

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF RALEIGH  
BALDERSON'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 21, 2020*

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Raleigh Gilbert Balderson, in honor of his 90th Birthday on December 19, 2020. I would like to take this time to recognize the many achievements of Mr. Balderson, as well as commemorate this special occasion in his life.

Mr. Raleigh Balderson is a resident of my hometown, Montross, Virginia. He is a very well-respected citizen and barber in the town of Montross, and he is known and loved by the entire community. He has served as a deacon and trustee at Nomini Baptist Church and is currently a deacon emeritus, a testament to his strong involvement in the community and care for those he knows and loves.

This year marks a second major milestone for Mr. Balderson, as he retired from his own barber business on March 21, 2020. Mr. Balderson started his own business in Montross, Virginia, and recently retired after 62 years of being in business. Mr. Balderson's barbershop in Montross is well loved by the entire community and is known for a place of good company and great conversations.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I ask that you rise with me today to honor and celebrate Mr. Raleigh Gilbert Balderson's 90th Birthday on December 19, 2020. I would like to also recognize and remember the late Bonnie Jean Owen Balderson, Mr. Balderson's beloved wife of 59 years. I wish Mr. Balderson a happy 90th birthday, and I hope this time is filled with celebration and God's continued blessings.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. A. DREW FERGUSON IV**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 21, 2020*

Mr. FERGUSON. Madam Speaker, I missed the vote on H.R. 3384, the MORE Act on December 4, 2020 to leave to care for a sick family member. If I had been present, I would have voted "Nay" on H.R. 3384, the MORE Act, Roll Call No. 235.

IN RECOGNITION OF GARY  
JOHNSON

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 21, 2020*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Gary Johnson, Assistant Manager for the City of Roanoke, Texas,

as he retires from a career spanning almost four decades in public service.

Prior to his work for the City of Roanoke in 2003, Chief Johnson served the City of Watauga's Department of Public Safety for more than two decades, from 1982 to 2003. His tenure at Watauga DPS included several positions including Detective, Paramedic, Fire Fighter, SWAT Team Leader, Patrol Commander, and Deputy Chief. During this period, the agency was a totally integrated public safety department with all personnel cross-trained in the areas of law enforcement, fire suppression, and emergency medical services.

Chief Johnson joined Roanoke's Police Department as Chief in 2003. Under his leadership, the Roanoke Police Department became one of the best in the state, achieving the Texas Police Chief's Best Practices Recognition in 2011, a highly respected accomplishment requiring meeting 168 standards. This recognition has been repeated every four years since and is one of many achievements that led to the addition of his role as Assistant City Manager in 2016, with responsibility over Police and Fire Services and special projects.

In 2018 Mr. Johnson transitioned to assume full responsibility as an Assistant City Manager, providing invaluable administrative input on operations, budgets, personnel policies and other support critical to the City Manager's Office. He also carried responsibility for many major City initiatives, including the role of Project Manager for the New City Hall facility, the implementation of the Roanoke Citizen's Academy and many others. His departmental direct reports included the Police Department, Fire Department, Informational Technology, Special Projects, Solid Waste Services, and City Hall facilities.

A graduate of both Dallas Baptist University and having completed a Master of Public Administration from the University of North Texas, Denton, Chief Johnson is also a graduate of the F.B.I. National Academy; 207th Session. Beyond his duties with the City of Roanoke, he was also active within his profession as a member of the F.B.I. National Academy Associates, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, and the Texas Police Chiefs Association, which he served as President in 2018.

Through his decades of service in Public Safety and City Management, Gary Johnson's effort and leadership have created a legacy represented in the quality of life citizens of Roanoke and the other communities enjoy in the communities he has served. I wish him and his wife, Sherrill, his daughters and family, all the joy and satisfaction deserved in a well-earned retirement from a life of public service.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LEGACY  
OF SHERIFF MICHAEL J. ASHE, JR.

**HON. RICHARD E. NEAL**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 21, 2020*

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, it is with great satisfaction that I rise today to recognize the remarkable career of retired Hampden County Sheriff Michael J. Ashe, Jr. Sheriff Ashe, in a career spanning over four decades, has created the model of rehabilitating inmates across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the country. A native of my hometown of Springfield, Massachusetts, Sheriff Ashe has spent his life embodying the fundamental principle that all who are willing to work for a second chance, ought to receive one. His signature philosophy of "strength reinforced with decency; firmness dignified in fairness" led to countless lives being changed for the better, while resulting in one of the lowest reincarceration rates in the United States.

Originally a social worker, Sheriff Ashe sought to provide long-term care and housing to the youth who were most in need of it. Serving as the first Assistant Director of Downey Side homes for the youth, Mike Ashe displayed remarkable leadership by being the first to welcome to his home battered or at-risk children, a reminder that no member of the community shall be forgotten. His commitment to those who are often forgotten in society led to his candidacy for Sheriff of Hampden County. Since his initial election in 1974, Ashe was re-elected every 6 years without contest until he announced his retirement in 2016.

Anyone who has gotten to know Sheriff Ashe will affirm that he had never been in the business of incarceration, rather his focus was on corrections. His doctrine on correctional supervision was guided by the simple principle that inmates should be held accountable and be positive and productive. The Sheriff long understood that if he were to adequately rehabilitate his inmates, he would need to put together a competent coalition of staff and volunteers who could command the situation, while exemplifying the upmost professionalism.

Sheriff Ashe instituted an inmate Basic Intensive Regimen in which all inmates are required to undergo during their first 5 weeks of incarceration. During this critical time, inmates are required to participate in programs that focus on substance abuse, anger management, cognitive thinking, victim impact, and more. In Hampden County, it is excepted that inmates work on assignments or some sort of productive activity, for at least 40 hours per week. With over 140 programs available, inmates are encouraged to famously "answer the bell" for a productive day, just like they will have to do if they are to be productive citizens.

Under his leadership, Hampden County was home to the nation's first Day Reporting Center, the first program of its kind to offer support

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