

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING SAM JOHNSON

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, our colleague from Texas, SAM JOHNSON, is an American hero. And today I join other colleagues in observing the fortieth anniversary of his release from a North Vietnamese prisoner of war camp.

In seven years of captivity SAM endured physical and mental torture. In fact, SAM was set aside for extra abuse because of his obstinate resistance to his Communist captors. At various points SAM spent 42 straight months in solitary confinement and was forced into leg stocks for more than two years.

But while SAM's jailors punished his body, they could not break his spirit; his love of God and country is a deep wellspring they could never penetrate. His scars bear witness to his tenacity and toughness.

SAM JOHNSON spent a total of 29 years in service to the United States Air Force. He flew combat missions during the Korean War and above Vietnam. He earned two Silver Stars, two Legions of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, a Bronze Star, and numerous other awards. Since his election to this body in 1991, SAM has walked the halls of Congress with the highest levels of respect and admiration. He has grown to become this institution's living embodiment of cool-under-fire heroism.

In remembering the anniversary of his release and saying "thanks" to SAM JOHNSON, we also remember all those captured and imprisoned defending our liberty. In the Rotunda of Capitol hangs the famous black POW-MIA flag. It hangs there to remind all Americans that freedom is not free and is purchased only at the very highest of costs.

Mr. Speaker, it is impossible to calculate the value of the sacrifices made by war fighters like SAM JOHNSON. It is equally impossible to adequately repay them. We are simply left with words of gratitude for a job well done. I hope all Members of Congress join me in extending thanks and deep appreciation for our colleague, SAM JOHNSON.

HONORING MR. CEDRIC GEORGE GIVENS

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the continued achievements of Mr. Cedric George Givens, a native of my hometown of New Orleans, Louisiana. I have the distinct privilege of congratulating Mr. Givens as he is honored with the title of 98th King of Zulu, an organization that he has proudly served for nearly two decades. Mr. Givens has

been a continued leader in Zulu, reigning as Zulu Governor in 2005 and serving as a Board Member from 2008 to 2012. He has also served on and chaired several committees, most recently acting as the Chairman of the Zulu Anniversary Committee. Mr. Givens has been a leader in Zulu due to his love of bettering his community, and it is an example that we should all strive to follow.

In addition to his role as an active member and leader of the Zulu Social Aid & Pleasure Club since 1994, Mr. Givens has been a leader in business and in his community. For 17 years, Mr. Givens worked as a Plant Supervisor for Diversified Foods and Seasonings Inc. Currently, he is serving as the Vice-President of Operations of a financial firm, where he manages operations and transportation in over 20 countries. Outside of work, Mr. Givens leads an admirable life in his community, working with social groups like the Big Dawgs and the Go-Getters. His service to his community is an inspiration, and we are deeply grateful to him for his years of commitment.

A New Orleans native, Mr. Givens is the youngest child to Robert and Janice Givens. He is a product of the Orleans Parish Public School System, graduating from Alcee Fortier Senior High School in 1985. He also attended college at Southwestern Louisiana University, where he joined the Beta Phi chapter of the Alpha Phi Omega Fraternity. Mr. Givens and his wife, Zulu Queen Monica Veal Givens, have three children—Stacey Thomas, Ryan Williams, and Rayna Brantley. I hold Mr. Givens in the highest regard for his dedication to his family and friends. His commitment to the future of New Orleans brings hope and promise to our city. With the tireless work of people like Mr. Givens, New Orleans will continue to be one of the most empowered and unique cities in the world.

I wish to congratulate Mr. Cedric Givens on his coronation on February 8, 2013 as the 98th King of Zulu.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. BARBARA JEAN LEVETT

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I present the following U.S. Citizen of Distinction.

