

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNITION OF THE 2012 ROBERT W. CAREY PERFORMANCE EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR THE SOUTHERN ARIZONA VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

HON. RON BARBER

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2013

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System, which has been awarded the 2012 Robert W. Carey Performance Excellence Award.

As Congress continues to work to improve veterans' services, I believe it is important that we take the time to recognize the outstanding dedication of our VA employees. The committed men and women of the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System strive every day to provide quality support and care for our Arizona veterans who have sacrificed so much for our country. Our veterans deserve the highest quality of care, and the Robert W. Carey Performance Award recognizes the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System's commitment to achieving this goal.

The Southern Arizona VA Health Care System is a leader in veteran health care. Collectively, the various parts of the system provide quality services to more than 177,000 veterans. The Southern Arizona VA Health Care System not only provides general and primary care but a myriad of specialty services including neurology, rehabilitation, and mental health.

The Robert W. Carey Performance Excellence Award is an annual award sponsored by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. The award recognizes specific organizations within the VA that have implemented management approaches that result in sustained high levels of performance and service to our nation's veterans. Mr. Speaker, I can think of no better recipient of this year's award than the Southern Arizona Veterans Affairs Health Care System, SAVAHCS. I congratulate the employees of SAVAHCS on this well-deserved recognition of the care they provide to our veterans.

TRIBUTE TO DR. BRUCE AYERS

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2013

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a long-time friend and tremendous leader in Kentucky, Dr. Bruce Ayers upon his retirement as President of the Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College.

Dr. Bruce Ayers is arguably one of the most brilliant educators and dedicated businessmen in Kentucky. He understands the value of forging new partnerships, expanding educational

opportunities, and mentoring young leaders. He is also an avid ambassador for our beautiful region, promoting our rich culture and heritage with every opportunity.

Dr. Ayers enjoys explaining how he "grew up" at Southeast, spending nearly a half-century at the institution. After bravely serving in the U.S. Marine Corps with a deployment at Guantanamo Bay, Bruce became a student at what used to be the Southeast Center of the University of Kentucky in Cumberland. He quickly displayed leadership qualities by helping to establish the college's award-winning newspaper, The Southeasterner, before moving on to the University of Kentucky in Lexington. After earning his Master's degree, Bruce immediately returned to Southeast as a faculty member and worked diligently to become the 8th President of SKCTC in 1987.

With Dr. Ayers at the helm of his alma mater, Southeast has grown from a small campus with 1,100 students to well over 5,000 students spanning five cities with individual campuses. With his vision and compassion to help others succeed, the college established a Nursing School, the Kentucky Coal Academy, the Pine Mountain Development Corporation, and multiple outreach programs for younger students, beginning in elementary school. Most recently, he has worked tirelessly to help laid-off coal miners get the education they need to pursue alternative careers in the midst of economic struggles in our Appalachian coalfields.

Dr. Ayers' exemplary leadership has earned national recognition. He is the founding chair of the Rural Community College Alliance; he served as an adjunct member on the graduate faculty of the Department of Instructional Systems, Leadership, and Workforce Development at Mississippi State University; and served as a local advisor for students pursuing a PhD in Community College Leadership through MSU. Additionally, under his leadership, the Aspen Institute selected SKCTC as one of the top ten community colleges in the nation earlier this year.

While his excellence in education has largely defined his career, Dr. Ayers' footprint extends far beyond the Southeast campuses, through his tireless community service efforts in the tri-city area of Harlan County and our entire region. Dr. Ayers has been a huge advocate for non-profit, grassroots programs like our region's tourism initiative, TOUR Southern and Eastern Kentucky; the environmental cleanup campaign, Eastern Kentucky PRIDE; and the holistic anti-drug program, Operation UNITE. I believe he spends each day trying to find a way to give more back to the region he calls home. He is truly a difference maker.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring my friend and a true inspiration, Dr. Bruce Ayers on his retirement. I wish Bruce and his wife, Barbara all the best in the years to come.

REMEMBERING THE HONORABLE RUDY CLAY

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2013

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness and the utmost respect that I take this time to remember a dear friend and one of Indiana's most distinguished citizens, the Honorable Rudolph Clay, former Mayor of Gary, Indiana. On Tuesday, June 4, 2013, Rudy Clay passed away at the age of 77. Known for his many years of public service and his countless efforts toward improving the lives of Northwest Indiana residents, Rudy will be missed by his family, friends, constituents, and the many people whose lives he touched.

Rudolph Clay was born in Courtland, Alabama. He and his brother, David, were raised by their aunts, Daisy Washington and Mary Lucy Hunter, in Gary, Indiana, following the passing of his mother. Rudy graduated from Roosevelt High School in Gary before continuing his education at Indiana University in Bloomington, which he attended on a track scholarship. After returning to Gary, he met and fell in love with Christine Swan, whom he wed on November 30, 1957. From 1958 to 1960, Rudy began what would become a lifetime of public service by serving in the United States Army. During this time, Rudy's calling to fight injustice and to serve the public, especially those most in need, and his unwavering desire to be a catalyst for positive change, led him on his extraordinary journey.

Rudolph Clay was elected to the Indiana State Senate in 1972. While in this position, the focus of his efforts included working toward improved training programs for prison inmates and the creation of a victim's compensation fund. Following his service in the Indiana General Assembly, Rudy was elected to the Lake County Council in 1978 and re-elected in 1982. During his time on the Council, Rudy's dedication to equal rights impelled him to be an outspoken leader in the fight to eliminate unfair hiring practices in Lake County government. He was elected Lake County Recorder in 1984, and three years later, he was elected to the Lake County Board of Commissioners, a capacity in which he remained for four terms.

