

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING KENYON R. PARTON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kenyon R. Parton, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 215, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Kenyon has been very active with his troop participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Kenyon has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Kenyon R. Parton for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CONGRATULATING DR. RADA MIHALCEA ON BEING AWARDED THE PRESIDENTIAL EARLY CAREER AWARDS FOR SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Rada Mihalcea. Dr. Mihalcea is an engineering researcher from the University of North Texas who will be honored by the White House on January 13, 2010, for her groundbreaking research on understanding the meaning of text and her exemplary commitment to education and community service.

Dr. Mihalcea serves as an Associate Professor for computer science and engineering at UNT, which is located in Denton, Texas. She is among 100 university researchers nationwide who will receive the Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers. This is one of the highest honors a scientist can receive in the United States.

Dr. Mihalcea's research focuses on finding a way to combine several different monolingual and multilingual lexical resources and integrating them into educational applications. Such applications could be useful in assisting Spanish-speaking individuals understand English texts by providing simpler synonyms or translations into English. This innovation is expected to make a huge impact on the local community and the Nation once successfully implemented.

Dr. Mihalcea will be the first professor from any university in the Dallas/Fort Worth Area to receive the Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers. She was nomi-

nated by the National Science Foundation, who also awarded her the CAREER Award in 2008 for her work.

Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today and congratulate Dr. Rada Mihalcea, a recipient of a 2010 Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers, and thank her for her outstanding academic achievements and continuing dedication to the University of North Texas. It is an honor to represent Dr. Mihalcea and the University of North Texas in the United States House of Representatives.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF MAYOR HYLAND R. JOHNS

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Honorable Hyland R. Johns on the occasion of his retirement after 36 years of faithful service to the borough of Bryn Athyn, a close-knit community northeast of Philadelphia. I am honored to represent Mayor Johns and the entire Bryn Athyn community in Congress.

Before being elected to Bryn Athyn borough council in 1971, Mr. Johns served both as a volunteer with the Bryn Athyn Fire Company and as borough zoning officer. He was elected to the borough council in 1971 and one year later became vice president. Mr. Johns held the position of vice president until 1975 when he became borough council president. His service as president lasted for nine years until he was elected mayor. During his tenure as mayor, the borough of Bryn Athyn prospered.

Bryn Athyn is home to the Bryn Athyn Cathedral, Cairnwood, and Glencairn Museum. Under Mr. Johns' leadership, the historic district of Bryn Athyn—which contains these local landmarks—was officially designated a National Historic Landmark. As Mayor, Mr. Johns served as a charming, enthusiastic, informed ambassador to neighboring residents, communities, businesses, organizations, and leaders in the region, sharing the unique significance of Bryn Athyn's architecture and religious heritage.

Before his career as a local official, Mr. Johns faithfully served his country during the Second World War in the Navy's Construction Battalion. Mr. Johns went on to earn a graduate degree in Urban Forestry from Michigan State University. He is an active member of his church, has served on the board of the Academy of the New Church, and serves on the board of the Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust. Under Mayor Johns' leadership, the Academy of the New Church has continued to expand, with the Mitchell Performing Arts Center opening in 2002.

Madam Speaker, once again I applaud Mayor Johns for his dedication, service and accomplishments as an elected official for

nearly four decades. I offer my heartfelt congratulations to him on the momentous occasion of his retirement from public office.

IN HONOR OF CAPTAIN LUTHER H. SMITH, JR., U.S. ARMY AIR FORCES

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor today the memory of a great American hero, Captain Luther H. Smith, Jr., U.S. Army Air Forces, who will be buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery on Friday, 15 January. Captain Smith was one of the original Tuskegee Airmen, a highly decorated World War II prisoner of war, a recipient of the Congressional Gold Medal, the first African-American aerospace engineer hired by General Electric in its Missile and Space Operations in Philadelphia, a loving husband and father, and a longtime resident of Villanova, PA.

