

Nelson was a family man, a business man, and a community man. He was a valuable pioneer who helped pave the way for minority businesses in Fort Worth and across our country. Nelson and his wife shared 45 years of marriage together with their four sons, three daughters, and four grandchildren. He will be sorely missed by our great city of Fort Worth.

#### RECOGNIZING GREG WATSON

### HON. STEVE SCALISE

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 19, 2019*

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Greg Watson, one of my Congressional staff members who will be departing my office soon for a great opportunity to work in the White House.

As one of my Legislative Assistants, Greg has been a valuable member of Team Scalise, and I will miss his expertise and guidance on the issues he so capably handled while in my office. Not only has Greg been my lead technology and telecommunications staffer, and primary Energy and Commerce Committee advisor, he has also worked each and every day serving my constituents in Louisiana's First Congressional District.

I am grateful to Greg for his years of service in my office, and I congratulate him on this exciting new chapter of his career.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. AYANNA PRESSLEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 19, 2019*

Ms. PRESSLEY. Madam Speaker, due to a health appointment, I was unable to be present on the floor for votes on Monday, November 18, 2019.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 625, YEA on Roll Call No. 626, and YEA on Roll Call No. 627.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF THE LATE CONGRESSMAN JEROME "BOB" TRAXLER

### HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 19, 2019*

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise in remembrance of the late Representative Jerome "Bob" Traxler, who served honorably in this House from 1974 to 1993. Bob was laid to rest this past week. A proud son and representative of the Thumb region of Michigan, including Saginaw, and his hometown of Bay City, please let me extend my deepest sympathies to his devoted wife, Jean, his daughter Sarah and son-in-law Christopher, his two stepchildren Greg and Caroline, and to his nine grandchildren.

Bob was born and raised in 1931 in Kawkawlin, Michigan. He earned his undergraduate degree from Michigan State University in 1953 and subsequently his law degree

from the Detroit College of Law in 1959. Ever the public servant, he served in the U.S. Army from 1953 to 1955. After his military service, he began his law career as the assistant prosecutor in Bay County from 1960 to 1962. He demonstrated his skill and knowledge of the law and soon thereafter was elected to the Michigan House of Representatives, where he served from 1962 to 1974. During this tenure, he served as the Majority Leader of the House from 1965 to 1966. It was during this time he began to pursue a bill that helped establish the Michigan Lottery. And with this legislative action, so came his nickname "Bingo Bob".

Bob was elected to the United States Congress after winning a special election in April of 1974. He arrived in Washington, D.C. in the midst of the Watergate scandal that was shaking the nation. I believe that as a witness to such a troubling time in our republic; it resulted in his development into a successful Congressman. He recognized that the purpose of Congress was to represent and help his fellow constituents, to echo their voices so the concerns of all were heard throughout the halls of Congress.

During his eighteen-year tenure in the House of Representatives, Bob tirelessly served the people in his district. He loved interacting with them whenever he was home to the point where it was not work for him. His example is one from which all in Congress could learn. He rose through the Committee ranks, gaining respect from House Leadership and colleagues, and eventually served on the exclusive House Appropriations Committee as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Veterans' Affairs, Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies. Through his work on the Committee, he was able to advance projects in his district such as the EPA research vessel named the "Lake Guardian". His wide ranging interests asserted that NASA had a champion for the Hubble Telescope, that veterans were cared for, that local communities received back from the federal government their community development allocations, and that Michigan State agricultural interests were defended in the Farm Bills. After years of dutiful service, Bob retired in 1993.

As his colleague for ten years, I learned a great deal from Bob. He took the time to illustrate what the position entailed and how very important it was to remember who sent a Member to Congress. He often reflected on the power imbalance in U.S. society and worked to give a greater voice for people of ordinary means. After retirement, Rep. Traxler went on to support his alma mater by serving on the Michigan State University Board of Trustees and the Mackinac Island Park Commission. Though Bob was an MSU Spartan and I, a Wisconsin Badger and Michigan Wolverine, he and I were dear colleagues and more importantly, dear friends. He tutored me in the intricacies of the appropriations process, for which I shall always be grateful. Particularly because our region has a tougher lift when competing for federal attention.

I hope it is of some comfort to his loved ones, and to the people that he represented, that his being and indefatigable spirit are now freed from Earth's binds; may his soul rise high and shower our precious world with peace, justice, and good humor from sea to shining sea.

With a heavy heart, golden memories, and abiding appreciation, may I extend my deepest

gratitude for the life of Congressman Bob Traxler of Bay City, Michigan, and to his family and the people of Michigan he loved and treasured so dearly, for sharing him with our nation.

#### LONGEST-SERVING CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY CHIEF CLERK E. DOTSON WILSON

### HON. KAREN BASS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 19, 2019*

Ms. BASS. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. E. Dotson Wilson, retiring after a 40-year career with the California State Assembly, the longest-serving Chief Clerk in the history of that body.

Over his long career, Mr. Wilson has proven his passion for service and for improving governance. We all know that the smooth functioning of the people's elected representatives depends on a well-trained staff operating at a leadership level within the Capitol. Mr. Wilson made it his mission to assure that, whatever the political discussion, legislators had what they needed to do their jobs. The fact that he has been unanimously affirmed as Chief Clerk for every Assembly session since his selection for the post in 1992 is a testament to the esteem in which he has been held by the 482 different legislators who have served during his 27-year tenure.

The Chief Clerk serves as the chief parliamentarian of the 80-member California Assembly and is responsible for publishing the official documents of the House; and keeping all the bills, papers, and records of the proceedings of the Assembly. Mr. Wilson not only produced legislative materials to assist Members and legislative staff, but he created training videos, annotated guides and a book on California's Legislature. These materials are invaluable both to new legislators and to everyone wishing to understand how their government works.

Prior to serving as the Chief Clerk, Mr. Wilson served under Assembly Speaker Willie L. Brown Jr., first as an Assembly Fellow from October 1979 to 1980, then as his Special Assistant. Speaker Brown nominated Mr. Wilson to be Chief Clerk of the Assembly in 1992, and he was reelected 14 times.

Mr. Wilson saw first-hand the impact of housing discrimination and other injustices growing up in the Bay Area city of Albany, California. The trials he saw his family endure propelled him to seek change, and resulted in a lifetime of public service. Mr. Wilson has worked on a wide range of legislative issues over his long career, including housing, public employees, retirement and labor. He took special interest in supporting academic success for California's youth, including student athletes.

Mr. Wilson exemplifies what it means to be a public servant. I congratulate him on his long service and his well-deserved retirement. It was an honor to serve alongside Mr. Wilson during my time in the Assembly.