

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNER OF THE CONGRESSIONAL APP CHALLENGE FOR THE 21ST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 18, 2017

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today we congratulate Peter Chacko from San Antonio who won this year's Congressional App Challenge for the 21st District of Texas.

Every year, the Congressional App Challenge encourages students to create an original app by writing computer code. As Chairman of the House Science, Space and Technology Committee, I take part in this competition, which inspires students across the country to explore computer science and search for innovations.

Peter won this year's competition by designing an app called PR Tracker. It helps runners calculate their pace and logs their runs. He developed the app because he and his cross country teammates needed a quick and effective way to assess and store their pace and monitor their progress.

Congratulations to Peter on his achievement. I know he will do well in his academics and future cross country races.

IN HONOR OF THE RECIPIENTS OF THE CONGRESS-BUNDESTAG YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM'S MERIT BASED SCHOLARSHIP

HON. LIZ CHENEY

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 18, 2017

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to Taelor Nielsen and Zavier McClain on being selected to receive the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Program's (CBYX) merit based scholarship.

As part of this selective program, they will be traveling to Germany for a year to immerse themselves in the culture, develop their foreign language skills, and strengthen their leadership and academic interests. Many alumni of this program have gone on to serve our great nation in both national security and civilian roles.

Taelor and Zavier's selection to the CBYX program and scholarship is a sign of their hard work, leadership, and academic curiosity. I commend their fortitude and dedication to academics and the future of our great nation.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to the 2017 Wyoming recipients of the CBYX scholarship. Taelor and Zavier deserve to be extremely proud of this accomplishment.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CIVIL ENFORCEMENT EQUALITY ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 18, 2017

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Civil Enforcement Equality Act. This bill is necessary to allow the District to enter into contracts with private attorneys to sue on the District's behalf for violations of D.C. law that may otherwise go unpunished due to a lack of resources. This bill would give D.C. the same authority enjoyed by states, other local governments and most federal agencies.

The federal Anti-Deficiency Act, which applies to both the federal and District governments, prohibits contracting in advance of appropriations, such as contingency fee contracts. However, Congress has provided the authority for most federal agencies to enter into such contracts, notwithstanding the Anti-Deficiency Act, but has not done so for the District. This precludes the District from entering into contracts with attorneys on a contingency fee basis. In a contingency fee contract, lawyers pay for the initial costs of the litigation, and then the lawyers are reimbursed only for out-of-pocket expenses and receive a percentage of any amount awarded to the plaintiff.

There is no federal law that precludes states and other local governments from entering into such contracts. At least 36 states, both red and blue states, have already used contingency fee contracts to enforce state laws, in addition to numerous city and county governments across the country. Contingency fee contracts are especially useful in cases with a large, costly discovery component. Examples of cases that are commonly tried on a contingency fee basis by state and local governments include nuisance, deceptive lending, securities fraud and debt and tax collection.

This is an important step to increase D.C. home rule and generate revenue for the District, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARJORIE DICKINSON

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 18, 2017

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of my good friend Marjorie Dickinson as she retires from a distinguished thirty years of service to the University of California, Davis. Marj is currently the Assistant Chancellor, Government and Community Relations for U.C. Davis, and she has played a significant role in improving and strengthening the institution's commitment to its students and its surrounding community.

Throughout her tenure, Marj has established credible and effective relationships with local, state, and federal elected officials and with opinion-leaders throughout the greater Sacramento region. Now more than ever, thanks in large part to Marj's leadership and vision for U.C. Davis, the institution is respected and revered as a world-class research university and as a reliable local partner. I have had the pleasure of working personally with Marj through the years in my role representing Sacramento in Congress, and I consistently found her to be one of the most effective, sophisticated, and professional government relations experts I encountered.

U.C. Davis—and the Sacramento region writ large—are beyond fortunate to have had Marj working on their behalf for the past three decades. Marj's dedication and commitment to U.C. Davis have made our region a better educated, more vibrant, more attractive place to live and work. Her contributions cannot be understated.

