

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MS. HATTIE LUCINDA BENNETT FOR HER SERVICES IN THE MISSISSIPPI HEALTH CARE COMMUNITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable woman, Ms. Hattie Lucinda Bennett. Ms. Bennett was born on January 2, 1916 in Spartanburg, South Carolina to John and Hattie Abner. Ms. Bennett began her early years of school in the Spartanburg community until she and her family relocated to West Palm Beach, Florida. It is in the West Palm Beach community at the early age of 10 that she discovered the severity of economic depression and hardship affecting her community. After visiting a hospital in West Palm Beach, Ms. Bennett realized she would leave her mark on society by becoming a nurse.

Ms. Bennett graduated from West Palm Beach Industrial High School in 1935 as Valedictorian of her class. A short time after that, she began selling insurance policies at a private company to help raise money for college tuition. This job, along with the help of her family and her community, afforded Ms. Bennett the opportunity to successfully attend and complete nursing school as one of 16 blacks. Her achievements did not end there. Ms. Hattie Bennett, after completing nursing school, immediately passed the Georgia and Mississippi Registry Exam, which allowed her to begin a career in nursing.

Ms. Bennett's academic achievements and nursing credentials attracted the attention of Dr. Carl Day of the Yazoo Clinic and Hospital of Yazoo City, Mississippi. In February of 1941, Dr. Carl offered Ms. Bennett the head nursing position at the Yazoo Clinic and Hospital. After generously accepting, Ms. Bennett managed to meticulously raise the standards and performance expectations of the staff by implementing professional training and seminars. She sought to institute professional development activities by the staff to grow and enhance the facility.

Ms. Bennett served admirably as head nurse for the Yazoo Clinic and Hospital of Yazoo City for 29 years before subsequently serving for 2 years at the African American Sons and Daughter Hospital, 14 years at the Heritage Manor Nursing Home, and 32 years at the Mid-Delta Home Health Service.

In 2002, Ms. Bennett retired and was honored for her exemplary lifelong dedication to the nursing profession. Ms. Bennett continues her commitment to nursing as she motivates and encourages youth to pursue a career in the health profession. In 2002, she was honored with the Community Service Award presented by the St. Peters Missionary Baptist Church.

Ms Bennett is also a faithful member of the Bethel A.M.E. Church of Yazoo, Mississippi

where she serves as steward, trustee and chairperson of the Surplus Fund.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring a legendary servant of Yazoo City, Mississippi, community, Ms. Hattie Lucinda Bennett.

IN CELEBRATION OF TWENTY YEARS OF U.S.-UZBEKISTAN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of 20 years of U.S.-Uzbekistan diplomatic relations.

When the United States of America established diplomatic relations with Uzbekistan on February 19, 1992, we were dealing with a newly reborn country that had just gained back its independence from the Soviet Union. Although Uzbekistan has a history that is thousands of years old, it faced many difficulties during the first years of its independence.

Today, Uzbekistan has managed to make significant progress in every field including politics, economics, and international relations. Working to build a foundation based on established legislative, executive, and judicial branches of power, Uzbekistan is transitioning to democracy and, in so doing, is raising its unique historical heritage and national identity.

I am extremely pleased by the high level of cooperation between Uzbekistan and the U.S. in the areas of regional security, the fight against transnational threats, and the deepening of political and economic consultations. U.S. companies are also expanding their presence in Uzbekistan, including General Motors.

The U.S. is particularly appreciative of Uzbekistan's assistance in our efforts in Afghanistan. Uzbekistan is also building railroads and bridges and providing low price electricity and other bilateral assistance to Afghanistan, which is also critical to U.S. interests.

So, once more, I congratulate the government and people of Uzbekistan for all they are doing to support the U.S., and I applaud President Barack Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton for strengthening U.S.-Uzbekistan relations.

HONORING IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH ON RECEIVING AN OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Immaculate Concep-

tion Catholic Church on receiving an official Texas Historical Marker. The current Pastor is Rev. Kevin A. Collins and the church is composed of people from all walks of life. I am proud to honor Immaculate Conception, located in Magnolia Park, for receiving this marker.

