

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND
SERVICE OF WILLIAM JOHN
BETTERS

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 1, 2020

Mr. DEUTCH. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the late William John Betters for his distinguished service to our country and his community.

Born on December 1, 1924, William is a World War II veteran, having served in the U.S. Air Force from 1942–1945. Like many of his fellow Americans at the time, William was proud to enlist at the young age of 17. During his service he was awarded the World War II Victory Medal, the American Campaign Medal, the European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal and the Purple Heart.

After returning from serving his country, William created a business as self-employed plumber and contractor, building housing in his hometown. He also devoted his life to family, marrying Eleanor Kurkoski in 1946, having 3 children, 3 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. One of his granddaughters has followed in his footsteps and is serving our country as a member of the Pennsylvania National Guard.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and service of William John Betters.

CONGRATULATING BECKY SHEA

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 1, 2020

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Becky Shea, who recently retired from the Effingham County Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Shea worked with the Chamber for over 7 years and served as the Office Manager and Membership Director.

Although she was set to retire from the chamber last year, she decided to stay to help with the transition to the newest Chamber leader, who is now Andrew Cripps. Thanks to Becky's efforts to maintain the productivity and organization of the office as a whole, the Chamber was able to adapt to the leadership change and address the challenges from COVID–19 effectively.

Throughout Ms. Shea's service to the Effingham Chamber of Commerce, she delivered exceptional results for all who worked with her. Becky approached every day with a can-do attitude and always went above and beyond to help make Effingham live up to its full potential.

Her dedicated leadership set a positive example for all, and she will be greatly missed by the Effingham Chamber of Commerce.

HONORING KEN THOMAS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 1, 2020

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the outstanding achievements of Ken Thomas, a career Legislative Attorney with the American Law Division of the Congressional Research Service (CRS), who retired from CRS on August 28, 2020, after 36 years of distinguished government service. In his 33 years with CRS, Ken became the leading expert on constitutional law, and he made invaluable contributions to the work of Congress with his substantive knowledge in various legal areas. He advised Congress on statehood and other political status changes for the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, federalism, individual and civil rights, criminal law and procedure, the federal judiciary and education law.

Over the years, House and Senate committees called on Ken to testify at hearings and share with them his expertise and non-partisan analysis of important issues. Last year, for example, the House Committee on Oversight and Reform invited Ken to testify at a hearing on the Washington, D.C. Admission Act (H.R. 51). During the course of this high-profile and contentious hearing, Ken answered numerous questions from Members about the constitutionality of granting statehood to the District of Columbia, key to passage of H.R. 51 by the House in June.

My staff and I, in particular, relied on Ken for his analysis of legal issues involving the uniquely complicated relationship between the federal government and the District of Columbia, ranging from constitutional law to the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to appropriations law. Ken always provided prompt, well-reasoned and well-researched legal analysis.

The following is a recommendation for one of the 28 CRS awards that Ken received:

During his tenure in the American Law Division, Ken Thomas demonstrated a level of energy and dedication to the mission of serving Congress that has been extraordinary. He has willingly and without hesitation undertaken challenging and difficult assignments from the Congress. He has been a prolific writer and has provided comprehensive and in-depth legal research and analysis in a number of legal areas He is always available for and capable of tackling new issues, especially those that pose complex constitutional questions. He regularly demonstrates a high degree of intellectual curiosity, a trait that inspires him to "go the extra mile" for his congressional clients.

During his career with CRS, Ken prepared over 200 written products for Congress, many of which have been cited in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, committee reports and congressional hearings. Academic law reviews and national publications, such as The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal and The National Journal, have also cited his work. Ken has also delivered many keynote Con-

tinuing Legal Education lectures sponsored by CRS to positive reviews.

From 1996 through 2013, Ken was one of the key contributors to the Senate document "The Constitution of the United States of America: Analysis and Interpretation" (Constitution Annotated), serving as the Editor-in-Chief of the 2012 Centennial version of that volume, and he was the prime architect of the Constitution Annotated website. A public version of that website, constitution.congress.gov, was launched on Constitution Day 2019, and in the last 10 months, has had over 500,000 visits and one million page views.

Ken received a B.A. in philosophy from Colby College in 1980 and a J.D. from The George Washington University in 1983. He worked at the U.S. Department of Education and as a clerk to Judge Bruce Mencer of the D.C. Superior Court before joining CRS. Ken has provided exemplary service to Congress throughout his distinguished career at CRS. I believe that all in Congress who have benefited from his expertise and counsel join me in wishing him the very best in the years to come.

HONORING MR. LEE BOND AND THE SINGING RIVER HEALTH SYSTEM

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 1, 2020

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Mr. Lee Bond and Singing River Health System for their outstanding service to the community of the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Mr. Bond has significant family roots on the Gulf Coast. He was born at Singing River Hospital in Pascagoula, Mississippi. His great, great grandfather was Fernando Upton Gautier, the first settler of the City of Gautier, and its namesake. Mr. Bond earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from the University of South Alabama, where he graduated Summa Cum Laude.

Mr. Bond is currently the Chief Executive Officer at Singing River Health System. Outside of work, he has held community leadership roles in both Jackson and Harrison Counties. He has served on the Gulf Coast Business Council, the Bacot McCarty Foundation, the Pascagoula River Audubon Center, Ducks Unlimited Gulf Coast Chapter, the Board of Directors for the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce, as well as the Past President of the Gulf Coast Chapter of Mississippi Society of CPAs. Mr. Bond is a graduate of Leadership Jackson County, and was humbly recognized as a Top 10 Outstanding Community Leader for South Mississippi.

During these unprecedented times, Mr. Bond and the entire Singing River Health System has gone above and beyond to help the community suffering from this global pandemic.

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