

a goodbye gift, I would love to get all our bills done by the end of the year.

To the other members leaving Congress at the end of this term—my fellow New Yorker and dear friend Jose Serrano, Pete Visclosky, Tom Graves, Martha Roby, and Will Hurd—thank you for your service, and I wish you all the very best.

To my subcommittee chairs—Marcy, Pete, José, Rosa, David, Lucille, Sanford, Betty, Tim, Debbie, and Mike—you have made your mark not just on your bills and on this Committee. Thank you for your steady, effective leadership and friendship.

Kay, I could not ask for a better Ranking Member. We took turns as Chair and Ranking Member on State and Foreign Operations and have shown time and again that women get things done. I will deeply miss our partnership and you personally.

I would be remiss not to mention former Committee Chairs Natcher, Livingston, Young, Lewis, Obey, Rogers, and Frelinghuysen who showed me what it takes to do this job well.

None of us could fulfill our mandate without the support of excellent staff. All of the successes I've recounted today and more are also the achievements of many others.

To the staff in both the Committee and my Congressional office: For a year and a half as Chairwoman, six years as Ranking Member—and for some, a whole lot longer—I have benefitted immeasurably from your wisdom, counsel, tireless commitment, and, on more than a few occasions, from your technological prowess.

One of the benefits of being chair is having the largest and most experienced staff on the Hill. From all of our subcommittee staff led by clerks Martha Foley, Bob Bonner, Becky Leggieri, Jaime Shimek, Matt Smith, Darek Newby, Rita Culp, Stephen Steigleder, Robin Juliano, Matt Washington, Lisa Molyneux, Steve Marchese, and Joe Carlile to Adam Berg, Jason Gray, Adam Wilson, Tom Tucker, Anna Hansen, Mike Burns, Gloria Nlewedim, and Malachi White in the front office, I am grateful for everything you do to make this the best committee in Congress.

My Congressional office staff in Washington, including Fae Rabin, Wendy Coursen, Liz Gauthier, Jane Richter, Matt Pastore, Steve Brenner, and Justin Barnes, have been invaluable during my final appropriations markups, as always.

I especially note my gratitude for the extraordinary work of several staffers with whom I work most closely: Staff Director and Clerk Shalanda Young, Deputy Staff Director Chris Bigelow—an alum of my personal office, Communications Director Evan Hollander, Legislative Director Dana Acton, Deputy Chief of Staff Kelly Heaton, and my Chief of Staff for the last 15 years, Elizabeth Stanley.

I appreciate the great contributions of former staff, including chiefs of staff—Scott Fleming, Howard Wolfson, Matthew Traub and Clare Coleman—and legislative teams led by Jim Townsend, Mark Isaac, Jenny Luray, Heather Howard, Beth Tritter, and Jean Doyle. At the committee, I valued the expertise of former Staff Director David Pomerantz, Deputy Staff Director Lesley Turner, and Communications Director Matt Dennis who also served in my personal office.

I have enjoyed seeing so many current and former staffers grow in your careers, get married, have children, and even some of you retire before me. You will always be a part of the Lowey family.

It has been the honor of my life to serve as Chairwoman of this committee. While I'll be sad to hand over the gavel, I know that all of us—members and staff—will live by the underlying principle that has guided our work together: do the best we can to make life better for the most people we can.

Thank you.

HONORING JUDGE OLA M. LEWIS

HON. DAVID ROUZER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 2020

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the memory and life of a trailblazing judge from Brunswick County, North Carolina, who was passionate and fearless in her commitment to justice and the law while also showing great compassion for those who needed help to get their lives back on track. Sadly, Judge Ola M. Lewis passed away late last year. This past Saturday, July 11th, would have been her 55th birthday.

The daughter of a paratrooper of the 82nd Airborne Division and two public school principals, Judge Lewis learned early in life the value of education, hard work, and service to one's community. She grew up in Spring Lake, North Carolina, and soon moved with her family to Brunswick County. Like her father, she graduated from Fayetteville State University and then in 1990 earned a law degree from North Carolina Central Law School. After a stint in private practice she returned home to Brunswick County to serve in the District Attorney's Office.

Just two years later, in 1993, Judge Lewis was appointed district court judge becoming the youngest serving district court judge in North Carolina. She spent seven years as a district court judge before being appointed to serve as a "special Superior Court judge", traveling around 21 North Carolina counties. Her motto: "have gavel, will travel".

She made history as both the first woman and the first African-American judge in North Carolina's Fourteenth Judicial District. She is the longest serving female judge in the history of North Carolina.

Judge Lewis has left a real impact in our community that will continue to be felt. She fostered the creation of specialized drug treatment and mental health courts, which have helped countless those that need it the help necessary to put themselves back on the right track. Her drug court program became a national template that has been replicated to help others struggling with addiction and mental health challenges nationwide.

She was one of the first to see and respond to the scourge of the opioid addiction that has ravaged the nation, co-founding in 2017 the Brunswick County Opioid Addiction Task Force. She encouraged Governor Roy Cooper to declare the growing opioid addiction crisis a statewide public health emergency.

In recognition of her contributions and dedication to our local communities and to our state, she was awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine by Governor Cooper, the Old North State Award by Governor Beverly Perdue, and the Dogwood Award by Attorney General Josh Stein.

Madam Speaker, Judge Ola Lewis leaves a legacy for which her wonderful family, colleagues and friends can be proud. Hers was a great life of service to the benefit of every citizen, our communities, and our state.

HONORING THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY MEMORIAL POST 8788 VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 2020

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Rio Grande Valley Memorial Post 8788 Veterans of Foreign Wars for their incredible 50-year record of serving our veterans and the community of McAllen, Texas.

The Rio Grande Valley Memorial Post 8788 Veterans of Foreign Wars celebrated their 50th anniversary in March of this year, but I am here to recognize Post 8788's Honor Guard, which was established in the late 1970's.

Honor Guards volunteer to give proper ceremonial funerals to veterans who die. The term "Honor guard" is used because the veterans feel it is a great honor to provide their fellow veterans with military funeral services and pay their final respects. They feel they have been blessed to survive the horrors of war and this is their way of giving back to their fellow brothers and sisters.

Although I do not have the records for all of the services conducted since the post's inception, Post 8788 has conducted 367 services since 2018. Altogether, these services are the compilation of 7,418 volunteer hours and 6,035 miles traveled to perform the military funerals. You can imagine these numbers are much larger given the fact that this represents only 2.5 years out of a 40-year history.

Madam Speaker, I stand here today to acknowledge the decades' long achievements of the Rio Grande Valley Memorial Post 8788 Veterans of Foreign Wars. Each member of the Rio Grande Valley Memorial Post 8788 Veterans of Foreign Wars is an incredible leader in our community, and their legacy will no doubt inspire public service and volunteerism of future generations.

SUPPORTING THE DBE PROGRAM

HON. ANTHONY G. BROWN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 2020

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Madam Speaker, I rise to say a few words in support of the DBE program. This program helps firms owned by women and minorities are included as partners in helping build and maintain our nation's transportation infrastructure. The chairman and many of my colleagues have presented the devastating statistics that demonstrate how far we must go before we abolish business discrimination based on race and gender. I would like to highlight some of the voices behind those statistics. In a recent study in my home state of Maryland, the authors conducted in depth interviews with business owners from across the state on this very issue. When asked about the persistence of discrimination, one business owner said: "My business card had my picture on it, and so someone said to me, 'Oh, whatever you do, don't put your picture on your card.' And I said, 'Why?' . . . They said, 'Because you'll