

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ON THE DEPARTURE OF ETHAN LAUER, DEPUTY PARLIAMENTARIAN

HON. PAUL D. RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2018

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, rise to commend Ethan Lauer on his exemplary service to the people's House.

Ethan, who began here in 1999 as an Assistant Parliamentarian, has served as the Deputy Parliamentarian since 2012. While his departure is certainly bittersweet, I am pleased to note that he is returning to our shared home state of Wisconsin for a position serving the Wisconsin State Assembly.

Ethan has been a tremendous asset to the House, from his encyclopedic knowledge of rules and procedures, to his drafting and interpretation skills, which have been invaluable during procedural challenges. Our presiding officers, in particular, have come to rely on Ethan's ability to quickly and clearly navigate a parliamentary situation.

Given its importance to members, Ethan's role in publishing the precedents of the House merits special mention. He has served as the Managing Editor of the House Rules and Manual since 2007. In addition, he has worked on three volumes of House Practice and three volumes of precedents.

Over the years, Ethan has always brought an unbreakable demeanor and positive spirit to his duties. He has that rare combination of endless patience and extraordinary dedication that has made him essential to keeping this institution functioning. His record of public service is one to which every Parliamentarian and House employee should aspire.

On behalf of the whole House, I thank Ethan for his service and wish his wife, Erin, and their children Anna and Sadie, well as they return to the Badger State.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2018

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, July 18, 2018, I am wrongly recorded on Roll Call 354. I intended to support House Amendment 925 to H.R. 6147, the Interior, Environment, Financial Services, and General Government Appropriations Act of 2019.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PRAMILA JAYAPAL

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2018

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, had I been present for roll call vote 366 and 367 on Mon-

day, July 23, 2018 I would have voted 'aye' on both.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2018

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, on July 23, 2018, I was unavoidably detained and missed recorded votes No. 366 through 367. Had I been present: on Roll Call No. 366, H.R. 2345, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, the National Suicide Hotline Improvement Act, I would have voted Yea; on Roll Call No. 367, H.R. 4881, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, the Precision Agriculture Connectivity Act, I would have voted Yea.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HONORABLE LEROY R. JOHNSON

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2018

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend a prominent attorney, exemplary civil rights leader, former Georgia State Senator, mentor to many, and a man whose life has truly impacted the world, the Honorable Leroy Reginald Johnson. Senator Johnson will be celebrating his 90th birthday with family and friends on July 28, 2018 at the Georgian Terrace Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia.

Leroy Reginald Johnson was born on July 28, 1928 in Atlanta, Georgia. He graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in 1945. He went on to earn a bachelor's degree from Morehouse College in 1949 and a master's degree from Atlanta University (now Clark Atlanta University) in 1951. From 1950 to 1954, Senator Johnson taught social science in the Atlanta school system. He then enrolled in law school at North Carolina Central University, earning his law degree in 1957.

Following his graduation from law school, Fulton County hired him as a criminal investigator, the first African American to be hired by the solicitor general's office (now the District Attorney's office). As the Civil Rights Movement ramped up, he became involved in demonstrations and protests. When black college students conducted mass sit-ins at Rich's Department Store lunch counters in October 1960, he was present as one of the several community leaders advising the students, who included Julian Bond.

In 1962, he was elected to the Georgia State Senate, making him the first African American to be elected to the Georgia General Assembly since the end of the Reconstruction era. He was also the first African

American elected to public office in the Southeast United States that year. In the beginning, Senator Johnson faced many obstacles due to segregation but rose above the adversity, becoming an influential lawmaker and attaining the position of Chairman of the Judiciary Committee.

All the while, Senator Johnson maintained a successful law practice. He was the driving force in getting the legendary Muhammad Ali's boxing license reinstated in 1970. Ali had been stripped of his boxing license in the prime of his career due to his opposition to the Vietnam War. After big cities across the country refused to host a match in which Ali would participate, Senator Johnson offered Atlanta as a location where the fight could take place. Senator Johnson fought behind the scenes to get state and local officials to agree so that ultimately, Muhammad Ali could fight inside the ring in a match that would lead the way for Ali to eventually reclaim the heavyweight crown.

Over the years, Senator Johnson received many awards and accolades for his legal, political, and civic work. In 1996, his portrait was hung on the third floor of the State Capitol near the Senate chamber where he served for twelve years. In 2000, the Georgia State Senate passed a resolution renaming a portion of Fulton Industrial Boulevard as Leroy Johnson-Fulton Industrial Boulevard. In 2016, he was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the State Bar of Georgia and the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism for his untiring commitment to volunteer participation in the community throughout his legal career. Senator Johnson has accomplished much in his life but none of this would be possible without the love and support of his wife, Cleopatra, and son, Michael Vince.

On a personal note, I have had the great pleasure of knowing Senator Johnson since high school in 1964 when he spoke in Montgomery, Alabama at the Alabama State Association of Student Councils' meeting where I was presiding as State Student Council President. He was a schoolmate of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at Washington High School and at Morehouse College. Like Dr. King he was influenced greatly by Dr. Benjamin E. Mays to use his life to make a difference for humanity. I was inspired by this successful lawyer and public official and was motivated to emulate his career path. I attended Morehouse College, became a civil rights lawyer, and twelve years after meeting him, I was elected to the Georgia State House and 14 years later to the State Senate and in 1992 to the U.S. Congress. I have truly been blessed by Senator Johnson's friendship, counsel, and mentorship throughout the years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House to join my wife Vivian and me, along with the people of the state of Georgia, in recognizing and commending former State Senator Leroy Johnson for his outstanding professional achievements and service. Moreover, we extend our best wishes to him as he, his family, and friends celebrate his 90th birthday.

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