Captain Smith was born in Des Moines, Iowa on September 27, 1920. His early dreams to serve as a military aviator were fulfilled when he joined the U.S. Army Air Forces and began training at Alabama's Tuskegee Army Air Field and Tuskegee Institute. One of the first African Americans to become a licensed pilot, Captain Smith began his military career in 1943. He flew 133 combat missions with the 332nd Fighter Group as a combat fighter pilot over Europe. He was severely wounded on his last mission on Friday, 13 October 1944, and spent the next seven months in enemy hospitals and prison camps before being liberated in May 1945 by the Allied forces. During his distinguished military career, Captain Smith destroyed 2 German aircraft in aerial conflicts and 10 aircraft in ground strafing attacks. Captain Smith was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with 6 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Purple Heart, the Prisoner of War Medal, and 8 European Theater Campaign Ribbons.

After retiring from the U.S. Army Air Forces, Captain Smith completed his engineering education at the University of Iowa, earning a B.S. in mechanical engineering. He was hired by General Electric where he was involved in projects for the Air Force, the Navy Submarine Command, and NASA. His work included missile and jet engine design and he published numerous papers and was awarded two patents.

Following his retirement from GE in 1988, Captain Smith was active in support of local civic causes, serving as the vice-chairman of the Radnor Township (PA) School Board and on the Board of the Delaware County (PA) Community College.

He also was instrumental in capturing the history of the Tuskegee Airmen—so that present and future generations of Americans

• 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.

could understand their significance. He believed passionately that "racial equality in America started in the skies over Europe." He and two other Tuskegee Airmen were featured in the 2006 Documentary "On Freedom's Wings: Bound for Glory, the Legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen" which was sponsored by the Pennsylvania Veterans Museum in Media, PA. He also designed the plaque dedicated in memory of the Tuskegee Airmen in Arlington National Cemetery. In May 1995, he was selected by President Bill Clinton to represent the U.S. Air Force for the 50th Anniversary Celebration of VE Day, and he accompanied President Clinton and Vice-President Gore to Europe.

Captain Smith was a member of a unique group of men who possessed an unabashed devotion to this nation and a belief in the strength of American values, even at a time when their country's laws failed to reflect the values for which they fought.

On Friday, at 9:05 AM, the First Fighter Wing from Langley Air Force Base will offer the ultimate recognition of Captain Smith's service to this nation. Like Captain Smith, throughout its storied history, the U.S. Air Force First Fighter Wing has been a trailblazer—leading the way in bringing new fighters operational. Four F-15 fighter jets will fly over the internment services for Captain Smith. In the words of Captain Smith's son Gordon—"I would like to think that my Dad will be beaming with joy and appreciation."

To Captain Smith's widow, Lois G. Smith, his son Gordon and daughter Deborah, I offer this tribute. As this nation prepares to honor the memory of Martin Luther King, Jr. on Monday, it is fitting that we also honor the memory of Captain Luther H. Smith, Jr.—like Dr. King, a great American hero who fought to realize America's commitment to freedom for all.

31ST ANNUAL DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. MEMORIAL BREAKFAST

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, as we celebrate the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and reflect on his life and work, we are reminded of the challenges that democracy poses to us and the delicate nature of liberty. Dr. King's life, and, unfortunately, his untimely death, reminds us that we must continually work to secure and protect our freedoms. Dr. King, in his courage to act, his willingness to meet challenges, and his ability to achieve, embodied all that is good and true in the battle for liberty.

The spirit of Dr. King lives on in the citizens of communities throughout our nation. It lives on in the people whose actions reflect the spirit of resolve and achievement that will help move our country into the future. In particular, several distinguished individuals from Indiana's First Congressional District will be recognized during the 31st Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast on Saturday, January 16, 2010, at the Genesis Convention Center in Gary, Indiana. The Gary Frontiers Service Club, which was founded in 1952, sponsors this annual breakfast.

This year, the Gary Frontiers Service Club will pay tribute to several local individuals who have for decades unselfishly contributed to improving the quality of life for the people of Gary. Those individuals who will be recognized as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Marchers at this year's breakfast include: Ms. Ella Bush, Ph.D., Mr. Charles Deggans, Mr. Arthur Hoyle, Reverend R.T. Mitchell, and Mr. Linus Scott. Additionally, our distinguished State Senator Earline Rogers and Ms. Era C. Twyman will be honored with the prestigious Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum Major Award, an award given out annually to outstanding individuals of the Gary community, while Mr. Claude Powers will be recognized as the 2009 Frontier of the Year.

