

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA'S BELOVED, PAULA RIGGS

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 10, 2012*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Northwest Florida's beloved Paula Riggs. Mrs. Riggs was a dedicated public servant, a staple in the community, and all of Northwest Florida mourns her passing.

Paula Riggs was born in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba while her father was serving our nation in the United States Navy. As the daughter of a naval officer, her family moved around often; however, her parents instilled in Mrs. Riggs an everlasting love and affection for their native home in Northwest Florida. Her interest in public service began at a young age, when she would spend hours with her uncle Harold Goodwin, a former mayor of DeFuniak Springs, listening and learning.

After receiving her college degree from the University of North Florida, Paula Riggs decided to move her family to Northwest Florida to raise her four children along the Gulf Coast. Mrs. Riggs was a loving and devoted mother to her children, and she was also known throughout her community as a true neighbor who offered her kindness to all those she knew. She became a successful small business owner, before joining the Mary Esther City Council in 1995.

Mrs. Riggs' had a deep commitment to helping those who were most in need of assistance, and she continued her service to Northwest Florida in 1998 when she was elected as a County Commissioner for Okaloosa County, Florida. As a County Commissioner she was known for her assiduous work ethic and steadfast commitment to improving the community. In addition to her service on the County Commission, she served as Chairman of the Okaloosa-Walton County Transportation Planning Organization, as well as Chairman of the State Library Council, and her hard work and leadership earned her an appointment by Florida Governor Jeb Bush to serve on the Intergovernmental Relations Legislative Council. Although she was forced to step down from her position on the County Commission in 2004 due to illness, she remained a steadfast presence in the community.

To some, Paula Riggs will be remembered as a dedicated public servant and a successful small business owner. To others, she will be remembered as a generous and caring neighbor always willing to lend a hand. To her family, she will most fondly be remembered as a wonderful and loving mother to her four children and an inspiration to her two grandchildren. Her impact on Northwest Florida was immense, and her legacy will never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it gives me great pride to honor the life and service of Paula Riggs. My wife Vicki joins me in extending our most sincere condolences to the entire Riggs family.

JIM AND BOBBIE MELLO'S 70TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

**HON. JEFF DENHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 10, 2012*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor Jim and Bobbie Mello on the occasion of their 70th Wedding Anniversary which they celebrated on September 6, 2012.

James Mello, born in Turlock on April 18, 1922, was destined to meet Barbara (Bobbie) McDonald, born in Turlock on April 12, 1926. Fate finally intervened on a summer day when they met when she was picnicking at Crane Park. Jim came by riding his horse and spotted her. Being a 20 year-old romantic, he devised a plan to meet Bobbie. The plan was to come back a while later and throw watermelons at her. Well, it worked perfectly, and Jim and Bobbie were married about two months later.

The plan was to borrow the best man's car and drive to Minden, Nevada on September 5, 1942, to marry. However, on that day, the best man had his tires repossessed. Undaunted, they borrowed the car of Jim's employer, drove to Minden, and were married the next day.

Two months later, in November, Jim left to join the U.S. Army. Bobbie moved back to live with her Grandmother, who had raised her and her younger sister, Gloria, since they were very young children. Three years later, Jim returned from World War II, where he served as a tanker under General George Patton and was in the famous "Battle of the Bulge."

After his return from service, he worked for Turlock Trenching Company. Jim and his brother-in-law, Clinton Hayes, bought the company in 1951 and ran it out of Jim and Bobbie's 10 acre ranch for many years. In 1987, Jim went to work for Swanson Farms until his retirement in 2003.

After Jim retired, he and Bobbie moved into their present home in the city of Turlock. They have two daughters—their eldest daughter is Sandra, married to Steve Vieira. Sandy and Steve just celebrated their 49th anniversary. Their youngest daughter, Janice, married Bob Borba. Jan and Bob will soon celebrate their 47th anniversary. Jim and Bobbie have four grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

In addition to running their own business, Jim and Bobbie were very involved in their community. Jim served 30 years as a volunteer fireman and retired as Assistant Chief of Turlock Rural Fire Department. They both are lifetime members of the Turlock Horsemen's Club and belong to several organizations including American Legion, VFW, Native Daughters of the Golden West, and have volunteered for many organizations and causes over the years. They serve as great role models for their family.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the partnership, love, and trust that aided Jim and Bobbie in reaching this milestone of an anniversary. Congratulations on the past 70 years, and I wish you the best success in the years to come.