Mr. Speaker, as her family, friends and colleagues celebrate her distinguished career, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the remarkable Marjorie Dickinson.

IN HONOR OF GWEN BECK'S 100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

HON. LIZ CHENEY

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 18, 2017

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to Gwen Beck on the celebration of her 100th birthday.

I join her friends and family in extending my best to her on this occasion and in celebrating her life and contributions to our great state. I hope she uses this momentous day to do the same.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Gwen on her birthday. May her year be filled with happiness and blessings.

HONORING TRUDY HAYNES

HON. DWIGHT EVANS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 18, 2017

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an influential and dedicated woman in Philadelphia, Trudy Haynes (née Gertrude Daniels), our nation's first female African American weather reporter and a true media pioneer.

Trudy Haynes was born in New York City at Harlem Hospital in 1926 and raised in New York City. She began her broadcasting career in a Detroit suburb at WCHB-AM, which was the first black owned radio station above the Mason Dixon line.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Trudy Haynes made history in 1965 when she became the nation's first female African American reporter for KYW-TV (now CBS-3) in Philadelphia. Trudy Haynes was also the Nation's 1st African-American TV weather reporter, acquiring that position in 1963 when she worked for WXYZ-TV in Detroit, MI. Additionally, Trudy Haynes is also a very proud graduate of Howard University, class of 1947.

Prestigiously, she has a long esteemed history, has conducted many high profile interviews, and holds many awards including two Lifetime Achievement Awards, as well as an Emmy. Trudy Haynes formally retired in 1999, but has stayed active throughout the years. At 91 years old she is officially coming out of retirement for her "Drop The Mic Tour".

The 2nd Congressional District of Pennsylvania extends gratitude to Trudy Haynes who is a true inspiration for future generations and thanks her for her continued dedicated support and service to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

IN HONOR OF KEVIN AND ESTHER
BYRNE'S 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. LIZ CHENEY

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 18, 2017

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to Kevin and Esther Byrne on their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

This significant benchmark is a symbol of their commitment to each other and to their family. I am happy to join their friends and family in extending my best to them on this special occasion.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Kevin and Esther on the celebration of their 50th Wedding Anniversary. I wish them the best today and for many more blessed years to come.

HONORING JUDGE BASCOM
BENTLEY, III

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 18, 2017

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember a dear friend, Judge Bascom Bentley, III, who passed away peacefully on December 11, 2017.

Bascom was a life-long resident of Palestine, Texas and served almost 3 decades with distinction as the Judge for Texas' 369th District Court until his recent retirement. Prior to that he served as County Court at Law Judge, County Attorney for Anderson County and also the City Attorney for Palestine. Along with his time on the bench, Bascom taught as a professor at Trinity Valley Community College for 37 years. The totality of his awards and honors are too numerous to list here today, but he has been honored by civic groups, charitable organizations, educational institutions and veteran groups. And he was honored multiple times for his good work as a judge including one from the Texas Gang Investigators Association that seems to sum everything up—the "Damn Good Judge" award.

Bascom touched countless lives, including mine. His wit and humor were unmatched and his knowledge endless—likely fueled by his unquenchable thirst and love for history. For those who knew Bascom, they saw compassion and love for others that was unbounding.

As the Representative for the 5th District of Texas, I am honored to have known such a wonderful and unique person, and I will forever treasure our many conversations through the years. I send my deepest and sincerest condolences to his mother, Kelly, wife, Carol, to his children Bonnie, Matthew, William and Hunter, as well as the rest of his family and innumerable friends. May we all remember a life well lived.

IN HONOR OF RICHARD AND
CAROL CRESWELL'S 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. LIZ CHENEY

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 18, 2017

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to Richard and Carol Creswell on their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

This significant benchmark is a symbol of their commitment to each other and to their family. I am happy to join their friends and family in extending my best to them on this special occasion.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Richard and Carol on the celebration of their 50th Wedding Anniversary. I wish them the best today and for many more blessed years to come.

