

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### IN RECOGNITION OF MARCUS HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 28, 2012*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate another stellar attainment by the Marcus High School Marching Band. This is not the first, second, or even third time that the Marcus Band has won the University Interscholastic League (UIL) Class 5A State Marching competition, but their fourth time to be state champions! The Marcus High School Marching Band has achieved a first in UIL history in any conference, by winning its fourth consecutive state marching finals contest. It is an amazing accomplishment that epitomizes their work ethic and musicality.

The Marcus High School Marching Band has a talented and committed leadership team, headed by Amanda Drinkwater, Director of Bands, and Associate Directors: Kennan Wylie, Dominic Talanca and David Simon as well as Color Guard Director, John Leonard. The student members of the Marauder Band have worked long hours over many months to bring their winning performance "Gilded Memories" to fruition. They have been capably led by Drum Majors Sarah Jones and Scott Van Gundy.

Edward S. Marcus High School is located in Flower Mound, Texas within the Lewisville Independent School District. The school's administrators, teachers and students as well as its dedicated booster organization have whole heartedly supported the band's endeavors and should also be recognized and commended.

I am pleased to join the community in congratulating the Marcus High School Band. They have been excellent ambassadors for Flower Mound and the 26th District of Texas. It is my privilege to serve them in the U.S. House of Representatives.

### TRIBUTE TO MATILDA SYKES

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 28, 2012*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Matilda Sykes, a tenacious leader and advocate in the community and an inspiration to all of New York.

Matilda, known affectionately as "Mattie", was born in Bennettsville, South Carolina. At a young age, she attended Sunday Service at Shiloh Baptist Church with her grandmother. Like her grandmother, she became a faithful church parishioner. As the second oldest of three siblings, she developed a loving concern for others.

Her family moved to Brooklyn, NY, where she joined First Baptist Church of Crown Heights and started singing in the youth choir.

She accepted Christ at an early age and became involved in youth ministry.

Living in the big city, Mattie continued her education at Rothchild JHS and Bay Ridge HS, graduating and going on to further her education at Kingsborough Community College, where she majored in Business Administration and received an A.A.S. Degree. While attending college, she met her late husband John M. Sykes, Sr. They had one child, John M. Skyes, Jr.

As a young mother, Mattie returned to the work force, landing jobs in the retail field. After that, she accepted a position with the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Bureau of Child Care. During her 29 years in the department, she became an advocate for children, working on special projects with the Associate Commissioner. Mattie is also strongly active with District Council 37, working as a shop steward and delegate for Local 1549.

Mattie worked in the community with the Neighborhood Youth Corp and summer lunch programs while sitting on the Board of the Five Block Daycare Center. She enjoys promoting AIDS and Breast Cancer Awareness at local health fairs around the city.

Currently a member of the Bethany Baptist Church, Mattie has served as secretary to the Ladies Usher Board for several years. With the love and guidance she receives from above, she is content with caring for her elderly mother and watching her two darling granddaughters, Chyna and Aja Sykes grow up.

Mattie enjoys spending her free time with her family and dearest friends whenever possible and truly feels the Lord's blessings.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Matilda "Mattie" Sykes.

JONI INMAN

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 28, 2012*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Joni Inman for her outstanding service to our community.

Joni Inman has been a leader of the Denver community for decades. Most recently, Joni consults for ActionCOACH which helps her clients grow their businesses and create new jobs. Joni also owns her own consulting firm for lobbying, strategic and business planning, small business support for federal regulations and public relations.

Prior to her consulting career, Joni served as the Deputy City Manager for Lakewood where she pioneered the city's communications and sustainability programs. As Deputy City Manager, she oversaw Lakewood's economic development and was the city's legislative lobbyist.

Joni was a behind-the-scenes force in the development of Colorado Mills at Belmar and the St. Anthony Hospital Campus in Lakewood.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Joni Inman for her well deserved honor by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

### A TALL TEXAN AMERICAN HERO

SPEECH OF

**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 27, 2012*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Texas for yielding to me.

