

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING A TRAILBLAZING CAREER IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE: U.S. ATTORNEY EREK LAWRENCE BARRON

**HON. KWEISI MFUME**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2025*

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the outstanding achievements and historic tenure of Maryland's outgoing United States Attorney, Erek Lawrence Barron. He is an experienced lawyer, an accomplished legislator, and a champion of civil rights, and his time as U.S. Attorney has left the people of Maryland safer and more secure in their communities, with greater confidence in the integrity of the justice system.

Mr. Barron earned his Juris Doctor from the prestigious George Washington University Law School in 1999 and earned admission to the Maryland Bar that same year. He began his career in public service as an Assistant State's Attorney in Prince George's County in 2001, primarily prosecuting violent crimes, before transferring to Baltimore City in 2004 and continuing in this position until 2006.

The next phase of his career was at the Department of Justice, as a Trial Attorney in their Criminal Division. There, he focused on tackling the scourge of organized crime, investigating and prosecuting figures involved in regional and national gangs.

This law enforcement experience, gained at both the state and federal level, had Mr. Barron well-prepared for his subsequent role as Counsel and Special Advisor to then-Senator Joe Biden, serving on the United States Senate's Judicial Committee's Subcommittee on Crime and Drugs. Soon after, he was a member of the Justice and Civil Rights Review Team for President Barack Obama's Presidential Transition Team.

Given his high qualifications and extensive experience, it is no surprise that in 2014, the good people of Prince George's County, Maryland elected Mr. Barron to the House of Delegates. In the state legislature, he prioritized public safety and criminal Justice reform, co-authoring bipartisan legislation that instituted sweeping improvements to Maryland's sentencing and corrections systems.

His thoughtfulness and effectiveness as a legislator helped Mr. Barron win re-election in 2018, and he continued serving in the General Assembly through October 2021, when the United States Senate confirmed him as the chief federal law enforcement official in the great state of Maryland.

When he took his oath of office, Mr. Barron became the first African American to serve as Maryland's United States Attorney. Despite the historic nature of his service, Mr. Barron never sought out the limelight—he focused entirely on doing his job and doing it well, working closely with state and local law enforcement to implement crime-fighting strategies that reduced violent crime.

Most importantly, Mr. Barron got results. During his tenure, Maryland saw homicide rates drop by 41 percent. He established a new Violent and Organized Crime Section within the office and instructed his prosecutors to utilize an "Al Capone" model of prosecution, using all available legal means and resources to get repeat offenders off the streets. He also established a new Civil Rights and Special Victims Section, a dedicated unit focused on prosecuting hate crimes, civil rights violations, and crimes committed against our most vulnerable populations.

Mr. Barron's incredible value to Maryland is exemplified by a case of federal-local partnership that led to a major crime bust. Ivan Bates, Baltimore's State's Attorney, approached Mr. Barron for assistance in getting the federal resources necessary for a wiretap. Mr. Barron personally lobbied law enforcement leaders and secured those resources—and after a 6-month operation, 39 people across 4 criminal networks were arrested, 67 firearms were confiscated, 15 stolen vehicles were recovered, and more than \$350,000 in drug money was seized. That is the power of an effective partnership.

Now that his term as our United States Attorney has ended, I join Governor Moore, former Governor Hogan, and law enforcement officials across our state in thanking Mr. Erek Lawrence Barron for his tireless efforts to make our streets safer and our communities more secure. I congratulate him on his many achievements.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF NORTHEAST DELTA DENTAL

**HON. CHRIS PAPPAS**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2025*

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Northeast Delta Dental and their achievement in receiving the prestigious Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award.

Northeast Delta Dental was founded in 1961 as a not-for-profit dental company administering care in Vermont, Maine, and New Hampshire. In New Hampshire, Northeast Delta Dental plays a crucial role in providing dental insurance to over half of insured Granite Staters. Additionally, through their Northeast Delta Dental Foundation, the organization supports various oral health initiatives, contributing over 1.3 million dollars in 2023 to programs that enhance community wellbeing.

The Malcolm Baldrige National Quality award is a recognition that honors businesses and organizations that have the highest standards of excellence, innovation, and sustainability. Northeast Delta Dental was recently recognized as a 2024 recipient, one of only five companies in the United States to receive the award and the first ever from New Hampshire.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I want to

congratulate Northeast Delta Dental for their remarkable achievement. This well-deserved recognition highlights their commitment to high standards of care and community involvement in the Granite State.

HONORING THE EAST TEXAS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

**HON. NATHANIEL MORAN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2025*

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the East Texas Symphony Orchestra and to celebrate its February 22nd "Spirit of America" concert.

Originally founded in 1936 as a non-professional group of lawyers, oil operators, teachers, and students from Tyler Junior College, the ETSO is now a delegation of professional musicians as talented as any who are passionate about sharing high-quality symphonic music with East Texans from Vaughn Auditorium located on the beautiful campus of the University of Texas at Tyler.

Under the thoughtful, skilled, and dynamic leadership of Music Director, Richard Lee, the ETSO connects East Texans with the joy, grandeur, and profound beauty of the timeless sounds and experiences that only orchestra music can bring.

And, the "Spirit of America" concert is another such experience—with the added elements of history, patriotism, and love of country.

Featuring the extraordinary performers from Texas College and Jarvis Christian University, and musical compositions by Aaron Copland and Aaron Dworkin that include the narrated words of two of America's greatest statesmen—George Washington and Abraham Lincoln—this concert will inspire and challenge each of us to remain firm in our principles and steady in our resolve.

Thanks to Director Lee, and all the talented composers, musicians, and staff for their hard work in making this concert possible.

It was a night to remember.

RECOGNIZING JOSEPHINE BARBEE

**HON. JOHN W. MANNION**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2025*

Mr. MANNION. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Josephine Barbee, mother of UAW International Representative Mark Barbee, who resides in my district in Syracuse, NY.

Born on July 23, 1939, Josephine Barbee was a devoted mother and a true pioneer in early childhood education and community service. Along with her brother, Dr. Bishop Leonard R. Williams—pastor of Zion Holiness Church and Bishop of the Great Lakes District—she played a critical role in designing,

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