CARROLL DANIEL CONSTRUCTION
BREAKING GROUND IN DOWNTOWN GAINESVILLE

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 18, 2017

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on this Friday, I rise to help usher in new developments that will be added to the Gainesville community.

As a proud, lifelong resident of this town, I have watched it grow over the years, and welcomed the new businesses and neighbors that have come with that growth.

Earlier this year, the city of Gainesville moved forward with an ambitious plan to improve our historic square. The investments made to this project will add to the square and surrounding area, which represent a centerpiece of our vibrant downtown.

As part of this project, I am pleased that Carroll Daniel Construction will break the ground for a wonderful new facility that will begin construction early next year.

Residents of Gainesville will enjoy this building, which will be located along Jesse Jewel Parkway. The street's namesake, Mr. Jewel himself, was a leader in the poultry industry, and he brought jobs and increased investment in the area during the Great Depression.

In line with his vision, this addition to the square will serve our community for years to

come. I believe that my good friend, Brian Daniel, runs his company according to the values of our Hall County community.

My family and I look forward to seeing the company's new facility next year as we drive by on Jesse Jewel Parkway.

IN HONOR OF COL. THOMAS
"TUCKER" FAGAN'S RECOGNITION IN THE AIR FORCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS AGENCY'S "VETERANS IN BLUE" VOLUME III

HON. LIZ CHENEY

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 18, 2017

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to Colonel Thomas "Tucker" Fagan on his recognition in the Air Force Public Affairs Agency's "Veterans in Blue" Volume VIII.

Throughout his impressive career in the Air Force, Col. Fagan proved himself indispensable, being chosen as one of eight military personnel chosen to build the U.S. nuclear war plan, and serving as the wing commander at F.E. Warren AFB, and the 20th Air Force vice commander. After his retirement, Col. Fagan stayed active in the Wyoming and Air Force communities, including serving former Wyoming U.S. Representative Cynthia Lummis as her Chief of Staff.

The Air Force Public Affairs Agency launched the "Veterans in Blue" portrait collection to highlight the men and women that have contributed to the Air Force's great legacy. Col. Fagan's dedication and contributions to the Air Force, nation, and state warrants his inclusion in this prestigious collection.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Col. Fagan on being recognized in the "Veterans in Blue" Volume VIII portrait collection, and I thank him for his continued service.

HONORING JOSEPH TRAN-MALAN

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 18, 2017

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Joseph Tran-Malan for his participation in the Congressional App Challenge (CAC).

The CAC began in 2013, and has since grown to include nearly 4,000 students across 33 states and territories. Specifically, the CAC encourages students to learn how to code through an annual district-wide competition.

For his CAC submission, Joseph chose the video game Overwatch. In particular, he created a video that described why he chose Overwatch, and what he would do to make the video game better as part of his app.

Currently, Joseph is in the third grade and attends Harmony DC Public Charter School, which has a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) program. In addition, the school organizes two major STEM events every year: the Harmony Science and Engineering Fair, which serves as a way for students to learn more about the scientific process; and the Stem Festival, where students

participate in various STEM demonstrations and explain the science behind them.

Joseph is a proud big brother and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jose and Kim Tran-Malan. In his free time, Joseph likes to travel and see new things, but is content with spending quality time at home with his family. He also loves to dance and use his imagination by building with LEGOs or by creating new worlds in the video game Minecraft. I am very proud of Joseph.

Therefore, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring achievement at a very young age by recognizing Joseph Tran-Malan for his participation in the Congressional App Challenge.

RECOGNIZING LAURA WEIS

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 18, 2017

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend Laura Weis, who was honored with the Distinguished Illinois Chamber of Commerce Executive Award last month.

As CEO of the Champaign County Chamber of Commerce, Laura is a tireless advocate for the citizens, businesses and organizations throughout a community with nationally-recognized educational institutions, technological and innovative start-ups, manufacturing companies, and agricultural industries.