On Monday, February 20, 2012, the Texas Historical Commission will dedicate the historical marker with the following text:

In October 1911, the oblates of Mary Immaculate established their Roman Catholic society's first parish in Harris County and named it Immaculate Conception. The site was chosen on Harrisburg Boulevard in the incorporated community of Magnolia Park, which was annexed by the City of Houston in 1926. For the parish's first anniversary on October 6, 1912, a three building campus comprising a wood-frame church, rectory, and school and boarding house was dedicated. The school and boarding house were administered by the Sisters of Divine Providence. A consolidated school and auditorium brick building dedicated in September 1936 replaced these facilities, with the school auditorium serving as the church. The 1912 church building was relocated two miles away and converted into a brick building to serve another parish, Queen of Peace, which was originally a mission church of Immaculate Conception. In March 1957, a neo-Romanesque style church was dedicated to complement the style of the 1936 school and auditorium. The boarding house ceased operating and in 1969 the school closed permanently.

Adhering to their motto as oblates of Mary Immaculate, the priests of Immaculate Conception ministered to the needy and conducted extensive missionary work in southeast and central Texas. For decades, the priests were assigned the ministry for the state penitentiary system in Huntsville. Immaculate Conception was the mother church of the first predominantly Hispanic Catholic Church in Houston, named Our Lady of Guadalupe. At least nine parishes in Harris and surrounding counties can trace their histories to the missionary efforts of Immaculate Conception. Entering its second century of existence, Immaculate Conception continues to be an influential institution in the Magnolia Park community and beyond.

And so it is with great pleasure that I recognize and congratulate Immaculate Conception Catholic Church on receiving an official Texas Historical Marker.

HONORING THE LIFE OF HENRY "HANK" PIOROWSKI

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Henry "Hank" Piorowski, a loving husband, proud father, and a distinguished veteran who earned national recognition for his instrumental role in helping to create "Drug Court."

In 1994, under the leadership of the Chief Judge of Buffalo City Court, the Honorable

• 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.

Thomas Amodeo, and Justice Robert T. Russell, Hank led the study to determine how the traditional criminal justice system could be improved and to develop a centralized tracking system to ensure judges received timely updates.

With no additional funds, this court analyst became the newly designated Project Director with Buffalo's City Court innovative C.O.U.R.T.S. (Court Outreach Unit: Referral and Treatment Services) that began to identify defendants' social problems and link them to needed services. Hank once described his role as "a treatment and communication broker for the court. We basically can meet any need of a person who comes through the doors."

And under his direction, needs were met, results measured, and responsibility and reform rewarded. The program linked individuals coming through the justice system with a full range of social services, including drug treatment, mental health treatment, medical care, anger management, family counseling, youth counseling, and domestic violence programming, vocational/educational services, and housing.

Within ten years, the C.O.U.R.T.S. program had made over 40,000 referrals. From 2000 to 2005, defendants completed over 75,500 hours of community service, including graffiti removal and demolition of crack houses. The value of labor contributed to the community during that time was estimated to be \$453,000.

Mental Health and Veterans Courts would follow this model which has since been successfully replicated across this country. His profound sense of professionalism, humanity, and collaboration was recognized by the New York State Bar Association Justice award in 2003.

Hank's ability to successfully integrate the value of community partnerships and the implementation of information technology within the criminal justice system led to national recognition as he became the first western New York resident to be inducted into the Stanley M. Goldstein Drug Court Hall of Fame.

Retired in 2010, Hank lost his battle with a long, debilitating illness on February 12. He is survived by his loving family which includes wife, Gloria, son, Henry, four sisters and two brothers and many nieces and nephews. His legacy of public service will now be carried on by his son who took the oath of office as the Council President in the City of Lackawanna on January 1, 2012.

Henry "Hank" Piorowski will be missed but he will be remembered by those whose lives were made better and whose families were reunited through his work and commitment to the soldier's creed to "leave no one behind."

REMEMBERING ALEXANDRIA
PARAMEDIC JOSHUA WEISSMAN

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I enter into the RECORD the passing of Paramedic Joshua Weissman. Paramedic Weissman was born in Ithaca, New York, lived in Bristow, Virginia with his wife Rebecca and worked for the City of Alexandria.

While responding to a car fire on I-395 last week, Paramedic Weissman had a tragic fall from the roadway, down an embankment, where he suffered a severe head injury.

