

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING ERIC HALE, TEXAS
TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. COLIN Z. ALLRED

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Mr. ALLRED. Madam Speaker, I am honored to congratulate Eric Hale for becoming the first black man to be named Texas Teacher of the Year. On September 30, 2020, the Texas Association of School Administrators named Mr. Hale the Texas Teacher of the Year for 2021. He is now a finalist for the National Teacher of the Year. Mr. Hale is a kindergarten and first-grade teacher at David G. Burnet Elementary School in Dallas ISD. Throughout his career, he has gone above and beyond and has been recognized for excellence in teaching.

Earlier this year, he appeared on the Kelly Clarkson Show and shared how he uses encouragement and positivity to motivate his students. He takes them outside for math and science lessons in the real world. He uses music to keep his students engaged.

Everyone needs a teacher who goes the extra mile, and for many students at David G. Burnett, that teacher is Mr. Hale. Mr. Hale, an advocate for his students, and through his commitment and dedication, he also teaches them to become their own advocates.

I was raised by a single mom who was a public school teacher and I went to Dallas public schools all my life. I benefited from teachers like Mr. Hale growing up and I am proud that this generation of students has Mr. Hale as their teacher.

It is a privilege to recognize Mr. Hale for being the 2021 Texas Teacher of the Year and for becoming the first black man to receive this important and prestigious honor.

HONORING JIM MOCK

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Jim Mock on receiving Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital's Advocacy Award.

During the coronavirus pandemic, many Pennsylvanians faced uncertainties. To help ensure food security, the Center for Independent Living of South Central PA (CILSCPA) started Operation Five Loaves to deliver food directly to those in need.

Throughout this crisis, Jim and his wife, Sandy, have worked tirelessly to deliver food directly to members of the disabled community in the Altoona area. Twice a week, Jim delivers 60 boxes of produce to people with mobility challenges who otherwise would have difficulty accessing fresh and healthy food. He often goes above and beyond to accommo-

date clients, putting in long hours and delivering food without contact.

Jim's selfless service is a hallmark of our community. I thank Jim and Sandy for their commitment to the Altoona region, and for their dedication to those in need. On behalf of the 13th District of Pennsylvania, I am proud to recognize Jim Mock as he receives this well-earned award, and I wish him the best in the chapters to come.

HONORING OFFICER MICHAEL
TACKEMA AS A RECIPIENT OF
THE VALOR AWARD

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize City of Fayetteville Police Department Officer Michael Tackema as a recipient of the Public Safety Valor Award, presented annually by the Greater Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce.

The Valor Award is a prestigious honor presented to men and women of the Fayetteville region who perform acts of heroism under extreme risk. An outstanding member of Fayetteville Police Department, Officer Tackema went beyond his call of duty on July 5, 2019.

Upon arrival to a domestic disturbance call, the scene escalated quickly and became dangerous when the homeowner opened fire from within the residence. As other officers were forced to take cover, Officer Tackema placed himself in the line of fire to protect his team and engage the subject.

Officer Tackema is a hero and that day he not only saved the lives of his fellow officers, but the lives of countless civilians as well. His quick actions, bravery, and dedication to service is a credit to him, his family, and the entire Fayetteville Police Department. I know I speak for everyone in our community when I say we are truly grateful for his unwavering service and cannot thank him enough.

Officer Tackema is deserving of this honor, and I would like to extend my most sincere appreciation and wish him success as he continues to protect our communities.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in celebrating City of Fayetteville Police Department Officer Michael Tackema for receiving the Public Safety Valor Award.

CONGRATULATING PHILIP MILLER
UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate long-time Missouri resident, Philip Miller on his upcoming retirement from Bayer.

After 26 years of service, mainly in the crop science field, Philip is the inventor of over 20 patents, has authored 17 scientific papers and book chapters, and has spoken in numerous global and societal policy forums. Since 2012, he has served on the boards of the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) and CropLife International. He also found time to serve on the University of Missouri's Chancellors Advisory Board and the board of the Missouri Make-A-Wish foundation, all while working to raise corporate funds for the United Way of Greater St. Louis.

A scientist by training, Philip earned a Ph.D. in biochemistry, a Master of Science in cytogenetics, and a Bachelor of Science in biological sciences. He has utilized his expertise and leadership skills in various roles throughout his career to ensure farmers have the technologies they need to ensure that our nation continues to have affordable supplies of food.