Under Laura's leadership, the Chamber has increased its membership and influence throughout the region. The Chamber and its staff continually engage with elected officials at every level of government to ensure commonsense, business-friendly policies are in place for the community. Through the Chamber's efforts, delegations of community and business leaders from the county have become more engaged in public affairs through regular trips to Springfield and Washington, D.C.

Outside of political advocacy, the Chamber has adopted numerous policies that support the local community, including the creation of an energy coop that has saved local businesses thousands of dollars, the development of a procurement center to assist businesses with government contracts, the institution of local disaster recovery plans, and oversight of countless online tools to help area businesses.

Laura is a tremendous leader within my congressional district, and it is not hard to see her impact throughout Champaign County. I Congratulate Laura on this award, and I look forward to continuing to work with her throughout the future.

IN HONOR OF FRANK HANCOCK'S RETIREMENT FROM THE WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

HON. LIZ CHENEY

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 18, 2017

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to Frank Hancock on his retirement.

This is a momentous occasion and I hope that he will take the time to reflect upon all his hard work over the past 22 years working for the Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT). I thank him for his contributions to WYDOT and to our community.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Frank Hancock on his retirement. I wish him the best in future endeavors.

SUPPORT FOR H.R. 4391

HON. RO KHANNA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 18, 2017

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, as a cosponsor of H.R. 4391, the Promoting Human Rights by Ending Israeli Military Detention of Palestinian Children Act, I am concerned with the United Nations (UN) reports highlighting the detention and mistreatment of Palestinian children. We should stand up for human rights in all cases, even when abuses are committed by our most trusted allies.

Israel faces unique security threats and, unfortunately, some underage Palestinians do resort to violence as a means of change. This is unacceptable, and the Palestinian leadership needs to take more steps to prevent children from being manipulated into becoming terrorists.

The threat of child terrorism should not be an excuse, however, to torture those accused of such actions or deprive them of rights. Every minor should have a right to a lawyer, to due process, and to having their parents notified.

I am encouraged by a 2015 UNICEF report indicating that Israeli authorities are taking steps to address alleged abuses. Although evidence of the ill-treatment of Palestinian children detained still exists, I am hopeful that Israeli forces will ultimately fully comply with international human rights laws.

Through continued discussions with the Israeli government, Mr. Speaker, I am hopeful changes will continue to occur. Doing so is in the best interest of Israel's security and consistent with their values.

HONORING LIAM McLAUGHLIN

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 18, 2017

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I have had the pleasure of knowing many wonderful public servants over the course of my career, individuals who dedicated themselves fully to their communities and neighbors every single day. In Yonkers, there has not been a more dedicated and selfless public servant than my dear friend Liam McLaughlin, who this year is closing out his final term as Yonkers City Council President.

I have known Liam for many years. His parents, Bernadette and Pat, are close family friends, and both have a very strong sense of community Liam clearly adopted that spirit,

and thus began a lifetime of working to strengthen Yonkers.

Liam was raised in Yonkers and has lived there for more than 42 years. His wife, Debbie, is also from Yonkers. Now, the McLaughlin family lives only a few blocks from the house in which he grew up. Liam attended St. John the Baptist School, the same school that his son Ryan now goes to, and coaches his son on the same youth baseball fields that his father coached him on when he was a kid.

A small business owner, Liam is a practicing trusts and estates attorney at McLaughlin & Zerafa LLP. Previously, he worked for several small law firms in the New York area, including his own general practice law firm and the Corporation Counsel's Office in the City of Yonkers. Liam was also an adjunct professor at Manhattan College.

From 2000 to 2010, Liam served on the Yonkers City Council. He served in leadership roles including Majority Leader and Minority Leader. He also served on every major committee and was Chairman of the Budget & Finance Committee, as well as the Environmental Policy & Protection Committee. In 2013, he was elected as Council President by the voters of Yonkers, where he served with great distinction and honor.

Outside of his duties as an elected official, Liam has also coached youth basketball and soccer with Dunwoodie Youth Association, and currently serves as President of the Lincoln Park Taxpayers Association. Liam is also a member of the Holy Name Society of St. John the Baptist Church, the Kerryman's P&B Association and the Ancient Order of Hibernians of Westchester County.

