

ON THE RETIREMENT OF MS. CARMEN SOLOMON-FEARS AFTER A 39-YEAR CAREER OF SERVICE AT THE CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE (CRS)

**HON. KEVIN BRADY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 23, 2017*

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer my congratulations and best wishes to Ms. Carmen Solomon-Fears on the occasion of her retirement from a lifetime of dedicated service at the Congressional Research Service. Carmen's knowledge of American social policy, and especially in recent years involving the complex and important child support enforcement program, is nothing short of encyclopedic. Indeed, in stretching back to the late 1970s, Carmen's career at CRS spans most of the history of the child support enforcement program as well as other key social welfare programs of our time like SSI and TANF/AFDC. So if at times it seemed like Carmen was personally familiar with every word, comma, and footnote in the Social Security Act, it may be because she helped write so much of it during her outstanding career.

And what history she has seen and helped shape during that time. From the 1988 Family Support Act to the landmark 1996 Welfare Reform Law to the 2005 Deficit Reduction Act, Carmen has played a key role in all of the major social welfare reform legislation of the past generation. But she has done more than just assist Congress in crafting the law. She has worked diligently to help us explain what detailed provisions of law mean to real people, both through her interactions with our personal office staff as well as her summaries of child support and other program policies that appeared in CRS reports as well as literally dozens of issues of the Ways and Means Green Book. This all speaks to her outstanding skills in legislation and policymaking. But there is much more to Carmen than that. She is truly one of the nicest people you will meet on Capitol Hill, or any other place for that matter. Her ready smile, easy laugh, and thoughtful counsel are a key part of her success, putting people on both sides of the partisan aisle at ease in trusting her always sound guidance.

On behalf of especially the many Members of the Committee on Ways and Means who benefitted from her thoughtful work over her decades of service, I say thank you and congratulations to Carmen on an outstanding career. She truly has made a difference, which is a testament to her wisdom, hard work, and dedication in everything she does. I wish her nothing but the very best for all that awaits her in the future.

IN HONOR OF DAVID POYTHRESS

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 23, 2017*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding civic leader, public servant of Georgia, and friend of longstanding, David Bryan

Poythress. Sadly, David passed away on Sunday, January 15, 2017.

A Georgia man through and through, David Poythress was born in Bibb County on October 24, 1943 to John Maynor Poythress, head of Macon's water department, and Dorothy Bayne Poythress, a school teacher and the founder of Georgia's special education program. His parents' dedication to public service would inspire David from a young age to pursue public service himself.

David earned a political science degree, law degree, and commission as a U.S. Air Force officer at Emory University in the 1960s. In 1967, he entered active duty as an assistant staff judge advocate at Bergstrom Air Force Base in Texas. He served four years on active duty, volunteering for service in Vietnam and spending a year as defense counsel and chief of military justice at Da Nang Air Base. After active duty, he served in the Air Force Reserve, retiring in 1998 with the rank of Brigadier General.

Before seeking elected office, David made a name for himself serving as an assistant attorney general, Deputy State Revenue Commissioner, and chairman of a study committee formed by Governor George Busbee to study nursing home reimbursements from Medicaid. These roles, in addition to his tenure as the first Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Medical Assistance, led to him being nicknamed the "Mr. Fix It" of state government.

In 1979, Governor Busbee appointed David Secretary of State after the death of incumbent Ben Forston. In 1982, David ran for a full term as Secretary of State but was defeated in the Democratic Primary. He took a 10-year break from politics to practice law in Atlanta.

In 1992, he won a special statewide election for Labor Commissioner and two years later, he was elected to a full four-year term. In 1999, Governor Roy Barnes appointed David to lead the Georgia Army and Air National Guard. In 2002, Governor Sonny Perdue reappointed him and promoted him to Lieutenant General, making him Georgia's first three-star Adjutant General.

George Washington Carver once said, "No individual has any right to come into the world and go out of it without leaving behind distinct and legitimate reasons for having passed through it." We are all so blessed that David Poythress passed this way and during his life's journey did so much for so many for so long. He devoted many years of dedicated service to the people of Georgia through his meaningful contribution of energy, skill, and genuine passion, and for it, he will be remembered for years to come.

David Poythress accomplished much in his life but none of this would have been possible without the love and support of his wife, Elizabeth; son, Cullen Gray Poythress; stepdaughters, Candace Pinnisi and Kristin Placito; eight grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Mr. Speaker, my wife Vivian and I, along with the more than 730,000 residents of Georgia's Second Congressional District, salute David Bryan Poythress for his outstanding public service and his everlasting commitment to improving the quality of life for our citizens. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join us in extending our deepest condolences to David's family and friends 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.

HONORING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INCORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON, CONNECTICUT

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 23, 2017*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the 250th Anniversary of the Incorporation of the Town of East Hampton, Connecticut. The citizens of this community will celebrate this anniversary with a series of festivities occurring over the course of the year.

East Hampton's resiliency has been demonstrated since their earliest days. In 1739, the original settlers, led by Isaac Smith, braved the wilderness of the Northeast to settle along the east bank of the Connecticut River. The town was originally named Chatham in 1767, commemorating its robust shipbuilding economy, but was later renamed to East Hampton in 1915.

The Town of East Hampton has retained much of its old-time charm and beauty for which many New England communities are so famous and it remains the embodiment of community and tradition. Since its resurrection in 1978, thousands of residents and visitors attend the town's Old Home Days glorious celebration. The celebration, which spans three days, fills the streets of East Hampton with live music, delicious food, carnival rides, and concludes with the highly anticipated Old Home Day parade.

East Hampton also has a rich history of honoring its military community. From hosting Yellow Ribbon Ceremonies for departing and returning veterans to erecting the Veterans Memorial Monument, which honors over 2,000 East Hampton veterans, East Hampton has always bestowed the greatest honor upon their veterans.

East Hampton was also the hometown of Connecticut's 84th governor William O'Neill who served in that position from 1980 to 1991. Governor O'Neill was a leader in strengthening Connecticut's public education system, healthcare for seniors, and fixing Connecticut's roads. He was a Korean War Veteran and longtime legislator before ascending to the governor's office. Despite his amazing service he never lost touch with regular people, and I believe it was due to the fact that he and his wife Nikki, always kept their home in East Hampton, where Nikki still resides today.

Mr. Speaker, for 250 years East Hampton and its residents have persevered and flourished through shifting economic, political, and social landscapes. The enthusiasm and amiability from East Hampton's citizens is truly telling of their pride and sense of community. On this anniversary, I ask my colleagues to join me and my constituents with honoring and celebrating this 250th Anniversary.