

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND LOUIS P. SHELDON

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 15, 2020

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an individual, Reverend Louis P. Sheldon, who passed away at the age of 85 on May 29, 2020 in Orange County, California.

Born in Washington, D.C. in 1934, Sheldon became a Christian in his teens and earned a B.S. in history from Michigan State University in 1957. Sheldon and his wife, Beverly, married on August 24, 1957 and had four children. In 1960, Sheldon was ordained a Presbyterian minister. He would go on to serve as a pastor for churches in North Dakota and California. After spending 52 years in the Presbyterian church, Sheldon left in 2012 and was ordained as an Anglican priest.

Throughout his life Sheldon was a grassroots religious organizer and active advocate on many social and religious liberty issues in Washington, D.C. On many issues, Sheldon built coalitions encompassing hundreds, if not thousands, of churches across the nation. He was also a vocal proponent of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas during his nomination process, organizing the support of many churches and religious leaders.

I had the pleasure of knowing Sheldon throughout my time serving in Congress. He was a tremendously patriotic man of faith. I extend my heartfelt condolences to the Sheldon family and to all those who knew Rev. Sheldon.

HONORING IZAAH KNOX AS THE IOWAN OF THE WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 15, 2020

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Izaah Knox, community leader and Executive Director of Des Moines' own Urban Dreams, as our Iowan of the Week.

Service for the betterment of others is more than a hallmark of Izaah's career: it's his lifestyle. He's the epitome of a "walk the walk" leader—involved in all manners of activities intended to educate, empower, and raise up individuals in his community.

In his role as Executive Director of Urban Dreams, he leads a team of similarly dedicated Iowans within the heart of urban Des Moines to provide human service programs to the underserved and underrepresented. The non-profit offers critical services like outpatient substance abuse treatment and OWI weekend diversion classes, employment and after-school IT programs, community-police relations initiatives, mental health treatment, and

nonpartisan voter education. They're currently working on a project to build a community park adjacent to the Urban Dreams building so neighbors can gather, celebrate, and engage with one another. Despite narrow operating margins and much to do, Izaah is consistently finding ways to strengthen and expand programming to serve more Iowans in need.

Outside of Urban Dreams, Izaah sits on many boards and commissions working to raise awareness and combat issues of poverty, substance abuse, racial injustice, and urban blight. He's a past chair and current commissioner on the Des Moines Human and Civil Rights Commission, a Social Capital Tri-Chair for the Capital Crossroads project to address diversity and inclusion within metro Des Moines, and a board member for The Guardian Project to strengthen ties between Des Moines Police officers and community members. While there are more formal roles to mention, I'd rather note how Izaah also spends mornings having breakfast with students at Des Moines North High School. His efforts to make meaningful connections and address tough issues head on are leadership in action.

This honor today is hardly the first to recognize the unique determination and impact of Izaah Knox. In 2012, he was awarded the United States of America President's Volunteer Service Award, and in 2013 he was named one of Iowa's most influential people by the Des Moines Register. In 2016 he became one of the Des Moines Business Record's Forty Under 40. Central Iowa is watching this leader grow and recognizing his accomplishments along the way, and for very good reason.

Our future as a nation depends on the strength of our neighborhoods and communities; that's never been more evident than during these past few months. As COVID-19 spread, Izaah and the Urban Dreams team kept serving those in need by giving away free, hot meals in Evelyn K. Davis Park, providing mental health and substance abuse services through telehealth, and meeting in smaller groups to continue workforce training. And as protesters took to the streets following George Floyd's murder, Izaah has been there night after night to protect and support the youth voices leading the movement. His steady presence and dedication are helping guide Des Moines through these uncertain times.

Advocates like Izaah—those who are passionate about lifelong learning, connecting with people, and doing the work—are our most valuable agents of change. They push all of us to reflect on where we can be giving more of ourselves to make things better for those around us. We need people like Izaah to keep us moving forward. We need organizations like Urban Dreams to thrive so the individuals they serve can meet their highest potential. When we lift up one another, the whole community does better. That's something Izaah Knox not only understands, but also embodies, and it is my distinct honor to recognize him as our Iowan of the Week.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PLASTIC WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING ACT

HON. HALEY M. STEVENS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 15, 2020

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I am proud to introduce the Plastic Waste Reduction and Recycling Act with my colleague Representative GONZALEZ, as well as Chairwoman EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON and Ranking Member FRANK LUCAS, who have joined us as leading cosponsors of this bipartisan bill.

Plastic is invaluable in many applications. It's used as a high-performance material for medical devices and in safety components for automobiles. Plastic is also convenient. It's a mainstay in American households from our toothbrushes to food storage to shampoo and detergent bottles. Global plastic production increased from 2 million tons per year in 1950 to 400 million tons annually in recent years. What happens to all of the discarded plastic is why I am introducing this legislation today.

We can no longer deny that we face a plastic waste crisis. In 2018, the U.S. woke up to the fragile predicament of our plastic waste management system. No longer able to ship our plastic waste to international markets, U.S. cities were forced to cut longstanding recycling programs. Instead, they had to resort to incinerating recyclables or tossing them in landfills. There are plenty of reasons for why and how we got here; however, a major factor is because we failed as a nation to invest in domestic recycling infrastructure and policies to account for the growing demand for plastic. As a result, today, the U.S. recycles just 9 percent of its plastic waste.

The Plastic Waste Reduction and Recycling Act directs the establishment of a plastic waste reduction and recycling research and development program to develop a world-leading U.S. industry in advanced plastics recycling technologies, and unleash the innovative potential of our nation to address our plastic waste crisis and generate greater value from the plastics we do produce.

This approach has the potential to create jobs, develop supply chains, and meet environmental needs.

Most notably, this legislation authorizes research and development across several agencies and a range of topics, including plastics that are recyclable by design, next generation recycling technologies, upcycling into high-value products, and environmental impacts of plastic waste. This bill also calls on the Federal government to develop a strategic plan for plastic waste reduction and recycling and plastic waste remediation and to develop partnerships with States, local governments, academia, industry, and international partners to achieve those goals.

Finally, this legislation would help ensure U.S. leadership in national and international research and standards development for plastics recycling technologies. Advanced sorting

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