On December 18, 2017 the Yonkers community is coming together to celebrate Liam for all the remarkable work he has done and continues to do on behalf of his fellow Yonkers residents. He is most deserving of the recognition. I want to congratulate Liam on the occasion and offer my personal thanks for all of that tremendous work. He has certainly made Yonkers proud.

IN HONOR OF DANNY AND BECKY DELOREY'S 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. LIZ CHENEY

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 18, 2017

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to Danny and Becky Delorey on their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

This significant benchmark is a symbol of their commitment to each other and to their family. I am happy to join their friends and family in extending my best to them on this special occasion.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Danny and Becky on the celebration of their 50th Wedding Anniversary. I wish them the best today and for many more blessed years to come.

H.R. 3731, SECRET SERVICE RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION ACT OF 2017

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 18, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the importance of passing H.R. 3731, the Secret Service Recruitment and Retention Act of 2017, into law.

Over the years, the United States Secret Service has been plagued with morale and attrition issues. In 2016, the Secret Service was ranked last among 305 agency subcomponents in the Partnership for Public Service's annual Best Places to Work Survey. The morale issues stem from a number of factors, but one of the leading factors is agent burnout due to inflexible schedules, long shifts, and agents having to work and not use their annual leave or potentially not receive overtime compensation due to agents reaching their annual allowance pay amount.

Many of the aforementioned issues cannot be solved by a simple act of Congress; however, compensating agents for overtime is one that Congress can and should address. H.R. 3731 would provide for agents who have hit their overtime pay limits to receive compensation for the uncompensated hours they have logged in service to the country.

While I believe the Secret Service can do more to recruit and retain top talent, it is also important for Congress to do its part to not leave the current agents uncompensated. Passing this legislation is crucial and would be an obvious morale boost for the current agents. I urge our colleagues in the Senate to move quickly to pass this legislation.

IN HONOR OF JOHN KECK'S RETIREMENT FROM THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

HON. LIZ CHENEY

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 18, 2017

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to John Keck on his retirement from the National Park Service.

For the past 14 years, John has served as the Wyoming/Montana state coordinator and Eastern MT-WY Group Superintendent for the Intermountain Region of the National Park Service. In this role, he has worked closely with various non-profit and local groups, communities, and state and federal agencies and offices, including mine. Having lived in Wyoming throughout his life and worked for the state for 22 years before joining the National Park Service, John has been able to apply his knowledge and experiences to excel in his role and for the people and state of Wyoming. I want to extend my appreciation to him for his many contributions to our great state.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to John Keck on his retirement. He has been integral to the National Park Service and our state, and will be missed.

IN RECOGNITION OF ESTELLE SALTZMAN

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 18, 2017

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Estelle Saltzman on the occasion of her retirement as CEO and President of Runyon Saltzman, Inc., one of Sacramento's most innovative communications firms. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Saltzman for her leadership and commitment to Runyon Saltzman, as well as for her dedication to the cultural vitality of the greater Sacramento region.

Since founding the agency alongside Jean Runyon in 1976, Ms. Saltzman has been instrumental in making Runyon Saltzman one of the top communications firms in the area. Her background in reporting and political science helped her form the agency into an industry leader in public affairs and social marketing. Her leadership at Runyon Saltzman has been acknowledged over the years by those who understand the value she provides to the local business community. She was awarded the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber's 1988 "Sacramento Business Woman of the Year" award, lifetime achievement awards from the Sacramento Public Relations Association and the International Association of Business Communicators, and the "Women Who Mean Business" award from the Sacramento Business Journal.

In addition to her work at Runyon Saltzman, Estelle has been an active member of the Sacramento community. She serves on the boards of the Crocker Art Museum, the Sacramento History Foundation, Restoration House, Opening Doors, Inc., and the Family Justice Center. Thanks in no small part to her leadership, these organizations now stand as important cultural and community landmarks for the Sacramento region.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to pay tribute to Estelle Saltzman, outgoing CEO and president of Runyon Saltzman, as her friends and colleagues celebrate her well-earned retirement. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring her tenacity and dedication on behalf of Runyon Saltzman, as well as her dedication to the Sacramento region.

