

For the past 37 years, she has brought Atlanta the news, from her coverage of the 1996 Olympics, to her famous "Monica Kaufman's Closeups" of world leaders and celebrities," to her award-winning work on issues such as the Holocaust and domestic abuse.

As the first woman and African American news anchor in Atlanta, Ms. Kaufman broke both race and gender barriers. She has won more than 30 Southern and local Southern Regional Emmy Awards for talent, reporting, and close-up interviews. Ms. Kaufman has already been named University of Georgia's Broadcaster of the Year in 2001 and the Georgia's Association of Broadcaster of the Year in 2001 and the Georgia Association of Broadcasters 1992 Citizens Broadcaster.

Madam Speaker, I will always remember, however, one evening in July 2002—it was actually November of 2002—when I was first running for Congress. That election night was a very, very close race. It went deep in the night; and finally, at about 11 o'clock, it was news time at WSB. Sure enough, I had to go downstairs and get ready to be interviewed by Monica Kaufman in regard to my race for Congress.

At this point, we were behind. All counties except one had reported, and I was behind. Monica was very sweet and kind to me. She could tell that I was a little nervous and worried and scared. She said, Have you picked up your phone yet to congratulate your opponent on your victory? I said, Monica, I won't do that until the last vote is counted. Shortly after that, I got a phone call telling me congratulations. Finally, those precincts came in, and Dr. GINGREY, from the 11th District in Georgia, was elected.

I always remember Monica Kaufman from that night. I ask Members to recognize the accomplishments of the great Monica Kaufman.

MONICA KAUFMAN PEARSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. I am honored to join my colleagues in the Georgia delegation in paying tribute to one of our Nation's most tenured and preeminent broadcast television news anchors, Monica Kaufman.

For more than 30 years she served as the Channel 2 "Action News Nightbeat" anchor at WSB-TV in Atlanta where she used her superior media talents to educate, inform, and enlighten millions of viewers about current events that impacted our lives and influenced activities all around the world. Prior to becoming one of Atlanta's most watched and influential television journalists, Monica worked as a reporter at the Louisville Times and at WHAS-TV in Kentucky.

Madam Speaker, Monica is an award-winning journalist who has been recognized on numerous occasions for her outstanding professional abilities and

remarkable occupational achievements. However, she is much more than just an accomplished journalist. She is a loving wife, mother, mentor, friend, and role model to me.

I would like to extend our personal congratulations to Monica Pearson and her family as they celebrate and reflect upon her outstanding career as one of our Nation's leading broadcast journalists and admired media personalities. Kentucky may have named her, but Georgia claimed her, and we are all better because she came our way.

Congratulations to you, Monica Kaufman Pearson.

CAPTAIN NICK WHITLOCK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor this morning with great sadness and also with great honor to honor the service of one of Georgia's own, Captain Nick Whitlock. On February 18, 2012, at Camp Lemonnier in Djibouti, Africa, he gave the ultimate sacrifice while returning from a mission in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Captain Whitlock was born to the proud parents of Jimmy and Clare Whitlock on December 10, 1982. Even at a young age, Nick showed his maturity and that he was full of integrity. In one of his high school assignments, Nick was asked to define a leader. He wrote:

A leader is a person that is in charge of a group, someone that everyone looks up to and wants to be like. A leader is also someone that is willing to complete their goals and give 100 percent no matter what. A leader is willing to stand up for what he believes in even if he is alone. I want to be a leader because I think that is what God has called me to be.

For the young people that might be watching, we're always looking for a hero, and I think that Nick decided in his life that he would be a hero.

Nick lived by his own words, and to say he was a leader was an understatement. He understood that success is achieved through hard work, faith, and dedication, and he lived every day as an opportunity to improve himself and the lives of others.

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Nick graduated from Newnan High School in 2001 as an honor graduate and was recognized for his outstanding achievements in both football and baseball. Nick achieved his Eagle Scout rank and strove to use the skills he learned to influence every aspect of his life.

He attended Mercer University, and he caught for the Mercer Bears baseball team. Most notable of Nick's many campus activities were his leadership roles as Mercer ambassador; president of his fraternity, Sigma Alpha Epsilon; and senator-at-large for the student government association. In 2005, Nick

graduated with a bachelor of business administration degree; and in 2011, he went on to earn his master's degree in business administration from the University of Florida.

While studying at Mercer, Nick earned his private pilot's license and was accepted into the United States Air Force in 2006. Nick trained with the Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training program. In 2008, he received his wings and was assigned to the Air Force Special Operations. He became a member of the 34th Special Operations Squadron, which we have all heard about in the paper and on the news, and was promoted to captain in November of 2010, where he was assigned to the U-28A aircraft.

November proved to be one to celebrate, as Nick married the love of his life, Ashley, the same month as his promotion. Nick spread the happiness he found in both his marriage and life through his involvement with organizations such as Alaska's Healing Hearts, a nonprofit organization enabling disabled military veterans to participate in outdoor activities.

Nick was serving on his fifth deployment in Djibouti, Africa, when an accident occurred while his aircraft was returning from a mission, taking not only his life but three of his fellow comrades. Nick was laid to rest at Forest Lawn Cemetery in his hometown of Newnan, Georgia, following a heartfelt ceremony at First Baptist Church.

Friends of Nick's say he made them proud to be an American and to want to become a better man of God and a better father, better husband, a better son. His wife, Ashley, described Nick as loving, thoughtful, honest, considerate, and generous. He was a true gentleman and a steadfast man of God. They both prayed for God to shape their lives for His purpose so that their blessings would not stop with them but extend to everyone they met.

His parents' love and pride for Nick's unwavering faith, integrity, and intelligence is never ending. They talk often of how, although he was never the smartest, biggest, or fastest, he used every ounce of what he was given to his highest potential. He was physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight. In the eyes of his wife, family, and friends, there was no finer man or leader than Nick Whitlock.

I am both honored and proud that a soldier from my district served with such courage and conviction. Nick embodied all the qualities of an ideal husband, son, brother, and friend. He was an extraordinary captain, and America has truly lost one of its finest. I am proud to stand here and thank him for sacrificing his life so that my family and I, and everyone else across this great Nation, can live free.

Joan and I extend our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Nick Whitlock's, and we will never forget the service and sacrifice that he made for our great country.