

lightly, and has always dedicated his time and expertise to the group's role of reviewing the records of motor carriers with significant and repeated violations and ensuring that proper steps are taken to mitigate safety risks.

His many accomplishments while at the MMTA include increasing the association's strength to over 1,200 companies, as well as adding valuable services for the benefit of the membership. On a personal note, Dale has been a long time and trusted adviser of mine when it comes to the issue of truck weights in Maine. He has worked tirelessly with me and the entire Maine congressional delegation to advocate for a fix to the problem. We are getting closer to a permanent solution and we have Dale and his advocacy to thank for it.

Prior to his leadership at the MMTA, Dale graduated from the Northwestern Traffic Institute and served for 20 years with the Maine State Police, achieving the rank of lieutenant by the end of his career. He is actively involved in community and fraternal organizations such as the Freemasons, the Order of the Eastern Star, the Order of the Amaranth and he spent many years as a Scout Master for the Boy Scouts. Dale and his wife Jean are also very active in the First Baptist Church of Fairfield.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Dale Hanington for his life of dedication and service to his community and his country.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN WARREN COOKE

HON. FRANK R. WOLF-

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise to share with our colleagues the recent passing of John Warren Cooke, former speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates. He died on November 28, 2009, at the age of 94.

Born on February 28, 1915, in Mathews, Virginia, Speaker Cooke had a long history of service to Virginia, spending almost 4 decades in the House of Delegates from 1942 to 1980. After serving as the Democratic majority leader for 12 years, he became Speaker in 1968. He was well regarded on both sides of the aisle and considered a true gentleman.

After retiring from the Virginia House of Delegates, Speaker Cooke returned to his hometown to continue serving as the publisher of the Gloucester-Mathews Gazette Journal, as he had done since 1954.

Speaker Cooke's father, Major Giles B. Cooke, served on the general staff of General Robert E. Lee during the Civil War. As a 26-year-old, Major Cooke was on Lee's staff at Appomattox.

As the ninth generation of his family to serve in the Virginia General Assembly and one of the last living Americans with a father in the Civil War, Speaker Cooke will surely be missed by the people of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

I submit an obituary for Speaker Cooke published in The Washington Post on December 2.

[From the Washington Post, Dec. 2, 2009]

COURTLY, POWERFUL SPEAKER OF VA. HOUSE FOR 12 YEARS

(By Matt Schudel)

John Warren Cooke, 94, who served 12 years as the quietly influential speaker of the Vir-

ginia House of Delegates, died Nov. 28 at his home in the Mathews County town of Gloucester. The cause of death could not be learned.

Mr. Cooke, the last member of the Virginia legislature who was the son of a Confederate veteran, was the Democratic majority leader in the House of Delegates for 12 years before becoming speaker in 1968. He exercised his authority with a courtly demeanor and a gentle hand but was, as described in a 1979 Washington Post article, "one of the state's most powerful but little-noticed officials."

He served in the House of Delegates from 1942 to 1980, when Virginia was struggling with integration and changing from its Democratic, rural roots to a more urban and Republican-leaning state. Among other achievements, Mr. Cooke helped bring a new bipartisan spirit to Richmond by appointing Republicans to key committees for the first time in the legislature's history.

Until 1969, Virginia's legislators had no offices and conducted their business from their desks and briefcases. As speaker, Mr. Cooke had absolute authority to appoint the 100 members of the House to committees as he saw fit. His committee choices, usually based on seniority, could affect the direction and tone of legislation and whether it reached the full House for a vote.

Mr. Cooke, known as "John Warren," was well liked and was praised by his colleagues as "the soul of fairness."

A 1970 Post story said Mr. Cooke's "geniality" and "quick dry wit" served him well in politics: "He guides smoothly and skillfully, he is courteous, he is a gentleman down to his toes—and he is very, very popular."

Mr. Cooke was considered a possible gubernatorial candidate in 1969 and 1973, but he bowed out of the races to remain in the House, representing a Tidewater district north of Williamsburg.

In 1972, as the Democratic speaker, he helped arrange a compromise between contentious factions of the Democratic-controlled legislature and Republican governor Linwood Holton to institute a sweeping reorganization of the state government.

John Warren Cooke was born Feb. 28, 1915, in Mathews, Va. His father, who was 76 when his son was born, was an Episcopal priest who had served on Gen. Robert E. Lee's staff during the Civil War.

Mr. Cooke attended the Virginia Military Institute and returned to his home town to work for the Gloucester-Mathews Gazette-Journal. He was publisher of the weekly newspaper from 1954 until March of this year and was president of the old Tidewater Baseball League.

Survivors include his wife of 62 years, Anne Brown Rawn Cooke of Mathews; and two children, Giles Buckner Cooke III of Williamsburg and Elsa VanNess Verbyla of Mathews.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI'S HISPANIC-AMERICAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEH TINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2009

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Hispanic-American Cultural Institute of the Koubek Center of the University of Miami on their 25th anniversary.

The Hispanic-American Cultural Institute is part of the University of Miami's Division of

Continuing and International Education, which was founded in 1984 by Mr. Pablo Chao.

The Institute's primary mission is to offer cultural and academic services to elderly professionals who wish to remain active. The good work done by the Institute has helped countless individuals in our South Florida community. The Institute has offered conferences in various academic disciplines, which have been hosted by recognized educators, writers and leaders of the Hispanic community.

I congratulate the extraordinary leadership of the center's president for the past 10 years, Mr. Manuel I. Muñiz, and Director Chao on the Institute's 25th anniversary. The Hispanic-American Cultural Institute is a valued part of our community. I am sure that the Institute will continue to allow individuals to pursue their academic dreams regardless of age, as well as be a forum where the brightest minds of the Hispanic community can shine.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF JERRY EUBANKS

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Jerry Eubanks upon his retirement from the United States National Park Service. Jerry has been a life-long public servant, and I am humbled to honor his service and commitment.

A native of McCool, Mississippi, Jerry joined the National Park Service in 1960 after graduating from Mississippi State University with a degree in Civil Engineering. Since joining the Park Service, he has worked across the country from Missouri to California to Virginia to preserve and protect America's national parks. In 1976, Jerry became Assistant Superintendent of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Tennessee and North Carolina. Jerry moved to the Gulf Coast in 1984 to serve as Superintendent of the Gulf Islands National Seashore, where he has remained ever since.

As Superintendent of the Gulf Islands National Seashore, Jerry has worked tirelessly to ensure the protection and viability of our area's natural resources and beauty. Over the past 25 years, he has led the park through numerous organizational and operational changes, resulting in substantial natural, cultural, and recreational program improvements. Among his many successes, Jerry helped lead recovery efforts during several damaging hurricanes including Hurricane Ivan in 2004 and Hurricane Katrina in 2005. He was able to bring operations back online quickly after the storms, ensuring the repair and protection of damaged resources and the restoration of major infrastructure. For his efforts over the course of his career, Jerry has received numerous awards for exemplary service including the Department of the Interior Meritorious Service Award in 2000.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am honored to recognize Jerry Eubanks for his service to Northwest Florida. He is a dedicated community leader who will be sorely missed after his retirement. My wife Vicki and I wish all the best for continued success to Jerry and his wife Anne, his