It has been a pleasure to work with Chairman HALL ever since I joined the Science Committee in 2005. First and foremost, I want to thank him for the work he has done as Chairman of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee and as a champion of NASA. When the Republicans captured control of the House in 2010, there was no one more deserving of being elevated to chairman than RALPH HALL, especially given the fact that he is probably the only member of Congress to ever serve as Ranking Member of a committee from both sides of the aisle before becoming chair.

The Science Committee has historically been a place where the day-to-day grudge match of partisan politics takes a backseat to thoughtful policy making. Chairman HALL is a great exemplar of that tradition, in the same vein as past chairmen such as Bart Gordon and Sherwood Boehlert. RALPH knows how to make things work and get things done, and he always has a way of doing it with a smile. That style is a throwback to the days when Congress was a more genial place and members worked together across the aisle with others even when they had disagreements. We could use more people in Congress like Chairman HALL, and I look forward to continuing to work with him to get things done for our constituents and for our nation.

LEAH VARNELL

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 28, 2012*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Leah Varnell for her outstanding service to our community.

In 2000, Leah Varnell was a leader in the creation of the Court Appointed Special Advocates of Jefferson and Gilpin Counties (CASA Jeffco/Gilpin). Its mission is to recruit, train and manage community advocates who act as officers of the court for the best interest of children that are abuse and neglect victims.

Since its inception, Leah's success with CASA Jeffco/Gilpin has led to a 110% increase in revenue and 60% increase in staffing, which enables the program to serve more

• 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.

children. In addition, Leah's has been successful creating numerous partnerships with courts and human services to better utilize CASA volunteers.

In 2010, Leah was selected as the Staff Person of the Year by the State Association of CASA programs in Colorado. She also serves on numerous boards including Rewired, Inc., Leadership Jefferson County Alumni Association, Jefferson County Good News Coalition, Jefferson County Best Practice Court Team, and the Emancipation Court Steering Committee.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Leah Varnell for her well deserved honor by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

#### TRIBUTE TO LARAY BROWN

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 28, 2012*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and honor LaRay Brown for her track record in public service and her commitment to improving the community.

LaRay Brown is the Senior Vice President for Corporate Planning, Community Health and Intergovernmental Relations at the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation (HHC), the largest municipal public hospital system in the country. She has been acknowledged by Modern Healthcare as one of the Top 25 Women in Healthcare. LaRay Brown directs strategic-planning efforts for the corporation, and formulation and execution of legislative initiatives and advocacy strategies. Among the many corporate-wide initiatives that she led, Ms. Brown is spearheading the development of affordable and accessible housing on behalf of HHC's patients.

She is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Commission on the Public's Health System's Marshall C. England Memorial Public Health Award in 2010 and the Community Health Care Association of New York State's Rosemarie Forstner Award in 2011.

She was a member of Governor Cuomo's health care transition team and his Medicaid Redesign Team Work Groups on Housing and Health Disparities. Ms. Brown also serves on the board of New York State Health Foundation.

Ms. Brown previously held leadership positions with the State of New Jersey including its Division of Mental Health and Hospitals and its Division of Youth and Family Services.

Ms. Brown graduated summa cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania and received her graduate training at the University of Pennsylvania Fets Center for Government Policy.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Ms. LaRay Brown for her successful career and continued work in service to the community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 10TH ANNUAL 26TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS TRANSPORTATION SUMMIT

### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 28, 2012*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, I held the 10th Annual 26th Congressional District of Texas Transportation Summit along with the Texas Department of Transportation at the University of North Texas.

Transportation is always a popular topic of discussion in North Texas and for obvious reasons. With one of the world's largest airports, thousands of miles of roads, highways, rail lines, and several other modes of infrastructure, North Texans recognize the importance of transportation and its role in our region's continued growth.

