's military.

Mr. Perot is a graduate of the United States Naval Academy. Following his service, Mr. Perot joined International Business Machines (IBM), which led him to create the extremely successful company, Electronic Data Systems. Mr. Perot was responsible for many other breakthroughs and innovations in the industry. Mr. Perot made a point to hire former military personnel and based his management style on his military training. Mr. Perot continued to be an active advocate for our servicemembers and veterans, becoming one of the most outspoken advocates for our Prisoners of War (POWs). In fact, Mr. Perot was asked by then-Secretary of State Henry Kissinger to lead the fight on behalf of our POWs, a project he spearheaded by personally chartering two jets filled with medical supplies and the wives of POWs still in Vietnam. His efforts directly led to many POWs being released in 1973 and returned to the United States.

Over the course of his life, Mr. Perot received countless honors for his work. In 2009, he was recognized by the Department of Veterans Affairs for his tireless efforts on behalf of our nation's veterans, and received honorary status in the Army and Marine Corps. Mr. Perot was also named an honorary Green Beret and is one of only fourteen honorary members of the Army's famous 75th Ranger Regiment.

Of personal note, I'm especially grateful for all Mr. Perot did for our soldiers and families at Fort Bragg, the largest military installation in the world, located in North Carolina's 8th Congressional District. Mr. Perot donated millions of dollars to the Airborne & Special Operations Museum, and has donated his time, resources and devotion to assisting projects at the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School at Fort Bragg.

While we mourn his passing, Mr. Perot will be remembered for his impeccable character, determination and generosity. I have a deep admiration and profound appreciation for all he accomplished and I am inspired by his example to ensure we take care of those who so bravely served our nation.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in recognizing the life of the Honorable Ross Perot.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2019

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, on July 12, 2019, I was unavoidably detained and was not able to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 472; "nay" on rollcall No. 473; and "yea" on rollcall No. 474.

COMMENDING HARTSELLE POLICE OFFICERS ROBERT BAKER AND ROGER SPEAKE, LIEUTENANT ROBERT FINN, AND HARTSELLE UTILITIES EMPLOYEE STEPHEN JOHNSON FOR BRAVE, LIFE-SAVING ACTIONS

HON. MO BROOKS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2019

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hartselle Police Officers Robert Baker and Roger Speake, Hartselle Police Lieutenant Robert Finn, and Hartselle Utilities employee Stephen Johnson for their brave, life-saving actions on February 22, 2019.

In the early morning hours of February 22nd, Officers Baker and Speake, and Lieutenant Finn responded to a house fire. Upon their arrival at the home, they found the fire was spreading quickly and a woman with limited-mobility was trapped. Thankfully, Hartselle Utilities employee Stephen Johnson, who had been working nearby, was already on the scene. As a team, Baker, Speake, Finn, and Johnson, risking their safety, broke down a fence at the side of the house and successfully evacuated the woman from her bedroom window with only minutes to spare before the house was completely engulfed in flames.

Madam Speaker, in the face of imminent danger to their own lives, Officers Baker and Speake, Lieutenant Finn, and Mr. Johnson, acted decisively and selflessly, saving the life of our fellow community member.

I commend Officers Baker and Speake, Lieutenant Finn, and Mr. Johnson for their courageous actions in service to others.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2019

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, on July 12, 2019, I missed a series of Roll Call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on No. 461, 462, 472, and 474. I would have voted NAY on No. 459, 460, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, and 473.

IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF CAPTAIN (RET.) KENNETH GRIFFITH

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2019

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the life of Captain (Ret.) Kenneth Griffith who passed away on July 5, 2019. A Full Military Honors graveside service will take place at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 20, 2019, at Crook Cemetery in Ohatchee.

Kenneth is survived by his beloved wife of 62 years, Sandra (Bowman) Griffith; three daughters, Keli Griffith, Kendra G. Hollaway, and Kerri G. Ladd; seven grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

He was born in Blue Mountain on January 29, 1940, and grew up in Anniston, Alabama. After graduating from Anniston High School, he joined the U.S. Army. He began his career with the Military Police at Ft. McClellan and was stationed throughout the Southeast and in Europe. His final station was in Cu Chi, north-east of Saigon, with the 25th Infantry Division. On the ninth time he was shot down by the enemy, while defending his load of wounded casualties, the front bubble of the helicopter was shattered by gunfire, grievously wounding both himself and his co-pilot who passed out. Griffith fought on and succeeded in flying his disabled helicopter back to camp, accomplishing a controlled crash landing before succumbing to his own wounds.

