

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN MEMORY OF TEXAS TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION CHAIRMAN RICHARD "RIC" WILLIAMSON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember The Honorable Ric Williamson, former Chairman of the Texas Transportation Commission and a dear friend of mine.

Ric began his 23-year tenure in faithful public service to the state of Texas in 1984, when he was elected as a State Representative. In 2001, he was appointed by Texas Governor Rick Perry to serve on the Texas Transportation Commission, and was named chairman in 2004. Ric served on several boards, including the Southern Regional Education Board, Legislative Budget Board, Department of Information Resources Board, Uniform Statewide Accounting System Committee, and the Southern Legislative Conference, to name a few.

As Chairman of the Texas Transportation Commission, Ric's visions always aimed at improving the state of transportation and the quality of infrastructure in Texas. Many times his initiatives were deemed controversial or difficult, but his resolve and determination persevered and many of his harshest critics have come to respect and support his innovative transportation concepts.

Ric will always be remembered by his friends and associates as a true champion for all things Texan. Unafraid to challenge the status quo, he was a highly regarded leader bringing innovative ideas to provide safe, economic and reliable transportation to improve the daily lives of Texans.

On a personal level Ric remained a patient mentor and a steadfast friend. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife Mary Ann and his family. Ric will be greatly missed.

HONORING WILLIAM J. WINIARSKI

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to William J. Winiarski as he retires from Rowe Incorporated. A dinner was held in his honor on January 11th in Grand Blanc, Michigan.

William Winiarski started working for Rowe Incorporated in 1971. He received his bachelor of science in civil engineering degree from Michigan Technological University in 1973. He was promoted to project manager in 1976, the same year he became a professional engineer. His career with Rowe continued and he was named a vice president in 1978 and became the president/chief operating officer in

1986. During this time William was licensed as a professional surveyor. He assumed the position of chief operating officer in 1991 and 10 years later became the marketing principal. This enabled him to focus on the marketing and client side of the business.

Working at the helm of several significant projects, William has put the Rowe stamp on many communities in Michigan. He led the team that worked on projects for the City of Flushing, City of Niles, City of Linden, Village of Byron, Village of Chesaning, Village of Holly, Village of Oxford, Charter Township of Flushing, Genesee County Road Commission, Shiawassee County Road Commission, Shiawassee County Drain Commission, Flint Downtown Development Authority, Genesys Health Systems, and Venice Park Landfill.

He is affiliated with several professional and community organizations and has held leadership positions with many. He is the past national director and past president of the American Council of Engineering Companies. He is the past president of the American Society of Civil Engineers, East Central Michigan Chapter. William is the past president of the Michigan Society of Professional Engineers, Flint Chapter. He is a member of the Michigan Society of Professional Surveyors, a Genesee/Lapeer/Shiawassee Region V planning commissioner, the Chairman of the Genesee County Brownfield Redevelopment Board, and the vice chairman of the Flint River Corridor Alliance. He has served as the chairman and acting president of the Flint/Genesee Economic Growth Alliance and the chairman of the Genesee Area Focus Council. He is on the board of directors of Genesee County Mental Health Facilities, Genesee County Mental Health, and the "Ready-Set-Grow" Program for Genesee County. William is a past board of directors member of the Flint Industrial Mutual Association and the past chairman of the Genesee Regional Chamber of Commerce.

William continues his association with his alma mater by serving on the board of directors for the Michigan Technological University Fund, the Civil Engineering Advisory Board and as a member of the Civil and Environmental Engineering Academy.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute to William J. Winiarski as he retires from Rowe Incorporated. Through his work he has left a permanent mark upon the communities of Michigan and has enhanced the quality of life for its citizens.

CONGRATULATING THE TAFT UNION HIGH SCHOOL WILDCATS VARSITY FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the student ath-

letes and coaches of the Taft Union High School Wildcats varsity football team on winning the 2007 California Interscholastic Federation Central Section Division IV championship, also known as the Valley Championship.

On Friday, November 30, 2007, the Wildcats defeated Corcoran High School 28-14 in their last game of the season to win the championship. This was a truly outstanding achievement to cap an outstanding season, a season where the Wildcats finished with a record of 12-1. The Wildcat victory marked the first football Valley Championship for Taft since 1930. Taft Union High School football fans, students and the Taft community were treated to an exciting championship game where in the fourth quarter with a tied score, the Wildcats' skill, training, hard work, and athleticism paid off and led them to an emotional two touchdown victory.

I want to extend my congratulations to the Taft Union High School Wildcats student athletes for their impressive championship win and 2007 season. The 2007 roster included Donald Baggs II, Derek Barnes, David Barraza, Dalton Botts, Chad Cruz, Wes Elland, Blake Emberson, Lyndon Faagau, Jose Flores, Jeremy Gonzales, Sergio Gonzales, Tommy Halphin, James Hiracheta, Tyler Houghton, Austin Kindred, Loren Kolb, Joe Lau, Andrew LeClair, Konelio Maino, Dylan Niblett, Matther Nixon, Jeremy Orr, Christian Ramirez, Kurtis Rawls, Blaine Reich, Jerry Romo, Ricardo Romo, Ben Savali, Ioane Savail, Fabian Scheifele, Shane Sefo, Cody Shirreffs, Jesse Simmons, Steven Spoonemore, Jesse Tafoya, Fabian Taute, Kyle Taylor, Jeremiah Twisselman, Joel Vermillion, Tommy Williams, Aaron Wroblewski, Stewart Bandy, Avesee Faagau, Adalberto Figueroa, Eric Foch, Shaquil Gant, Mike Hagstrom, Kacey Kaszyckl, Hunter Liljeroos, Mike Newkirk, Todd Parker, Felipe Puldo, Cody Reaves, Andrew Smith, Freddy Tuuamalealo, Jordan Vermillion, and Braxton Walters.

I also want to congratulate the coaching staff who helped lead the team to its championship season. The Wildcat head coach is Steve Sprague and his coaching team includes Russell Emberson, Arley Hill, Rick Woodson, Shawn Cummins, Rob Cleveland, Paul Martinez, Brian Durkan, Bryan Powell, Dee Griffith, Mike Goodwin, John Wagner, and Jeremy Letterman.

Participation in athletics is a wonderful component of a high school education because it provides opportunities for leadership, teamwork and competition. The months of physical and mental training and the teamwork that was required to win this Valley Championship will benefit these young men long after their high school graduation.

On behalf of the residents of the 22nd Congressional District, I once again commend the Taft Union High School Wildcats on winning the 2007 Valley Championship. I am very proud of the accomplishments of the 2007

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