

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 Evergy 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