her, her husband Kenneth, three children, and five grandchildren much joy as they celebrate Sarah's place in history.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE JAMES PEARCE BRICE

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and Congressman BOB GOODLATTE, I submit these remarks to commemorate the life of The Honorable James Pearce Brice, a devoted jurist and public servant to the Commonwealth of Virginia, who was born in Roanoke, Virginia, on August 7, 1926, and passed away on September 15, 2016, at the age of 90.

In our years of practicing law, both Congressman GOODLATTE and I had the pleasure of arguing in front of Judge Brice. We benefited from the expertise and wisdom he shared, as a street lawyer and a personal mentor, accumulated from an accomplished life.

At the age of 16, Judge Brice entered the Virginia Military Institute. He joined the Merchant Marines, as soon as he turned 18, during World War II. He bravely served as a helmsman on an oil tanker in the North Atlantic and suffered the loss of his brother, Robert, on Omaha Beach in 1944.

Before war ended, Judge Brice joined the United States Army and became a Japanese translator and interrogator. With his intelligence and flare for foreign languages, he continued serving with distinction in the Army Counterintelligence Corps in northern Hokkaido after Japan surrendered.

Upon returning from abroad, Judge Brice went back to school and obtained his bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia, then earned his law degree from Washington and Lee University in 1954.

He launched his legal career in private practice back in his hometown of Roanoke. He spent time working for the Veterans Administration, and then the United States District Attorney's Office, as an assistant prosecutor. Judge Brice was dedicated to his vocation. At the age of 42, he was appointed to the bench of the Roanoke General District Court, where he served as judge from 1967 through 1987. He retired as the chief general district judge of the 23rd Judicial Circuit, but continued to travel across the commonwealth as a substitute jurist until the early 2000s.

Judge Brice had a tremendous impact on many of our communities, as well upon countless individuals all across the region. Judge Brice will be remembered as a family man and a friend to many. We always appreciated his outgoing nature and shared his love of history. Judge Brice left the repeated impression of being a compassionate and fair arbiter, and he will be forever remembered by how much he believed in redemption. May his spirit of fairness and compassion remain with us. He will be greatly missed, but his legacy and influence will be long remembered across the entire western region of Virginia.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Judge Brice's wife of 62 years, Phyllis; his three sons, James, Steven, and Michael; his three grandchildren, Taryn, Trey, and Melissa; his family, friends, and many loved ones. May God give them comfort during this difficult time.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes on September 26th, 2016, while recovering from a surgical procedure. Had I been present, I would have voted YES on Roll no. 557 and YES on Roll no. 558. I applaud my colleagues on passage of H.R. 5392, the No Veterans Crisis Line Call Should Go Unanswered Act. Recent reports show that as many as one-third of calls to VA's veterans' crisis line go unanswered. Mr. Speaker, this is as unacceptable as it is appalling and I intend to push Secretary McDonald for answers and see that this atrocity is quickly rectified.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF NORTH MISSISSIPPI RURAL LEGAL SERVICES

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the 50th anniversary of North Mississippi Rural Legal Services (NMRLS).

This organization, formed in 1966 at the University of Mississippi, makes it possible for low-income and elderly residents to have access to legal services they could not otherwise afford.

North Mississippi Rural Legal Services' attorneys provide a wide range of counsel in 39 counties across North Mississippi. Their cases are as diverse as the people they serve. Attorneys have built cases to preserve civil rights, protect vulnerable children, and defend the elderly.

North Mississippi Rural Legal Services has committed leadership in Executive Director Ben Thomas Cole II and Director of Litigation Ruby White. While serving as District Attorney of Mississippi's First Circuit Judicial District, I saw firsthand the dedication to NMRLS of my former colleagues Nebra Porter of Tupelo and current NMRLS board member and Brian Neely of Tupelo who served on the NMRLS board for ten years. North Mississippi Rural Legal Services' attorneys work tirelessly to ensure that the ability of citizens to exercise their rights under the law is not contingent on their ability to navigate the legal system on their own. I look forward to hearing of the good work they will continue to do in the communities of North Mississippi.

I commend North Mississippi Rural Legal Services as they continue their pursuit of justice for all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PAUL TONKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, September 26, 2016, I was absent from the House and missed roll call Nos. 557 and 558.

Had I been present for roll call No. 557, motion to suspend the Rules and pass H.R. 3537, the Dangerous Synthetic Drug Control Act of 2016, I would have voted "yea."

Had I been present for roll call No. 558, motion to suspend the Rules and pass H.R. 5392, the No Veterans Crisis Line Call Should Go Unanswered Act, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, on September 26, 2016 I was absent for recorded votes Number 557 and Number 558.

On Roll Call Number 557 I would have voted no, and on Roll Call Number 558 I would have voted yes.

CELEBRATING THE COUNTRY OF GEORGIA'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF REGAINING ITS INDEPENDENCE FROM THE SOVIET UNION

HON. TOM McCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the country of Georgia's 25th anniversary of regaining its independence from the Soviet Union. In these two short decades, Georgia has embraced freedom and made remarkable progress.

Georgia has worked to become a leading example of democracy in a region where dictatorship is all too common and is reaping the fruits of free market reforms that bolster growth by reducing government regulation, fighting corruption, and simplifying the tax code. Through these efforts, Georgia strengthens its commercial, political, and security ties with the West—particularly with the United States through a strategic partnership built on shared democratic principles.

Georgia has been a steadfast ally of the United States, strongly supporting U.S. security initiatives in the fight against terrorism and is the third largest contributor of troops to the Global War on Terror's Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan.

These accomplishments shine all the more when taken in context of the challenges Georgia continues to face from Russia's voracious appetite for aggression in the region.

Today marks the 23rd anniversary of the fall of Sokhumi, Georgia, to Russian troops and local separatist forces in 1993. The brutal massacre, torture, and expulsion of hundreds of thousands of ethnic Georgians from their