Philip began his career as a regional sales director for PepsiCo and as a teacher at the University of Florida and Appalachian State University prior to joining Monsanto. From 2002 until Bayer's acquisition of Monsanto in 2018, Philip served in a variety of roles, including as the site lead at Mystic, Connecticut, a former Monsanto research site. Philip next served as Vice President, U.S. Commercial Technology Development before serving as Vice President, U.S. Product Management and Business Strategy.

In 2010, Philip became Vice President, Global Regulatory Affairs and Science adding global government affairs to his responsibilities in 2015. The next year, his role expanded to include corporate affairs and communications and in 2018 he was also asked to lead Monsanto's merger with Bayer. At Bayer, Philip has led engagements with global governments and regulatory bodies as well as with other important stakeholders, critically shaping the industrial landscape for the better.

Having grown up farming and continuing to operate our family farm today, I cannot overstate the importance of Philip's contributions to the farming community and agriculture industry. Families across the U.S. and around the world can better feed their families thanks to his ingenuity and commitment to the availability of food.

Madam Speaker, please join me in thanking Philip Miller for his many years of service and congratulating him on a well-deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING PAUL JOHNSON OF
GREAT FALLS

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Paul Johnson of Great Falls for caring for his community on the front line and for the sacrifices he made during the COVID-19 pandemic.

• 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.

Paul Johnson loves his camper. His family bought their first one 10 years ago so they could spend more time together making their own Montana moments. For Paul, his wife, and their four kids, camping is a huge part of their lifestyle, and they cherish their time together. But this year looked a little different for the Johnson camper. It served as a home for Paul as he worked at Benefis West campus to keep his patients and family safe from the coronavirus.

Back in March, the Benefis Health System instituted a respiratory clinic for the sole purpose of treating COVID-19 patients. Paul was one of three commissioned physicians to oversee the clinic, putting him in direct contact with COVID-19 patients. Formerly a part of the U.S. Army Reserve and currently in the National Guard, it's in Paul's DNA to serve others.

For nine weeks, Paul camped at the Benefis West campus and the local KOA campground, away from his wife and children. Paul says he had to do what was best for his family. His eldest son was home, about to be deployed to Afghanistan. His daughter also worked at a family ranch that had guests coming and going. Paul simply didn't want to jeopardize his family's health if he was an asymptomatic carrier.

Paul is good at putting things in perspective, though. He says it certainly wasn't as bad as being deployed out of country. Still, the experience was emotionally and mentally draining, especially since there wasn't a clear light at the end of the tunnel. But to Paul, the easiest thing to do was grab the bull by the horns and take care of his patients.

His family is very proud of him, and so am I.

Living out of a camper in March with no heat wasn't easy. When it was below freezing, his water wouldn't run, so he used the hospital for a warm shower. Cooking for himself was a challenge. Paul says there were a lot of busy days and sleepless nights. To pass the time, he tied flies. When it wasn't cold, he was able to take a socially distant dog walk with his wife, but there was no hand-holding or kissing. Paul says that was one of the hardest parts.

Many may ask, "Why go to these lengths?" For Paul, he was committed to treating his patients and serving his community in a time of need.

Madam Speaker, for his outstanding service to country, for his dedication to family, and for his selfless, unwavering patient care, I recognize Paul Johnson of Great Falls for his Spirit of Montana.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DETECTIVE KEVIN COLLINS

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Pine Bluff police detective Kevin Dwaine Collins. His life tragically cut short in the line of duty on Monday, October 5, we take this time to thank him for his life of service and his family for their ultimate sacrifice.

A member of the Pine Bluff Police Department since 2015, Detective Collins had proven

himself to be a valuable resource and friend to his community. While his family and friends refer to him as a leader and a "gentle giant," it was well-known that Detective Collins held his calling to law enforcement with the greatest zeal.

Prior to his work with the police department, Collins served in a variety of public service areas like the Arkansas Department of Corrections and the Metropolitan Emergency Communication Association. In 2017, he was named Pine Bluff Police Department's Officer of the Year.

