

Awarded a scholarship to Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, he received his bachelor of fine arts degree in sculpture and went on to earn his master of fine arts from the Maryland Institute College of Art's Rinehart Graduate School of Sculpture in Baltimore.

There, he was the recipient of the school's top honor, the Rinehart Award. In 1989, he was accepted to the artist residency program at the Bemis Center of Contemporary Arts in Omaha. A year later, he joined the faculty of Omaha's Creighton University, where he has attained the rank of full professor of sculpture.

For the past 30 years, he has consistently given back to the community. Littleton served on the Omaha Public Art Commission for 9 years, and he has volunteered often for local charities and community service groups. He is especially proud of his educational outreach, having often led classes and workshops at schools in low-income neighborhoods.

In 2013, he was recognized by the city of Omaha for his artistic and civic contributions with a Community Excellence Award and by Governor Dave Heineman with the Community Development Excellence Award.

Littleton says he chose the art of sculpting because he believes sculpture is the best vehicle through which he can best express the joys and sorrows of the human condition. He says that he has explored many mediums and conceptual approaches. As an artist, he tries to convey the beauty and power of the sculpted form.

Littleton Alston has been commissioned to create a variety of sculptural projects, including monumental bronze figures such as: The Archangel Michael, Christ Among Children, Dr. Martin Luther King, Baseball Legend Bob Gibson, St. Ignatius of Loyola, and many others.

His work has included international artist residencies. In 2019, Littleton was selected from applicants from across the country to create a larger-than-life-size bronze statue portraying Willa Cather, a sculpture that will be one of the two statues representing the great State of Nebraska in the U.S. Capitol.

This achievement is a hallmark for our country and a homecoming for Littleton, who will become the first African American artist to create a work to be displayed in the Statuary Hall collection, a compelling achievement, 50 years in the making, for a young man who grew up in eyeshot of the Statue of Freedom.

This wonderful addition to these hallowed Halls will be dedicated to his late mother, Gilbertha Otelia Alston, a fitting tribute to the person who helped cultivate his great talent at an early age.

We are proud that Littleton; his wife, Anne; and his children, Sarah, Taylor, and Daniel, call Omaha, Nebraska, home.

I salute and thank Littleton for his impression upon the community, which will be felt for years to come.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 27 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Dr. Cheryl Coleman Hall, Nineteenth Street Baptist Church, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

God of infinite wisdom, of faithfulness, of mercy, of justice and love, we gather in this place at this hour by grace, and we are grateful.

We pray for clarity of mind for the work of service that must be accomplished by each one here. We pray that they will use today wisely, for today will become yesterday, and today is creating tomorrow.

We pray that broken places are made straight and the bridges we are building are strong and mighty, for we all must walk upon them.

We pray for the persons who support them, the family members, support staff, the unnamed and unknown as they carry out the awesome responsibilities of being their brothers and sisters, communities, and country's keepers.

As we gather, charged with the awesome responsibilities for which we have been called, we are reminded of all that is divine, all that is good, all that is merciful in each of us. And we pray that each of us is able to unabashedly declare at the end of the day, with sincere hearts: May the works I have done speak for me.

In the name of the One who reveals truth, the One who is the light that is showing in the darkness that cannot be extinguished, we offer this prayer.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr.

CRAWFORD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CRAWFORD led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

NEW YORK WILL NEVER FORGET FLIGHT 3407 AND NEITHER SHOULD CONGRESS

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, this week marks the 11th anniversary of the tragic crash of Continental flight 3407.

On February 12, 2009, flight 3407 crashed in Clarence Center, New York, killing all passengers and crew members on board and one person on the ground. The National Transportation Safety Board determined that the crash was due to pilot error and inexperience.

Thanks to tireless advocacy of the families of flight 3407 who lost loved ones in the crash, reforms like 1500 hours of flight training for first officers have been enacted. However, more than a decade later, we still anxiously await implementation of the pilot records database to allow airlines to access records of pilots applying for jobs.

Madam Speaker, western New York will never forget flight 3407 and neither should Congress. I urge my colleagues to continue to strive for One Level of Safety and remain vigilant about aviation and safety standards.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF BILLIE SUE HOGGARD

(Mr. CRAWFORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CRAWFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of my close friend Billie Sue Hoggard, who passed away on Sunday evening.

Billie Sue was a lifelong public servant, a political pioneer, and a devout follower of Jesus. She was a nationally board-certified teacher.

Countless students in my hometown of Jonesboro, Arkansas, across five decades and four schools, were blessed to find themselves in her classroom.

She was selected for three international teaching exchanges in China, Japan, and Mexico. Her passion for teaching could not be extinguished, coming out of a well-deserved retirement just a few years ago to go back into the classroom.