City of Alexandria and Arlington County firefighters, paramedics, and police responded immediately, rushing to the scene. Despite their valiant efforts, and those by the medical team at the Washington Hospital Center, Paramedic Weissman's injuries proved fatal. It was a great loss for the Weissman family and the entire Alexandria community.

Mr. Weissman served as a paramedic for the City for nearly six years. In that time, he compiled a record of outstanding performance ratings as an enthusiastic, energetic and engaging instructor who took great pleasure providing innovation to the work of his department.

Joshua was very active in a variety of career-related organizations that interacted with the community and honed his abilities. He was a regular participant in, and member of, the EMS Training Committee, the EMS Quality Management Committee—where he was in charge of the Call of the Quarter Submissions—and the EMS 1/5/10/20 Committee. Josh was also instrumental in the establishment of the Field Training Program for EMS Interns, receiving the Alexandria Jaycees Award in 2011 for his contributions to that effort.

Josh's reputation as a top paramedic was well known. Numerous letters to his department commending his work from members of the Alexandria community are testament to that fact. In one instance, Josh responded to a home incident in which a grandmother, carrying her young grandson, tripped and fell. The boy's mother, upon arriving home after the incident, was concerned with the medical status of her son. Josh went out of his way to revisit the home to reassure the little boy's mother that he had been thoroughly checked out during the initial response, thus alleviating the mother's concerns and an unnecessary and likely expensive trip to the hospital. The mother was so impressed by Josh's concern that she wrote a letter to the Fire Chief expressing her appreciation. That's the way Josh lived day in, day out, going the extra mile to serve those in need.

Mr. Speaker, Joshua Weissman made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. His untimely death is a loss to the entire community. Not only was he an outstanding paramedic, Joshua was also a dedicated family member, coworker, and friend. Paramedic Weissman's service will not be forgotten. He has left us a legacy of honor, kindness, and bravery.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR.
MARTHA WILLIAMS DAVIS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dr. Martha Williams Davis of Holmes County, Mississippi. Dr. Davis was the Founder and former President and Chief Executive Officer of the Dr. Arenia C. Mallory Community Health Center, Inc. from 1993 to 2007. In addition to her professional career, she devoted much of her life

to improving the lives of others and was a true friend to her community.

Dr. Davis' formal education included having received her Doctorate in Philosophy from Mississippi State University, a Master's of Science from Michigan State University, and a Bachelors of Science from Alcorn State University. In addition to having served as Chief Executive Officer, President and Founder of the Dr. Arenia C. Mallory Community Health Center, Inc., Dr. Davis worked as a consultant with various organizations and companies across the United States.

Dr. Davis was tremendously active in the community. She was associated with several local and national groups and committees. She served as a member on the National Association of Community Health Center Legislative and Health Policy Committee, the Association of Health Administrators, Diamond Life Member of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc., Order of Eastern Star, Organized Youth Advisory Council, Student Advisory Council, Organized Delta Health Partners, President of Mississippi Primary Health Care Association, President of the Mississippi School Food Service Administration's Five State Nutrition Project, Trustee to Holmes Community College, and Organized Healthy Start within Mallory Community Health Center System. She was also a Worthy Matron of the Eastern Star Modern Free and Accepted Masons and held the position of Sunday School Superintendent at Saint Paul Church of God and Christ in Lexington, Mississippi.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martha Williams Davis for her steadfast devotion in serving and giving back to her community.

RECOGNITION OF THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH OF CARONDELET

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the hard work of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet.

They recently celebrated their 175th anniversary of serving those in need.

Dedicated to a mission of unity and reconciliation, nonviolence and peacemaking, the Sisters have worked tirelessly to make the St. Louis community a better place.

Sisters of St. Joseph celebrate 175 years in the United States.

Having arrived from France in New Orleans in March 1836, the first six sisters traveled up the Mississippi River to reach St. Louis.

They spent some time learning English and then opened their first mission in Cahokia, Illinois, in April, 1836.

On September 12, 1836, they moved into a log cabin in Carondelet, a small village south of St. Louis.

Today, the Sisters continue their social justice work in the Carondelet neighborhood in South St. Louis City.

They serve in a variety of places and work in an array of areas, such as health care, child care, deaf education, youth ministry and adult education.

Our community, state, and country are beneficiaries of the mission and work of the