

HONORING TAMERA JONES

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, Tamera Jones is the daughter of Mr. Timothy and Felicia Jones of Clinton, MS. Currently, Tamera is an Honor student of Clinton High School.

Tamera is a very outgoing young lady that has served in several capacities in her school, showing great leadership skills and the qualities of a great team member. Tamera is a member of Mu Alpha Theta, HOSA, FEA, FCA and also a volunteer throughout the community. Not only is Tamera a positive influence within her school, but she is the 2016 Miss Teen of Mississippi. In November, she will be competing for Miss Teen of America, a scholarship and recognition pageant that recognizes teenagers from each state based on their scholastic record, community service and development. When she graduates from High School, Tamera will attend Tougaloo College with her Bachelor's degree in Biological Science and will go on to UMMC to receive her PhD in Pediatric Surgery.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Tamera Jones for her hard work and dedication at Clinton High School and throughout the communities of Mississippi.

APPLAUDING ALEX SCHRIVER FOR HIS SERVICE TO ALABAMA'S FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. BRADLEY BYRNE

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 2017

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share my deep appreciation to Alex Schriver for his years of service to Alabama's First Congressional District. Alex's last day serving the people of Southwest Alabama was Friday, March 31st.

Alex has served as the Chief of Staff in my Congressional office since I was sworn in on January 8, 2014. In this role, he has overseen my entire Congressional staff, served as my primary policy advisor, managed day-to-day operations of the office, and so much more. As it is often said, it is the job of the Chief of Staff to keep the train on the tracks, and Alex has done exactly that while building out a team of first-rate individuals. That is a testament to his strong leadership and steady demeanor.

Alex grew up in Tennessee and graduated from Auburn University. I first met him in 2009 during my gubernatorial campaign. It did not take long for me to realize that Alex was not your average campaign staffer. He would always go above and beyond and possessed a keen instinct that made him a valued member of the campaign team.

Alex went on to serve as the Chairman of the College Republican National Committee, where he oversaw 75 full-time staff and a record budget of \$16 million. In that role, he helped champion important conservative values and shape the national message.

When I decided to run for Congress in the 2013 special election, Alex was the obvious choice to serve as the campaign manager for my special election campaign. Special elections are particularly challenging given the dynamics surrounding them. As a testament to his aptitude and leadership, I was able to win a nine-person primary and go on to win the general election in December.

Alex has a rare blend of passion, confidence, compassion, knowledge, and toughness that has allowed him to be successful in his career. As he leaves my staff to move into the position of Senior Vice President at Targeted Victory, I have no doubt he will continue to be successful due to the same core qualities.

Mr. Speaker, Alex has been a dedicated and devoted member of my team, and he has served the people of Alabama's First Congressional District exceedingly well. I wish him nothing but the best in his future endeavors.

IAN RODRIGUEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Ian Rodriguez for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Ian Rodriguez is an 8th grader at Shadow Ridge Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Ian Rodriguez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Ian Rodriguez for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE AMERICAN WOODMARK CORPORATION'S NEW CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 2017

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to share with you and our colleagues, the establishment of a long-term relationship between a stellar national company, the American Woodmark Corporation, and Frederick County, which surrounds the City of Winchester, in the Northern Shenandoah Valley. The American Woodmark Corporation, a leading manufacturer of quality kitchen and bath cabinets with over 5,000 employees nationwide, has decided to invest \$30 million to build a new national corporate headquarters in Frederick County, in the 10th Congressional District of Virginia.

The project will bring its corporate employees together from four leased sites in the Winchester area to a central corporate office, strengthening interpersonal connections and driving greater efficiency in the company's day-to-day operations. The consolidation will mean that all 377 positions will be retained and that 55 new positions will eventually be created.

There was strong competition for American Woodmark's investment, and I want to acknowledge the hard work of Frederick County officials Patrick Barker of the Frederick County Economic Development Authority and his staff, as well as Chairman Chuck DeHaven and members of the Board of Supervisors, in working with the Virginia Economic Development Partnership to secure a \$550,000 grant from the Commonwealth's Opportunity Fund and for providing a \$350,000 economic development grant from Frederick County.

