

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN MEMORY OF AARON SHEPLEY

### HON. SEAN CASTEN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 5, 2020*

Mr. CASTEN of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Aaron Shepley. The State of Illinois has lost one of its most capable and dedicated public servants with the tragic death of Crystal Lake's longtime Mayor. In his long service to the community, as both mayor and city council member, a founding member of the drumline group the Crystal Lake Strikers, and dedicated husband and father, Aaron led with quiet humility, approachability, and selflessness.

A resident of Crystal Lake since 1972, Aaron was passionate and unwavering in his advocacy for the city, and eager to work in a unifying and positive manner to assist its residents. In a time when politics more often divides us, Aaron was most professionally proud of the congenial relationships among his fellow council members and the work of the Crystal Lake city staff. He leaves a beautiful legacy of highly competent and unselfish public service that should inspire us all.

In addition to his civic work, Aaron was also a drummer dedicated to supporting aspiring musicians. After learning to play drums for his 40th birthday, Aaron and two friends started Strikers, a drum line for adult percussionists. In the decade since their founding, the Strikers have gained local and national notoriety, and created several educational programs to support the performing arts in the northwest suburbs of Chicago. Aaron was the driving force behind the Strikers' Evening of Percussion fundraising event, and in the 11 years of awarding scholarships, the Strikers have provided over \$50,000 to local students.

Aaron Shepley was a class act, and I am grateful to have known and learned from him. I extend my deepest sympathy to Aaron's wife Regan and their daughters Chase and Madison, and the people of Crystal Lake, for this tremendous loss.

TRIBUTE TO ROMEO WATKINS

### HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 5, 2020*

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a faithful, civic-minded man and a dear friend, Romeo Watkins, the father of my long-time Chief of Staff Yelberton Watkins, transitioned from this life on April 30, 2020. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

Romeo Watkins was a native of the Ridgewood community of Columbia, South Carolina. He was the third of eight children born to the late Deacon Leroy and Beatrice Harris Watkins. His was a close-knit family, with his ma-

ternal grandmother, Agnes Harris, living next door. She took Romeo and his siblings to her hometown of Bronson, Florida every summer, and played an important role in his upbringing. His maternal aunt, Mrs. Franklin Scott Harris, was very close to her nephew, and he spent many nights in her home across from the Governor's Mansion.

Romeo attended Ridgeway Elementary School and Booker T. Washington High School in Columbia. At a young age, he learned the value of hard work. In the mid-1960s, he became a civilian employee at the Fort Jackson U.S. Army training base and continued to work there until his retirement in 1993.

He began barbering as a 10-year old, practicing on his older brother Charles, and later owned and operated a barber shop on North Main Street in Columbia for over 40 years. Ever the entrepreneur, he was also a successful real estate agent. Known for his impeccable taste and style, he was always well dressed.

Those fortunate to know Mr. Watkins knew of his deep Christian faith. He was a life-long member of Ridgewood Baptist Church, joining as a child. A third-generation member, he served for many years on the Church History Committee and was regarded as a historian of the Ridgewood community. While he served in many capacities, his greatest joy at church was his long tenure as Leader of the Jubilee Choir, a role which his father held before him. He was well known throughout the city for his expert knowledge of shape-note singing of common meter hymns.

Mr. Watkins was also an avid golfer. It was on the golf course that we first met many years ago, and we bonded over our love of the sport. He learned to golf as a young caddy on Columbia's segregated golf courses, and he enjoyed playing in golf tournaments across Columbia and throughout the state. He was an annual attendee of my Rudolph Canzater Memorial Classic held each year in Santee, South Carolina, and he also served as a Commissioner of the Eau Claire Youth Baseball League.

Family was always at the center of his life. Left to cherish his memory are his wife of 58 years, Annette Caughman Watkins, and their four children: Quintus (Verdell) Young, Brigitte Watkins Long, Yelberton Romeo Watkins; and Vancito Ethridge Watkins; nine grandchildren: Quintus, Justin, Velicia, Gabrielle, Danielle, Autumn, Alexi, Tori, and Ashlyn; three great-grandchildren: Jamari, Raleigh, and Solomon; and a host of relatives, nieces, nephews, MeadowLake neighbors, and close friends.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of Romeo Watkins. He was a man grounded in faith and family, and no one can leave a greater legacy.

CONGRATULATING DALLAS KRUEGER FOR HIS WIN AT CLASS 1A STATE FINALS FOR WRESTLING AT THE IHSA STATE TOURNAMENT

### HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 5, 2020*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dallas Krueger, a senior from Rockridge High School, who won the Illinois High School Association's Class 1A State Finals Wrestling Tournament in the 138 pound weigh class.

At 138 pounds, Dallas pinned his opponent in four minutes and forty seconds to finish 47-0. As a former athlete, I appreciate the fortitude Dallas displayed to achieve his dream of being a state champion and commend him for his efforts and attitude. Dallas is an example of the importance of dedication and a strong work ethic, and I am proud to see him represent Taylor Ridge so well throughout the state with his talent and passion.

It is because of student leaders such as Dallas Krueger that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Dallas Krueger on his Class 1A State Finals title in Wrestling.

IN HONOR OF CHERISHED PUBLIC SERVANT, LETTER CARRIER MS. ANGELA SUMMERS—USPS

### HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 5, 2020*

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a cherished public servant of the United States Postal Service (USPS), Ms. Angela Summers.

Tragically, my congressional district, the 7th District of Indiana, recently lost Ms. Angela Summers, a Letter Carrier with the USPS, to gun violence while she was performing her duties on April 28, 2020. Angela joined the Postal Service almost two years ago, and she quickly became a prized employee. Her friends remember her as "fun-loving and bubbly." Her colleagues remember her as a public servant dedicated to customers. In turn her customers remember her not only as their Letter Carrier—but also as their friend, neighbor, and member of the community.

Postal workers are quite often the human face of government in our communities. They walk door-to-door in our neighborhoods, no matter the weather, earning the trust and confidence of our citizens, just as our neighbors earn our trust. Their deliveries not only mean that a highly anticipated package has arrived at your doorstep. Their work also serves as a subtle reminder that the government, composed of vast institutions, can still reach deep

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