

unwavering love for his city. Since taking office on March 23, 2009, Mayor Strange has been a strong and able leader, who has consistently put people over politics, and has remained resistant to the divisions commonplace in today's political climate. He leaves the City of Montgomery a better place for his excellent leadership.

Long interested in the complexities and practical applications of politics, Mayor Strange graduated from Murphy High School in Mobile, Alabama before continuing on to earn his B.A. in Political Science from Montevallo University. After graduating, Mayor Strange took the opportunity to try his own hand at politics, serving as chairman of the Montgomery County Commission and as Director of the Alabama Department of Commerce. During this time, Mayor Strange was instrumental in coordinating efforts that resulted in substantial job growth and economic revitalization throughout the city, including working with many partners to bring the Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Facility of Alabama to Montgomery.

Over the course of his career, Mayor Strange also worked in the private sector, ably taking on leadership roles in the automotive and telecommunications fields. Mayor Strange served as President, CEO and Co-owner of Blount-Strange Automotive Group, where he oversaw hundreds of employees, and held several leadership roles within South Central Bell Company (now AT&T). He further served as Senior Vice President of Administration of Blount International, Ltd. and President and CEO of Blount Development Corporation.

Mayor Strange first came into office winning a special election after his predecessor, Mayor Bobby Bright, was elected to the United States House of Representatives. His election came on the heels of the economic recession, evident in the city's operating budget. Over the following six years, Mayor Strange worked diligently to continue revitalization in his city, making use of major sporting events, conferences, new jobs and economic development to drive revenue. By 2015, the City of Montgomery closed out the fiscal year with over twenty million in the coffers.

Further, during his time as mayor, Mayor Strange made use of new technologies to cut costs and keep the city safe, implementing a Smart City Initiative, which makes use of artificial intelligence to assess roads for paving projects. The initiative utilizes cutting edge surveillance and sanitation technology in order to streamline efficiency; and uses in-house software technology to keep costs in check. The project symbolizes Mayor Strange's commitment to finding practical, cost-effective solutions that make use of all that modern technology has to offer, in order for the city to run as smoothly as possible.

Mayor Strange has served as Chairman of the Montgomery Business Committee for the Arts, Chairman of the Capital City Club and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the City of Montevallo. He was formerly the Chairman of the University of Montevallo National Alumni Association, the Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce, the President of the Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind Foundation, the Board Chairman of the Montgomery Riverfront Development Committee and the Chairman of the Montgomery Riverfront Alliance. A testament to his enduring legacy and impact,

Mayor Strange has been honored with myriad awards and recognition, including: The Business and Professional Women Boss of the Year Award, the March of Dimes River Region Citizen of the Year Award, the Auburn University at Montgomery Outstanding Community Leader Award and Time Magazine's Quality Dealer Award for Alabama.

Throughout his long and impressive career, Mayor Strange has been blessed to be supported by his wife Linda, his two daughters, Jennifer and Elizabeth and his grandchildren. The strength provided by his family has allowed Mayor Strange his remarkable professional successes and, certainly, his commitment to honoring family values has carried over to his service as mayor.

On a personal note, I have greatly enjoyed working with Mayor Strange on the federal issues that matter most to Montgomery and the River Region. I'm especially proud of the work that our community and, especially, the work that Mayor Strange and his office have done to make the 187th Air National Guard home to the new F-35 Lightning II Jets, resulting in the creation of hundreds of jobs and tens of millions of dollars in economic investment. As we usher in this new era for the City of Montgomery, I know that Mayor Strange's legacy will be the foundation upon which others will lead. While he may be retiring from his service as Mayor, I know he will still be an active, lifelong advocate on behalf of the people of the City of Montgomery and the River Region.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Todd Strange for his outstanding service as mayor of the City of Montgomery.

#### HONORING JASON ROSS

#### HON. JOHN RATCLIFFE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 21, 2019*

Mr. RATCLIFFE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and thank a truly great American, my District Chief of Staff, Jason Ross. After five years of dedication to our country and the communities of Texas' Fourth Congressional District, Jason is departing from my office to return to the private sector with a record of extraordinary achievement and the gratitude of thousands of Texans whom he has served faithfully.

Madam Speaker, I don't have the words to accurately or adequately convey my gratitude for Jason's commitment, dedication, devotion and loyalty to this endeavor over the past five years.

Since Day 1 in January 2015, I have trusted Jason with charting a course for our district operations to the more than 700,000 Texans across 18 counties. Now, almost 5 years later, there has never been a single day where I have not been rewarded for that decision.

Along the way, I've been witness to and credited for so many great and wonderful things that have transpired in our district—but always knowing that the credit belongs to and has resulted from the work of everyone on staff, under Jason's inspiring leadership.

Personally, I could never have expected or deserved a better supporter, defender, confidant and friend than Jason Ross.

I was once told that if the only prayer you ever say in your life is "thank you," but if you say it with genuine praise and glory to God, then you've both said and prayed enough. So, on behalf of Texas' Fourth Congressional District, I would like to formally honor Jason Ross on his years of dedicated service to our constituents and this nation by saying . . .

Thank you, Jason.

#### TRIBUTE TO GREGORY GARCIA

#### HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 21, 2019*

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I rise in honor of Mr. Gregory Garcia who passed away on Friday, October 4, 2019. Mr. Garcia dedicated his life to community and education. He is survived by wife of 42 years, Margaret; his daughters Christine, Gina, and Glinda; son Gregory Anthony; and his sister Leila Ramos. He will be greatly missed.

Mr. Greg Garcia was born and raised in San Antonio, Texas, graduating from Central Catholic High School in 1958. A proud alumni of Texas A&M University, he graduated in 1962 with a Bachelor of Arts in Business. There, he actively participated in the Corps of Cadets.

After extensive work in the private sector for 20 years, he heard the call to return and serve the alma mater that he so loved. Mr. Garcia was incredibly active in our community and his involvement was only matched by his desire to make San Antonio the best it can possibly be.

During his time with the Texas A&M University System, he served as Vice Chancellor of Governmental Relations. He partnered with his dear friends, the late Senator Frank Madla, in establishing a university on San Antonio's Southside. He has since been recognized as a founding father of Texas A&M University—San Antonio.

Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I acknowledge the passing of Mr. Gregory Garcia. San Antonio and its Southside communities mourn the loss of a great pillar who dedicated his life to the service of others. I thank Mr. Garcia for everything he has done for San Antonians, the entire state of Texas, and for his fellow Aggies.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 21, 2019*

Mrs. BEATTY. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the House Chamber on October 18, 2019, to attend a funeral in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted no on Roll Call No. 565; no on Roll Call No. 566; and yes on Roll Call No. 567.

#### SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference.