

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### HONORING SAM JOHNSON

#### HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 12, 2013*

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, our colleague from Texas, SAM JOHNSON, is an American hero. And today I join other colleagues in observing the fortieth anniversary of his release from a North Vietnamese prisoner of war camp.

In seven years of captivity SAM endured physical and mental torture. In fact, SAM was set aside for extra abuse because of his obstinate resistance to his Communist captors. At various points SAM spent 42 straight months in solitary confinement and was forced into leg stocks for more than two years.

But while SAM's jailors punished his body, they could not break his spirit; his love of God and country is a deep wellspring they could never penetrate. His scars bear witness to his tenacity and toughness.

SAM JOHNSON spent a total of 29 years in service to the United States Air Force. He flew combat missions during the Korean War and above Vietnam. He earned two Silver Stars, two Legions of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, a Bronze Star, and numerous other awards. Since his election to this body in 1991, SAM has walked the halls of Congress with the highest levels of respect and admiration. He has grown to become this institution's living embodiment of cool-under-fire heroism.

In remembering the anniversary of his release and saying "thanks" to SAM JOHNSON, we also remember all those captured and imprisoned defending our liberty. In the Rotunda of Capitol hangs the famous black POW-MIA flag. It hangs there to remind all Americans that freedom is not free and is purchased only at the very highest of costs.

Mr. Speaker, it is impossible to calculate the value of the sacrifices made by war fighters like SAM JOHNSON. It is equally impossible to adequately repay them. We are simply left with words of gratitude for a job well done. I hope all Members of Congress join me in extending thanks and deep appreciation for our colleague, SAM JOHNSON.

### HONORING MR. CEDRIC GEORGE GIVENS

#### HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 12, 2013*

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the continued achievements of Mr. Cedric George Givens, a native of my hometown of New Orleans, Louisiana. I have the distinct privilege of congratulating Mr. Givens as he is honored with the title of 98th King of Zulu, an organization that he has proudly served for nearly two decades. Mr. Givens has

been a continued leader in Zulu, reigning as Zulu Governor in 2005 and serving as a Board Member from 2008 to 2012. He has also served on and chaired several committees, most recently acting as the Chairman of the Zulu Anniversary Committee. Mr. Givens has been a leader in Zulu due to his love of bettering his community, and it is an example that we should all strive to follow.

In addition to his role as an active member and leader of the Zulu Social Aid & Pleasure Club since 1994, Mr. Givens has been a leader in business and in his community. For 17 years, Mr. Givens worked as a Plant Supervisor for Diversified Foods and Seasonings Inc. Currently, he is serving as the Vice-President of Operations of a financial firm, where he manages operations and transportation in over 20 countries. Outside of work, Mr. Givens leads an admirable life in his community, working with social groups like the Big Dawgs and the Go-Getters. His service to his community is an inspiration, and we are deeply grateful to him for his years of commitment.

A New Orleans native, Mr. Givens is the youngest child to Robert and Janice Givens. He is a product of the Orleans Parish Public School System, graduating from Alcee Fortier Senior High School in 1985. He also attended college at Southwestern Louisiana University, where he joined the Beta Phi chapter of the Alpha Phi Omega Fraternity. Mr. Givens and his wife, Zulu Queen Monica Veal Givens, have three children—Stacey Thomas, Ryan Williams, and Rayna Brantley. I hold Mr. Givens in the highest regard for his dedication to his family and friends. His commitment to the future of New Orleans brings hope and promise to our city. With the tireless work of people like Mr. Givens, New Orleans will continue to be one of the most empowered and unique cities in the world.

I wish to congratulate Mr. Cedric Givens on his coronation on February 8, 2013 as the 98th King of Zulu.

### TRIBUTE TO MRS. BARBARA JEAN LEVETT

#### HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 12, 2013*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I present the following U.S. Citizen of Distinction.

Whereas, our lives have been touched by the life of this one woman who has given of herself to her family, church, community, and nation; and

Whereas, Mrs. Barbara Jean Levett's good works are present in Conyers, Georgia as an exemplary mother, mother-in-law, grandmother, great grandmother, aunt, neighbor, community worker, business owner and friend; and

Whereas, this giant of a woman, who was raised up in Atlanta, Georgia, was born on

January 1, 1933, to the late Mrs. Lillie Frances Bailey Fears; and

Whereas, Barbara Jean Levett (faithfully known as Tootsie) was a virtuous woman, a woman of great integrity who remained true to the uplifting of her community and family which in turn uplifted others; and

Whereas, she was an exemplary matriarch, serving as compass and wise counselor and bringing great joy to our district, her family and friends; and

Whereas, Mrs. Barbara Jean Levett loved her family, encouraging all of those around her to make a difference, be it her children, her elected officials, her neighbors and her church members at Rock Temple A.M.E Church in Conyers, Georgia where she was a faithful member; and

Whereas, this remarkable woman gave of herself, never asking for fame or fortune as she became a quiet storm, a spark that starts a flame; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to bestow a Congressional Recognition on Mrs. Barbara Jean Levett for her leadership, friendship and service to all of the citizens of Conyers and the nation;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR., do hereby attest to the 112th Congress that Mrs. Barbara Jean Levett of Conyers, Rockdale County, Georgia is deemed worthy and deserving of this "Congressional Recognition" Mrs. Barbara Jean Levett, U.S. Citizen of Distinction.

Proclaimed, this 9th day of November, 2012.

### IN CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL MARRIAGE WEEK

#### HON. RANDY HULTGREN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 12, 2013*

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Marriage Week. I am proud to support this campaign to encourage marriage, reduce divorce rates, curtail poverty, and benefit children.

Marriage is a cornerstone of society and the foundation for happy, healthy homes and families. The proven benefits of marriage include economic stability, positive health and social advantages, emotional well-being and happiness, and children that perform better in schools.

This week celebrates love as well as commitment; it is a time for couples to reflect on their vows to each other and look forward to their future years together. National Marriage Week is celebrated globally, and is supported by private organizations and individuals who believe that marriage brings benefits to all people in society.

National Marriage Week celebrates healthy marriages, and making commitments based on love, trust, and admiration. It is an honor

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