

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN MEMORY OF TEXAS TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION CHAIRMAN  
RICHARD "RIC" WILLIAMSON

### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 16, 2008*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember The Honorable Ric Williamson, former Chairman of the Texas Transportation Commission and a dear friend of mine.

Ric began his 23-year tenure in faithful public service to the state of Texas in 1984, when he was elected as a State Representative. In 2001, he was appointed by Texas Governor Rick Perry to serve on the Texas Transportation Commission, and was named chairman in 2004. Ric served on several boards, including the Southern Regional Education Board, Legislative Budget Board, Department of Information Resources Board, Uniform Statewide Accounting System Committee, and the Southern Legislative Conference, to name a few.

As Chairman of the Texas Transportation Commission, Ric's visions always aimed at improving the state of transportation and the quality of infrastructure in Texas. Many times his initiatives were deemed controversial or difficult, but his resolve and determination persevered and many of his harshest critics have come to respect and support his innovative transportation concepts.

Ric will always be remembered by his friends and associates as a true champion for all things Texan. Unafraid to challenge the status quo, he was a highly regarded leader bringing innovative ideas to provide safe, economic and reliable transportation to improve the daily lives of Texans.

On a personal level Ric remained a patient mentor and a steadfast friend. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife Mary Ann and his family. Ric will be greatly missed.

HONORING WILLIAM J. WINIARSKI

### HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 16, 2008*

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to William J. Winiarski as he retires from Rowe Incorporated. A dinner was held in his honor on January 11th in Grand Blanc, Michigan.

William Winiarski started working for Rowe Incorporated in 1971. He received his bachelor of science in civil engineering degree from Michigan Technological University in 1973. He was promoted to project manager in 1976, the same year he became a professional engineer. His career with Rowe continued and he was named a vice president in 1978 and became the president/chief operating officer in

1986. During this time William was licensed as a professional surveyor. He assumed the position of chief operating officer in 1991 and 10 years later became the marketing principal. This enabled him to focus on the marketing and client side of the business.

Working at the helm of several significant projects, William has put the Rowe stamp on many communities in Michigan. He led the team that worked on projects for the City of Flushing, City of Niles, City of Linden, Village of Byron, Village of Chesaning, Village of Holly, Village of Oxford, Charter Township of Flushing, Genesee County Road Commission, Shiawassee County Road Commission, Shiawassee County Drain Commission, Flint Downtown Development Authority, Genesys Health Systems, and Venice Park Landfill.

He is affiliated with several professional and community organizations and has held leadership positions with many. He is the past national director and past president of the American Council of Engineering Companies. He is the past president of the American Society of Civil Engineers, East Central Michigan Chapter. William is the past president of the Michigan Society of Professional Engineers, Flint Chapter. He is a member of the Michigan Society of Professional Surveyors, a Genesee/Lapeer/Shiawassee Region V planning commissioner, the Chairman of the Genesee County Brownfield Redevelopment Board, and the vice chairman of the Flint River Corridor Alliance. He has served as the chairman and acting president of the Flint/Genesee Economic Growth Alliance and the chairman of the Genesee Area Focus Council. He is on the board of directors of Genesee County Mental Health Facilities, Genesee County Mental Health, and the "Ready-Set-Grow" Program for Genesee County. William is a past board of directors member of the Flint Industrial Mutual Association and the past chairman of the Genesee Regional Chamber of Commerce.

William continues his association with his alma mater by serving on the board of directors for the Michigan Technological University Fund, the Civil Engineering Advisory Board and as a member of the Civil and Environmental Engineering Academy.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute to William J. Winiarski as he retires from Rowe Incorporated. Through his work he has left a permanent mark upon the communities of Michigan and has enhanced the quality of life for its citizens.

CONGRATULATING THE TAFT UNION HIGH SCHOOL WILDCATS VARSITY FOOTBALL TEAM

### HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 16, 2008*

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the student ath-

letes and coaches of the Taft Union High School Wildcats varsity football team on winning the 2007 California Interscholastic Federation Central Section Division IV championship, also known as the Valley Championship.

On Friday, November 30, 2007, the Wildcats defeated Corcoran High School 28-14 in their last game of the season to win the championship. This was a truly outstanding achievement to cap an outstanding season, a season where the Wildcats finished with a record of 12-1. The Wildcat victory marked the first football Valley Championship for Taft since 1930. Taft Union High School football fans, students and the Taft community were treated to an exciting championship game where in the fourth quarter with a tied score, the Wildcats' skill, training, hard work, and athleticism paid off and led them to an emotional two touchdown victory.

