

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### MIKE JONES TRIBUTE

#### HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 30, 2018

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mike Jones, a Durango paramedic and firefighter, who recently passed away after 40 years of service to his community.

Mike's life of service began at Mercy Hospital where he started working as an orderly. A few years into his career, he became a paramedic with the ambulance service. In 1973, he became a volunteer firefighter for the Animas Fire Protection District and he went on to serve as the Interim Fire Chief for the district. Later on in his career, he was employed with the Durango Fire and Rescue Authority as well as the Durango Fire Protection District.

Mike was known by many for his compassion and empathy, often cooking dinner for the families of patients who had passed away. Mike's many good qualities were what compelled Durango Fire Deputy Chief Randy Black to have all new hires work with Mike. He wanted them to learn how to properly care for the sick and injured from the best of the best, and Mike was the best.

It was not just his work ethic and service to his community that set him apart, he will be remembered for his humor as well. In the early 1990s, he drove a fire truck across a bridge on the way to a fire after being assured that it could hold the weight of the truck. Unfortunately, the bridge collapsed, and the truck got stuck. As his truck was being pulled out, a photographer with a local news outlet snapped a picture of Mike grinning from ear to ear in front of the truck. For all who worked with and around him, it was an expression Mike frequently wore and perfectly encapsulated his positive outlook and light-hearted nature.

Mr. Speaker, Mike's impact on the Durango community will never be forgotten and it is my privilege to acknowledge his achievements and generosity here today. We were fortunate to have such an upstanding individual call the Third Congressional District home. On behalf of everyone in the Durango community, I would like to thank Mike for his service and honor the admirable life he lived.

### HONORING MARY O'KEEFFE

#### HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 30, 2018

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a former longtime member of my staff, Mary O'Keeffe, for her work in my office and her service to our state.

Mary started on our team during my first term in Congress, serving as my foreign affairs Legislative Assistant. During her time in

our office, she advised me on a variety of policy issues, served as our lead staffer with the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and helped develop numerous pieces of legislation. After leaving our office, Mary went on to work for Rep. ANDY HARRIS and now serves as the Chief of Staff for the Maryland Transportation Authority.

On a personal note, I admire Mary's loyalty, intellect and work ethic. She has been a valuable member of our team, and I have no doubt Mary's future is very bright. I want to thank Mary for her friendship and her hard work in our office. I wish her continued success in all that God has planned for her and her family.

### THE FIGHTIN' TEXAS AGGIE CORPS OF CADETS: 142 YEARS OF TRADITION

#### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 30, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Texas A&M University opened its doors to 40 students in 1876 as the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas. Created under The Morrill Act, which stipulated that all students participate in military training, all Texas A&M students (at that time, admission was limited to white males) were members of the Corps of Cadets.

Aggies have been serving with honor in the armed forces since the Spanish American War of 1898. During the Spanish American War, 89 Aggies served in the Army, and 63 Aggies served as officers. When the United States became involved in World War I, 702 A&M graduates served in the military, and 668 graduates were officers. Texas A&M also trained over 4,000 troops during World War I.

It was World War II, however, when Texas A&M exhibited its expertise in training soldiers as well as scholars. On December 7, 1941, students were watching a movie at the Campus Theatre. Upon hearing about the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor, the theater manager shut off the film projector to announce the attack. "Beat the Hell out of Japan" became a rallying cry across campus, encouraging students to enlist. In order to speed up the process of sending more Aggies to the front lines of the war, Texas A&M instituted a twelve-month, three semester training program to prepare its soldiers. According to an article in the Houston Post in November 1942, courses were scheduled 24 hours a day to prevent crowding in workshops and laboratories. Notably, the entire graduating classes of 1941 and 1942 enlisted in the armed services immediately following graduation.

One of these individuals was Arthur Lowell Lapham. Mr. Lapham was a fourth generation Texan and a proud Fightin' Texas Aggie who enlisted on June 30, 1942. He would go on to fight for the United States in the Pacific The-

ater, serving as a fighter pilot in the Army Air Force in Japan and the Philippines. Mr. Lapham was one of 20,000 Aggies who served in World War II. 14,000 of these men were officers and twenty-nine were commissioned as generals. Close to 1,000 Aggies died in combat for this great nation; seven Aggies were awarded the Medal of Honor.

Membership in the Corps of Cadets is now voluntary at Texas A&M; however, the university continues its tradition of training men and women to serve their country through military service. To this day, Texas A&M is the largest provider of military officers outside of the service academies.

General George S. Patton once said, "Give me an army of West Point graduates, and I'll win a battle. Give me a handful of Texas Aggies, and I'll win a war."

And that's just the way it is.

### HONORING THE LATE KEN GNADT, FORMER MAYOR OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA

#### HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 30, 2018

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Ken Gnad of Grand Island, Nebraska, who passed away in September after many years of faithful service to his community.

Along with his extensive and lifelong volunteer involvement, Ken served as mayor of Grand Island from 1994 to 2002, a member of Rotary International for over five decades, and a Charter Board Member of Grand Island's internationally-attended annual farm show, Husker Harvest Days.

Born in Alma, Kansas, Ken's work in agribusiness included stints in Texas, Iowa, and nearly seven years in Taiwan where he worked to strengthen Nebraska's valuable economic partnership with Taiwan. He obtained his bachelor's and master's degrees in Animal Science from Kansas State University and a graduate degree in banking from the University of Wisconsin.

I offer my condolences to Ken's five children, four grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren who survive him. He was an active member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church and left a legacy that touched and improved many facets of life in Grand Island and greater Hall County from tourism to education and healthcare.

Ken was named a Distinguished NEBRASKAlander by the NEBRASKAland Foundation in 2012 for his lifetime contributions to agribusiness and neighborly service to the state of Nebraska and the Grand Island community. Ken joined the Grand Island Community Foundation Board of Trustees in 2014.

On behalf of Nebraska's Third District, I thank Ken Gnad for his remarkable leadership and commitment to community service. He will

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