

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING DAVID MINGUS ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM MAYOR OF EAST PEORIA

**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 25, 2019*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize David Mingus for his retirement from the position of mayor in East Peoria, Illinois. Mayor Mingus has served as the mayor of East Peoria for 12 years.

Mayor Mingus' retirement from this position brings to an end a long chapter in his outstanding career in public service. As a certified counselor and social worker, Mayor Mingus has used his knowledge and expertise to better the East Peoria community. In addition to serving as the city's mayor, Mayor Mingus spent three terms on the City Council and served on the local School Board. Serving his community has always been a passion of Mayor Mingus' ever since he earned a master's degree in counseling and human development, and went on to begin a career in the mental health field. He served as director of Neighborhood House in Peoria, as well as CEO of the Tazwood Mental Health Board. I commend Mayor Mingus for all of his efforts to better the community of East Peoria and wish him well as he takes on new professional opportunities in his career.

It is because of dedicated leaders such as David Mingus that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate David Mingus on his retirement as mayor and thank him for his service to the community.

HONORING TWENTY-TWO TEACHERS OF THE GREATER BOCA RATON AREA

**HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 25, 2019*

Mr. DEUTCH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the twenty-two outstanding teachers in South Florida who have been awarded the Teacher of the Year award from the Rotary Club of Boca Raton Sunrise.

For the past 33 years, the Rotary Club of Boca Raton Sunrise has offered this annual distinction to one teacher at each of the twenty-two schools in the greater Boca Raton area. Each awardee is selected by the school's principal. These teachers have dedicated their time to inspiring, empowering, and bettering the next generation of youth in our community. Their passion in this effort is truly worthy of our recognition.

These twenty-two exemplary teachers have made a profound impact on their students through their caring, commitment, and profes-

sionalism. They are a cohort defined by integrity, excellence, and the highest marks in all they do. The City of Boca Raton is fortunate to have such outstanding faculty.

Congratulations to Jennifer O'Sullivan, James Wade, Theo Wiles, Mary Donnelly, Sarah Call, Scott Johnson, Mary Cavaioi, Laurel Cash, Mary Giddings, Sunshine Grunstein, Kimberly Attias, Scott Fontaine, Susan Kinderman, Richard Andreacchio, Bogdan Paraschivoiu, Kathleen Kaminsky, Kevin McEnroe, Joann Tatham, Anna Lombado, Catrina D'Annunzio, Jennifer Napuli, and Melissa Romero on being nominated for this year's teacher of the year award.

I am pleased to honor them, and I thank them for their continued service.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL DELWYN SEVERIO MERKERSON

**HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 25, 2019*

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, our brave men and women of the Armed Forces continuously make sacrifices to keep our nation strong and free. Among the ranks is Colonel Delwyn Severio Merkerson, who I want to recognize today for his 30 years of service in the United States Army and the United States Army Reserve.

General Colin Powell once stated, "Success is the result of perfection, hard work, learning from failure, loyalty and persistence." Colonel Merkerson's military service is a shining example of success at its finest. He made numerous substantial and lasting contributions to the quality, effectiveness, and readiness of the United States Army and the United States Army Reserve at operational and strategic levels.

Colonel Merkerson served in various positions over his 30-year career, as an artillery officer, budget officer, Deputy J-1 during a deployment in Afghanistan, Battalion Commander, Deputy Director for Reserve Component Policy, and finally as Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1. Colonel Merkerson's entire career was characterized by strong leadership, resolute mission-focus for achieving intrinsic excellence, and a genuine commitment to the welfare of soldiers, civilians, and families. He served as a model to the many who served with him and is nothing short of a transformational leader.

The cost of freedom is always high. However, our military personnel do not shoulder the stress and sacrifice of military service alone. The backbone of their commitment lies with their families. Colonel Merkerson's wife Noel, sons Delwyn Jr., Kolby, Kaden and Staff Sergeant Daven Gates and daughters Raisha and Private Deja McCree have stood proudly by his side throughout the years. To them also, we offer a warm and heartfelt thank you.

Madam Speaker, for these reasons, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Colonel Delwyn Merkerson.

HONORING BETH KILLIAN FOR HER SERVICE TO SYRACUSE MEALS ON WHEELS

**HON. JOHN KATKO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 25, 2019*

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Beth Killian's dedicated involvement with Meals on Wheels Syracuse. Throughout her nine years with the organization, Ms. Killian has worked as both a volunteer and treasurer, playing an integral role in updating and managing the organization's records.

Meals on Wheels Syracuse is an important part of our Central New York community, providing home delivery food service to seniors throughout the region. Volunteers like Ms. Killian are the foundation of Meals on Wheels Syracuse, and are a vital part of delivering healthy meals, nutrition education, and resource assistance to the most vulnerable members of our community.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in honoring Beth Killian and her philanthropic spirit. Through Ms. Killian's involvement with Meals on Wheels Syracuse, senior citizens in Central New York have the ability to continue living independent lives while not having to worry about their next meal. Ms. Killian's service has contributed to a better Central New York and it is volunteers like her who strengthen communities around the country.

LARRY KIKER

**HON. FRANCIS ROONEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 25, 2019*

Mr. ROONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lee County Commissioner Larry Kiker, who passed away early Tuesday, April 23 at Hope Hospice.

Mr. Kiker grew up in Clovis, New Mexico and moved to Southwest Florida two decades ago. After moving to Florida, he became a charter boat captain and then owned and operated a Fort Myers Beach realty company with his beloved wife, Paula.

Larry was first elected to the county commission in 2012—defeating a 24-year incumbent commissioner—and won re-election in 2016. Prior to his service as commissioner, Mr. Kiker had a long career in managing customer service at several high-tech companies, and served as a Fort Myers Beach Town Councilman and as mayor. Larry's leadership and team building skills were well recognized by his peers and the citizens of Southwest Florida.

Larry served our community with honor. We are all grateful for his contributions and commitment to our community. His passion, intellect, and wit will be long remembered, and

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