

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 Trackr. 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 Xavier 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 Xavier'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 Xavier 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.

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