HONORING THE CAREER OF MAJOR GENERAL GERALD L. PRATHER AND HIS BEING NAMED "PERSON OF THE DECADE" IN DEL RIO, TX BY THE BOY SCOUTS

**HON. FRANCISCO "QUICO" CANSECO**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 10, 2012*

Mr. CANSECO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and career of a true American hero—Air Force Major General Gerald L. Prather. General Prather was born in LaGrange, Georgia in 1935. He enlisted in the Air Force in 1954, and received his pilot wings and commission in August of 1956. During his distinguished career, General Prather has flown F-84F's, F-100D's, C-130's, and was a B-52 pilot and training instructor. In 1967 he was assigned to Mactan Isle Airfield in the Philippines, where he completed more than 500 combat support missions in Southeast Asia. The general eventually became the commander of the European Communications Area in 1977, and was promoted to Major General in March of 1983, with date of rank July 1, 1979. General Prather's military decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star Medal with "V" device, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal with two oak leaf cluster, Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, Air Force and Marine Presidential Unit Citation Emblems, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award Ribbon with oak leaf cluster, and the Air Force Organization Excellence Award Ribbon.

General Prather's life and career embodies the best of America and of our armed forces, and just recently he was named by the Boy Scouts as the "Man of the Decade" in Del Rio, TX, home of Laughlin Air Force Base. General Prather was also honored this past weekend when Laughlin Air Force base named a street on the base after him—a great honor for a great American.

As the representative of the 23rd District of Texas, which includes Del Rio and Laughlin Air Force Base, I wish to congratulate General Prather on his recent honors and thank him for a tremendous life of service to our nation.

NAVY LT. BRAD SNYDER EARNS OLYMPIC GOLD

**HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 10, 2012*

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to provide my colleagues with an update on a remarkable young man, Navy Lt. Brad Snyder, of St. Petersburg, Florida, an American hero who lost his eye sight in Afghanistan while carrying out an extremely dangerous mission as a member of an explosive ordinance detail.

When I last reported to you in July, Lt. Snyder, who I had the privilege to appoint to the U.S. Naval Academy, had just qualified to represent the United States swim team at the London 2012 Paralympic Games. Today, I am proud to report to you that Lt. Snyder has brought home two gold medals and one silver

medal. He was one of the truly inspirational stories of these games. So inspirational in fact, that his teammates selected him to serve as the U.S. flag bearer for last night's closing ceremonies.

Lt. Snyder is symbolic of the indomitable spirit of our men and women in uniform in our all volunteer force. He volunteered to attend the U.S. Naval Academy and upon graduation he volunteered for assignment to the dangerous explosive ordnance disposal team. With injuries that would have devastated most people, he found the courage to reenter the pool to represent our nation in front of the world in such a dramatic manner.

You will recall that Brad was selected as the Captain of the Naval Academy Swim Team because his coaches, teammates, and fellow sailors all recognized his exceptional work ethic and trustworthy behavior. After graduating in May 2006, Lt. Snyder became an Explosive Ordinance Officer. He served for six months in Iraq and was deployed to Afghanistan on April 11, 2011. While his unit was on patrol there on September 7, 2011, the front of the patrol team set off an IED. While providing aid, Lt. Snyder stepped on a pressure plate, detonating another unseen IED. The second blast inflicted severe burns and permanently blinded him.

Less than two months after losing his sight, Lt. Snyder returned to the swimming pool and swam several hundred meters on his first attempt. Appropriately enough, it was one year to the date of his injuries that Brad won his second gold medal at the London Games.

As I said in July, I was struck when I went back and read Brad's candidate statement to me from 11 years ago as part of his application to the Naval Academy. In it he wrote, "Initially it was Olympic gold that I dreamed of, but as reality set in I realized that the military was a more realistic dream. Today I dream that I will be an officer in the best Navy the world has ever seen, and I hope that my contributions to the Navy can help it grow strong."

