

In exchange, he listened to us, respected us and trusted us. He made sure we knew he was truly proud of us—memories we each now cherish. The result of his unwavering support was fierce loyalty from every member of his staff. We committed to doing everything in our power to fulfill his vision.

He was a unifying force, even in this era of partisanship. He would command order with a sharp rap of his gavel, elevate debate by noting that “we are better than that” and urge all of us to seek “not just common ground, but higher ground.”

Guided by his faith and values, he would look for and bring out the good in others, forming bridges through human connection.

He fully grasped the moment in which we are now living. He invoked history books that will be written hundreds of years from now as he called on us to “fight for the soul of our democracy.” As he said, this is bigger than one man, one president or even one generation.

He was acutely aware of his own transience in this world. He reminded us repeatedly that we are here “only for a minute” and that all of us soon will be “dancing with the angels.”

He would thunder against injustice, or on behalf of those who could not fight for themselves, and he would vow to keep battling until his “dying breath.” He did just that. His final act as chairman came from his hospital bed just hours before his death, as he continued to fight for critically ill children suddenly in danger of deportation.

He had so much left to accomplish, but he has left it for us to complete. As he told us presciently, “These things don’t happen to us, they happen for us.”

It is difficult to describe the emptiness we now feel. His spirit was so strong, and his energy so boundless, that the void is devastating.

But, of course, he left us with instructions: “Pain, passion, purpose. Take your pain, turn it into your passion, and make it your purpose.” He lived those words, and he inspired us to do the same.

Sometimes, after a big event, he would take us aside for a quiet moment and say, “I just want to thank you for everything you do and for being a part of my destiny.”

Today, we thank him for being part of ours. And we commit to carrying forward his legacy in the limited time allotted to each of us—to give voice to the voiceless, to defend our democracy, and to always reach for higher ground.

The authors of this tribute are current and former staff of the late House Oversight Committee Chairman Elijah Cummings, D-Md whose funeral is Friday. Their names are below:

Aaron D. Blacksberg, Abbie Kamin, Ajshay Charlene Barber, Alex Petros, Alexander M. Wolf, Alexandra S. Golden, Aliyah Nuri Horton, CAE, Amish A. Shah, Amy Stratton, Andy Eichar, Angela Gentile, Esq., Anthony McCarthy, Anthony N. Bush, Aryele N. Bradford, Ashley Abraham, Ashley Etienne, Asi Ofosu, Asua Ofosu, Ben Friedman, Bernadette “Bunny” Williams.

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Olivia Foster, Patricia A. Roy, Paul A. Brathwaite, Paul Kincaid, Peter J. Kenny, Philisha Kimberly Lane, Portia R. Bamiduro, Rachel L. Indek, Rebecca Maddox-Hyde, Regina Clay, Ricardo Brandon Rios, Rich Marquez, Richard L. Trumka Jr., Robin Butler, Rory Sheehan, Roxanne (Smith) Blackwell, Russell M. Anello, Safiya Jafari Simmons, Sanay B. Panchal, Scott P. Lindsay.

Sean Perryman, Senam Okpattah, Sonsyrea Tate-Montgomery, Susanne Sachsman Grooms, Suzanne Owen, Tamara Alexander Lynch, Theresa Chalhoub, Timothy D. Lynch, Todd Phillips, Tony Haywood, Tori Anderson, Trinity M.E. Goss, Trudy E. Perkins, Una Lee, Valerie Shen, Vernon Simms, Wendy Ginsberg, William A. Cunningham, William H. Cole, Wm. T. Miles, Jr., Yvette Badu-Nimako, Yvette P. Cravins, Esq., Zeita Merchant.

HONORING ALUMINUM CASTING COMPANY

HON. RUSS FULCHER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 8, 2019

Mr. FULCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a hometown business in Hayden, Idaho that is receiving the Department of Labor’s Honoring Investment in Recruiting and Employing (HIRE) Vets Medallion Award today. Founded as the Los Angeles Aluminum Casting Company in 1947, LA Aluminum has been a staple of the local community in Hayden since 1972. LA Aluminum makes castings for critical components that support the aerospace, automotive, dental, and military industries. As a third-generation family-owned business in Idaho, Robert Oswald and his daughter Sarah continue the great tradition of making American products for American companies in Idaho. That’s why I am proud to honor

the Oswald family and the wonderful employees of LA Aluminum for their investments in recruiting, employing, and retaining military veterans in Idaho. Our veterans answer the call to serve, protect our way of life, our system of government, and the freedoms that we want to enjoy every day. The HIRE Vets Award is the only federal-level veterans’ employment award that recognizes companies committed to hiring and retaining veterans. I thank the employees of LA Aluminum for prioritizing our veterans and those that answered the call to service. The HIRE Vets Medallion Award is a symbol of their culture, passion, and love for our country and our armed services.

RECOGNIZING DON GUINNIP’S CONSISTENT PRODUCTION OF HIGH-QUALITY SOYBEANS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 8, 2019

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Don Guinnip, a member of my Ag Advisory Board in the 15th district of Illinois, who was recently cited by the Illinois Soybean Association High Yield PLUS Quality program for consistently producing soybeans that rank very high in livestock feed value.

Don is a farmer in the Wabash River Valley near Marshall, IL., who makes a point to know the nutritional makeup of the soybeans he grows. He feels that this knowledge is essential to meeting the specific needs of the soybean industry’s largest and most important customer, the livestock producer. Livestock consume more than 70 percent of the U.S. soybean crop each year.

Don has submitted soybean samples for nutritional analysis for seven years. His 2018 sample of Stine Seed Company variety 38LE02 yielded a composite feed value of \$347.40 per ton, putting him in the top 15 growers in Illinois for feed value.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Don Guinnip on choosing soybean varieties that best serve livestock producers, and I encourage other farmers to maximize the U.S. feed-market opportunities as well.

RECOGNIZING THE ROTARY CLUB OF JASPER AND GEORGIA MOUNTAINS HOSPICE

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 8, 2019

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Rotary Club of Jasper and Georgia Mountains Hospice for teaming up to host an important appreciation event for members of the public safety community in Pickens County, Georgia and the city of Jasper, Georgia.

At a time in our nation’s history when the men and women in law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical services need our support the most, the Rotary Club of Jasper and Georgia Mountains Hospice are working together to carry the mantle by hosting a public safety appreciation dinner, Honoring Our Heroes, for