

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF CAPTAIN LANGSTON D. SMITH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the work of Captain Langston D. Smith, who has completed 30 years of active duty in the Dental Corps of the United States Navy.

Captain Langston Delano Smith was born in the Richland Community of Pickens in Holmes County, Mississippi. He is the eldest of six children born to the late Mr. James A. Smith, Sr. and Mrs. Elma Maxine Howard Smith. He attended Humphreys County McNair Elementary School and William Sullivan High School, formerly Durant Attendance Center.

Captain Smith received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology from Jackson State University in 1967. After obtaining his B.S. degree, he taught science for a year in the Jackson Public School District in Jackson, Mississippi. He, then, went on to Morehead State University, in Morehead, Kentucky, where he earned a Master of Science Degree in Biology in 1969 and a Master of Higher Education in Administration in 1973. While attending Morehead State, he was an Assistant Professor of Biology and the Assistant Director of Housing at the university.

In September 1973, Captain Smith entered dental school at the University of Kentucky and graduated in 1977 with his DMD degree. After graduating from the University of Kentucky, he entered active duty and received orders to the Naval Training Center in San Diego, California. From 1982 to 1987, Capt. Smith was an Adjunct Associate Professor of Biology at Chapman College. In 1987, he received orders to the National Naval Dental School in Bethesda, Maryland, where he completed his residency.

Captain Langston Smith, in 2002, reported to the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery as Director of Clinical Operations Division for Navy Dentistry, later becoming Director of Health care Support, with the responsibility for coordinating planning and policy for Naval dental care. Captain Smith is currently assigned as Director of Clinical Services in the Office of Integration, National Capitol Area in Bethesda, Maryland.

Captain Langston Smith is a very accomplished man. He is a member of a number of professional organizations, including the American Dental Association, American Association of Endodontists, American Board of Endodontics; and, social and civic organizations, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, and Colesville United Methodist Church. He has received a number of military and non-military awards, which includes the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal with Gold Star, Navy Commendation

Medal, Navy Humanitarian Medal, Alpha Phi Alpha Man of the Year in 1976, 1982 and 1996, Nominated for the NAACP Springard Award in 2002, and Outstanding African American Alumni (Torch of Excellence Award), College of Dentistry, University of Kentucky in 2005.

Captain Langston Delano Smith has garnered the personal and professional respect of his community, patients, and colleagues. I would like to commend Captain Langston Delano Smith for his 30 years of service in the Dental Corps of the United States Navy, and wish him much success in his future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING THE INDIANOLA GENTRY HIGH SCHOOL "LADY RAMS" GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker. I would like to congratulate the Indianola Gentry High School "Lady Rams" Girls Basketball Team and Head Coach Charles Williams for their perfect 2006–2007 Season, 4A State Championship and Mississippi High School Activities Association Grand Slam Championship.

The Indianola Gentry High School "Lady Rams" Girls Basketball Team had a stellar basketball season this year. They began the season ranked No. 2 in The Clarion-Ledger Super 10, and finished 40–0 to become the first Mississippi High School Activities Association team (boys or girls) to go unbeaten since the Yazoo County Lady Panthers did it in the 1999–2000 season. In the process, the Class 4A State Champion Lady Rams staked their claim as the undisputed best team in Mississippi by knocking off the 5A Champions, Murrah High School "Lady Mustangs" Girls Basketball Team of Jackson, ranked No. 1 in the Super 10 and No. 14 nationally by USA Today, in a 63–58 victory.

On the journey to be the Mississippi State Championship, the Lady Rams won the Coahoma County Tournament, the Ram Holiday Classic Tournament, the NCAC Tournament, the Division 3–4A Tournament, the North State Tournament, and of course the 4A State Tournament and the Mississippi High School Activities Association Grand Slam Championship.

The Lady Rams had a phenomenal group of people that lead them to the championship. The basketball team consisted of Sarita Cooper, Veronica Walker, Laneisha Jennie, Jerrica Crawford, Brittney Crawford, Jasmine Walker, Ashney Simpson, Jessica Huggins, Chrysanthemum Hawthorne, Cecily Hutchenson, Brizanna Washington, and Taconka Johnson.

They were lead by Head Coach Charles Williams, two Assistant Coaches, Ella Hamilton and Mary Elmore. The managers, Felecia Jones, Paula Galloway, Ambrosia Hope, Kenyon Butler, and Bryan Hargrove, assisted the team in their endeavors.

In addition to the team's accomplishments, there were some players who received individual recognition: Sarita Cooper and Veronica Walker received All-District, All-Conference, and All-State; and Laneisha Jennie received All-Conference and All-State.

I would like to take this time to commend and congratulate the Indianola Gentry High School "Lady Rams" Girls Basketball Team for being the Mississippi High School Activities Association Grand Slam Champions. They have brought pride to their school, city, and State.

HONORING SOLDIERS FROM THE SENTINEL PLATOON OF THE 2- 174TH AIR DEFENSE ARTILLERY BATTALION

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker, today, May 3, 2007, it is my distinct honor and pleasure to welcome home 13 members of the Ohio Army National Guard's Sentinel Platoon of the 2–174th Air Defense Artillery Battalion.

These brave men deserve the thanks and admiration of our nation for the sacrifices they have made as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. I know I speak for many when I say that we are forever indebted to the heroism exhibited by: SGT Adam D. Binckley, SGT Clinton O. Bozenske, SGT Eric M. Coffman, SPC Christopher S. Dearth, SPC Adam C. Dick, SGT Daniel S. Holdren, SPC Bryan D. Lee, SPC Todd W. McCutcheon, SGT Kyle W. McDaniels, SFC Kevin L. Mettler, SSG Nathan A. Stewart, SGT Christopher J. Weeks, and SGT Shawn E. Wiseman.

I commend these Guardsmen for heeding the call to serve our nation, and I applaud their families for simultaneously sacrificing alongside of their loved ones. So often the parents, spouses, and children of deployed soldiers and reservists are the support systems our men and women need to accomplish the difficult tasks that they are asked to undertake.

The 13 men I've named should be forever proud of the commitment, courage, and strength of character that they possess. Their selflessness should serve as an example to us all.

Again, I offer my most sincere gratitude to the 13 members of the Ohio Army National Guard's Sentinel Platoon of the 2–174th Air Defense Artillery Battalion.

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