

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CONGRESS-
MAN ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 21, 2019

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply saddened by the passing of Representative Elijah Cummings—my colleague, friend, and a true fighter for social justice. While Representative Cummings may no longer be with us, he leaves behind a remarkable legacy of service, leadership and humility. Notably, he served Maryland's 7th Congressional District for 23 years and was a strong force in his role as Chairman of the Oversight Committee.

He is the realization of the American Dream. Born to sharecroppers, young Elijah Cummings declared he would become a lawyer at 11-years old. Despite social and economic challenges before him, he would go on to achieve that dream and more. Representative Cummings became the first African-American Speaker Pro Tempore of the Maryland State House of Delegates and then continued his work in this House. He was a dedicated public servant, devoted husband, and loving father.

Representative Cummings was a maverick among us all, and I will deeply miss his wise counsel and presence. May we all aspire to be a portion of the leader he was for America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. A. DONALD McEACHIN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 22, 2019

Mr. McEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on October 17, 2019 during roll call No. 561, On Agreeing to the Amendment, H.R. 1815, Huizenga of Michigan Part B Amendment No. 1. Had I been present, I would have voted "No." I was also unavoidably detained during roll call No. 562, On Agreeing to the Amendment, H.R. 1815, Gottheimer of New Jersey Part B Amendment No. 2. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye." I was also unavoidably detained during roll call No. 563, On Agreeing to the Amendment, H.R. 1815, Wagner of Missouri Part B Amendment No. 3. Had I been present, I would have voted "no." I was also unavoidably detained during roll call No. 564, On Passage, H.R. 1815, SEC Disclosure Effectiveness Testing Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

RECOGNIZING GEORGE FORMAN

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 22, 2019

Mr. RUIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize George Forman, who has been a champion for tribes and tribal sovereignty for more than 50 years.

I am honored to represent eleven federally recognized tribes in my district. Each of the

eleven tribes has had to fight for their rights and their sovereignty at every turn.

Standing with tribes in that fight and leading with them are the attorneys who represent them in the court of law.

George was instrumental in securing victory for tribes in the Cabazon case that set the groundwork for tribes to transform their on-reservation economies and conduct gaming operations, which has empowered tribes' self-sufficiency to provide adequate housing, schools, and other needed social services for tribal members.

He has successfully helped several tribes fight their unjust termination and achieve recognition as federally recognized tribes.

And over the decades, George has served my constituents, the Morongo Band of Mission Indians, providing advice and counsel with the highest of integrity.

I want to thank George for his work and wish him a long, happy retirement filled with well-earned family time.

HONORING TALLWOOD
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. ELAINE G. LURIA

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 22, 2019

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor Tallwood Elementary School on earning the U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon award.

Tallwood Elementary's performance certainly merits this well-earned recognition. Because of so much hard work, Tallwood Elementary is now placed in the Exemplary High Performing Schools Category. I would like to thank the faculty and staff for providing exceptional services to our community as educators, administrators, and specialists in their field.

Our public school system is an integral part of preparing the 2nd Congressional District's next generation of well-informed critical thinkers. I thank them for all the valuable work they do to engage and enrich these young minds.

It is my honor and privilege to recognize Tallwood Elementary for this achievement. I am extremely proud to be their representative.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FRED KELLER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 22, 2019

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, I had a commitment in Pennsylvania preventing me from returning in time for votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 568 on Motion To Table H. Res. 630; "yea" on rollcall No. 569, H.R. 4406; and "yea" on rollcall No. 570, H.R. 4407.

IN HONOR OF 81 AIRBORNE SOLDIERS OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM ARMED FORCES

HON. ALAN S. LOWENTHAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 22, 2019

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 81 Airborne Soldiers of the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces, whose remains will finally be laid to rest on Saturday, October 26th, in Little Saigon, Orange County, California, part of my 47th Congressional District.

In 1965, an American C-123 carrying four American crew members and 81 South Vietnamese Airborne soldiers was shot down in a remote and contested area during the Vietnam War, killing all those onboard. In 1974, the crash site was visited, and the remains were recovered, however, they were commingled together. The American crew members were later identified and were given a proper burial.

The remains of South Vietnamese soldiers were never identified, and they were believed to have been members of the 72 Company of the elite 7 Airborne Battalion of the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces. These unknown heroes are now "Men Without a Country," for that the Republic to which they gave their lives on behalf of no longer exist. Their remains have been sitting at the U.S. military's POW/MIA lab in Hawaii since 1986 and the current regime in Vietnam has twice declined to accept their return.

It was unclear how these 81 unknown soldiers could receive proper honor and burial until the efforts of former Navy Secretary and Senator Jim Webb, who served as a Marine infantry officer in Vietnam. Senator Webb has spent the last two years working intricately with both diplomatic and legal fronts to successfully arranged for the proper honoring and interment of these heroes. Finally, these Airborne soldiers will be laid to rest with full military honor and proper protocols of the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces. They will be remembered and honored with a ceremony at the Vietnam War Memorial, also known as Freedom Park in the City of Westminster, California and interned at the Vietnamese Boat People Cemetery inside the Westminster Memorial Park, one of the largest Vietnamese American cemeteries in our nation. This marks an end to an epic journey of soldiers who fought and died for the ideals of freedom and democracy to be rested with the people whom they defended.

I thank Senator Jim Webb, the Lost Soldiers Foundation, the Republic of Vietnam Airborne Association's National and Local Chapter, and everyone involved for working together to finally honor these 81 soldiers of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Vietnam after 54 years of their sacrifices. The United States honor the sacrifices of our ally, the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces.

KASHMIRI PANDITS BRIEFING

HON. RO KHANNA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 22, 2019

Mr. KHANNA. Madam Speaker, I was moved by the stories of loss, displacement,