

in Electrical Engineering. He has subsequently earned a Master's degree in Legislative Affairs from the George Washington University.

Matt has served in a broad range of assignments during his Army career. Major Kelley's assignments include Armor Officer Student, United States Army Armor School, Fort Knox; Tank Platoon Leader, Troop Executive Officer, and Task Force Scout Platoon Leader, 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Irwin; Instructor, Army Reserve Officer Training Corps at the University of Oregon; Reconnaissance Troop Commander and Headquarters Troop Commander, 4th Squadron, 2d Cavalry Regiment, Vilseck, Germany. Additionally, Major Kelley was deployed in direct support of combat operations in Iraq, from 2005–2006, and Regional Command—South, Afghanistan, from 2010–2011.

In 2013, Matt was selected to be an Army Congressional Fellow for one year, working in a Congressional office on Capitol Hill. Next, in his role as a Congressional Budget Liaison, working closely with the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, Matt ensured the Army's budget positions were well represented and articulated to the Appropriations Committees.

Throughout his career, Major Kelley has positively impacted his soldiers, peers, and superiors. Our country has been enriched by his extraordinary leadership, thoughtful judgment, and exemplary work. I join my colleagues today in honoring his dedication to our nation and invaluable service to the United States Congress as an Army Congressional Budget Liaison.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a genuine pleasure to have worked with Major Matt Kelley over the last two years. On behalf of a grateful nation, I join my colleagues today in recognizing and commending Matt for his service to his country and we wish him, his wife Erin, and children, Grace, Samuel, Jack, and Tommy all the best as they continue their journey in the United States Army.

IN HONOR OF MR. CLAYBON J.
EDWARDS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding public servant, respected businessman, and loving husband, father, and friend, Mr. Claybon J. Edwards. Sadly, Mr. Edwards passed away on Tuesday, November 3, 2015. A funeral service was held on Sunday, November 8, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. at the Peach County High School Auditorium in Fort Valley, Georgia.

Often affectionately referred to as "Clay," Mr. Edwards was born in Fort Valley to Martin and Julia Edwards. In 1950, Mr. Edwards earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Morris Brown College in Atlanta, Georgia. Upon graduation, he represented Morris Brown College in a Chicago-based Life Insurance Program sponsored by Supreme Life Insurance Company. The program was established for business administration graduates from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Mr. Edwards then went on to serve our nation honorably in the military for two years.

In 1963, Mr. Edwards joined his father and his brother, A.J., in the family business at Edwards Funeral Home. He attended Worsham College of Mortuary Science of Chicago and then relocated to Fort Valley, where he became a licensed embalmer and funeral director of Georgia.

Later, Edwards Funeral Home was renamed to C.J. Edwards Funeral Home, Inc. and Mr. Edwards became President and CEO. The foundational values of the funeral home did not change, however, and it remained very much a family business. Mr. Edwards' wife, Mary, their daughter, Denise, and son-in-law Anthony, along with Mr. Edwards' sister, Mary Julia, and her daughter Karen, are all involved in the operation of the funeral home. In addition, Mr. Edwards founded Edwards Insurance Agency to add to the business structure.

Mr. Edwards put as much love into serving his community as he did into his businesses. He served numerous organizations, including the NAACP, Alpha Phi Alpha and Sigma Pi Phi fraternities, and various funeral service trade associations. He was also a Deacon at Trinity Baptist Church in Fort Valley, Georgia.

In 1970, Mr. Edwards became the first African American to be elected to serve on the City Council in Fort Valley. He served four terms and served as Mayor Pro Tem for two years.

Claybon Edwards accomplished much in his life but none of this would have been possible without the grace of God and the love and support of his wife of forty-five years, Mary; daughter, Denise; three grandchildren, Sabastian, Samantha, Courtney, and Caitlin; and one great-grandchild, Saniya.

Mr. Speaker, my wife Vivian and I, along with the more than 730,000 people of the Second Congressional District, salute Claybon J. Edwards for his dedicated service to his community. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join us in extending our deepest sympathies to his family, friends and loved ones during this difficult time. We pray that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK TAKAI

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Mr. TAKAI. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, November 30, I was absent from the House due to illness. Due to my absence, I am not recorded on any legislative measures for the day.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call 644, to remove the use restrictions on certain land transferred to Rockingham County, Virginia.

I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call 645, the Billy Frank Jr. Tell Your Story Act.

RECOGNIZING GOEUN CHOI, CHRISTIAN HAILE, JASMINE MARTINEZ, CHRISTINA RIMBEY, AND EITAN WOLF

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Goeun Choi, Christian Haile, Jasmine Martinez, Christina Rimbey and Eitan Wolf for their hard work and dedication to the people of Colorado's Sixth District as interns in my Washington, D.C. office for the autumn of the 114th Congress, First Session.

The work of these young men and women has been exemplary and I know they all have bright futures. They served as tour guides, interacted with constituents, and learned a great deal about our nation's legislative process. I was glad to be able to offer this educational opportunity to these five and look forward to seeing them build their careers in public service.

All five of our interns have made plans to continue their education and professional occupations in Washington, D.C. and throughout the United States. I am certain they will succeed in their new roles and wish them all the best in their future endeavors. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Goeun Choi, Christian Haile, Jasmine Martinez, Christina Rimbey and Eitan Wolf for their service this autumn.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed Roll Call vote numbers 644 and 645. Had I been present, I would have voted aye on Roll Call vote numbers 644 and 645.

HONORING ROSA PARKS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor beloved civil rights activist and "mother of the Civil Rights Movement," Rosa Parks. Sixty years ago today, Rosa Parks was arrested after refusing to give up her seat to a white passenger on a public bus in Montgomery, Alabama.

This single act of civil disobedience unwittingly helped build the foundation for a nationwide movement to end the discriminatory policies of segregation. She empowered thousands of African Americans to come together and launch a boycott of Montgomery buses that lasted 381 days. Thousands of members from the African American community rallied together to carpool, use African American-operated cabs, or even going as far to walk many miles to work. It was a huge success that sent a strong message to those who would choose to discriminate against others.