

and they married in 1949. Mr. Davis extended his studies in landscape architecture at Cornell University and at Iowa State University of Science and Technology and then became a professor of landscape art at Prairie View A&M University in Texas.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development recruited Mr. Davis to Washington, D.C. to serve as an assistant director of planning and as a city planner for the D.C. Public Housing Authority under Walter Washington, the future and first home-rule mayor of D.C. Mr. Davis later joined the federal government as a Foreign Service officer responsible for the landscape architecture of all the embassies around the world. He traveled to nearly every continent on the globe and gained a deep appreciation for international cultures and peoples. He retired from the Department of State after 25 years of outstanding service.

For more than 60 years, Mr. Davis, affectionately known as "R.L." to his friends and family, has been an active member of his community, a dedicated neighbor, and role model to young people in the Washington, D.C. He is a gifted gardener, who grew apple, pear and peach trees, grapevines, and mint that his Brookland neighbors used in their teas. Every year, residents throughout the community eagerly anticipate the annual blossom of his beautiful azaleas, magnolia, and mimosa trees and hundreds of beautiful flowers and shrubs. The City Council of the District of Columbia authored a resolution in his honor and the Mayor of the City of Washington issued a proclamation praising his achievements.

Mr. Davis is also the proud father of two daughters who also work in the federal government. His eldest child, Fath Davis Ruffins, is a curator for the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History; she and her husband Paul have two children – Joy Juanita and Robert Louis, named after his beloved grandfather. Madam Speaker, I have firsthand experience of how Mr. Davis imparted his principles of excellence, service, and scholarship. For the past 15 years, Mr. Davis's other daughter Brenda Davis Jones, has served as my outstanding communications director in the House of Representatives, and it is an honor to have her by my side and on my team.

Today, I am proud to join other members of the United States Congress and leaders across the country in recognizing Mr. Davis for his contributions to our society as a scholar, an officer of the federal government, and a landscape artist. On his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, I join his family -- Fath, Brenda, Paul, Joy and Robert -- in congratulating Mr. Robert L. Davis on this amazing milestone. As a nation and a people, we are grateful for his service, leadership, and contributions as a moral and upright citizen of our country.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

John Lewis

