

RECOGNIZING KITSAP COUNTY BUSINESSWOMAN AMY IGLOI ON RECEIVING THE COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD FROM THE ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON BUSINESS

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2013

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Amy Igloi of Kitsap County for receiving the "Community Service Award" from the Association of Washington Business. Ms. Igloi is the General Manager of "Amy's on the Bay Restaurant and Bar" in downtown Port Orchard, WA.

Amy Igloi has owned and operated her business in Port Orchard for seven years and currently employs 22 local residents. "Amy's on the Bay" feeds approximately 70,000 customers annually and is a cornerstone business on the Port Orchard waterfront. "Amy's on the Bay" is widely known throughout the Puget Sound region as having some of the finest cuisine in the area—especially the crab cakes and burgers.

Ms. Igloi and her business have been recognized this year by the Association of Washington Business for their dedication to Port Orchard, Kitsap County, and its residents. Numerous community organizations have directly benefitted from the donations generated by Ms. Igloi and her team, including those that serve the homeless, special needs, and elderly populations.

Mr. Speaker, in our economic situation, communities depend on citizens like Amy Igloi to help ensure that vulnerable populations are taken care of in tough times.

As I close, Mr. Speaker, I can say with confidence that residents of Port Orchard and Kitsap County have greatly benefitted from the civic and philanthropic contributions of Amy Igloi and her staff. I applaud her recent award and am grateful that she continues to serve wonderful meals and employ citizens in Kitsap County, Washington.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN WILLIAMS, SR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a public servant, who is no stranger to hard work, Mr. John Williams, Sr.

John Williams, Sr. is a lifelong resident of Rolling Fork, Mississippi and was born on July 15, 1953 to David and Mary Brown. He is a graduate of Henry Weathers High School located in Rolling Fork, MS.

John has been employed with the City of Rolling Fork for about 24 years. He is a volunteer fireman for the City of Rolling Fork.

John is married to DeLinda Williams and they have five children: John, Jr., Lee Odoms, Renea Flood, Keith Flood and Wanda Jackson.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. John Williams, Sr. for his dedication to serving others and giving back to

the community in which he was born and raised.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE
SMITHSONIAN MODERNIZATION
ACT OF 2013

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2013

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce three bills to modernize the Smithsonian Institution and to enhance its governance and fundraising capabilities, in keeping with the recommendations of a number of experts, including the Smithsonian Independent Review Committee, chaired by former U.S. Comptroller General Charles Bowsher. This bill, the Smithsonian Modernization Act, makes changes to the Smithsonian's governance structure by expanding and changing the composition of its Board of Regents, from 17 members, which includes six Members of Congress, the Vice President of the United States, and the Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, to 21 members, comprised solely of private citizens. This change will strengthen both the Smithsonian's governance and fundraising capacity, and it is the first significant change in this old and revered institution since it was established in 1846. The second bill, the Smithsonian Free Admission Act of 2013, seeks to preserve the long-standing free admission policy for permanent exhibits at an institution that is largely funded by the federal government, as envisioned by James Smithson, its founder. Finally, the Open and Transparent Smithsonian Act of 2013 will apply the Freedom of Information Act and the Privacy Act to the Smithsonian in the same manner they apply to federal agencies.

The Smithsonian Institution is an irreplaceable cultural, scientific, historical, educational and artistic complex without any public or private counterpart in the world. Since its founding, the Smithsonian has developed an extraordinary array of world-class museums, galleries, educational showplaces and unique research centers, including 19 museums and galleries, nine research facilities, the National Zoo, and the forthcoming National Museum of African American History and Culture, which is now under construction. The Smithsonian has grown with private funding and donations from American culture and life, but most of its funding continues to come from federal appropriations. Despite receiving 70 percent of its funding from the federal government, the Smithsonian has long had serious infrastructure and other needs.

Congress must help the Smithsonian strengthen its ability to build resources beyond what taxpayers are able to provide. The most important step Congress could take today is to rescue the Smithsonian from its 19th-century governance structure, which keeps it from accessing needed and available private resources and limits close and critical oversight. The Smithsonian Modernization Act provides a governance structure befitting the Smithsonian's unique complexity. The difficulties the Smithsonian has faced result in part from the limitations inherent in its antiquated governance structure. The existing structure may have fit the Smithsonian over 170 years

ago, but today the structure has proven to be a relic that does a disservice to the Smithsonian. The present governance structure places immense responsibility on dedicated but over-extended Members of the House and Senate, the Vice President of the United States and the Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court. These federal officials comprise almost half of the Smithsonian Board of Regents, and must perform their fiduciary duties as board members while giving first priority to their sworn responsibilities as important federal officials.