In addition to the financial incentives and a very hospitable business environment, the extraordinary quality of life in the Northern Shenandoah Valley clearly played a role in American Woodmark's decision. Emanating from its agrarian roots, the Valley's friendly, caring culture causes charitable organizations to thrive and those less fortunate to be well cared for. The Valley's quality of life is further enhanced by great schools and libraries, a first rate regional health care system, and cultural variety that includes civil war battlefields, national parks and museums, as well as a university conservatory that is welcoming to the community. In fact, Forbes has ranked the Northern Shenandoah Valley in its top 20 "Best Small Places for Business and Careers" in the nation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues to join me in congratulating and thanking Cary Dunston, president and CEO of American Woodmark, and its Board of Directors, on choosing to establish its central corporate office in Frederick County and in wishing the corporation great success in all of its future endeavors.

SENATOR ARTHENIA L. JOYNER, TAMPA BAY'S WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH HONOREE

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 2017

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of a true champion of progress, Senator Arthenia L. Joyner. Today, I recognize her as my Tampa Bay's Women's History Month honoree. Her invaluable contributions to Hillsborough County and the lives of our neighbors are an inspiration to us all. Today, on behalf of my neighbors, I recognize her selfless dedication, honor her valuable unceasing work, and thank her for her love of her and my home town.

Senator Arthenia Joyner was born in Lakeland, Florida on February 3, 1943 and later relocated with her family to Tampa in the late 1940's. Growing up during the time of segregation, Senator Joyner and her family have always played an active role on issues concerning civil rights. Henry Joyner, Moses White and Kid Mason, to name a few, were at the heart of Tampa's once thriving black business community on Central Avenue. Senator

Joyner has been key in preserving and honoring the history of Central Avenue, once populated by black-owned businesses, restaurants and night clubs.

Senator Joyner earned her B.S. from Florida A&M University in 1964 and her J.D. from Florida A&M University College of Law in 1968. Facing segregation and discrimination, she has always been out front. She participated in the first civil rights demonstrations in Tampa and was arrested twice while attending Florida A&M University when participating in efforts to desegregate movie theaters. Senator Joyner again "found a way to get in the way", in the words of my colleague Representative JOHN LEWIS, when she was arrested outside the South Africa embassy in D.C. for protesting against South Africa's apartheid government.

After law school, unable to find anyone in the legal profession willing to hire an African-American woman, she opened her own practice becoming the first African-American female lawyer in Hillsborough County and has practiced law there for forty-seven years, longer than any black woman in the history of Florida. Senator Arthenia Joyner served as an attorney, public school teacher and legal assistant for former State Representative, Joe Lang Kershaw. She was elected to the Florida House of Representatives in 2000 where she served three terms. In 2006 Senator Joyner was then elected to represent District 19 in the Florida Senate for two terms. She was appointed by her Senate peers to serve as the Florida Senate Democratic Leader for the 2014 to 2016 term, making her the first African-American woman to hold the position.

Throughout her legislative service, Senator Joyner has been recognized as a stalwart supporter of a wide variety of issues centered on human rights, civil rights, criminal and civil justice reform, health policies, and consumer protection. Her knowledge, passion and leadership made her a trusted public servant who knew how to get things done for her state and her neighbors. Senator Joyner currently serves as the National Vice President of the National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women (NOBEL/Women) and the State Director for Women in Government. Recently she was appointed to represent the Florida Senate on the Criminal Justice Committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures. And, most recently Senator Joyner was chosen for the important role serving on the Constitutional Revision Commission by Chief Justice Jorge Labarga.

