

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING ERIC ATKINSON, PRESIDENT OF ATKINSON CANDY COMPANY

HON. LOUIE GOHMERT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to recognize today an east Texas man and an east Texas family who have realized the American dream the old-fashioned way—through a lifetime of hard work with complete dedication to his family, to his community, and to his craft.

Eric Atkinson is President of the company founded by his grandfather B.E. Atkinson Sr. in 1932. Atkinson Candy Company of Lufkin, Texas is not only a beloved landmark in Angelina County, it is a Texas tradition with a loyal following of candy lovers all over the world. The company still uses the original family recipes and machinery to make its iconic signature Chick-O-Stick, Peanut Butter Bar, Long Boy, and other legendary candies. In fact, his peppermint recipe uses ingredients of such phenomenal quality that exceptional strategic work was required in order to manufacture it in a way that keeps the costs from being astronomical.

Eric is an active leader in the candy industry who has held a position on the board of the Convenience Distribution Association for more than fifteen years. For his commitment to the industry, Eric has received accolades from numerous trade groups, including the 1990 Candy Man of the Year from Southern Tobacco & Candy Association, the 1998 Dean Award and a 2013 Hall of Fame recognition from the Convenience Distribution Association, and the Doc Reed Silver Candy Dish Award from the National Confectioners' Association in 2008. He also received a 2010 nomination for the Kettle Award, which is the highest recognition an individual working within the U.S. confectionery industry can attain. Most recently, Eric Atkinson was honored by being inducted into the prestigious 2015 National Confectionery Sales Association's Candy Hall of Fame following in the footsteps of his father Dr. Basil E. Atkinson Jr., who was named to the Candy Hall of Fame in 2011.

Away from the confection industry, Eric is an avid supporter of area athletic programs as well as our nation's military and regularly makes product donations to charitable events all over the region. His organization also extends its goodwill worldwide, shipping sweets from the legendary candy kitchen to American military personnel serving overseas.

It is a distinct privilege to honor this remarkable man along with his organization, his family and their cumulative legacy of excellence, extraordinary leadership, exemplary character, boundless enthusiasm, and a work ethic that never ever quits. Eric Atkinson's commitment to time honored quality and the preservation of family values is now recorded in this CONGRESSIONAL RECORD which will endure as long as there is a United States of America.

RECOGNIZING MR. CHARLES THOMAS HEAD FOR HIS LIFETIME OF SERVICE

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a distinguished citizen in my district, Mr. Charles Thomas Head. Later this month, Tommy will be retiring from banking after 38 years of tremendous service to the Mills County community.

Tommy began his career at Mills State Bank as a loan officer on October 1, 1977. He served in this position for nearly ten years before being elected President of Mills County State Bank. As president, his leadership helped the bank grow from \$30 million in assets to over \$290 million in assets. Tommy's hard work also helped the bank expand from one location to five throughout the area.

Although his professional accomplishments are impressive, Tommy's work within the community is even more extraordinary. He has been an active leader in countless community initiatives, including Goldthwaite's Texas Botanical Gardens & Native American Interpretive Center. The Native American Interpretive Center allows many residents of Mills County the opportunity to learn firsthand how generations of Native Americans in Texas have utilized the abundant resources Texas has to offer. The Texas Botanical Gardens is a living museum that offers visitors a look at the native plant species that were utilized by civilizations dating back 10–12,000 years ago. Many of these community initiatives would not be possible had it not been for the hard work, time, and dedication of Tommy Head.

In addition, Tommy has also been instrumental in assisting local high school students who have won the Congressional Art Competition. This event is a districtwide art contest where students submit entries to their representative's office. The winner of the competition is recognized with their artwork here in Washington, D.C. Many of these winners have come from Mills County, and Tommy has always voluntarily taken care of the costs associated with this trip for these students and their guardians. For many of these students, this is a trip of a lifetime and it is all possible because of Tommy's generosity.

We are blessed to have individuals in our country like Tommy. His selfless qualities exemplify every aspect of the American spirit and make our communities stronger. Tommy's lifetime of service will forever be an example of how people can make their home a better place.

On behalf of the 11th District, I am honored to recognize Tommy's distinguished career in serving Mills County. I wish nothing but the best for him and his wife, Wynona, as they embark on a new chapter in their life.

IN HONOR OF THE LATE SHIRLEY CHISHOLM

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of the late Shirley Chisholm whose courage helped pave the way, for a little black girl from Selma to walk the hallowed halls of Congress as the Representative from Alabama's 7th Congressional District.

I strongly believe that in order to be a Congresswoman, I had to first see myself as a Congresswoman. The person who most embodied that was Shirley Chisholm. Through her—I was able to see that I too could be in Congress. I too could represent my community and work towards positive change for people who were denied a seat at the table.

I am fortunate to have met Ms. Chisholm before she passed away. I took a train to Mount Holyoke my senior year at Princeton to interview Ms. Chisholm for my senior thesis, "Black Women in Politics: Our Time Has Come." As luck would have it, it started to snow just as soon as I sat down in the chair across from her. My thirty minute interview turned into a four hour interview, and Ms. Chisholm shared the challenges and struggles she encountered as the first African-American woman ever elected to Congress.

Whenever I feel the weight of the world resting on my shoulder . . . I walk by her portrait hanging in the Capitol to remind myself of her strength, courage, and conviction. I know that whatever challenges I have encountered pale in comparison to the trials she faced. It was not easy for her to walk the halls of Congress as the only black woman. She opened the door for Barbara Jordan, and everyone else who followed including me.

Even though many barriers have been broken since her tenure here, there is still much work to do. Ms. Chisholm once said that "service is the rent we pay for the privilege of living on this earth." I can only hope that my service in this august body will one day inspire others to work for a better, more just society in the same manner that Shirley Chisholm has inspired me.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND ACHIEVEMENT OF RONALD MATHEWS

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary service of Mr. Ronald Mathews. Ronald, a lifelong resident of the City of Struthers, Ohio, has recently retired from a remarkable career as an elected councilman for 26 years spanning 13 election cycles—the longest tenure of service in the

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