

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF MARCUS HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 28, 2012*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate another stellar attainment by the Marcus High School Marching Band. This is not the first, second, or even third time that the Marcus Band has won the University Interscholastic League (UIL) Class 5A State Marching competition, but their fourth time to be state champions! The Marcus High School Marching Band has achieved a first in UIL history in any conference, by winning its fourth consecutive state marching finals contest. It is an amazing accomplishment that epitomizes their work ethic and musicality.

The Marcus High School Marching Band has a talented and committed leadership team, headed by Amanda Drinkwater, Director of Bands, and Associate Directors: Kennan Wylie, Dominic Talanca and David Simon as well as Color Guard Director, John Leonard. The student members of the Marauder Band have worked long hours over many months to bring their winning performance "Gilded Memories" to fruition. They have been capably led by Drum Majors Sarah Jones and Scott Van Gundy.

Edward S. Marcus High School is located in Flower Mound, Texas within the Lewisville Independent School District. The school's administrators, teachers and students as well as its dedicated booster organization have wholeheartedly supported the band's endeavors and should also be recognized and commended.

I am pleased to join the community in congratulating the Marcus High School Band. They have been excellent ambassadors for Flower Mound and the 26th District of Texas. It is my privilege to serve them in the U.S. House of Representatives.

TRIBUTE TO MATILDA SYKES

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 28, 2012*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Matilda Sykes, a tenacious leader and advocate in the community and an inspiration to all of New York.

Matilda, known affectionately as "Mattie", was born in Bennettsville, South Carolina. At a young age, she attended Sunday Service at Shiloh Baptist Church with her grandmother. Like her grandmother, she became a faithful church parishioner. As the second oldest of three siblings, she developed a loving concern for others.

Her family moved to Brooklyn, NY, where she joined First Baptist Church of Crown Heights and started singing in the youth choir.

She accepted Christ at an early age and became involved in youth ministry.

Living in the big city, Mattie continued her education at Rothchild JHS and Bay Ridge HS, graduating and going on to further her education at Kingsborough Community College, where she majored in Business Administration and received an A.A.S. Degree. While attending college, she met her late husband John M. Sykes, Sr. They had one child, John M. Skyes, Jr.

As a young mother, Mattie returned to the work force, landing jobs in the retail field. After that, she accepted a position with the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Bureau of Child Care. During her 29 years in the department, she became an advocate for children, working on special projects with the Associate Commissioner. Mattie is also strongly active with District Council 37, working as a shop steward and delegate for Local 1549.

Mattie worked in the community with the Neighborhood Youth Corp and summer lunch programs while sitting on the Board of the Five Block Daycare Center. She enjoys promoting AIDS and Breast Cancer Awareness at local health fairs around the city.

Currently a member of the Bethany Baptist Church, Mattie has served as secretary to the Ladies Usher Board for several years. With the love and guidance she receives from above, she is content with caring for her elderly mother and watching her two darling granddaughters, Chyna and Aja Sykes grow up.

Mattie enjoys spending her free time with her family and dearest friends whenever possible and truly feels the Lord's blessings.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Matilda "Mattie" Sykes.

JONI INMAN

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 28, 2012*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Joni Inman for her outstanding service to our community.

Joni Inman has been a leader of the Denver community for decades. Most recently, Joni consults for ActionCOACH which helps her clients grow their businesses and create new jobs. Joni also owns her own consulting firm for lobbying, strategic and business planning, small business support for federal regulations and public relations.

Prior to her consulting career, Joni served as the Deputy City Manager for Lakewood where she pioneered the city's communications and sustainability programs. As Deputy City Manager, she oversaw Lakewood's economic development and was the city's legislative lobbyist.

Joni was a behind-the-scenes force in the development of Colorado Mills at Belmar and the St. Anthony Hospital Campus in Lakewood.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Joni Inman for her well deserved honor by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

A TALL TEXAN AMERICAN HERO

SPEECH OF

**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 27, 2012*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Texas for yielding to me.

It has been a pleasure to work with Chairman HALL ever since I joined the Science Committee in 2005. First and foremost, I want to thank him for the work he has done as Chairman of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee and as a champion of NASA. When the Republicans captured control of the House in 2010, there was no one more deserving of being elevated to chairman than RALPH HALL, especially given the fact that he is probably the only member of Congress to ever serve as Ranking Member of a committee from both sides of the aisle before becoming chair.

The Science Committee has historically been a place where the day-to-day grudge match of partisan politics takes a backseat to thoughtful policy making. Chairman HALL is a great exemplar of that tradition, in the same vein as past chairmen such as Bart Gordon and Sherwood Boehlert. RALPH knows how to make things work and get things done, and he always has a way of doing it with a smile. That style is a throwback to the days when Congress was a more genial place and members worked together across the aisle with others even when they had disagreements. We could use more people in Congress like Chairman HALL, and I look forward to continuing to work with him to get things done for our constituents and for our nation.

LEAH VARNELL

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 28, 2012*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Leah Varnell for her outstanding service to our community.

In 2000, Leah Varnell was a leader in the creation of the Court Appointed Special Advocates of Jefferson and Gilpin Counties (CASA Jeffco/Gilpin). Its mission is to recruit, train and manage community advocates who act as officers of the court for the best interest of children that are abuse and neglect victims.

Since its inception, Leah's success with CASA Jeffco/Gilpin has led to a 110% increase in revenue and 60% increase in staffing, which enables the program to serve more

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