The Tampa Bay Times has praised Senator Joyner for being "a strong supporter of civil rights, health care, and open government." In 2014, Senator Arthenia Joyner was awarded the L. Clayton Nance Award presented annually by the Florida Public Defender Association (FPDA) to those advancing the organization's mission of ensuring equal justice. The FPDA also recognized her legislative work and support of juvenile sentencing reform bill, HB 7035. Representative Laura Hall (AL), National President for NOBEL Women, stated that Senator Joyner doesn't only advocate for the state of Florida, but "she fights for the civil rights of others across this nation."

Senator Joyner has served her community and state but her service has also had global reach. It has been said that among her most prestigious awards are appointments by President Clinton to the U.S. Delegation to the Pop-

ulation Conference in Cairo, Egypt and the U.S. Delegation to the United Nations 4th World Conference on Women in Beijing, China.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of our Tampa Bay community, I am proud to honor my friend Senator Arthenia Joyner as my Tampa Bay's Women's History Month honoree. As Senator Joyner would say, "your word is your bond," as she encourages our community to stand for what they believe in. Following in the footsteps of her distinguished family and leaving big footprints of her own for all of us to follow, her courage and total commitment to human rights and improving the lives of all of us have helped not only the Tampa community, but our state, nation and the world.

DULLES HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC
DECATHLON CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 2017

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Dulles High School Academic Decathlon team of Sugar Land, TX, for winning the Texas State Academic Decathlon.

This was the Dulles High Academic Decathlon teams' first decathlon state championship since 1987. The theme of the competition was World War II, where students were tested in economics, literature, mathematics, music, science and social science. Three team members earned individual recognition as well: Madison Gabino receiving first place in the Scholastic Division, Ethan Tu in second, and Jared Roth in fifth place. Dulles High is the only team in the Fort Bend Independent School District to ever win a State Academic Decathlon title, let alone two.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, I want to again congratulate the Dulles High School Academic Decathlon team for winning the Texas State Academic Decathlon. We are very proud of their success.

ELI TRUJILLO

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Eli Trujillo for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Eli Trujillo is an 8th grader at the International School at Thornton Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Eli Trujillo is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Eli Trujillo for winning the Adams County Mayors

and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

HONORING ORELIA GAIL SIAS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable professional lady, Ms. Orelia Gail Sias of Cleveland, Mississippi.

Orelia was born to the late Roosevelt and Pauline Sias of Mayersville, Mississippi. She is a graduate of Delta State University and received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration.

Ms. Sias' parents were farmers and owned over 400 acres of land. She realized at an early age that she could accomplish anything she set her heart to do, coming from a household where her parents were the prime example of that philosophy. Therefore, she embarked on her life journey by furthering her education and securing stable employment opportunities with Cleveland State Bank in August of 1986 as a switchboard operator, but knew that her desire was to move up in the financial institute. While in her 30 years with Cleveland State Bank, she moved up in the ranks to her current position as a Customer Representative in the Electronic Banking Division, where she handled customer fraud issues. In 2008, she began a part-time career with Walgreen's as a Pharmacy Technician and became a National Board Certified Pharmacy Technician.

Ms. Sias is very active with numerous community and civic organizations and has received numerous accolades and awards for her dedication to the community. She is politically involved and participated in the 2012 National Democratic Convention held in Charlotte, North Carolina. In 2013, she participated in President Barack Obama's inauguration ceremony in Washington, D.C., and while there she visited the Dr. Martin Luther Museum, his statue and other sites. Although she has influence in the community and through her professional careers, Orelia considers her greatest achievement is to honor the legacy which her parents instilled in her through their teachings: "To have respect and dignity for everyone your life paths allows you to and that will be returned to you". Family is of the utmost importance to Ms. Sias and she enhances others' lives by being an example and she offers mentorship to the younger generations.

Ms. Sias lives her life in servitude to others. She opens her home to those needing a place to stay and loan her vehicle to those who may be in need of transportation. She is someone who is admired and loved by her co-workers, community leaders, and her community for her professional style, her frankness of speech and how she carries herself.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Orelia Sias for being an outstanding professional lady in the Mississippi Delta.