

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2013

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, July 11, I was unable to be present for three recorded votes. Had I voted, I would have voted: "no" on Rollcall vote No. 351 (on the motion to table the appeal of the ruling of the chair); "yes" on Rollcall vote No. 352 (on the motion to recommit H.R. 2642 with instructions); and "no" on Rollcall vote No. 353 (on passage of H.R. 2642).

CELEBRATING BILL GRAY

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2013

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following letters regarding William Gray.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE,

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, July 10, 2013.

CONGRESSMAN CHAKA FATTAH: I was deeply saddened upon learning of the untimely passing of Congressman William H. Gray, III, which occurred on July 1, 2013. Congressman Gray had a dynamic and overwhelming personality that touched the lives of thousands of people through his endless humanitarian efforts.

My life was personally touched by Congressman Gray, when he appointed me to attend the United States Military Academy at West Point. I also owe my military career in a large part to him.

Our nation has lost one of its finest and distinguished senior statesmen. Congressman Gray was the epitome of a political, religious, and civic leader. He made an indelible impact on the hearts and minds of everyone whose lives he touched. He lived his life striving to improve the quality of life for all mankind. Let this be a living testament to his distinguished legacy.

Congressman Gray was also blessed with a wonderful wife and fine sons. He had the support of the Bright Hope Baptist Church Family of Philadelphia, various political colleagues and brethren in the ministry, and many friends.

I extend my deepest condolences to his family. My prayers and thoughts will continue to be with them.

Sincerely,

R. SETH WILLIAMS,

District Attorney, City of Philadelphia.

A TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN WILLIAM H. GRAY

(By Hon. Robert A. Brady, July 8, 2013)

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my friend and Congressman, Bill Gray. Reverend Gray was an historic figure in Philadelphia and in this country. His contributions to this nation are well known to all of us. So, I'd like to take a moment and just focus on his impact in my own life.

Bill represented my community in the House for many years. He was one of my

most important mentors and supporters as I rose through ranks in Philadelphia politics. I was a ward leader in his district, and was proud to return his support every two years. I leaned on Bill for his wise counsel on how to serve my constituents. He helped me to be a better ward leader, a better party chair, and a better congressman. But, the best counsel I got from Bill was not professional advice. His best advice was about how to be a better father and a better husband while doing this job. He demonstrated that philosophy by his close business relationship with his son, who was by his side at almost every meeting.

During our frequent dinners, Bill would make sure I understood that I had to get back to Philadelphia as much as I can. He told me to put my family and my neighborhood first and to make sure that I didn't ever forget why I came to Washington in the first place.

Bill never lost his love for Philadelphia. He and I were working together until the last weeks of his life. He was doing all he could to help our Free Libraries, to build jobs at Comcast and to protect the people of his beloved North Philadelphia.

Mr. Speaker, Philadelphia, this country and this House will be much poorer for Bill Gray's passing. I urge my colleagues to join the entire Pennsylvania delegation in honoring him today.

IN RECOGNITION OF REV. DR. HENRY P. DAVIS, JR.

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2013

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Rev. Dr. Henry P. Davis, Jr. on his 40th Pastoral Anniversary and his retirement as Pastor of St. Paul Baptist Church in Atlantic Highlands, New Jersey. Dr. Davis has dedicated 40 years to leading the church and serving the community and his contributions are truly deserving of this body's recognition.

Dr. Davis began serving as Pastor of St. Paul Baptist Church in 1973. Since that time, twelve individuals entered the ministry, eight of which now serve as pastors, including his son, Dr. Henry P. Davis, III of the First Baptist Church of Highland Park, New Jersey. He has provided outstanding mentorship and spiritual guidance to his congregation. He has also served as the Secretary of the Moderator's Auxiliary of the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc. for 13 years.

Dr. Davis earned his Doctor of Ministry degree from Drew University and his Master of Divinity degree from New Brunswick Theological Seminary. In addition, Dr. Davis also holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Huston-Tillotson College in Houston, Texas and a Master of Education degree from Prairie View A&M University.

In addition to his service to St. Paul Baptist Church, Dr. Davis is an active member of his community. He serves as President of the Greater Red Bank Chapter of the NAACP;

Dean of Education of the Monmouth Bible Institute in Farmingdale, New Jersey; and moderator of the Seacoast Missionary Baptist Association.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Dr. Davis on his pastoral anniversary and retirement and thanking him for his many years of dedicated service and leadership to the St. Paul Baptist Church congregation.

RECOGNIZING MR. ERNEST "ERDIE" W. CONNER

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2013

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Ernest "Ernie" Conner as he is honored as the Daughters of the American Revolution's National Outstanding Veteran Volunteer of 2013. His longstanding service to our nation and his commitment to serving as a strong advocate for veterans make Ernie Conner most deserving of this honor.

A retired Master Sergeant of the United States Air Force, Ernie understands first-hand the virtue of serving our nation. From January 1955 until June 1976, Ernie honorably served the United States with two tours in Vietnam. He flew 150 missions in B-52 Stratofortress. Due to his dedicated service, Ernie received the Air Force Commendation Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the Air Force Good Conduct Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters and the Army Good Conduct Medal with two bronze loops. His loyalty and devotion to our country is remarkable and highly commendable.

A tireless advocate for all veterans, Ernie believes it is his duty to remember the men and women who defend our freedoms with courage. He has served as the Chair of the Veterans Service Committee, Americanism Committee and the Support the Troops campaign for the Merced Elks Lodge for the past seven years. Through his efforts, the Support the Troops program has secured the donation of over four tons of almonds and various care packages that are sent to our deployed troops. In order to keep this program going, he organizes several fundraisers as well as reaching out to local businesses for support. Ernie also organizes the Elk veterans' participation in the Annual Merced Veterans Day parade, including assisting in construction of the float. He is involved in putting on regular Recognition dinners for our Veterans and their families, including the Blue and Gold Star families. In total, Ernie volunteers over 2,000 hours annually to help serve the needs of our veterans.

A veteran and great American, Ernie's longstanding dedication to service is truly a reflection of his superior moral character. As a Merced County Veterans of Foreign Wars Honor Guard active member, Ernie is committed to ensure proper burial services for our local veterans. He helps provide solace and peace of mind to grieving families during these

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