

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO DR. TERRY-JAN
BLACKETT-BONNETT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Terry-Jan Blackett-Bonnett, an active and dedicated medical professional in my district.

From her earliest childhood memories Dr. Terry-Jan Blackett-Bonnett entertained the burning desire of someday becoming a practicing physician. After earning her high school diploma, she enrolled in St. Francis College, where she earned a baccalaureate degree in biology. She subsequently enrolled in the American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine and completed the requisite coursework in the United Kingdom at Eastbourne District Hospital, graduating with a Doctor of Medicine degree. A portion of her graduate curriculum included tropical medicine, requiring that she spend time working in northeast Mexico, in the state of Tamaulipas. During that time, she became adept in the use of the Spanish language. Her postgraduate work included research in the area of Human Genetics at SUNY Downstate Medical School, where she was a contributing writer to medical literature addressing the issue of a Y to X gene Translocation in Mother and Daughter.

After attaining her life long ambition, Dr. Blackett-Bonnett completed her residency training in the disciplines of Internal Medicine and Pediatrics at the University of Medicine and Dentistry in Newark, New Jersey. Upon completion of residency, she joined the staff of Interfaith Medical Center as an attending physician. She later left Interfaith as a full time physician to pursue a full-time schedule as the Medical Director of the Berean Community and Family Life Center in Brooklyn, New York with which she was affiliated since 2002. Dr. Blackett-Bonnett is currently on the medical staff of Interfaith Medical Center and Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center. She is also a professor at ASA Institute of Technology in Brooklyn, New York. She currently holds positions on the board of directors of early intervention programs in New York and also a contributing member on the advisory boards for several health insurance agencies.

In addition to her involvement in her church community, Dr. Blackett-Bonnett has been instrumental in organizing health fairs for churches and schools in the greater New York area. She has also been a co-laborer in medical missions to the African countries of Nigeria and South Africa, where she provided medical care and education to village residents. Dr. Blackett-Bonnett has been a member of Berean Baptist Church since 1994. She holds fast to the ideology that "as the body is clad in the cloth and flesh in the skin, and the bones in the flesh and the heart in whole so are we, soul and body clad in the goodness of God and enclosed."

She is the proud mother of Harun Ibrahim and Liam Chukwuemeka, and the loving wife of Reverend Doctor Leary Bonnett.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Blackett-Bonnett.

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to lend my voice in support of the Surface Transportation Extension we are considering today. We must continue to fund ongoing projects and ensure ongoing programs don't grind to a halt. However we must continue to build on the work of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and reauthorize our surface transportation programs. Transportation is an issue that affects virtually every American every day and should never be put on the back burner. When I came to Congress I fought to become a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee because I know the importance of these issues for the people of the California 37th as well as every American. I support limiting the extension to 3 months so these issues stay on the forefront of our agenda.

Report after report has outlined the unacceptable current state of our deteriorating transportation system and called for major and immediate reform. As a country we waste billions of dollars every year with unnecessary delays due to a crumbling and over-congested surface transportation system. We need to fundamentally rethink the way we move people and goods. We must simplify our transportation programs and focus on a performance based system. Finally, we must make the tough choices about how to fund these programs and avoid having to continuously patch the highway trust fund.

Transportation experts around the country agree this is a time for a bold new transportation vision and I look forward to working with my colleagues to reauthorize the Surface Transportation Program before the extension before us today runs out.

HONORING DARDEN RESTAURANTS

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2009

Mr. GRAYSON. Madam Speaker, I stand here today to honor a great American company. For more than 40 years, Darden Restaurants has been nourishing and delighting guests through the operation of some of the most popular restaurant brands in the country,

including Red Lobster, Olive Garden, Long-Horn Steakhouse, the Capital Grille, Bahama Breeze and Seasons 52.

I'm proud to say that central Florida has always been, and will continue to be, home for Darden. The company has been instrumental in helping shape the growth and development of the region through its impassioned involvement and support of the community. Through corporate involvement, restaurant donations and support from the Darden Foundation and Environmental Trust, Darden has contributed millions of dollars to community based organizations and programs over the years.

Today, Darden has once again demonstrated its commitment to central Florida with the opening on September 30, 2009, of a new \$1.52 million, state-of-the-art corporate headquarters in my district that keeps 1,300 jobs in the region.

Not only is Darden one of the leading employers in region, it's also the 29th largest private employer in America—employing 180,000 people in 49 States.

Further, through all of its growth, Darden leads in its environmental stewardship and has remained committed to sustainability. Its new facility is on track to receive Gold certification for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design for new construction from the United States Green Building Council. Upon final certification, it will be the largest newly constructed Gold LEED certified building in Florida. Additionally, Darden established the Darden Environmental Trust in 1997, which has contributed over \$3 million to organizations that promote sustainability. Since 1997, the Darden Environmental Trust has actively engaged in the protection of endangered sea turtles, the whooping crane, and has assisted in the funding of the Blowing Rocks preserve project, that is working to restore a section of delicate coastline in central Florida. Finally, Darden is helping to lead the way in helping to reduce the overfishing of lobster and wild fish species, and promoting new sustainable seafood products that improve the overall long term health of the world's increasingly fragile fisheries.

Madam Speaker, I would like to commend Darden on its vision and commitment to building stronger communities through its "best of class" restaurant operations, its commitment to the environment and sustainability practices, and its continued investment in my community and thousands of communities across the country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 29, 2009

Mr. CAPUANO. Madam Speaker, last week I missed several rollcall votes and I wish to state how I would have voted had I been present:

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