IN HONOR OF LAURA MCKINNEY'S RETIREMENT FROM THE MAGIC CITY ENTERPRISES

HON. LIZ CHENEY

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 18, 2017

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to Laura McKinney on her retirement.

This is a momentous occasion and I hope that she will take the time to reflect upon all her hard work over the past 34 years working for Magic City Enterprises. I thank her for her contributions to Magic City Enterprises and to our community.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Laura McKinney on her retirement. I wish her the best in future endeavors.

HONORING CHRISTOPHER GRESHAM

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 18, 2017

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Christopher Gresham for his participation in the Mandela Washington Fellowship Reciprocal Exchange.

The Mandela Washington Fellowship, the flagship program of the U.S. government's Young African Leadership Initiative, helps to develop the next generation of African leaders across government, business and civil society. The fellows build strategic partnerships and lasting connections through training and networking opportunities at leading institutions of higher education.

The Reciprocal Exchange Component, for which Christopher has been competitively selected, provides U.S. experts and leaders a chance to expand their work in partnership with Mandela Washington Fellowship alumni in Africa. Past participants have included a wide range of experts, from entrepreneurs to disability rights advocates, who have contributed meaningfully to efforts such as promoting peace, stability and economic prosperity in the region. The program provides important contributions to U.S. diplomacy efforts.

A native Washingtonian, Christopher has dedicated his career to breaking down barriers and promoting diversity in entrepreneurship. He graduated from The George Washington University and went on to obtain a Master's from Thunderbird School for Global Management. He then became the Vice President of Communities at SEED SPOT, where he works to increase startup activity and economic growth with a focus on entrepreneurs developing sustainable solutions to address some of the world's most pressing problems. In addition, Christopher founded Swillings Coffee, an impact-driven venture that works directly with small family-owned farms in rural Colombia to apply sustainable growing techniques and employ women in the local community. As part of the Mandela Washington Fellowship Reciprocal Exchange, Christopher empowered hundreds of Beninese entrepreneurs with entrepreneurship training, educated its largest university on sustainable economic development programs and promoted cooperative trade with the U.S. and multiple institutional stakeholders.

Therefore, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Christopher Gresham for his accomplishments and for his participation in the Mandela Washington Fellowship Reciprocal Exchange.

IN HONOR OF SALLY NICHOLS' INDUCTION INTO THE CLARA KLINDT ROCKY MOUNTAIN COLLEGE ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

HON. LIZ CHENEY

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 18, 2017

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to Sally "Powder" Nichols on her induction into the Clara Klindt

Rocky Mountain College Athletic Hall of Fame. Her continued dedication to athletic excellence warrants this recognition.

Throughout her time at Lusk High School, University of Idaho, and Rocky Mountain College, she was integral to her teams' successes, setting various school records and being selected All-Conference and All-Region in 2000. As an athlete, and now as a coach, she has set an excellent example for students and athletes across the state. I commend her commitment to her teammates, to her students, and to athletics.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Sally for being inducted into the Rocky Mountain College Athletic Hall of Fame. She and her family deserve to be extremely proud of this accomplishment.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF KOPPER KETTLE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 18, 2017

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize the 40th anniversary of the Kopper Kettle explosion in downtown Auburn, Alabama.

Below is the 1978 sermon by Rev. Rod Sinclair at the Episcopal College Center after the explosion occurred:

The explosion at the Kopper Kettle has consumed the time and attention of many of us this week, especially Sunday when it occurred Monday and Tuesday when we were fixing ourselves up and getting heat back into the building and into the Steven's House. There have been many expressions of gratefulness that no one in town was injured or killed and we have all told each other where we were when we hear of or felt the blast. We have even told each other about other explosions, other calamities and what our reaction was to them. And some of us have gone off into the world of metaphor and analogy and compared the explosion at the Kopper Kettle to what happens to a human being who gets poison in his or her system, poison from unacknowledged anger or poison from unexpressed resentment, and how the pressure can build up an explosion.

