

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING REX DAVIDSON

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2009

Ms. CLARKE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate, pay tribute, and honor Mr. Rex Davidson on the occasion of his retirement from his post as a very valued Board Member of the New York City Workforce Investment Board (WIB) and as President and CEO of Goodwill Industries of Greater New York and Northern New Jersey of 36 years.

On April 8th, I had the pleasure of visiting the New York City WIB for a briefing on the programs that we in Congress fund through the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and how these programs reach the constituents of my district.

During this visit I had the opportunity to tour the Brooklyn Workforce1 Career Center which provides important customized services to both jobseekers and businesses to promote and increase the employment, job retention, earnings, and improve the occupational skills of New Yorkers.

The Career Center, funded through WIA and operated by Goodwill Industries of Greater New York and Northern New Jersey, just recently celebrated its 15,000th placement; an exciting and momentous achievement.

In my district alone in 2008, 7,083 customers received services through the Brooklyn Workforce1 Career Center and 1,554 Constituents from New York's 11th Congressional District found jobs.

Rex Davidson attended my visit to the Brooklyn Workforce1 Career Center to give both the perspective of an operator of one of our City's local One-Stop service locations and Board Member of the WIB.

It was clear from this interaction with Rex that he is passionate about his work both with Goodwill Industries and the Workforce Investment Board; he cares about the role of the business-driven workforce development system in New York City and the important need to link economic and workforce development to achieve the best outcomes for New Yorkers and New York City businesses.

Throughout his tenure with the WIB, Rex exhibited this passion helping to drive the increasing performance of not only the Center which Goodwill operates, but also that of the entire Workforce1 Career Center system.

Of his many accomplishments as a WIB Member, Rex served as Chair of the WIB's Prisoner Re-Entry Steering Committee.

The make-up of the Steering Committee is of experts representing the critical sectors and disciplines in New York City that focus on prisoner reentry issues, as well as, other key Board Members. Its goal is to address the complex issues associated with the reentry of people with criminal histories into New York City's workforce.

In June of this year, Rex Davison will leave his post at the New York City WIB and at

Goodwill Industries as he pursues other ventures out West.

At this critical moment in our nation's history, as we seek to improve the economic vitality of neighborhoods and ensure that more Americans can get back to work, it seems particularly fitting to honor Rex and the work that he does in New York City, particularly for the residents in my district, and ensuring that more New Yorkers than ever have access to services provided through WIA.

The Workforce Investment Board, Goodwill Industries, the people of New York City, and indeed the people of New York State will truly miss Rex. Rex Davidson is truly a credit to our nation.

I hope that you will join me in thanking him for his service and wishing him well on his future adventures.

JESUS TORRES

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jesus Torres who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Jesus Torres is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jesus Torres is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Jesus Torres for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his academic career to his future accomplishments.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2346, the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2009.

The FY 2009 Supplemental Appropriations bill implements President Obama's plans for winding down the number of troops in Iraq and refocusing our fight against al Qaeda in Afghanistan and Pakistan—a plan I strongly support. The bill includes funds to train Afghan security forces and police, and help with eco-

nom development in this struggling nation. This investment in Afghanistan will also strengthen governance and expand the rule of law there.

It provides our troops who are in harm's way with the equipment they need while they work tirelessly to implement the strategy set forth by President Obama. For those soldiers who have suffered the hardship of stop-loss, which keeps them on active duty longer than planned, it provides long overdue compensation.

For Maryland, the Supplemental means \$208.3 million in funding for the relocation of Walter Reed Hospital National Military Medical Center to Bethesda. This money will support our wounded warriors and provide world-class care for these brave men and women. In addition, at our request, the President's budget includes separate funding to address the traffic congestion challenges that the Center will bring.

Additionally, in an effort to protect our country from global health risks, the Supplemental provides \$2 billion for pandemic flu response. This money will be used to expand the federal stockpiles of anti-viral drugs, and develop and purchase vaccines. It also assists state and local responses and supports global efforts to track and contain the spread of a pandemic. The recent outbreak of H1N1 flu is a clear example of why this funding is vital to our health and safety.

When President Obama was elected, he made a pledge to end the war in Iraq. With this Supplemental, we take another step in fulfilling the President's plan to remove all combat troops by August 2010 in a way that makes our country safer and our armed forces stronger.

21ST CENTURY GREEN HIGH-PERFORMING PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BOBBY BRIGHT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 2187) to direct the Secretary of Education to make grants to State educational agencies for the modernization, renovation, or repair of public school facilities, and for other purposes:

Mr. BRIGHT. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment to H.R. 2187, the 21st Century Green High Performing Public School Facilities Act. Put simply, this amendment allows the Secretary of Education to reserve 5 percent of Section 102 grant funds for local educational agencies serving geographic areas with significant economic distress or recovering from a natural disaster.

In its current form, the bill sets aside money for schools damaged by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Indeed, those two storms caused

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