Whereas, our lives have been touched by the life of this one woman who has given of herself to her family, church, community, and nation; and

Whereas, Mrs. Barbara Jean Levett's good works are present in Conyers, Georgia as an exemplary mother, mother-in-law, grandmother, great grandmother, aunt, neighbor, community worker, business owner and friend; and

Whereas, this giant of a woman, who was raised up in Atlanta, Georgia, was born on

January 1, 1933, to the late Mrs. Lillie Frances Bailey Fears; and

Whereas, Barbara Jean Levett (faithfully known as Tootsie) was a virtuous woman, a woman of great integrity who remained true to the uplifting of her community and family which in turn uplifted others; and

Whereas, she was an exemplary matriarch, serving as compass and wise counselor and bringing great joy to our district, her family and friends; and

Whereas, Mrs. Barbara Jean Levett loved her family, encouraging all of those around her to make a difference, be it her children, her elected officials, her neighbors and her church members at Rock Temple A.M.E Church in Conyers, Georgia where she was a faithful member; and

Whereas, this remarkable woman gave of herself, never asking for fame or fortune as she became a quiet storm, a spark that starts a flame; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to bestow a Congressional Recognition on Mrs. Barbara Jean Levett for her leadership, friendship and service to all of the citizens of Conyers and the nation;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR., do hereby attest to the 112th Congress that Mrs. Barbara Jean Levett of Conyers, Rockdale County, Georgia is deemed worthy and deserving of this "Congressional Recognition" Mrs. Barbara Jean Levett, U.S. Citizen of Distinction.

Proclaimed, this 9th day of November, 2012.

IN CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL MARRIAGE WEEK

HON. RANDY HULTGREN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Marriage Week. I am proud to support this campaign to encourage marriage, reduce divorce rates, curtail poverty, and benefit children.

Marriage is a cornerstone of society and the foundation for happy, healthy homes and families. The proven benefits of marriage include economic stability, positive health and social advantages, emotional well-being and happiness, and children that perform better in schools.

This week celebrates love as well as commitment; it is a time for couples to reflect on their vows to each other and look forward to their future years together. National Marriage Week is celebrated globally, and is supported by private organizations and individuals who believe that marriage brings benefits to all people in society.

National Marriage Week celebrates healthy marriages, and making commitments based on love, trust, and admiration. It is an honor

• 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.

for me to be able to celebrate this week with my lovely wife, Christy, to whom I have been married to for 22 years.

RECOGNIZING THE NAVARRE HIGH
SCHOOL LADY RAIDERS
WEIGHTLIFTING TEAM AS STATE
CHAMPIONS

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Amanda Friar, Alyssa Jones, Chelsea King, Heather Lynch, Kylie Shelley, Morrigan Webb, Praise Pettus, Sarah Cox, Savannah Rodwell, Skye Barberi, Taylor Smith, and Coach Garrett Bagley of the Navarre High School Lady Raiders Weightlifting Team on earning their school's first state title.

On Saturday, February 9, 2013, under the coaching and leadership of Garrett Bagley, the Lady Raiders Weightlifting Team became Florida High School Athletic Association State Champions. After finishing in second place for the past three years, victory for the Lady Raiders was that much sweeter. This season, through the perfect blend of perseverance, discipline, focus, and desire, the Navarre Raiders were ultimately triumphant and defeated two-time defending state champion, Spruce Creak, for the title in a close 24–23 win.

A commendable eleven members of the lady Raiders team performed exceptionally well at the sectional competition and qualified for the State Championship. Of those eleven teammates, six lifters earned themselves individual medals with senior Amanda Friar leading the team as the 110-pound weight class individual gold medalist, followed by Skye Barberi and Praise Pettus finishing with second-place showings, Alyssa Jones and Kylie Shelley finishing fourth, and Chelsea King finishing sixth. I am certain that their impressive victory will continue to be a cherished moment in each of their lives.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize the Navarre High School Lady Raiders Weightlifting Team on their accomplishments and their continuing commitment to excellence at Navarre High School. My wife Vicki joins me in congratulating them and everyone who has played a supportive role in guiding their team to victory. We wish them all the best for continued success.

TRIBUTE TO REV. TOMMIE L.
LEWIS IN HONOR OF 30TH ANNI-
VERSARY AS PASTOR OF BETH-
EL BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 30th pastoral anniversary of Dr. Tommie L. Lewis, pastor of Bethel Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama. Since 1982, this dedicated servant has

led the congregation of Bethel Baptist Church to new horizons in ministry. I am pleased to honor Pastor Lewis and join with his congregation in celebrating 30 years of excellence in leadership and service to the Lord. Pastor Lewis answered his call to minister on January 6, 1973 at the Shady Grove Missionary Baptist Church. For more than 40 years, Pastor Lewis has been led by his faith to minister and spread his message of service and commitment to mankind. While he has served at other churches, Pastor Lewis is most celebrated for all that he contributed to the Bethel Baptist Church family, affectionately known as "Bethel Nation". Under his 30 year leadership, Bethel Nation has grown to a membership of over 5,000 worshippers and currently stands as a beacon of hope and inspiration in the Pratt City community. Pastor Lewis has shaped a legacy defined by numerous ministries that reach far beyond the church sanctuary. In both his professional and spiritual life, his character has been defined by his willingness to serve, his unselfish generosity and his unwavering commitment to making a difference in the lives of others. He uses his clergy position as a powerful force for good throughout this world.