The another type of explosion occurred to me, as it should, being the preacher, which I like to look at this morning. It is the explosion of the spirit and it can be more devastating than what happened last Sunday at Magnolia and Gay.

The explosion of the spirit is what happens when all the things we thought we believed in collapses, when the world of meaning collapses, when the truths that we always thought were true seem untrue, when doubt attacks every item of faith and prevails, and faith seems counterfeit, and trust wanders aimlessly hunting for a place to rest, and when other people's piety bring charges of hypocrisy to our lips. The explosion of the spirit can hit with the force of last Sunday's blast or it can strike in a slow-motion version. Decay is an explosion developing slowly. We can rebuild stores and replace smashed windows, but persons who are smashed by an earthquake under their house of faith have no certainty that they can pick up the pieces, nor may they want to, for their structure no longer has meaning. All that was dear and cherished is splintered and smoking. Their faith is gone, their dreams are smashed, and they have no basis for hope.

What do you do if the explosion of the spirit strikes you? First, I believe you must go to your most trusted friend, not to talk, but to sit in silence—in the presence of the other—in the presence of another human being. And the truth of the presence may be the only truth that is verifiable.

Next, you must allow your friend to care for you. This is more difficult than silence. Nor can it come too quickly. This requires that you give permission to the other to enter your shattered world. And with the entry may come judgment (but surely not!) and may come abject embarrassment (Yes, possibly that) or the painful admission that you are lost in the woods and do not know the way home. (Yes, that too!) Your trusted friend is there to listen, is not therapist, counselor or father confessor (at least not then) and listens to you talk, listens to the starkness of your confession that your religious house of cards proved to be just that, listens to the pain of your isolation—for you are in an empty, flat land by yourself with not so much as four pegs to pitch a tent for shelter. He listens to the description of your futureless future. And the echo of the question "What is there now?" continues to sound in your empty room.

But your friend does not answer your questions; eventually you do. Yet no one can tell you when the eventuality will happen. First, there may be nothing more than the establishing of a routine; but even routine requires a degree of faith. Later, there may be divine word, certainly not acknowledged then as such. From deep within, from the center of your center, may come the word: "Life shall go on." And you know the words are true and your house of meaning receives another plank.

If and when the house is completed, that is, if and when there is a day when you can say: "I believe that the following truths gives me meaning, and makes sense out of existence, and are the grounds on which I will stake my life," if there is a day when this can be said again, after an explosion of the spirit my hope is that your statement of what you believe would include the following:

First, a trust in God, trust in God as personal and loving, God who loves you, who understands and who cares for you. Believing that God understands and loves us is the life force that prevents us from dying.

Secondly, a realization that Jesus of Nazareth reveals God to us. We are not blocked or stumped in our search for the knowledge of God. Jesus' love and forgiveness is the indicator of God's love and forgiveness. Believing that Jesus reveals God to us is the life force that guards our spirits from collapsing.

Thirdly, a trust that God is present with and in us, and that his spirit, his power, and his love are with us and in us, his people. We are not left derelict or abandoned, wondering if we shall ever be called for. Believing that God's presence is with us and in us is the life force that builds us up as a community of people seeking to be faithful and prevents us from despairing.

To be able to base your life on those three assertions and know they are true is to return from the land of shadow and mist into the sunlight of a new day.

The person who experiences the bankruptcy of spirit that we have spoken of and who later reclaims and rebuilds, who begins again and whose faith grows from infancy to maturity, has a lot to tell us. My guess is that such a person would share with us such thoughts as:

No one else can say what's true for you. All truth is self-validating.

Much truth, that is not yet perceived as truth, can remain on the shelf: it may be claimed later on.

Having swallowed too much once before and exploded, it's best not to bite off more than you can chew.

Courage to rebuild is an act of faith.

