

Congressman

**G.K. Butterfield**  
1st District of North Carolina



About  
G.K.

Contact

Issues & Legislation

Constituent Services

Newsroom

1st District

April 26, 2010

### **Improving Veterans Health Care**

Last week Congress approved a veterans' health care package that would provide additional assistance to caregivers of veterans.

The Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act would authorize nearly \$3 billion for veterans' programs and construction projects for medical facilities. The measure includes nearly \$1.6 billion for programs aimed at assisting caregivers of eligible veterans.

We must make sure that our country fulfills the promises made to veterans who bravely served our country. This bill provides the resources needed to address the changing medical needs of our veterans and ensures that all veterans have full access to quality health care.

The bill is intended to strengthen the veterans' health care support system and provide additional aid to female veterans, veterans living in rural areas and veterans with mental health issues.

The legislation would expand two important caregiver support programs – one for caregivers of veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan; and, another for caregivers of other veterans. Both groups would be eligible for training and education assistance, counseling and mental health services and respite care. Caregivers of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans would also be eligible for lodging and subsistence payments when accompanying patients to medical visits.

The bill would establish a grant program for service groups to offer transportation options to veterans living in rural areas. The measure would also authorize a demonstration project to expand care for veterans living in rural areas, and would create a pilot program to encourage VA physicians to maintain in-patient privileges at community hospitals in areas suffering a shortage of health care professionals.

---

### **Honoring the Memory of Commissioner DuPont Davis**

*The following speech was read into the Congressional Record:*

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of DuPont L. Davis who served the people of Hertford County, North Carolina for many years as County Commissioner and civic leader. Well known for his passion, deep caring and unapologetically speaking his mind, DuPont Davis helped make a difference in the lives of countless citizens.

Commissioner Davis was first elected to the Hertford County Board of Commissioners in November of 1988. Since that time he has often served as Chairman of the Board, been recognized as North Carolina Commissioner of the Year and served as President of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners.

Commissioner Davis was a person of faith. He was an active member of Zion Grove Missionary Baptist Church of Aulander, North Carolina. He was also a member of Jerusalem Lodge No. 96 of

Prince Hall Masons, Ahoskie, North Carolina and was past Master of the Lodge.

Commissioner Davis was my dear friend of many years and I am saddened by his loss. Without question, he was a devoted public servant with an unsurpassed drive and passion to improve the lives of people in his community. He was an irreplaceable asset to Hertford County and to the state of North Carolina.

Commissioner Davis is survived by his wife Earline Powell Davis, and sons Derrick Davis and Dexter Davis, and daughters, Donica Davis Thompson and Dedria Davis King.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing remorse at the passing of one of North Carolina's finest public servants; a man who was one of the State's most admired and respected elected officials. His passion, perseverance and dedication should serve as an inspiration to us all.

---

### **Honoring the Memory of Commissioner Minnie Shirley Wiggins**

*The following speech was read into the Congressional Record:*

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and work of County Commissioner Minnie Shirley Wiggins who died on Sunday, April 18, 2010 after a short illness. Commissioner Wiggins was a well-respected elected official and community leader in Perquimans County, North Carolina.

Born on February 6, 1933 to the late Mary and Hardy Wiggins, Sr., Commissioner Wiggins was a graduate of Perquimans County Training School and St. Agnes School of Nursing in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Commissioner Wiggins served our Nation with honor as a United States Navy Nurse Corps Captain, serving aboard the USS Sanctuary during the Vietnam War. She was a proud member of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Vietnam Veterans of America.

During her more than 20 years as a Perquimans County Commissioner, she provided a passionate and tireless voice for the youths and senior citizens of the Albemarle Region. She worked as a volunteer with elementary school children and devoted significant time to the Meals on Wheels program. She earned recognition for her devotion to public service, including North Carolina's highest honor--the Order of the Long Leaf Pine.

Commissioner Wiggins had a great passion for her church, Melton Grove Missionary Baptist Church of Winfall, North Carolina, where she was a devoted member for many years.

She is survived by brothers, Percy A. Wiggins Sr. and Horace Wiggins; brother/son Hardy Wiggins Jr.; daughter/niece C. Loretta Buggs; and a host of nieces, nephews, adopted sons and daughters, godchildren and extended family.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues rise to recognize the life and work of Commissioner Minnie Shirley Wiggins and her outstanding public service to the community. I also ask that we pass along our best wishes and prayers to her family, friends and loved ones during this time of bereavement.

**Washington, DC Office**  
413 Cannon HOB  
Washington, DC, 20515  
Phone: (202) 225-3101  
Fax: (202) 225-3354

**Wilson Office**  
216 West Nash Street Suite B  
Wilson, NC 27893  
Phone: (252) 237-9816  
Fax: (252) 291-0356

**Weldon Office**  
309 West 3rd Street  
Weldon, NC 27890  
Phone: (252) 538-4123  
Fax: (252) 823-0236

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update My Profile](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)