

CONGRATULATING ROD SMITH ON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE MISSOURI SPORTS HALL OF FAME

### HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 4, 2019*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Rod Smith, longtime Sports Director at KRCG-TV Jefferson City, for his recent induction into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame.

Growing up in Naperville, Illinois, Rod shared his father's love of sports, playing baseball, basketball, golf, tennis and even hockey as a child. In 1985, Rod graduated from Oral Roberts University and started his career at KRCG. Jefferson City was not on his radar when Rod graduated, but after attending college in Tulsa and his parents still living in Chicago it was a good central location. His career at KRCG started out with reporting the weather and sports on the weekend. He didn't expect to stay at KRCG forever, but when he met Lana at Capital City Christian Church everything changed. The two fell in love and built a life in Jefferson City.

Throughout his three decades of passionately delivering sports news to Jefferson City residents Rod has become an icon and celebrity in the local community. He has watched generations of student athletes excel in their respective sport and has cheered them on with pride. During this longstanding career he has also had the privilege to cover two Super Bowls: Rams and Tennessee Titans and Rams and New England Patriots; World Series games: St. Louis Cardinals and Kansas City Royals; NCAA tournaments; Missouri bowl games; and SEC football games. Perhaps his best claim to fame in the Midwest is "Rod's Big ol' Fish!" segment that is dedicated to showcasing the many catches from anglers across the region.

Along with sports broadcasting Rod is known throughout the community for his many emcee appearances which include fundraisers like the Mid-Missouri Heart Association Heart Ball, American Cancer Society Relay for Life, United Cerebral Palsy's "Wing Ding" and "Deal or No Deal", and the YMCA and Samaritan Center auctions. The Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Young Life, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and many other events also appreciate his energetic and positive energy. In 2018 alone, Rod emceed no less than 35 of the area's fund-raising events. As an accomplished golfer, Rod has been able to participate in 15 charity tournaments each year on behalf of KRCG and Naught-Naught Insurance Agency.

The biggest supporters throughout Rod's longstanding career are his wife of 31 years, Lana, and daughters, Brittany, Brooke, and Paige. While his love of sports is evident, Rod's family has unquestionably been his number one priority and, even with his hectic broadcasting schedule, he was able to coach all three girls in softball and basketball. I have no doubt they are as proud of their father today as he has been of them throughout their lives.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating Rod Smith on his induction into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2019. This milestone is well deserved.

HONORING SESSIA WYCHE AT CONGRESSMAN VELA'S BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

### HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 4, 2019*

Mr. VELA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Sessia Wyche, a dedicated educator in the Rio Grande Valley.

Mr. Wyche earned his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science from Texas A&I University in Kingsville. He helped his peers as a mathematics tutor and a graduate teaching assistant. As a Second Line Manager and Programmer at Southwestern Bell in Texas, he wrote computer programs and helped the company with its inventories.

An avid tutor, Mr. Wyche returned to academics as a leader for students interested in mathematics and the sciences. He served as Assistant Chairman of the Mathematics and Physics Department at Texas State Technical College (TSTC), and as Assistant Professor of Mathematics at The University of Texas at Brownsville (UTB) and Texas Southmost College (TSC).

As Director of Computer Directed Instruction in Math at UTB and TSC, he received the "Teacher of the Year" award, "Chancellor's Council Outstanding Teaching" Award, and "The National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development" award. Currently, Mr. Wyche is teaching the future mathematicians of the Valley at TSTC. In his spare time, he volunteers as a chaplain in hospitals across the Valley.

I am pleased to recognize Mr. Wyche for his contributions to Texas' 34th Congressional district. He is a role model for our children, and we are thankful for his compassion to serve those in need. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing him, his family and friends on this special day.

IN RECOGNITION OF UC DAVIS' 14TH ANNUAL WOMEN'S HEART CARE FORUM

### HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 4, 2019*

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the UC Davis Women's Cardiovascular Medicine Program as they celebrate their 14th Annual Women's Heart Care Forum. As community organizations and supporters of this program gather today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring their commitment to the promotion of women's heart health in the Sacramento region and its surrounding areas.

For 25 years, the UC Davis Women's Cardiovascular Medicine Program has received national recognition as the first women's heart program in the country. Under the leadership of Program Director Amparo Villablanca, doctors and nurses at the Women's Cardiovascular Medicine Program have continued to provide comprehensive treatment, education, outreach and research, benefitting women throughout our region. The program's exceptional commitment to women's heart health

has empowered women by providing knowledge of how to decrease their risk factors for heart disease and pursue healthier lifestyles.

Madam Speaker, as community organizations, staff and supporters gather at the forum to raise awareness about heart disease, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring the UC Davis Women's Cardiovascular Medicine Program for their years of service dedicated to advancing women's heart health.

THE SITUATION IN VENEZUELA

### HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 4, 2019*

Ms. MOORE. Madam Speaker, I oppose U.S. military intervention in Venezuela. I am a cosponsor of legislation that would make that crystal clear to this Administration. At the same time, I strongly and unequivocally condemn reported acts of violence that have been carried out by security forces against Venezuelans peacefully exercising their fundamental civil rights, including to protest.

We must find other ways to continue to express our nation's legitimate concerns, as well as that of the rest of the international community, about the attacks on human rights and democracy underway in that nation. I am aware of the demonstrations that Venezuelans, opposed to Nicolas Maduro and his cronies, have held amid a deep and ongoing political and economic crisis.

While continuing to condemn violence against protestors and attacks on basic democratic rights and institutions, the U.S. must also press for multilateral diplomatic actions to help create the conditions for a peaceful return to democratic order in Venezuela. Additionally, any sanctions (either bilaterally or multilaterally) imposed against Venezuela must be targeted at government officials and coordinated to avoid worsening the country's dire humanitarian emergency. And let's be clear, sanctions are not an end to themselves and do not substitute for smart and disciplined diplomacy.

The U.S. should support international efforts to achieve a negotiated resolution. Rather than trying to repeat all the mistakes of our failed foreign policy of the past in this region, I urge this Administration to engage with other partners in order to best facilitate a return to democracy.

Lastly, I share concerns about the individual, Elliott Abrams, appointed by this Administration to serve as a "special envoy" to Venezuela. His history, particularly with regards to his views on U.S. policy in this region, disqualify him to serve as an impartial implementer of a strong diplomatic effort to reach a peaceful resolution. Among other concerns, this individual was twice convicted of lying to Congress and has long held troubling views on how the U.S. should engage with governments in the region with which it disagrees.

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.