

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING MR. PATRICK CERMAK FOR RECEIVING THE LEWIS UNIVERSITY SIGNUM FIDEI AWARD

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Patrick Cermak, President and Chief Operating Officer of Wight and Company, for receiving the Lewis University Signum Fidei Award. The Signum Fidei Award, meaning "sign of faith," honors a distinguished member of the community that embodies the Lasallian mission of faith and service to the community.

Throughout his career, Pat has taken on many roles to help others succeed. Since joining Wight and Company in 2001, he has led the company's daily operations and overseen its financial management. Under his leadership, Wight and Company has experienced steady growth and instituted numerous initiatives including the Wight Sustainability Forum. The broad base of support for Pat's leadership demonstrates his credentials as an effective leader and his ability to work collaboratively to build long-term partnerships.

Pat Cermak has always strived to serve others unconditionally. He has been deeply involved with the Metropolitan Planning Council and Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce. His tireless work has helped ensure that Chicagoland remains vibrant and sustainable. In another role, Pat serves as an Executive Board Member of the Design Futures Council. His work through this organization continues to shape the future of the architecture, engineering, and construction industry to benefit the people that it serves.

But in talking about all that Pat Cermak has done and achieved, it is essential to mention that what is most important to him is his faith and his family, and all who know him know what a kind and caring man he is.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Patrick Cermak on this tremendous honor. He is a man who lives out the values of faith and service to the community in all that he does. I thank him for his service and wish him and his family the best.

RECOGNITION OF EL PASO COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. WILL HURD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Mr. HURD of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the El Paso Community College in El Paso, Texas. Since opening in 1969, El Paso Community College has provided students with quality and affordable education.

With 28 students graduating in 1971, the ELCC has since graduated over 80,000. It boasts 5 campuses in the El Paso area, including its first campus at Fort Bliss Army Base. The college's more than 130 distinct programs give their average of 29,000 enrollees per semester a diverse array of career options to choose from.

Under President William Serrata, I know El Paso Community College will continue to thrive and benefit the members of the El Paso community for years to come, living true to their motto as the "Best Place to Start—and Finish." I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating their 50th anniversary.

HONORING DR. ERIC HOLMES FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO YORK CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT AND PUBLIC EDUCATION

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Mr. SMUCKER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor former York City School District Superintendent Eric Holmes, who retired earlier this year after over thirty years of exceptional service with the district.

Beginning as a high school social studies teacher, Dr. Holmes served in a number of leadership capacities for the York City School District, before being named the district's 14th superintendent on July 1, 2013.

Dr. Holmes led the district to success during challenging times, including seeing the district through a state-mandated financial recovery plan. The district added a STEAM-science, technology, engineering, arts and math-academy through 10th grade and improved its benchmarks for student achievement.

Following the announcement of his retirement, Dr. Holmes said during an interview that: "It's a team effort, and that's the only way we would be able to accomplish our goals."

We know that good teams have great leaders and that is true of Dr. Holmes and his leadership with the York City School District. I thank him for his many years of service improving the lives of countless students in York County.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHARIS BIBLE COLLEGE

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to honor the 25th Anniversary of Charis Bible College. It is nothing short of miraculous to observe the growth that has taken

place within the past quarter-century. Charis was founded as Colorado Bible College in 1994 and was originally located in Colorado Springs.

Charis has grown from its first graduating class of 33 people in 1996, to include 26 campuses in the United States and 22 international locations. Charis's main campus has moved from the Springs to Woodland Park and is located on a beautiful piece of property overlooking Pikes Peak.

In my district, the Charis campus provides multiple programs of Bible-based education including a practical government degree. It also hosts faith-based events throughout the year with discussions on Christian art, culture, and politics.

Charis Bible College was created by Andrew Wommack, who has been a pioneer in Christian education and ministry. His vision to have men and women steeped in scripture has changed countless lives in my district and around the world.

It was not Andrew's original plan to create a college, but he was inspired by 2 Timothy 2:2 which says "And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." 25 years after receiving an answer to his prayer, Andrew is continuing to innovate and inspire new students.

Charis students and graduates have invested themselves in our nation through prison ministry, care for the homeless, church planting, healing of the sick, relief from addiction, service in our schools, establishment of Christian businesses, and practicing grace-touched citizenship that transforms culture, in the tradition of William Wilberforce.

It is my hope and prayer that as Charis continues to grow, it will continue its mission in Woodland Park for many years to come.

RECOGNIZING JUDY PRESTON OF RONAN

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Judy Preston of Ronan, for serving her community and her leadership of the Bread Basket in Ronan.

An experienced project manager, Judy understands the importance of building effective business logistics. She serves as the organizational leader for Skill Builders, a company aimed at helping businesses improve overall performance. She is also a graduate of the Leadership Montana program which helps enhance participants' leadership skills.

Judy recently concluded her two-year term as board chair of the Ronan Bread Basket, a nonprofit organization that has provided food to neighbors in need for more than 30 years. Under her leadership, the emergency food pantry grew to triple its original size, increasing its capacity to serve others. The group's board expanded to 11 members.

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