The process of discovering meaning is an element of meaning itself.

My further guess is that as we met such a person, who had believed again after being crushed by doubt, we could say such words to him or her as:

When you speak, your words are genuine and true. We feel accepted and respected by you.

Your faith is clearly shown in your behavior.

You will be a threat to those whose houses of faith are held together by tape and wire and string and who pretend to believe and who make a great show, but who on the inside are full of emptiness and staleness, brittleness and dust.

You will cause a light to shine on sham religion and there will be some who will be vindictive.

The explosion at the corner last Sunday can cause us to look at the explosion that can come at our centers, the collapsing of our spirit, if we have carelessly claimed to believe, or mimicked the belief of others, and have no faith that is our own. The admission of our doubt, painful though it is, can be the first step to regaining a life of faith and can return us to authentic living in God's presence. God's love is real and his commandments are sure and the community of persons seeking to know what it is to be fruitful is a rich place to set yourself. May He shed his grace on each one of us as we seek truth and walk in faith. Amen.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the 40th anniversary of the Kopper Kettle explosion in Auburn.

HONORING MAYOR WILLIAM BELL

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 18, 2017

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of a devoted public servant, community leader, and friend, William V. "Bill" Bell, whose tenure as Mayor of Durham, North Carolina ended this month after 16 years in office.

A native of Washington, D.C. who earned engineering degrees from Howard University and New York University, Bill began his career in the private sector, eventually retiring as a senior engineer at IBM in Research Triangle Park. He was first elected to the Durham County Board of Commissioners in 1972 and served until 1994 and again from 1996 to 2000, including three terms as chairman from 1982 to 1994. He was elected Mayor of Durham in 2001 and re-elected six times, making him the longest-serving mayor in Durham's history.

During his more than four decades in politics, Bill was a visionary force behind Durham's transformation from a declining tobacco town into a vibrant, modern paragon of the "new South," bustling with commerce, cultural events and attractions, world-class hotels and restaurants, and a thriving entrepreneurial community. He played an instrumental role in the merger of the Durham County and Durham City school systems, the financing of major downtown amenities such as the Durham Bulls Athletic Park and Durham Performing Arts Center, and, more recently, the

planning for the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit project.

Even as he has worked to attract new ideas and new investment to Durham, Bill has worked tirelessly to ensure that all Durhamites would benefit from their community's growth. He continues to serve as the Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the UDI Community Development Corporation, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the education and economic welfare of low-income and underprivileged Durham residents.

I have had the pleasure of knowing and working with Bill during his more than 40 years in North Carolina politics, and especially since Durham became part of the Fourth Congressional District in 1997. We worked together especially on appropriations projects, to improve the corridors to downtown, to remedy a "food desert," and to develop affordable housing and livable neighborhoods. I and many others found Bill to be an ideal collaborator, able and willing to work cooperatively with all sorts of people, ready to embrace new ideas and approaches, loyal to Durham and determined to realize its potential.

Even as he retires from public office, Bill will continue to serve the people of Durham through UDI Community Development Corporation and through his active involvement in other civic and charitable organizations. And his legacy will live on through the countless lives he has touched and the indelible impact he has made on the Bull City, which is today

more prosperous, dynamic, and inclusive than ever before.

Lisa and I, along with constituents in the Fourth District and colleagues in the North Carolina congressional delegation, want to thank Mayor Bell for his dedicated service and exceptional leadership and wish him and his family the very best as he begins the next chapter of his life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 18, 2017

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call votes held on December 18, 2017, I was inescapably detained handling important matters related to my District and the State of Alabama. Had I been present, I would have voted No on Roll Call No. 685, the Motion to Fix the Convening Times and YEA on Roll Call Nos. 686 and 687, which are as follows: H.R. 4375, and STEM Research and Education Effectiveness and Transparency Act, and H.R. 3979, Keep America's Refuges Operation Act.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4,

1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, December 19, 2017 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

DECEMBER 20

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure

To hold hearings to examine freight movement.

SD-406