

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF BOOKER T. STEPHENS, EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT JUDGE, McDOWELL COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

HON. CAROL D. MILLER

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Mrs. MILLER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Judge Booker T. Stephens, as he retires from serving 34 years on the bench in the Eighth Judicial Circuit, McDowell County, West Virginia.

Judge Stephens was born in Bluefield, West Virginia, and raised in McDowell County, West Virginia. He graduated from Excelsior High School in War, West Virginia. In 1966, Judge Stephens obtained his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science and Spanish from West Virginia State College (University). He served proudly in the U.S. Army from 1966 to 1968. Upon completion of his tour of duty in the U.S. Army, Judge Stephens obtained his law degree from Howard University's School of Law in Washington, DC. He returned back to Welch, WV to practice law from 1972 to 1984.

Booker T. Stephens has served as a Judge in the Eight Judicial Circuit of McDowell County, West Virginia, ascending to the bench in 1985. He was elected to the Eighth Judicial Circuit and re-elected in 1992, 2000, 2008, and 2016. Judge Stephens is admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia and the Supreme Court of the United States of America. He serves as a member of the prestigious Supreme Court of Appeals Mass Litigation Panel and is a former member of the Executive Committee of the National Conference of State Trial Court Judges with the American Bar Association. Judge Stephens has been appointed numerous times to sit as a Justice on the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia when a Justice has been recused from a case. He was a member of the Standing Committee on Minorities in the Judiciary of the American Bar Association; a member of the Supreme Court's Task Force to Study Perceived Racial Disparity in the Juvenile Justice System in West Virginia; and a former Adjunct Professor at West Virginia University's College of Law and Bluefield State College. Judge Stephens has served as an assistant prosecutor and a member of the West Virginia House of Delegates.

Judge Stephens has received many honors during his years on the bench. He was named Outstanding Judge of the Year in 1993 and 2016 by the West Virginia Trial Lawyers Association. He has been a recipient of the Governor's Living The Dream Award by the Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. Holiday Commission; The Fred H. Caplan Civil Justice Award by the West Virginia Association of Justice; Sara Lee Neal Community Award of the Year for Health, Science and Technology Academy; inducted into the West Virginia All Black Schools Sports

and Academic Hall of Fame; presented the American Bar Association's Law Day Liberty Bell Award by Chief Justice Brent Benjamin; presented Judge of the Year Award by the West Virginia Association of Justice; presented the Achievement Award by the Mountain State Bar Association in 1985; a Fellow with the West Virginia Bar Foundation; honorary inductee to the West Virginia State University ROTC Hall of Fame; West Virginia Judicial Association Representative to the American Bar; selected by the Bluefield Daily Telegraph to be featured in the 2005 "Pride" Edition of Heroes and Legends; Layman of the Year recognition from the West Virginia Baptist State Layman's Auxiliary; Presidential Citation, National Association for Equal Opportunity in High Education; Diploma of Judicial Skills, American Academy of Judicial Education; Certificates of Achievement, The National Judicial College; Achievement Award, Mountain State Bar Association; Earl Warren Fellow, NAACP LDF; co-sponsored and Floor Leader of the Bill that created a West Virginia Holiday in recognition of Dr. Martin L. King's birthday. He is a member of the Board of West Virginia State University Foundation and a member of the Multi-Cultural Affairs Advisory Committee at Bluefield State College. Judge Stephens is a highly sought out speaker and lecturer. In 1996, Judge Stephens delivered a memorable and stirring commencement address during the commencement exercises of West Virginia State University.

Judge Stephens has presided over several noteworthy cases in the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals, which include H. Harvey Oakley, C.W. Ferguson, III and Elsa Louise Kingdon, as a widow and Executrix of the estate of Arthur R. Kingdon v. Glen B. Gainer, A. James Manchin, and Martha Merritt, No. 16584, May 31, 1985. Authored the Majority Opinion alone with Justice Chafin; Sam R. Harshbarger v. The Honorable Glen B. Gainer, State Auditor, November 23, 1988; TXO v. Alliance resources, 419 S.E. 2d 8870,1992 (Affirmed by the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals 5-0 and United States Supreme Court 6-3).

One of the many things Judge Stephens is proud of is the implementation of Law Day in McDowell County, an annual event that coincides with the American Bar Association's Law Day. In its 23rd year in McDowell County, Law Day provides an opportunity for students to learn how the judicial system works and stimulate an early desire to pursue a rewarding career in law. Judge Stephens often states, "I know of no greater profession than being a lawyer."

Judge Stephens along with his wife, Attorney Gloria Stephens believe in giving back to their community and have established an endowment scholarship fund at West Virginia State University. In recognition of this endowment, West Virginia State University's bookstore was named the Judge Booker T. and Attorney Gloria Stephens bookstore.

Outside of his legal work, Judge Stephens is a Life Member of the NAACP; a member of

the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity; Delta Theta Phi Legal Fraternity and Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity. He is a 32nd Degree Mason and affiliated with the MWPHGL Jurisdiction of WV, Inc. F & A M; PM Excelsior Lodge No. 22; PM Kimball Lodge No. 13; and PG Trustee. Judge Stephens has taught bible study at Mt. Chapel Baptist Church, Golden Harvest Nursing Home, and Elkhorn Towers. He serves faithfully at his church, Heart of God Ministries, in Beckley, West Virginia.

Judge Stephens is married to Attorney Gloria M. Davis Stephens. They have two children, Attorney Ciara M. Stephens, of Los Angeles, California and Booker T. Stephens, II of Welch, West Virginia and a new grandson, Sebastian.

Over the course of Judge Stephens' successful law career, he has lived and practiced by the scripture in Luke 12:48 of the Bible, "From everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required . . ." Judge Booker T. Stephens has given much to his state and community in West Virginia.

As Congresswoman for the Third Congressional District of the State of West Virginia, it is my distinct honor to rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions, distinguished career in law and community service of Judge Booker T. Stephens in the State of West Virginia, as he retires on May 31, 2019, from serving 34 years on the bench.

HONORING PAT MCCORMICK

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Pat McCormick for 46 years of exemplary service to our community on the central coast of California. First serving as a Planning Technician for Santa Cruz County and later as a Planning Director for the City of Capitola, Mr. McCormick's prolific career of public service is ending with his retirement from the position of Executive Officer for the Santa Cruz County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), a position Mr. McCormick has held with distinction for over 39 years.

Mr. McCormick has worked passionately to encourage orderly growth of urban development and ensure that it did not interfere with agricultural lands on the Central Coast. Over the years, he has made significant contributions to the development of Santa Cruz County by proposing over 1,200 boundary changes and LAFCO actions. Working closely with City Council Members, County Supervisors, and local stakeholders, Mr. McCormick has helped the Central Coast responsibly grow into the incredible community it is today.

Throughout his career, Mr. Pat McCormick has been recognized on numerous occasions by the California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions. In 2009, he was honored with the Outstanding LAFCO Professional Award and was recognized in 2018 with

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