Mr. Speaker, Lt. Brad Snyder has achieved his goals on both fronts—serving our nation with honor as a United States Naval officer, and winning Olympic gold. Far greater though, is the way in which he demonstrated to the world the courage and commitment of all U.S. service members when he entered that pool and when he carried the Stars and Stripes into the Olympic Stadium. This is a remarkable young man with a remarkable story and he deserves the thanks and appreciation of all of the members of this House for a job well done.

#### JOB CREATION

### HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 10, 2012*

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to urge Senate Democrats to halt President Obama's job-killing tax hike. According to one study, this massive tax increase would eliminate 700,000 jobs, raise taxes on the middle class, and deal a massive blow to our nation's economic engine, small businesses.

The President and his czars continue to burden our nation's job creators with onerous, anti-growth regulations. Along with his tax

hikes and burdensome regulations, President Obama's health care law threatens patient access, raises taxes, and takes over one-sixth of the U.S. economy.

In the meantime, House Republicans have maintained a laser-like focus on jobs, passing more than 30 pro-growth jobs bills, which continue to stack up on Senator REID's desk.

Mr. Speaker, President Obama's economic policies have failed. This massive tax hike on the middle class is unsustainable and a hindrance to growth and job creation. I urge my colleagues in the Senate to take up our jobs bills and stop the tax hike.

HONORING THE LIFE OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA'S BELOVED THOMAS SOLOMAN (T. SOL) JOHNSON

### HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 10, 2012*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize the life of Northwest Florida's beloved Thomas Soloman (T. Sol) Johnson.

T. Sol Johnson was a lifelong resident of Northwest Florida who gained a well-earned reputation as one of the finest and most respected attorneys in Santa Rosa County. Mr. Johnson was raised in a household that respected and revered our Nation's legal system. His father, A.L. Johnson, established a successful practice in Santa Rosa County, in addition to his service as County Judge. After graduating from the University of Florida School of Law in 1963, T. Sol returned to his native Milton, Florida to join his father's practice, where he quickly distinguished himself as an exceedingly qualified and honest attorney.

T. Sol was a tireless advocate for his clients, and he often performed pro bono work to ensure that all those in need of legal counsel had access to the highest quality representation. In addition to his successful private practice, he served his community in multiple public capacities. He served on the Milton City Council from 1970–77, as attorney for the Santa Rosa Beach Administration from 1967–73, and as Santa Rosa County Attorney from 1977–81.

Outside of the courtroom, Mr. Johnson was a loving and committed family man with an unwavering devotion to the Lord. He was a member of First Baptist Church in Milton, and he served his church in various capacities as a Trustee, Sunday School Teacher, R.A. Leader, and constant volunteer on mission trips. Mr. Johnson is survived by his wife of 31 years, Mary; his four sons, Robert, Jon, Bradley, and Steven; fourteen grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

To some, T. Sol Johnson will be remembered as a world class attorney of impeccable repute. To others, he will be remembered as a leader in the Northwest Florida community. To his friends and family, he will be remembered most fondly as a loving and devoted family man. His tireless work and immense contributions to the community cannot be overstated. Northwest Florida has truly suffered a great loss with his passing.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it gives me great pride to honor the

life and service of Thomas Soloman Johnson. My wife Vicki joins me in extending our most sincere condolences to the entire Johnson family.

#### SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, September 11, 2012 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

#### MEETINGS SCHEDULED

##### SEPTEMBER 12

9:30 a.m.

##### Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine S. 3469, to establish a new organization to manage nuclear waste, provide a consensual process for siting nuclear waste facilities, ensure adequate funding for managing nuclear waste.

SD-366

10 a.m.

##### Environment and Public Works

##### Clean Air and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee

To hold a joint oversight hearing to examine the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) implementation of recommendations for enhancing nuclear reactor safety in the 21st century.

SD-406

##### Foreign Relations

To receive a closed briefing on an intelligence update on Syria and Iran.

SVC-217

##### Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the future of the General Services Administration.

SD-342

##### Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the Citizens United court and the continuing importance of the "Voting Rights Act".

SD-226

##### Veterans' Affairs

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SR-418

2 p.m.

##### Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the path from low-Earth orbit (LEO) to Mars.

SR-253

2:45 p.m.

##### Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Joseph E. Macmanus, of New