

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING THE 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE PAUL L. FOSTER SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT THE TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER EL PASO

HON. VERONICA ESCOBAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2020

Ms. ESCOBAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the ten-year anniversary of the Paul L. Foster School of Medicine at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso. For ten years, the Foster School of Medicine has provided quality medical education to future physicians that will serve the health care needs of patients throughout the country.

In 2008, prior to the opening of the Foster School of Medicine, El Paso County's average number of direct care physicians per 100,000 people was 75 percent less than the national average. In an effort to alleviate this severe shortage of physicians in the region, government leaders, community physicians, and community supporters worked to establish a four-year medical school in El Paso.

The Foster School of Medicine has the distinct honor of becoming the first four-year medical school on the United States-Mexico border. It was also one of the first medical schools in the U.S. to integrate medical Spanish into its curriculum, allowing our nation's future physicians to provide culturally competent care.

The Foster School of Medicine focuses its curriculum on community service. In 2013, the Foster School of Medicine established the Medical Student Run Clinic by a group of students from the inaugural class with the help of faculty and staff. Students serve the community of Sparks in far East El Paso, where the majority of the population is uninsured. The Medical Student Run Clinic is often their only access to health care.

Congratulations to the Foster School of Medicine for their achievements in this decade. And I thank the faculty, staff, and students for being leaders in health care while giving back to the El Paso community.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MEGAN BELL

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2020

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Megan Bell, my Chief of Staff, as she moves on from my Washington office after nearly 13 years of service. During her time on Capitol Hill, she has been a trusted advisor, an appropriations watchdog for this great Nation, and most im-

portantly—a tireless advocate for the people of Southern and Eastern Kentucky.

Megan grew up the only daughter of a middle-class, blue-collar Irish-Catholic family. Those “up-early” and “hard-at-it” values have shown up every day to the Rayburn Building.

Knowing the issues that matter most in my home district, she has been a consummate advocate on everything from combatting prescription drug abuse and preserving and protecting the Mill Springs Battlefield, to giving a voice to individuals at risk of losing vital benefits and boosting opportunities in our coalfields. In fact, she helped create a pilot grant program to provide an influx of federal dollars directly to our coal communities for economic development as they continue to rebuild in the wake of the War on Coal, which she precisely described as “strangulation by regulation.” Likewise, her tough, dogged oversight of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers helped protect the business and community interests of our rural region, and the entire Lake Cumberland area during the unprecedented repairs of Wolf Creek Dam.

She contributed to the remarkable success of the National Rx Drug Abuse and Heroin Summit, working alongside my district director Karen Kelly, to rally the White House and leaders from every stakeholder agency to help lead a holistic movement that is now the largest gathering of federal, state and community leaders focused on life-saving efforts to fight the national opioid crisis. The entire prescription drug abuse and opioid fight wasn't just another issue for Megan, but one she passionately invested countless hours to study and understand at every level. She knows the opioid fight, the convictions of my heart, and the challenges in our communities, backwards and forwards. As a result of her expertise and expansive network, we called on other federal leaders to stand up to “Big Pharma” corruption, and enacted effective policy and legislative changes, like Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs, starting the Congressional Caucus on Prescription Drug Abuse, and so many other efforts that will continue to impact the opioid epidemic for many years to come.

Navigating legislative ropes, surviving long hours, and becoming a glorified policy wonk inside these historic hallways, requires much more than a juris doctorate, which she impressively earned while working full-time in my office. In her time on my team, Megan has rightfully earned recognition far beyond Washington for her astute knowledge of multiple issues and has truly risen amongst her peers as a result of her sheer moxie, her engaging personality, and always maintaining a refreshing voice of reason.

Our staff is much like family and every departure is bittersweet. As we offer well-wishes and work to fill the void of such a talented leader, I wish Megan the very best in the next chapter of her successful life and look forward to witnessing the accomplishments that are sure to come in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF PASTOR ITASKER HOLLINS, SR.

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2020

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I rise to honor the life of Pastor Itasker Hollins, Sr., who passed away on February 2, 2020 at the age of 82. His legacy will live on through the love of his family and friends. Pastor Hollins was blessed with the support of his family, his wife Julia, daughters Judith, Diane, Nancy, son Elder Itasker, Jr., their spouses, and grandchildren, as well as sisters and brothers, nieces and nephews, and church family.

On April 20, 1937 in Dallas, Texas, Pastor Hollins was born the 13th of 15 children to Pastor Booker T. Hollins, Sr. and Missionary Viola Hollins. In 1952 his family relocated to California. Pastor Hollins met Julia in 1955 and they married two years later. They created a loving family of three daughters and one son.

Many momentous achievements outline Pastor Hollins' career. In 1975, he and Julia began services at the Oak Park Methodist Church in Sacramento, California. He and his wife later formed the All Nations Church on Broadway in the heart of the Oak Park community. There, the congregation benefited from programs including a weekly food bank, annual home buyers' seminars, financial classes, jail and prison outreach programs, yearly prostate and breast cancer seminars, computer training, tutoring programs, and summer youth programs. The project was named “The Miracle on Broadway”. The work of Pastor Hollins and his wife only continued to grow. In 2013, the Itasker Hollins Community Economic Development Corporation, in partnership with the Related California Corporation, built a senior complex in Oak Park. For over four decades, Pastor Hollins served the ministry, earning him recognition as a spiritual and community leader.

Madam Speaker, today we honor Pastor Itasker Hollins, Sr. and his contributions to our community. His legacy will live on forever.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE HOLDING

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2020

Mr. HOLDING. Madam Speaker, I was inadvertently detained and unable to make votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 55; and YEA on Roll Call No. 56.

● This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.