In 2007, an independent review committee found that the Board had violated principles of good management during the tenure of former Secretary of the Smithsonian Lawrence Small allowing him to create an "insular culture." The committee's report indicated that the Board had failed to provide desperately needed oversight and had overcompensated Mr. Small. The report also found that Sheila P. Burke, the Smithsonian's then-deputy secretary and chief operating officer, had frequent absences from her duties because of outside activities, including service on corporate boards, for which she earned more than \$1.2 million over six years. Further, the Smithsonian's then-business ventures chief, Gary Beer, was dismissed for financial indiscretions. This crisis, caused by unprecedented controversies and irresponsible risks, put into sharp focus the need for new revenue streams and for a modern governance structure. The first full-blown scandal in the Smithsonian's history, replete with embarrassing media coverage, damaged its reputation and perhaps the confidence of potential contributors. The poor judgment and overreaching of Smithsonian personnel during that period requires new and concentrated oversight by citizens for whom the Smithsonian would command priority attention.

The Board, of course, has taken some important action on its own. After irregularities were uncovered by the media, the Board responded to the controversies by creating a governance committee, chaired by Patty Stonesifer, a Regent and former chief executive officer of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, with a mandate to comprehensively review the policies and practices of the Smithsonian and how the Board conducts its oversight of the institution. The Board also established an Independent Review Committee (IRC), chaired by former U.S. Comptroller General Charles A. Bowsher, to review the issues arising from an Inspector General's report and the Board's response, and related Smithsonian practices.

The IRC was forthright in its investigation and recommendations. The IRC stated explicitly that the root cause of the problems at the Smithsonian was an antiquated governance structure, which led to failures in governance and management. According to the IRC, the Board must assume a fiduciary duty that carries a "major commitment of time and effort, a reputational risk, and potentially, financial liability." The IRC further argued that the Smithsonian, with a budget of over \$1 billion a year, must have Board members who "act as true fiduciaries and who have both the time and the experience to assume the responsibilities of setting strategy and providing oversight." The IRC cited a lack of clarity in the roles of the Vice President of the United States and Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court on

the Board, and said that "it is not feasible to expect the Chief Justice to devote the hours necessary to serve as a fiduciary agent." The same observation could be made of the Members of the House and Senate who serve on the Board. The IRC recommended that the Board increase the level of expertise and the number of members to ensure that the Board has sufficient time and attention to dedicate to the Smithsonian.

The Smithsonian's own governance committee identified several Board weaknesses, concluding that the Board did not receive or demand the reports necessary for competent decision-making, that the staff whom the Board depended upon for oversight inquiries did not have direct access to information, and that the inability of staff to communicate red flags "crippled" internal compliance and oversight.

Only Congress, with the concurrence of the president, can amend the Smithsonian Charter. The last change to the Board's structure occurred over 30 years ago, but it only increased the number of private citizens on the Board from six to nine.

The number of Regents, however, is not the root problem. Although the bill expands the Board from 17 to 21 members, most importantly, it brings the Board into alignment with modern public and private boards by requiring all Regents to be private citizens. The search for private funds by Smithsonian management was a major cause of the recent controversy. Faced with crippling budget problems, the Regents must be free to give new and unprecedented attention and energy to finding and helping to raise substantially more funds from private sources. The new structure envisioned by the bill will improve oversight and the capacity for fundraising from private sources. Unlike federal officials on the Board, private citizens on the Board are entirely free to assist in private fundraising. Most importantly, private citizens have sufficient expertise to serve on the Board, and are able to devote the personal time and attention necessary to fulfill the fiduciary responsibility that comes with serving such a venerable and complex institution.

The bill preserves and strengthens the traditional role of the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate in selecting Board members while eliminating the self-perpetuating role of the Board in selecting private citizens for the Board. The Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate will each send 12 recommendations to the President of the United States, who will select the 21 members of the Board from those recommendations.

