

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### HONORING THE MINNESOTA TRANSGENDER HEALTH COALITION'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 29, 2017*

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Minnesota Transgender Health Coalition, Minnesota's largest organization led by and for the trans community.

In 2002, concerned community members began to organize around the difficulties they and other trans people face in finding accessible, culturally competent healthcare. Organizers began hosting meetings and events as part of the University of Minnesota's GLBTA Programs Office and the Schochet Center for GLBT Studies. After years of activity, the group incorporated on March 30, 2007 to become a trans-led health service and rights organization, founded on their principles of racial, social and economic justice.

MTHC is a unique organization. In addition to organizing for trans-inclusive public policies, they provide direct medical and psychological support for hundreds of people from all over the Midwest. Through their Shot Caller program, MTHC ensures that trans folks, people with diabetes, and anyone else prescribed shots can get free help taking them in a safe, supportive space. They run a successful harm reduction program that includes syringe exchange, safe sex materials, and more. With a Community Innovation grant from the Headwaters Foundation for Justice, MTHC expanded three youth-oriented programs called Gender Jam, Little Rainbows and GR8. Since November 2016, their longest-running support groups have been pushed to capacity, reflecting both the success and great need for their programs. MTHC's reach also extends far beyond the LGBTQ community; in fact, dozens of people that MTHC helps regularly do not identify as LGBTQ. In this way, they have become a true center of community health in our state.

Through their advocacy, MTHC has worked with the City of Minneapolis, the Minnesota Department of Education, and many other public groups. They've advocated for stronger inclusion for and protection of trans youth in schools, effective policies to address bullying, access to life-saving transition healthcare, and more. Due to their tremendous leadership in the Twin Cities and around the Midwest, MTHC was named a Community Champion of Pride for the 2016 Twin Cities Pride festival.

During my time in Congress, I have been guided by generosity, inclusion, and justice for all. Organizations like the Minnesota Transgender Health Coalition represent the best of these values. We know that if we don't fight for all aspects of racial, social, and economic justice, we won't have any of them. I am honored to represent the Minnesota Transgender Health Coalition in Congress,

and I can't wait to see what they accomplish in the next decade of leadership.

### HONORING PRINCIPAL JULIE PIERCE ON HER SELECTION AS ALABAMA'S 2017 NATIONAL DISTINGUISHED PRINCIPAL

#### HON. BRADLEY BYRNE

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 29, 2017*

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Principal Julie Pierce of Fairhope Elementary School on being selected as Alabama's National Distinguished Principal of 2017. This is a remarkable and extraordinary achievement, and it shows Ms. Pierce's steadfast dedication to the young men and women she has taught and guided throughout her distinguished career that has spanned over 27 years.

A native of Oneonta, Ms. Pierce graduated from the University of Alabama with a degree in business and began work as an accountant before embarking on her career in education. She obtained her master's degree in Elementary Education from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and later a certificate in Educational Leadership from the University of South Alabama.

Prior to her time at Fairhope Elementary School, Ms. Pierce served as principal of Gulf Shores Elementary, assistant principal at J. Larry Newton School, reading coach at Summerdale School, second grade teacher in Guntersville and Albertville, and fifth grade teacher in Orlando, Florida. Ms. Pierce has been shaping our nation's youth for over a quarter century, giving them the tools they need to succeed in life.

Having spent much of my public life working in education policy, I have had the opportunity to spend a lot of time in our local classrooms. I am always struck by the hard work these men and women do on a daily basis, and they rarely get the attention they deserve. Great educators really care about their students and work very hard to get the most out of them. It is clear Ms. Pierce possesses these very important qualities.

So, on behalf of Alabama's First Congressional District, I want to thank Principal Julie Pierce for her dedicated service and congratulate her on being selected as Alabama's 2017 National Distinguished Principal.

### HONORING THE CHRISTENING OF THE USS "THOMAS HUDNER", DDG-116

#### HON. SETH MOULTON

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 29, 2017*

Mr. MOULTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr.

POLIQVIN of Maine, Ms. TSONGAS of Massachusetts, and Ms. FRANKEL of Florida to celebrate the christening of the USS *Thomas Hudner*, DDG-116. This destroyer is named in honor of Captain Thomas J. Hudner Jr., a retired officer of the United States Navy and a former naval aviator.

Born in Fall River, Massachusetts, Hudner attended the United States Naval Academy after graduating from Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts. On December 4, 1950, Hudner and his wingman, Ensign Jesse L. Brown, were patrolling near the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea when Brown's Corsair was struck by ground fire. Hudner intentionally crash-landed his own aircraft on a snowy mountain to help Brown. Brown died of his injuries and Hudner was forced to evacuate.

Hudner received the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions in trying to save the life of his wingman and received numerous military decorations including the Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star Medal. Following the incident, Hudner held positions aboard several U.S. Navy ships and with a number of aviation units, including a brief stint as Executive Officer of the USS *Kitty Hawk* during a tour in the Vietnam War. He retired from active duty in 1973. Since then, he has worked for various veterans' organizations throughout the United States.

In May 2012, the Secretary of the Navy announced that an Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer will be named USS *Thomas Hudner*. On Saturday, April 1, the Hudner family, the Brown family, veterans from across all branches, elected officials and the community of Phillips Academy will gather for the joyous occasion of the christening of the ship. It is a ship that embodies the spirit of Captain Hudner's school—non sibi, or not for self. He leads his life in that spirit from Fall River, to Andover, to the Chosin Reservoir and on to his continued service to the veterans community.

Together with Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POLIQVIN, Ms. TSONGAS, and Ms. FRANKEL, we wish our very best to the Hudner and Brown families, and to the Phillips Academy community in the days to come.

### HONORING THE MILITARY SERVICE OF PAUL LEMMON

#### HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 29, 2017*

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Paul Lemmon, as well as the entire Lemmon family, for their incredible service and sacrifice to the United States of America.

It is always an honor for me to recognize those American heroes who sacrificed so much defending and preserving our freedom in World War II. This truly was the greatest generation.

The Lemmon family devoted their lives to serving this nation, and it is with great admiration that I thank United States Navy veteran

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