I want to extend my congratulations to the Taft Union High School Wildcats student athletes for their impressive championship win and 2007 season. The 2007 roster included Donald Baggs II, Derek Barnes, David Barraza, Dalton Botts, Chad Cruz, Wes Elland, Blake Emberson, Lyndon Faagau, Jose Flores, Jeremy Gonzales, Sergio Gonzales, Tommy Halphin, James Hiracheta, Tyler Houghton, Austin Kindred, Loren Kolb, Joe Lau, Andrew LeClair, Konelio Maino, Dylan Niblett, Matther Nixon, Jeremy Orr, Christian Ramirez, Kurtis Rawls, Blaine Reich, Jerry Romo, Ricardo Romo, Ben Savali, Ioane Savail, Fabian Scheifele, Shane Sefo, Cody Shirreffs, Jesse Simmons, Steven Spoonemore, Jesse Tafoya, Fabian Taute, Kyle Taylor, Jeremiah Twisselman, Joel Vermillion, Tommy Williams, Aaron Wroblewski, Stewart Bandy, Avesee Faagau, Adalberto Figueroa, Eric Foch, Shaquil Gant, Mike Hagstrom, Kacey Kaszycki, Hunter Liljeroos, Mike Newkirk, Todd Parker, Felipe Puldo, Cody Reaves, Andrew Smith, Freddy Tuuamalemal, Jordan Vermillion, and Braxton Walters.

I also want to congratulate the coaching staff who helped lead the team to its championship season. The Wildcat head coach is Steve Sprague and his coaching team includes Russell Emberson, Arley Hill, Rick Woodson, Shawn Cummins, Rob Cleveland, Paul Martinez, Brian Durkan, Bryan Powell, Dee Griffith, Mike Goodwin, John Wagner, and Jeremy Letterman.

Participation in athletics is a wonderful component of a high school education because it provides opportunities for leadership, teamwork and competition. The months of physical and mental training and the teamwork that was required to win this Valley Championship will benefit these young men long after their high school graduation.

On behalf of the residents of the 22nd Congressional District, I once again commend the Taft Union High School Wildcats on winning the 2007 Valley Championship. I am very proud of the accomplishments of the 2007

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Wildcats football team, and I know the parents, teachers, neighbors and fans in our community will remember this season for many years to come.

IN HONOR OF THE GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER TIGERS: 2007 AAA GEORGIA STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 16, 2008*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of the 2007 Georgia AAA State Football Champions, the George Washington Carver Tigers. On December 15th, 2007, the Tigers defeated another great football team in my district, the Cairo Syrupmakers by a score of 16–13 on a rainy, windy day in Cairo, Georgia.

The game was an epic battle between two talented, well coached teams. This capped an undefeated 15–0 year for the Tigers and also delivered the school's first State football title in history. And the first state title in any sport since the basketball team accomplished this feat in 1971.

I want to extend my congratulations to Principal Chris Lindsey, Coach Dell McGee and the entire Carver family for this great achievement.

I also want to extend my congratulations to the Cairo Syrupmakers for a great season. They played all season with courage, spirit, and intestinal fortitude.

It takes a great deal of work and sacrifice to assemble a State-championship football team. It takes the dedication of the young men who are playing on the team. It also takes a dedicated coaching staff who have the wherewithal to dedicate their time and energy to not only teaching young men about the game of football, but also the game of life. A winning football team can in many ways bring a community together. This team has brought this community together.

The 99 young men that made up this year's football team accomplished something special. By accomplishing this special goal, they developed the character that will help them to succeed in other aspects of life. I am proud to represent these special young men and once again congratulate them on their history-making achievement.

HONORING GEORGE W. BRITTON

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 16, 2008*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. George Britton upon his retirement from the city of Modesto as the city manager. Mr. Britton was honored on January 3, 2008, in Modesto, CA.

George Britton was born and raised in Modesto, CA. After graduating from high school, Mr. Britton attended the University of Oregon where he received a bachelor's degree and then attended the University of Southern California where he received a master's degree in

public administration. He also completed the program at the John F. Kennedy School of Government and the Senior Governmental Executive Program at Harvard University.