This event provided a great conversation and I would like to thank:

The Texas Department of Transportation for cosponsoring and Texas Transportation Commissioner Jeff Moseley speaking at the event, as well as the University of North Texas for serving as host.

Other speakers and panelists for the summit who provided excellent insight into transportation issues: Andrew Harris, Vice President of Finance and Administration, University of North Texas; Michael Morris, Transportation Director for the North Central Texas Council of Governments; Larry D. Tegtmeyer, Wichita Falls District Engineer, Texas Department of Transportation; Bill Hale, Dallas District Engineer, Texas Department of Transportation; Andy Eads, Commissioner Precinct 4, Denton County; Maribel Chavez, Fort Worth District Engineer, Texas Department of Transportation; Gary Fickes, Commissioner Precinct 3, Tarrant County; Marc Williams, Director of Planning, Texas Department of Transportation; and Carlos Swonke, Director of Environmental Affairs, Texas Department of Transportation.

Congressman Steven LaTourette was gracious and keynoted the event. As Vice-Chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, he provided a unique perspective and insight. I thank him for his time and information, and I would like to thank him for his service. Congress is losing such a great asset and I wish him well in the next chapter in his life.

North Texas is a rapidly growing area. As our population expands, our need for wider roads and highways also expands. I look forward to continuing this conversation and to working with local and state leaders on transportation issues.

#### RECOGNIZING CLARENCE BROWN

### HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 28, 2012*

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to recognize the retirement of a lifelong civil servant, Clarence Brown. Clarence has selflessly served the citizens of Bartow County for more than 38 years, and his tenure as Bartow County Commissioner is the longest to date.

Clarence began his service with a plan and vision for Bartow County, and under his leadership it has flourished. Some highlights of his public service are the implementation of the county's growth management plan in 1996, the completion of Georgia Highlands College, and the development of the nation's first county-wide Environmental Management System.

Each of these accomplishments shaped Bartow County, but Clarence's legacy of leadership is truly defined by his character. He paid extraordinary attention to public input and cared deeply for the people he governed.

In recognition of Clarence's selfless service and commitment to the community, the county named the conference center in Cartersville in his honor. However, this was not an easy task given Clarence's humble nature!

It took the community, a judge, and Clarence's wife to convince him to agree to the dedication. To this day when asked about the Clarence Brown Conference Center, Clarence will humbly reply, "It's just a name on a building."

Through his philanthropic and civic contributions, Clarence's impact on our community is immeasurable. He has, and will, continue to lead our community with integrity and honor.

Clarence represents the best of the 11th District, the best of Georgia, and indeed the best of public servants. I am proud to call him a friend.

#### TRIBUTE TO KIMBERLY WELCH

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 28, 2012*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Kimberly Welch, a model servant of the needs of the public, a person dedicated to the importance of family, and native New Yorker.

Ms. Kimberly Welch has been working at the Health & Hospital Corporation for 22 years, beginning as an office aide and now Assistant Associate, providing much help in Mental Health Services to the citizens of Brooklyn. She has focused and devoted her time enlightening, understanding and caring for patients.

An advocate of education, Ms. Welch attended Boricua College in Brooklyn, where she earned a Bachelors of Science Degree in human services. She is active in her children's education and was elected vice president of the PTA at her children's school.

Ms. Welch has always had an interest in helping families, especially in underserved communities. Thinking about ways she could fulfill this desire, she joined an organization named "SomeMeTime", which allows her the ability to empower women. The annual Mother's Day Brunch provides mothers with a day of rest and relaxation. Ms. Welch also participates in programs that educate women on the importance of good health and hygiene.

Ms. Welch volunteers in a very special organization named "L.A.C.E. Leading Ladies" which is dear to her heart because her daughter is one of the founding members. This organization based in Brooklyn, collects, cleans, and distributes prom and graduation dresses to underprivileged junior high school girls throughout New York City. In the spring of