

Remembering an American Hero / Bills on the House Floor / Labor Day



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**Representative Nasif Majeed
District 99 - Mecklenburg County**



A REPRESENTATIVE STATEMENT HONORING JOE GALLOWAY

Peace. My good friend, Joe Galloway, passed this month. I submitted a "Representative Statement" with our House Clerk which I then read on the House floor.

The official document, signed by the House Principal Clerk, will be included in the NC General Assembly House Journal.

Honorable members of the House of Representatives. Last week, we lost one of America's most exceptional wartime correspondents and news columnist. I'm speaking of none other than Mr. Joe Galloway who was a resident of Concord, North Carolina.

He worked as a reporter for UPI during the Vietnam War and he often worked alongside the American troops he covered and was awarded a Bronze Star Medal with "V" for heroism in 1998 for having carried a badly wounded man to safety while he was under heavy enemy fire in 1965. From 2013 until his death, he worked as a special consultant for the Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commemoration Project run out of the Office of the Secretary of Defense and has also served as consultant to the Ken Burns production of a documentary history of the Vietnam War broadcast in the fall of 2017 by PBS.

He was a friend and confidant to numerous Military Generals including, General Colin Powell and General Jim Mattis. Along with Lt. General Harold Moore, he co-wrote a detailed account of his experiences in the Vietnam War in the best-selling 1992 book, "We Were Soldiers Once ... And Young." The movie, "We Were Soldiers," starring Mel Gibson is based on his 1992 book. Actor Edward Burns portrayed him in the miniseries "Vietnam" and Tommy Lee Jones played him in the 2017 movie "Shock and Awe."

Joe also narrated "A Flag Between Two Families," a documentary film, based on the events of May 9, 1968 in Vietnam by the members of Charlie

Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry.

Joe interviewed me for the Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commemoration Project, that is archived in the Smithsonian Institute. Since that day, we became close personal friends. He was a living legend and a very humble human being.

He has been honored for his numerous literary contributions over his career. In 1991, Joe received the National Magazine Award for a U.S. News cover article on the La Drang battles in Vietnam. In 1992, he received the News Media Award of the National VFW for his coverage of the Persian Gulf War for U.S. News. In 2002, Joe received the Robert Denig Award for exceptional Service from the U.S. Marine Corps Combat Correspondents Association, and in 2005 he received the Tex McCray Award from the Congressional Medal of Honor Society.

We send our prayers and condolences to his wife, Dr. Grace Galloway and his family at this time of great loss.

In closing, Joe Galloway told the American soldier's story to the world. He did an excellent job!

Now let's pray that he rests in Eternal Peace.

25th day of August, 2021

Bills on the House Floor This Week

Censorship Bill Advances

The NC House sent HB 324 to the Governor this week, a bill designed to handcuff public school teachers from teaching the full picture on important elements of our American history like slavery, the civil rights movement, and our country's treatment of Native Americans.

These are all difficult subjects, to be sure, but our students deserve an opportunity to learn about our full history and not a sanitized version. I voted No on the bill.

Additionally, politicians in Raleigh should not be this heavy-handed in controlling all aspects of a local classroom. At a time when our teachers and schools are struggling to offer in-person learning during the demands of the COVID-19 epidemic, HB 324 would impose additional mandates. Local schools would have to notify the State and post on their websites information about daily instruction, curriculum, and reading lists.

Anti-Protest Bill Advances

The NC House sent HB 805 to the Governor this week, a bill designed to intimidate peaceful protesters. The bill imposes very tough criminal penalties for protests that get out of hand, but does not contain enough safeguards that would prevent lawful, peaceful protesters from getting swept into the criminal justice center. I voted No on the bill.

The penalties the bill imposes will make it harder for young people to get jobs and serve their communities. Already this session, I have voted for tougher criminal penalties for people who resist arrest and injure law enforcement officers. That is very important, as is the right to free speech and peaceful protest.

The best way to make our communities safer, healthier, and better educated through investments in health care, schools, and public safety. That is what I have been working on through the State Budget process and by pushing bills that reduce violence and improve lives through early childhood education, better public schools, more affordable health care, and a more fair and just criminal justice system.

Emergency Broadband Benefit Program

The Emergency Broadband Benefit Program gives low-income households a discount on internet services so they don't have to decide between purchasing broadband and other necessities as they work and learn at home during the COVID-19 pandemic. The program, administered by the Federal Communications Commission, is open for enrollment.

Households may receive a discount of up to \$50 a month for their internet bill. That rises to \$75 a month for broadband service on tribal lands. Households may also receive \$100 to buy a laptop, desktop or tablet through their internet provider.

For more information, visit ncbroadband.gov.

As We Approach Labor Day, Always Remember

Labor Day is an opportunity for many folks to celebrate the end of summer, grill out, and take a long weekend trip. But like many of our holidays, it can be easy to lose sight of what this day represents - recognizing the working people who keep our state moving. Established as an official federal holiday in 1894, Labor Day and the people it honors has been around longer than any of us.

Even more important than recognition, is passing policies that help working families. That is why I have joined with other NC House Democrats to introduce legislation that would level the playing field for working North Carolinians. Policies to promote equal pay for equal work, provide paid family leave, and boost the minimum wage so workers can live in their communities without government assistance.

Equal pay for equal work is about fairness and rewarding work. It should not be controversial, but due to Republican opposition it still is not the law of the land. I sponsored the North Carolina Equal Pay Act so that a difference in gender should not mean a difference in paycheck.

And while work is important, family is our foundation, which is why I introduced the NC Families First Act to ensure that workers have paid sick time to take care of sick family members. Nobody should have to choose between their work and the well-being of a family member, particularly during a pandemic.

For every North Carolinian, a liveable minimum wage is essential. I sponsored [HB 612](#), which is a bill that would up the minimum wage in stages over the next few years and would increase pay for hourly workers. Our state minimum wage has been stuck at \$7.25 for more than a decade while the cost of housing and other essential goods and services continues to rise. For working families in many parts of the state, that falls well short of what is needed to get by. Someone working full-time should not live in poverty and should not need to rely on government assistance.

So while we all enjoy the Labor Day weekend, please remember that there is much more we need to do for North Carolina workers and their families. My Democratic colleagues and I will continue to fight for bills to increase wages, promote healthy families, and create fairer treatment of all workers no matter their race, gender, or zip code.

Enjoy your weekend.

PEACE,



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