Mr. Britton served in the Air Force Reserve from 1970 until 1978. He left reserve to join the city manager in the city of Scottsdale, Arizona, where he served as the director of municipal utilities and assistant to the city manager. Mr. Britton was the executive assistant to Arizona Governor Bruce Babbitt from 1980 through 1986, where he chaired the Governor's Cabinet and oversaw various State agencies. For the next 15 years, he was the deputy city manager for the city of Phoenix.

In 2001 Mr. Britton returned back to Modesto and joined the city of Modesto. He started as deputy city manager and was appointed city manager in March 2005. During Mr. Britton's time in office the city of Modesto has made numerous improvements. In 2006 alone the city had increased downtown signage, and developed and increased participation in the Citizens Emergency Response Team. The Modesto Fire Department was also able to add 12 new firefighters, a new fire truck, and the department was awarded funding to add three fire investigators to be available for all of Stanislaus County. In addition to all of this, the city was also awarded funding to increase the capacity and ability of the airport. There have also been major developments with the city's solid waste program, expansion of the youth center, increased commerce, the creation of more parks and bridges and 71 miles of roads were added, repaved or repaired. The city of Modesto was able to make enormous strides under the direction of Mr. Britton.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate George Britton upon his retirement from the city of Modesto. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Britton many years of continued success.

HONORING 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF HURLEY MEDICAL CENTER

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 16, 2008*

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of Hurley Medical Center in my hometown of Flint, MI. Hurley Medical Center kicked off a yearlong celebration on January 11.

In 1908, James J. Hurley left \$55,000 and property to the city of Flint to establish a hospital to treat everyone, regardless of their ability to pay. The first Board of Managers, J. Dallas Dort, Charles A. Lippincott, Edward D. Black, William E. Martin, and George L. Walker, implemented his vision. Mrs. Flint P. Smith organized the first auxiliary to raise money for the fledgling hospital. Their vision and hard work paid off and the hospital opened its doors on December 19, 1908.

Today Hurley Medical Center is a 443-bed teaching medical center annually treating over 20,000 persons for inpatient care and 76,000 emergency room cases. It is the only Level I trauma center and Level III neonatal intensive care unit in Genesee County. In addition to these two services, Hurley Medical Center offers the region's only care centers in the following specialties: burn center, maternal and

fetal care center, pediatric intensive care unit, pediatric emergency room, fertility and reproductive medicine center, and kidney transplantation center.

The 2,500 employees of Hurley Medical Center work very hard to provide quality healthcare to their patients. The medical center has received the 2007 HealthGrades Critical Care Excellence Award, and the 2007 "Certificate of Merit for Outstanding Achievement in Organ Donation" from Michigan Gift of Life. In 2005 they received the Governor's Award for Quality in Inpatient Setting, Ambulatory Setting, and Emergency Department. The Hurley Asthma Center has also received the MHA Ludwig Community Benefit Award.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Hurley Medical Center for providing outstanding healthcare to the Flint community for the past 100 years. Their mission statement is "Clinical Excellence, Service to People." Every person living in Genesee County has been touched, either directly or through a loved one, by the commitment of the employees, affiliated healthcare providers and volunteers of Hurley Medical Center to live up to their motto. They continue to exemplify James Hurley's vision to provide quality healthcare to everyone regardless of their income. I am grateful for their compassion and wish them the best for the next 100 years.

IN MEMORY OF COACH NEAL WILSON

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 16, 2008*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember Coach Neal Wilson, the longtime athletic director of Lewisville Independent School District in Lewisville, Texas and a tireless public servant.

Coach Wilson began his four decade-long coaching career in 1965 with the Lewisville ISD, and was Lewisville head football coach from 1978 to the fall of 1985, when he assumed full-time athletic director duties. He retired in December 2000, but came back for brief athletic director stints at surrounding school districts for several years. Coach Wilson then came back to assume the athletic director role in the Lewisville ISD during the spring of 2004, and then again in 2007.

In 2003, Coach Wilson was inducted into the Texas High School Coaches Association Hall of Honor, and in 2005, Flower Mound High School in Flower Mound, Texas, renamed its football stadium the Neal E. Wilson/Jaguar Stadium. Coach Wilson was known as a strong advocate of all sports and took great pride in making sure he not only gave equally to all sports, but also increased his knowledge about every sport with each passing day.

His motto, according to Lewisville assistant athletic director Roddy Durham, was that you have to give the kids a chance to win. Coach Wilson expected himself and every coach to do their part to put their teams in the best position possible and lead by example. "When we have needed him, he's always been there for us," Coach Durham said.

My thoughts go out to his wife Donna and two sons, Darrell and Lance, as well as a