

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### TRIBUTE TO JOHN REASONER

#### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 16, 2018*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate John Reasoner of Creston, Iowa for being named Creston Youth of the Year for 2017. John is the son of Mike and Margaret Reasoner.

John has participated in numerous activities during his time at Creston Community High School. He has been active in choir, band, winter drumline, speech and musicals. He has also spent three years on the student body government and this year as the student body President. He credits his parents, family and some great teachers for his success as a student.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent community leaders like John in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize him today. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating John for this outstanding recognition and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

### COMMENDING MICHAEL THOMAS AND OTHER CITIZEN-ACTIVISTS DEVOTED TO PUBLIC SERVICE

#### HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 16, 2018*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, with pride I rise to pay tribute to Michael Thomas, a multi-talented young man and professional football player, who is volunteering as an NFLPA extern in my office.

Before he joined the Miami Dolphins in 2013 to bolster its secondary as a free safety, Michael Thomas, who starred and attended Chester W. Nimitz High School in Houston, Texas, was rated the 75th best high school player in the nation by ESPN.

Michael went on to collegiate stardom at Stanford University earning All-Pac-12 Honorable-Mention after his senior year campaign with the Cardinal.

Michael Thomas is one of those rare individuals who has a knack for making good things happen.

In the very first game he played with the Miami Dolphins, Michael made the game-saving play against the New England Patriots with an end-zone interception of the great Tom Brady.

But what I find most exciting and inspiring about this winner is that Michael Thomas also earned his degree from Stanford University and continued his education by earning his MBA from the University of Miami Business School.

Michael Thomas comes to my Washington office as an extern during the Second Session

of the 115th Congress to get hands on experience on how the legislative branch of the federal government works.

During his time in my office, Michael has made a difference by:

Attending committee hearings, meetings, and briefings;

Researching legislative proposals, advocacy documents, and policy analyses;

Contributing to my Budget Committee work; and

Drafting memoranda regarding important legislative priorities.

Michael Thomas has observed and contributed to the important legislative work that is performed every day in my office to advance a positive legislative agenda that puts children, families and the elderly first at the forefront of public policy initiatives and funding.

Michael's work in public service did not begin with his decision to become an extern, nor did it begin when he decided to take a knee in silent protest against a criminal justice system that too often appears to value some lives less than others.

Michael Thomas is determined to make a difference in the world of professional sports and in society at large, which inspired him and other athletes to engage in next-step initiatives beyond "Taking A Knee."

Michael's commitment to making the world just a little bit better is exemplified by his work on education reform in the city of Houston, as well as with the Miami Dolphins.

Michael Thomas is a leader and public entrepreneur in his own right.

He proposed that the Miami Dolphins create a "Project Change Scholarship" through the Dolphins Foundation, which made its first award this year.

Michael is now expanding this effort into a campaign to persuade every sports organization to adopt a similar scholarship program.

Michael is challenging all athletes to take an internship or externship in the office of one of their local, state, or federal government elected officials or agencies to gain a better appreciation for and understanding of the central importance of democratic norms, traditions, and institutions to democratic governance that is responsive, effective, innovative, and efficient.

There are present and future citizen-activists in every community in America and as Members of Congress we should actively encourage them to become and remain engaged in the important work of citizenship.

I am reminded of this pearl of wisdom from Margaret Mead: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

I thank Michael Thomas for everything he is doing and has done to promote greater civic tolerance, understanding, inclusion and diversity, and commend him as an example and inspiration to young people everywhere who are asking not what their country can do for them, but what they can do for their country.

### IN HONOR OF GARRET VICKERY AND NATHAN FAWCETT FOR EARNING THE EAGLE SCOUT AWARD

#### HON. LIZ CHENEY

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 16, 2018*

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to Garret Vickery and Nathan Fawcett on earning the Eagle Scout Award.

Earning the rank of Eagle Scout requires fulfilling rigorous requirements and a dedication to hard work. Throughout their time as part of Boy Scouts of America Wyoming Troop 145, Garret and Nathan have exhibited outstanding leadership abilities, service to their community, and outdoor skills that have made it apparent that they are deserving of this award. I commend their commitment to scouting, excellence, and higher education. I have no doubt the lessons they have learned throughout their time in the Boy Scouts will benefit them for many years to come.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Garret Vickery and Nathan Fawcett for earning the Eagle Scout Award. Both them and their families deserve to be very proud of this significant honor and achievement.

### TRIBUTE TO MAKAYLA McMANN

#### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 16, 2018*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Makayla McMann. Makayla was recently named a winner of the Uncommon Students Award. The award is given through the Hoover Presidential Library-Museum in West Branch, Iowa.

The Uncommon Student Award program annually identifies and honors up to 15 Iowa high school juniors who propose and accomplish a project of their own design. Makayla created and implemented a day camp in the small town of Villisca, Iowa. The camp ran for five weeks and served students in kindergarten through sixth grade.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Makayla for this award and I am proud to represent her in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Makayla for receiving this outstanding award and in wishing her nothing but continued success.

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