Detective Collins is named by community leaders of Pine Bluff as "one of the finest officers you could ever hope to have." His work was not just a job, "but it was his mission." It is clear from his years of service and his commitment to love his fellow man that Detective Kevin Collins is a man deserving of the highest honor. I take this time to celebrate his legacy and to thank him for the sacrifice he has made for our community and our home.

HONORING DR. GOVINDAPPA VENKATAWSWAMY

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Dr. Govindappa Venkataswamy, who devoted his life to preventing blindness in India and across the world. His work preserved the vision of millions of men, women and children, allowing them the blessing of sight and the opportunity to enjoy independent, productive lives.

Dr. V, as he was affectionately called, was born October 1, 1918, in a small village in Tamil Nadu, India. After graduating from medical school, he joined the Indian Army Medical Corps, but had to resign after contracting a severe form of rheumatoid arthritis that left his hands permanently disfigured. Unable to practice in his chosen field of obstetrics, Dr. V. returned to medical school to complete specialty training in ophthalmology and, despite his infirmity, mastered the art of cataract surgery. In 1956, he was appointed head of the Department of Ophthalmology at the Madurai Medical College, where he performed thousands of ocular surgeries until reaching the mandatory retirement age of 58.

Dr. V's work at the medical college sensitized him to the terrible impact of blindness on those without means to pay for care or cope with disability. That experience, and his deep religious conviction that the noblest purpose in life is to serve others, inspired him to pursue an extraordinarily ambitious program to end preventable blindness in India. In 1976, immediately after retiring from government service, Dr. V and members of his family founded the first Aravind Eye Hospital in Madurai, India.

Dr. V took a special interest in the lean business processes of highly efficient enterprises like McDonald's restaurants, while maintaining the highest standard of care. The self-sustaining Aravind Eye Care System is notable for its imaginative division of labor, consistent delivery of positive patient outcomes, and intense focus on reducing costs. One highly successful byproduct of this focus:

Aurolab, a Dr. V innovation that manufactures high-quality intraocular lenses so competitively priced that it exports the majority of its production to clinics all over the world.

The Aravind Eye Care System has been acclaimed by Harvard Business School and is the focus of an HBS case study; was recognized for excellence in publications including *Fast Company*, *Forbes* and the *Wall Street Journal*; and has inspired health-care organizations throughout the developing world. From its humble beginnings in Madurai, the Aravind Eye Care System now provides care to over four million patients and performs over five hundred thousand surgeries each year in hospitals and clinics in South India. Its consulting and training arm—the Lions Aravind Institute of Community Ophthalmology (LAICO)—supports ophthalmologic health care programs throughout the world, and the Dr. G. Venkataswamy Eye Research Institute investigates causes and evaluates treatment options for various eye diseases, and provides clinical and operations support.

Thankfully, Dr. Venkataswamy's service to humanity did not go unnoticed during his lifetime. The Government of India bestowed upon him one of its highest civilian honors, the Padma Shri Award, in 1973. Other honors include recognition by Helen Keller International, the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the Harold Wit Lectureship at Harvard Divinity School, and the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness. Additionally, in 2008, the Aravind Eye Care System received the prestigious Gates Award for Global Health from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Dr. V passed away in 2006, but his legacy continues to give eyesight to those who otherwise would be blind, and his story continues to inspire. His life is best celebrated by his own words: "[when] we identify ourselves with all that is in the world . . . there is no exploitation. It is ourselves we are helping. It is ourselves we are healing."

HONORING PARAMEDIC KIMBERLI R. WHEELER AS A RECIPIENT OF THE VALOR AWARD

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Cape Fear Valley Emergency Medical Services Paramedic Kimberli R. Wheeler as a recipient of the Public Safety Valor Award, presented annually by the Greater Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce.

The Valor Award is a prestigious honor presented to men and women of the Fayetteville region who perform acts of heroism under extreme risk. An outstanding member of Cape Fear Valley EMS, Ms. Wheeler went beyond her call of duty when responding to a 911 call.

After her ambulance was struck by a motor vehicle and inverted, Ms. Wheeler saved the lives of two individuals who were critically injured on the scene. As she hung from her seat belt, she checked on her partner and calmed an alarmed EMS student. Bystanders assisted in freeing her and her team from the ambulance, and Ms. Wheeler immediately began to render aid to the critically injured victims in the other vehicle.