

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 80TH
BIRTHDAY OF EUGENE McAVOY
CHAMPION

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the 80th birthday of Mr. Eugene Champion.

Mr. Champion was born on February 20, 1932, in Crenshaw County, Alabama to Leon and Carol Champion. The son of a farmer and teacher, Eugene finished high school and served in the Air Force during the Korean Conflict. He attended and graduated from the University of Alabama on the GI Bill.

Eugene was married to his high school sweetheart, Bobbie Royal, in 1951. They had five children, Cindy, Mac, Becky, Amy and Bob. In 1976, Bobbie passed away. In 1979, Eugene married Margaret Scott and added her three children, Duane, Emalyn, and Derek to the family.

Mr. Champion received his CPA and worked as an accountant for several businesses as well as the State of Alabama.

After retiring from the State, Mr. Champion opened his own accounting firm. Although now retired, he still helps out friends with their taxes each year.

Eugene and Margaret are very involved in the First Baptist Church of Prattville. He is also an active member of the Lion's Club. Eugene is a proud grandfather and great-grandfather, who enjoys spending time with his family.

On February 19, his friends and family will celebrate his birthday in Prattville, Alabama. Today I would like to wish Eugene Champion a very Happy 80th Birthday.

HONORING THORA JERVEY

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks in memory of Thora Jervey, a beloved matriarch of the Radford community in Southwest Virginia. Mrs. Jervey left us on January 31, 2012.

Born in 1929, Thora spent much of her childhood in southern California. She graduated from Whittier College in 1951 and married her husband, Ed, the same year. Thora and Ed moved to Radford, VA, in 1961, where she quickly became an active member of the community. Thora founded "The Lamplighters" and led the campaign for a new library in Radford. Thora was also responsible for founding the Radford Clothing Bank in 1982. It now serves hundreds of needy individuals each year.

She taught at Dublin Elementary School for 26 years, impacting countless students. Thora volunteered throughout the community, including helping to start Radford Elf Shelf, Books for Babies, the Radford-Fairlawn Daily Bread program, and a nationally recognized newspaper recycling effort. Thora was also an active member of the Radford Women's Club and Grove United Methodist Church. Despite

being confined to a wheelchair for many years, she never let her disability get in the way. Until the time of her death, Thora continued as a member of the Radford Clothing Bank board and wrote a column for the Radford News Journal.

Thora was an avid bridge player and loved to travel. Along with her husband Ed, Thora visited every continent, including Antarctica. Thora is survived by her husband of 60 years, Ed; three sons, David, Warren, and Tom; daughter-in-law, Jeanne Phillips Jervey; and three grandchildren, Katie, Brett, and Peyton.

Those who knew her well are heard to talk of her generosity, kindness, and determination, which have made the City of Radford a better place to live. I am honored to pay tribute to this great woman's many contributions. Her legacy and influence will be long remembered in the Radford community.

HONORING WISLAWA SZYMBORSKA

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, my esteemed colleagues, please join me in honoring the late Wislawa Szymborska, Nobel Prize winning Polish poet and essayist, who passed away on February 1, 2012. Wislawa Szymborska was described as "the Mozart of poetry . . . with the furor of Beethoven." She received the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1996, propelling her to international fame.

Incredibly particular in what she deemed worthy of print, Ms. Szymborska published less than 400 poems over the span of six decades. First gaining notoriety in Poland, her poetry eventually became known worldwide. She was renowned for approaching serious subjects with humor and satire, as well as for deeply examining seemingly trivial everyday occurrences. A true artist, she was very much in tune with human nature, while seemingly transcendent above it all. She was also notoriously private, choosing to remain away from what she called the "fuss."

Wislawa Szymborska's poetry is so profoundly rooted in human reality and yet so far removed from it, that it will surely withstand the test of time for generations to come. Both she and her poetry will be truly missed.

IN HONOR OF MR. WILLIAM H.
WILLOUGHBY, JR.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. William H. Willoughby, Jr. who is being recognized by the Joint Veterans' Commission of Cuyahoga County as the 2011 Outstanding Veteran of the Year.

Born a true "military brat," Mr. Willoughby grew up around the world in places such as California, Japan and Washington, DC. He enlisted in the U.S. Army and attended the U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School before graduating from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He furthered his training at Infan-

try, Airborne, Ranger and Special Forces Qualifications Schools. Mr. Willoughby served his country valiantly during two tours in Vietnam during 1965-1966 and again in 1968. He was an A Team Leader with the 5th Special Forces Group on his first tour and a Battalion Operations Officer (S3) with the 2nd Battalion 2nd Infantry 1st Infantry Division during the second, during which he was wounded in combat. Mr. Willoughby was awarded with the Silver Star, Soldier's Medal, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Army Commendation, Air Medal and Combat Infantryman's Badge for his brave service to his country. Due to medical reasons, he retired from the Army in 1971.

While recovering from his injury, Mr. Willoughby earned a Masters Degree in Business Administration from Tulane University. He used his education to obtain work in the manufacturing industry. Working his way up in the field, Mr. Willoughby became the president of Pettibone Ohio Corporation. In 1984, with only five employees, he established Cleveland Track Material, Inc. (CTM). CTM quickly became a thriving company and by 2007 employed 260 people. It was named one of the "100 Best Places to Work in North East Ohio" for three consecutive years. It has received the Ohio Governor's Workforce Excellence Award, Blue Chip Enterprise Award and it was named the 1990 Ernest & Young Manufacturing Entrepreneur of the Year.

In addition to his military service and business success, Mr. Willoughby has been an outspoken supporter of the U.S. Military Academy and in 1979 was appointed the West Point Admissions Coordinator for Northeast Ohio. In 2010, he was named the coordinator for the entire state. Over the years William has assisted more than 650 young people from the State of Ohio to gain admission to the prestigious military academy.

Since 1997, he has served as the Master of Ceremonies for my 10th Congressional District's annual Service Academy Day and has provided invaluable assistance with the nomination process to my congressional staff. He has set the standard for a Service Academy representative, and is the recognized leader among West Point representatives. Everyone knows Bill! Always positive and professional, he leads by example, with a life history to illustrate the success of following the path of Duty, Honor and Country.

Mr. Willoughby has also brought four new Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps programs to Cleveland City Schools. Mr. Willoughby has been recognized as the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army Emeritus in 2005, received the U.S. Army Outstanding Civilian Service Medal and was inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame in 2008.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in congratulating Mr. William Willoughby, Jr., Cuyahoga County's 2011 Outstanding Veteran of the Year.

RECOGNIZING CHRISTINE TAILLON

HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Christine Tailon for her 32 years of service at General Electric in Lynn, Massachusetts, and to congratulate her on her recent retirement.