For his heroism he was awarded the third highest military honor, the Silver Star. He was also awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross with Oak Leaf Cluster after a seven-hour helicopter battle with Viet Cong guerillas. He was recommended for the Medal of Honor by his commanding officer. During his military service he also received the Air Medal with 6 Oak Leaf Clusters, Purple Heart with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Aviator Badge, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal with three stars, Vietnam Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal with two loops and the National Defense Medal.

After completing physical rehabilitation due to the loss of his leg in combat, Capt. Griffith officially retired and returned to his hometown. Griffith chose Jacksonville State University to continue his education where he completed a Bachelor of Science in Psychology in 1974, a Master of Public Administration in Criminal Justice in 1975 and a Master of Science in Personnel Counseling in 1976 from Jacksonville State University.

Griffith was a Master Mason and long-time member of Golden Springs Baptist Church. Told that the loss of his leg would limit his physical capabilities, he took great satisfaction in proving the doctors wrong. He went on to teach his children how to water and snow ski, playing and coaching them in several sports. Lovingly referred to as 'The Captain' or 'Cap' by everyone, he will be forever remembered as a loving and devoted man.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring his life of service.

IN RECOGNITION OF WILLIS JOHNSON

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2019

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Willis Johnson for his induction into the 2019 Texas Radio Hall of Fame.

Mr. Johnson spent the majority of his career as a program manager and radio talk show host for the Dallas-based KKDA-AM. He used his show to advocate on behalf of the African American community in Dallas, highlighting critical issues that disproportionately affected our community and providing a platform for underrepresented voices.

In addition to his career in radio, Mr. Johnson is the CEO of JBJ Management—a public affairs firm specializing in business to govern-

ment community engagement. He is also a recipient of the Lifetime Leadership Award from the Dallas Business Journal for his exceptional social and civic service.

Mr. Johnson will join a distinguished crowd of inductees into the Texas Radio Hall of Fame including Walter Cronkite, Verne Lundquist, and Willie Nelson, to name a few.

I am pleased to recognize the achievements of Mr. Johnson and wish him continued success. His contributions to the Dallas community are truly immeasurable.

RECOGNIZING JOHN DICUS' SERVICE TO TOPEKA

HON. STEVE WATKINS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2019

Mr. WATKINS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize a man that embodies everything it means to be a Kansan, and a Topekan. As the Topeka Capitol-Journal recently highlighted, John Dicus has made himself a fixture in the Topeka community. While some decide to take their talents elsewhere, John decided to use his talents to better his hometown. John has taken it upon himself to lead the charge of revitalizing our downtown area, most notably a \$2.5 million dollar investment in the Every Plaza. John has taken action on his vision for Topeka and the city is better because of it. I know John shares the same sense of pride for his hometown as I do. Keep up the great work. He is making us all proud.

HONORING MARK B. GRIER

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2019

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, congratulations to Mark B. Grier as he retires from an outstanding 25 year career at Prudential, which I am proud to note is headquartered in the 10th District of New Jersey.

Mark is the Vice Chairman of Prudential and has overseen the Finance, Risk Management, Chief Investment, Corporate Actuarial, Global Business and Technology Solutions departments and functions. Mark joined Prudential as Chief Financial Officer in May of 1995 and was named Vice Chairman just six years later in 2002. Since that time Mark has been the company's intellectual leader when it comes to positively and constructively engaging with regulators at both the state and federal levels, and with the Congress.

I have enjoyed working with Mark over the years on an array of public policy matters that were critically important to my district, state, and our nation. I was fortunate to always have the benefit of his insight and experience when debating complex financial services policy challenges, and I appreciate his willingness to reliably serve as a resource to me and my colleagues.

Beyond his commitment to excellence in corporate governance and public policy, Mark also ensured that Prudential was always a good corporate citizen. During his tenure as Vice Chairman and member of the Board of