Considering the seriousness of the findings of the Board's own governance committee and of the IRC, the changes prescribed by the bill are nothing short of necessary. The reform of the fiduciary and governance issues that have brought public criticism to this iconic American institution must begin with the indispensable step of making the Smithsonian's governance consistent with that of other institutions today. Only congressional attention can reassure the public that the controversies that recently besieged the Smithsonian will not recur. In the face of an unprecedented public controversy, Congress would be remiss if it left the Smithsonian to its own oversight and devices alone for improvement.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

HONORING MS. MARKEISHA S. ROBINSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable student, Ms. Markeisha S. Robinson.

In May 2012, Markeisha received her high school diploma as an Honor Graduate from Greenville Weston High School, in Greenville, MS. Additionally, she was crowned Miss Kappa Alpha Psi 2012–2013. During her senior year, she was afforded the opportunity to complete collegiate courses. She accepted the opportunity, worked extremely hard to not only complete the advanced level courses, but to do so with a 3.89 GPA. The fruit of her labor paid off, when she arrived at Jackson State University (JSU) with eighteen hours, being classified as a second semester freshman.

Although brief, Markeisha's tenure at JSU has been filled with challenges, successes and retrospect. She has come to appreciate the results of hard work. She joined MADDRAMA, a JSU performing arts group. The rigors of preparation and rehearsals coupled with determination and drive have proven to be her foundation.

Markeisha is a sophomore and Dean's List Scholar from Greenville, Mississippi. She is a public speaker majoring in Communicative Disorders. Upon completion of her degree, she plans to become a speech pathologist providing tips, techniques and skills to enable the speech impaired to overcome such disorders through individualized sessions at her private practice.

As a student, her strengths are dedication and determination. She is dedicated to her class work and extracurricular activities. Also, she is determined to reach her goals, graduate from college in three years, and continue her education by pursuing a Master's Degree in Speech Pathology.

Markeisha is a very optimistic person. Her favorite scripture in The Bible is "Philippians 4:13, I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Markeisha S. Robinson for her determination and dedication to serving others and giving back to her community.

RECOGNIZING MR. JOHN B. CARTER JR.

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2013

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize a close friend, former classmate and fraternity brother of mine, Mr. John B. Carter Jr., on his recent retirement. On June 30, 2013, John retired as President and Chief Operating Officer of the Georgia Tech Foundation (GTF). The Georgia Tech Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation which manages the philanthropic gifts given to the Georgia Institute of Technology by alumni, corporations, foundations, staff, faculty, students, family, and friends in support of academic excellence and tradition.

John graduated from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 1970. For the past 14 years, he has led the Foundation's day-to-day operations and has been responsible for 175,000 alumni data records, accounting and financial reporting, legal issues and negotiations, administration, and Executive, Committee, Board, and Trustee relations. Prior to leading the Foundation, John served 16 years as Vice President and Executive Director of the Georgia Tech Alumni Association and served our nation for six years in the U.S. Navy. His 30 years of dedicated service to our alma mater is rare and to be commended. John's leadership has influenced many through his devotion, fortitude, and kindness, and will be set apart in the years to come. I am grateful for his example of service and for his friendship.

The Georgia Institute of Technology and the Georgia Tech Foundation are fortunate to have such dedicated and innovative alumnus professionals as John B. Carter Jr. His commitment to excellence, leadership and service is to be admired, and may it inspire others to follow in his footsteps. My sincerest wishes and congratulations to him on his retirement.

HONORING RICHARD MICHALSKI

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 8, 2013

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary career of my friend Richard P. Michalski. After over four decades of loyal and dedicated service, Mr. Michalski has retired from his position as General Vice President of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM).

Mr. Michalski is an example of an American success story. He began his long time association with IAM in 1968 as member of the IAM Local Lodge 1916 while working as a welder with General Electric in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He climbed the ranks and moved up to Local Lodge President.

Rich Michalski has dedicated his life to promoting workers as he served in various positions with the IAM. In 1992, he became IAM's Director of Legislative and Political Action Department. It was in this position that he served as a champion of the rights of working men and women by advocating for their concerns with Members of Congress and relentlessly pursuing their interests in Congress.

Mr. Michalski's became a member of IAM's Executive Board in 2006 where he served as the General Vice President and continued to fight for the advancement of workers across the United States.

I want to extend my warmest and most sincere thanks to Rich for his lifelong devotion to American Labor. Thank you for your friendship and your counsel. Truly the great cause of our time is to help protect the American Dream for working men and women who built this nation. I am proud to have joined with Rich in the cause. Rich's long and illustrious career from humble beginnings as a welder to the leadership of one of the world's great unions will not be forgotten and I congratulate him and wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement.