

Barnstable as he steps down from the role of Chief Executive Officer of the Cape Cod Military Support Foundation. A former executive of Sheraton Hotels, Don has not slowed down in his retirement but has been fueled by his passion for serving veterans and active military personnel and their families. This commitment led him to establish the Cape Cod Military Support Foundation in 2014.

In his work, Don has recognized that children of deployed military personnel often feel their absence most dearly during the holidays and at other milestone moments. Therefore, he started Operation Backpack, to supply military children with back-to-school supplies, a holiday gift-giving program, and other holiday-themed events. In addition, the Foundation offers emergency and food assistance to military families, as well as nursery supplies for babies and toddlers. The families of Joint Base Cape Cod benefit from these programs through the Family Empowerment Center located on the base, Don's labor of love that opened in 2018. His work through the foundation was especially vital to Coast Guard families during the recent government shutdown.

In 2017, Don was recognized as a Difference Maker of the Year by the New England Patriots. He has been honored by the United States Coast Guard, the Massachusetts National Guard, and the American Red Cross for his work on behalf of military families. As he steps down from his role as Executive Director of the Cape Cod Military Support Foundation, the legacy of his work will continue as it extends to serve military families across Massachusetts and indeed the nation.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Donald A. Cox for his dedication to serving our military and veterans' families. I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking him for all of his incredible work and wishing him all the best as he continues to support our service members and their families.

RECOGNIZING CLIFFORD H. LONG,
CHAIRMAN OF THE EMERALD
COAST MILITARY AFFAIRS
COUNCIL

HON. MATT GAETZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2019

Mr. GAETZ. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Mr. Clifford Long, Chairman of the Emerald Coast Military Affairs Council. Mr. Long served the area in this role since 2007. In 1998, the Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce bestowed a special "President's Award" upon him to recognize his many years of dedication to the Military Affairs Council and Florida's military mission.

Mr. Long contributed his expertise and guidance in many different capacities. He served as Chairman of the Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Council from 1989 to 2007 and as chamber president from 1971 to 1972. Mr. Long also served on the Board of Directors for the Okaloosa County Economic Development Council's Defense Support Initiative.

His life was lived in service to our community, serving as liaison and support between local business and the military community. He was a strong advocate for the region's military

presence, and worked diligently with the highest levels of Air Force leadership. He dedicated his life to contributing to the growth of the defense presence in Northwest Florida, and advocating for military officers. He was a true patriot.

In 2002, Mr. Long was awarded the Air Force Association "Civilian of the Year" award at their annual conference recognizing his outstanding efforts and dedication to the military and its mission. That same year, he was named a "Life Director" of the Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce, recognizing the many years he dedicated to the growth and development of the chamber and the local area.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is my honor to recognize Mr. Clifford H. Long, and his life of service to Northwest Florida. I thank him for his impact on our community, and send my deepest condolences to his entire family.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. A. DONALD McEACHIN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2019

Mr. McEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on October 28, 2019 during roll call no. 585, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 2440, Full Utilization of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea." I was also unavoidably detained during roll call no. 586, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 2115, Public Disclosure of Drug Discounts and Real-Time Beneficiary Drug Cost Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING REVEREND WILLIE F.
WILSON

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 1, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring one of our nation's foremost liberation theologians, the Reverend Willie F. Wilson, Pastor of the Union Temple Baptist, in our nation's capital. Reverend Wilson has devoted his life and ministry to uplifting, enhancing and empowering the lives of the downtrodden and to fighting for the dignity, justice and liberation of all people.

Over the years, thousands have responded to the power of Reverend Wilson's preaching and exhortation to "unchain your mind" through examining and reclaiming Jesus Christ, the truth of African-American history and learning to love ourselves as well as others. As a result, Union Temple's membership has grown from the initial 25 faithful members to more than 8,000.

Reverend Wilson has served the Union Temple Baptist Church and the District of Columbia community faithfully for 46 years. His impact on the church is immeasurable. As he passes the torch of leadership to his daughter, Reverend Dr. Anika Wilson Brown, we wel-

come her and thank Reverend Wilson for his steadfast work.

Reverend Wilson, born in Newport News, Virginia, received a bachelor's degree in journalism from Ohio University. He became a D.C. resident in 1969 and received a master's degree from Howard University School of Divinity.

Under his leadership, the Union Temple Baptist Church achieved an array of firsts, including the first substance abuse ministry based in a D.C. church; the first African-American church-led Rites of Passage program to support adolescents in transitioning from childhood to adulthood; the introduction of Kwanzaa Celebration as part of faith ministry; the first ordination of women into Baptist ministry regionally; and the promotion of interfaith worship between Christians and Orthodox Muslims. The church invested millions of dollars in the development of affordable housing, home ownership and financial literacy programs, as well as in youth development and health promotion activities.

Social service programs have flourished at the Union Temple Baptist Church, including the Akoma project, which provides case management to individuals living with HIV/AIDS; the AYA Program, a D.C. Department of Human Services-funded program providing counseling, job development and placement services to assist people moving from welfare to work; and the Village Keepers Homeless Outreach Ministry, which provides shelter for homeless individuals in D.C.—to name only a few.

The Union Temple Baptist Church has erected a home in Ghana, West Africa for its Rites of Passage programs. The church has donated over one million dollars in medical supplies to the hospital in Asankrangwa and sponsors an adopt-a-child educational program. Ordained a Wolof Priest in Gambia, Reverend Wilson's ministry and practice are African-centric, focusing on the African influence on Christianity. His most recent book, *Birth of the Bible*, is a commentary on "African spiritual traditions borrowed, stolen, misappropriated and modified to produce the book that we know today as the Bible."

Reverend Wilson's work has not gone unnoticed. In 2018, Reverend Wilson was inducted into the Hall of Fame of the Civil Rights Movement in Selma, Alabama. He was recognized in 1986 by USA Today "as one of the 10 most valuable people in America." In 1995, he was asked to join the historic Million Man March as a national organizer, and, in 1997, he received the Presidential Service Award from President Bill Clinton.

Reverend Wilson is the father of four children and is married to Reverend Mary Lewis Wilson. He has served on the board of trustees of the University of the District of Columbia. Reverend Wilson has dedicated his life to a creative, innovative ministry to uplift humanity. He has a deep abiding love for all people and is a passionate voice for truth, justice and equality for the citizens of D.C. and everywhere.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Reverend Willie F. Wilson for his dedication to freedom and justice for all, and to the well-being and faith of District of Columbia residents. We recognize him for the profound impact his vision and his work has had on others.