Though very different in nature, the achievement of all these individuals reflect many of the same attributes that Dr. King possessed, as well as the values he advocated. Like Dr. King, these individuals saw challenges and faced them with unwavering strength and determination. Each one of the honored guests' greatness has been found in their willingness to serve with "a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love." They set goals and work selflessly to make them a reality.

Madam Speaker, I urge you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending the Gary Frontiers Service Club officers: President Oliver J. Gilliam, Vice President James Piggee, Secretary Melvin Ward, Financial Secretary Sam Frazier, and Treasurer/Seventh District Director Floyd Donaldson, as well as Breakfast Chairman Clorius L. Lay, Videographer Otho Lyles, Master of Ceremony Alfred Hammonds, the honorees, and all other members of the service club for their initiative, determination, and dedication to serving the people of Northwest Indiana.

HONORING MILTON VARDEMAN PADGETT

HON. TRAVIS W. CHILDERS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. CHILDERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Milton Vardeman Padgett on the occasion of his 100th birthday. Vardeman was born January 13, 1910 in the Blackland community in Northeast Mississippi to John and Hulda Padgett.

At a young age, Vardeman fell in love with the game of basketball and played at Jumpertown. To this day, he enjoys watching basketball and has become a devoted fan of the Memphis Grizzlies. Vardeman worked as a carpenter for Fisher Aircraft in Memphis during WWII, but worked as a farmer throughout his life.

Vardeman married Margaret Geno Padgett and was a devoted husband for 65 years until her death in 1996. Mr. and Mrs. Padgett reared two children, Harrell Padgett and Janie Padgett McCall. He also has four grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, and 11 great-great-grandchildren.

Vardeman still lives in his home in Jumpertown, Mississippi and is being cared for by his daughter Janie. He says his longevity in life is attributed to always honoring his father and mother. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mr. Vardeman Padgett on his 100th birthday.

RECOGNIZING STEPHEN LUCAS, DIRECTOR OF JAMES A. HALEY VETERANS' HOSPITAL AND CLINICS

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Stephen Lucas, the director of the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital and Clinics in Tampa, Florida, who is retiring after a distinguished 37 years of federal and military service. As the director of Haley Veterans' Hospital, Mr. Lucas oversaw one of the largest veterans' health care systems in the United States, comprised of the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital and the associated outpatient clinics affiliated with the University of South Florida College of Medicine.

Mr. Lucas, a Navy veteran who served on the USS *Iwo Jima* and in Vietnam, began his VA career in 1974 and since has served at multiple VA medical centers across the United States. Mr. Lucas also worked in the private sector, including as the senior hospital consultant with Sun Health, Inc., as the director of management engineering at the Madisonville Regional Health Center in Kentucky, and at the Baton Rouge General Hospital in Louisiana.

During Mr. Lucas's tenure at the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital, he received awards recognizing his significant achievements and leadership skills, including the 2009 Robert W. Carey Performance Excellence award. Additionally, during his tenure at the Miami VA Medical Center and Clinics, the Medical Center received the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs Robert W. Carey Performance Excellence Award for providing the highest quality of care, as well as the Governor's Sterling Award, which recognizes organizations that have achieved performance superiority within their establishment.

I also would like to recognize the contributions of Mr. Lucas's family, including his wife Sheri, his daughter Amanda and his two sons, Mathew and Thomas. The commitment by Mr. Lucas to the Haley Veterans' Hospital meant sacrifices from his family. Those sacrifices are highly appreciated by the veterans' community served by the hospital.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Lucas is a true American hero who should be recognized for his outstanding military service, as well as his exemplary career. Haley's Veterans' Hospital has truly been blessed to have such a worthy and honorable citizen as its director. I wish him well on his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO BUTLER COUNTY ON THEIR 200TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Butler County in the First Congressional District of Kentucky on their 200th Anniversary. This momentous occasion not only celebrates the rich history of Butler County, but the many thousands of residents who