Pastor Lewis is an accomplished biblical scholar. He attended the Birmingham Easonian Baptist Bible College and the Universal Bible Institute in Brunswick, Georgia. Pastor Lewis is also the recipient of various honorary doctorate degrees as a result of his varied contributions to the ministry and public service. Through the years, in addition to his dedicated service to Birmingham, Pastor Lewis has also sought to share his spiritual teachings all over the world. He has ministered to and delivered sermons throughout the United States, South America, Europe, Africa and Asia. But no matter where his ministry has taken him, Pastor Lewis is forever committed to home. Pastor Lewis has led by example and displayed his commitment to public service through his affiliation with various religious and civic organizations aimed at empowering the lives of those that he serves. His involvement include but are not limited to: the Pratt City Ministerial Alliance, the Birmingham Metropolitan Baptist Ministerial Conference and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Pastor Lewis also worked to transform the trajectory of his community through his service as former Captain for the Bessemer Police and Fire Department Chaplaincy Corps and the former Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Jefferson County Transit Authority. Pastor Lewis currently serves as Chairman of the Board of Directors for Jefferson County Commission of Economic Opportunity and State President for the National Rainbow Push Coalition. In 1998, he received one of Birmingham's highest honors when he was inducted into the City of Birmingham Gallery of Distinguished Citizens.

In the aftermath of the April 2011 tornadoes, which completely destroyed Bethel Baptist Church, Pastor Lewis' faith and determination has been unwavering as he continues to minister to his congregation as they rebuild a stronger Bethel Nation. He continues to be grounded in God's mercy and grace giving hope to the hopeless and providing opportunities for the least amongst us.

While his contributions and accolades are large in number, I am especially grateful for the servant leadership that Pastor Lewis has

shown to the 7th Congressional District of Alabama. He has made an indelible imprint on the lives of so many of us through his ministries. We are blessed by his visionary leadership. Therefore, it is with pride and a humble heart that I pay tribute to Pastor TL Lewis in recognition and appreciation of his 30th pastoral anniversary at Bethel Baptist Church. And so it shall be transcribed in the annuals of the United States House of Representatives that special recognition be made to Reverend Dr. Tommie L. Lewis on behalf of a grateful nation.

HONORING CHIEF APOSTLE
ROBERT L. WILLIAMS

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation.

Whereas, Bishop Robert Lee Williams, Sr., and Straight Life Church of God Pentecostal, Inc., are celebrating the elevating of Bishop Williams to Chief Apostle after years of pastoral and stellar leadership to his church and our community; and

Whereas, Chief Apostle Williams, under the guidance of God has pioneered and sustained Straight Life Church of God Pentecostal, Inc., as an instrument in our community that uplifts the spiritual, physical and mental welfare of our citizens; and

Whereas, this remarkable and tenacious man of God has given hope to the hopeless and is a beacon of light to those in need; and

Whereas, Chief Apostle Williams is a spiritual warrior, a man of compassion, a fearless leader and a servant to all, but most of all a visionary who has shared not only with his Church, but with our District and the nation his passion to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and congratulate Chief Apostle Williams as he is elevated to this position of great recognition and great responsibility in pastoral leadership;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR. do hereby proclaim November 11, 2012 as Chief Apostle Robert L. Williams, Sr. Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 11th day of November, 2012.

TRIBUTE TO HADIYA PENDLETON

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable young woman who had really just begun to embark upon her life's journey, but Hadiya Zaymara Pendleton was taken from us too soon on January 29, 2013 as a result of senseless gun violence.

No words can ease the pain of losing a child, Mr. Speaker. To Hadiya's parents and loved ones I can simply offer them a word from scripture. In Luke 18:16 the Bible tells us