

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING CONGRESSMAN TOM LATHAM ON HIS RETIREMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2014

Mr. BOEHNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Iowa, Mr. LATHAM. I know my colleagues will agree that his retirement is a loss for the House and his constituents.

Ten times beginning in 1994, the people of Iowa had the wisdom to send a good man to Washington.

He brought with him true and much-needed Iowa values, fighting the good fight for individual liberty, fiscal responsibility, and economic opportunity.

His work on the Appropriations Committee for first responders, the Iowa National Guard, agriculture, and education will long outlast him—a legacy of leadership many aspire to, but few truly achieve.

In addition, as the House is well-aware, Mr. LATHAM is my best friend. This, like all his other duties, he has handled with grace and good humor.

On behalf of the House, I thank Mr. LATHAM for his service and wish him and his wife, Kathy, all the best.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ENNIS ANTOINE JR.

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2014

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the accomplishments of a dear friend and colleague, Mr. Ennis Antoine Jr. Over the last twenty years, Mr. Antoine has left an indelible impression on the city of Atlanta, Georgia through his entrepreneurial advances in real estate and philanthropic endeavors.

Whether it be in his church, his community, or business, Mr. Antoine strives to turn any challenge into an opportunity. In 2004, Mr. Antoine moved from a promising career in journalism to pursue his passions in the realm of real estate, marking the beginning of a career that would be recognized as among the most prolific in the booming real estate market of Atlanta. Later, in 2008, Mr. Antoine made history by becoming the first African American to be honored with the Realtor of the Year award for his outstanding commercial accomplishments during a time in which Georgia was still reeling from the Great Recession. Recently, the Atlanta Board of Realtors elected to honor Mr. Antoine by making him their 90th

president and the first African American president in the history of the organization.

Throughout his distinguished career, Mr. Antoine has used his success to empower those around him. Well known by his friends and family for a seemingly inexhaustible amount of energy, Mr. Antoine spends much of his weekends volunteering at his local church as a deacon and assistant pastor, in addition to also mentoring youth.

On many weeknights, he can be found teaching real estate classes, where he passes on the practical business skills he has accumulated through years of shaping the Atlanta real estate market.

When Hurricane Katrina decimated his hometown of New Orleans, Mr. Antoine took in over 40 friends and relatives whose homes and livelihoods had been destroyed by the flood waters.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to not only honor the impressive achievements of this man and his recent election as the President of the Atlanta Board of Realtors, but also to commend his compassionate contributions to my Congressional district and to the great State of Georgia. I ask my colleagues to join me in venerating this distinguished individual.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT MERWIN CEO OF MILLS-PENINSULA HEALTH SERVICES ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2014

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplished career of a distinguished Californian, Mr. Robert Merwin of San Mateo County, who is retiring at the end of 2014 from his position as Chief Executive Officer of Mills-Peninsula Health Services, a post he has held since January, 1996.

A resident of San Carlos, California, Bob Merwin is a 1971 graduate of the United States International University, and earned his M.B.A. from UCLA in 1973. He began his career in hospital management in 1973 as Assistant Executive Director of the Long Beach Community Hospital. He progressed up the corporate ladder at Long Beach, joined Pacific Presbyterian Medical Center, then came to Mills-Peninsula in 1987 as Executive Vice President and Chief Operations Officer.

Bob Merwin has served our community as a member of the San Mateo Rotary Club, the American College of Health Care Executives, as Chair of the West Bay Hospital Conference, and Chair of the Hospital Consortium of San Mateo County.

He is a past director of the American Red Cross Bay Area and a member of the Finance Committee of the Health Plan of San Mateo.

Mills-Peninsula has thrived under Bob Merwin's leadership. He has improved rela-

tions between physicians and management, contained costs while increasing productivity, and helped develop a strategic plan for the combined hospitals. Under his leadership a new 241 bed acute care facility, Mills-Peninsula Medical Center was constructed. It is a state-of-the-art, \$640 million, 450,000 square foot facility that is a source of pride to our entire community.

Bob Merwin is married to Jean Merwin and he is the father of Michael and Megan. He enjoys golf, tennis and photography.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring Bob Merwin for his stellar career in hospital management and for his extraordinary contributions to our community and our country.

MEDICAID AND WOMEN'S HEALTH

HON. DAVID LOEBSACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2014

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to act before the end of this year to improve access to care for low-income women in America. The Medicaid primary care bump, which expires on December 31st, should be extended and must be expanded to include women's health.

The current program has improved access to care for low-income Americans by increasing reimbursement for primary care and vaccine administration codes in Medicaid to Medicare levels. However, women's health was left out of the original provision. I think it is critical that we correct this oversight.

Ob-gyns deliver primary and preventative care to women, and an ob-gyn is often the only doctor a woman sees on a regular basis. In Iowa, Ob-gyns are considered primary care under our state Medicaid program. However, the federal law as written says they are not, making it harder for low-income women to get needed care. Extending and expanding the Medicaid primary care access bump would make care available to women in need.

In Iowa, providers receive only 77% in Medicaid reimbursement compared to Medicare for primary services. This affects a physician's willingness to accept new Medicaid patients, and 23% of women Medicaid beneficiaries report problems with finding a new doctor who will accept their insurance due to low Medicaid payment rates, compared to 7% of Medicare beneficiaries and 13% of women with private insurance.

I support extending the Medicaid primary care access bump and expanding it to include women's health so that all Iowa women can access the critical primary and preventative care services they need. I would like to thank colleagues of both parties for introducing legislation to do just this.

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