In 2005, Rudy became the first African American elected to serve as the Lake County Democratic Chairman, a position he held until 2009.

In 2006, recognizing the leadership Rudy Clay would bring to the people of Gary, the Gary Precinct Organization appointed him to be the next mayor of Gary, and he was elected to the position the following year. Mayor Clay was the epitome of a public servant. His energetic dedication to serving people and his profound compassion for them, especially those most in need, was limitless. Throughout his illustrious career, Rudy received many esteemed honors for his outstanding commitment and his constant efforts to improve the

• 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.

quality of life for the people of Gary and throughout Northwest Indiana.

While Rudy was fully committed to the improvement of Gary and Northwest Indiana, his greatest source of pride was always his family. He is survived by his devoted wife, Christine, and his beloved son, Rudy Jr. Rudy also leaves behind many other dear friends and family members, as well as a saddened but grateful community whose lives have been made better by having had Mayor Clay live amongst them.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in paying tribute to my dear friend, and a true public servant, Rudolph Clay. For his tremendous contributions to the people of Gary and all of Northwest Indiana, he has earned our admiration. Rudy Clay's unselfish and lifelong devotion to civil justice and to serving those most in need will be forever remembered. His legacy serves as an inspiration to us all.

STEPHANI RUVALCABA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Stephani Ruvalcaba for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Stephani Ruvalcaba is a 12th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Stephani Ruvalcaba is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Stephani Ruvalcaba for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING OFFICER CARLETON J. GILES ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2013

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the many family, friends, and colleagues who have gathered to celebrate with Officer Carleton J. Giles as he marks the end of his distinguished career after thirty-three years of dedicated service with the Norwalk Department of Police Services. I am honored to have this opportunity to pay him tribute for both his service at the Department and in the community.

I have had the honor of knowing and working with Carleton for many years. Over the course of his career, he has earned the respect and admiration of all those who have been fortunate enough to have worked with

him. That is particularly true with the City of Norwalk's young people. Carleton was one of the first trained D.A.R.E. officers in the State of Connecticut and he has influenced the lives of nearly every 5th grade student in the City since the program's implementation in 1987. In addition to D.A.R.E., Carleton also taught Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT) in each of the middle schools and also worked with high school students as a certified School Resource Officer. His leadership and commitment has served as a model not only for the students he has worked with but for his fellow police officers as well.

Carleton has become a beloved fixture in the Norwalk community. Well known for his work with the Police Activities League Summer Camp as well as the Drug Education for Youth Summer Camp, he has provided support and guidance to some of the community's most vulnerable families. As an ordained clergyman, he served as a chaplain for both the Norwalk Fire Department as well as with the Police Department's chaplain corps—offering comfort and spiritual guidance in some of the most critical times and incidents in the lives of the departments and his fellow first responders.

Carleton's passion for making a difference extends far beyond his work with the Department. An ordained minister with the First Baptist Church of Milford, he has nourished the souls of many with his spiritual guidance. He has served his community of Milford as the Chair of the Police Commission and running for elected office on the Board of Alderman. And I would be remiss if I did not extend a special note of thanks to him for his willingness to assist me as a member of my Service Academy Advisory Committee where he takes the time to interview students interested in attending our nation's military academies and advise me on recommendations for nominations. I cannot thank him enough for his many years of friendship and support.

Police officer, minister, community activist, mentor, and friend—Carleton Giles is a reflection of the compassion and generosity that we hope members of our community possess. His work with both the Norwalk Department of Police and in our communities has made all the difference in the lives of many. I am so proud to join all of those gathered here tonight in thanking him for his outstanding service and wishing him and his wife, Stephany, the very best for many more years of health and happiness as he enjoys his retirement.

HONORING THE INDIANA PACERS

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2013

Mr. MESSER. I rise today to honor the accomplishments of the Indiana Pacers, my home-state NBA team.

The Indiana Pacers reached Game 7 of the Eastern Conference Finals, their first appearance in the Conference Finals since 2004. This 2013 Pacers team embodied the best of Hoosier basketball with a toughness and energy that was exciting to watch. As a long-time fan of the Indiana Pacers, I am thrilled to see the level of competitiveness and talent in this young team.

Led on the court by All-Stars Paul George and Roy Hibbert, the Pacers had one of the best defenses in the League, holding teams to only 90.7 points per game. Joined by hometown-product George Hill, Lance Stephenson, and David West, the Pacers starting-five came together as a team to win the Central Division with a regular season record of 49–32. Credit for this outstanding player development goes to Head Coach Frank Vogel, a great ambassador of the game.

Owner Herb Simon, President Jim Morris, and President of Basketball Operations Donnie Walsh deserve special recognition for their leadership of this franchise and for reconnecting it with Pacers fans from all over the State. We are lucky to have these leaders so highly invested in our community.

I join the entire 6th District and Hoosiers across the State in congratulating the Indiana Pacers for a fantastic and thrilling 2012–2013 season. Pacers fans statewide are looking forward to what this talented team will achieve next season.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2217) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, and for other purposes:

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Chair, I rise today to support the Polis Amendment to defund the 287(g) program, a program that promotes racial profiling and injustice.

The 287(g) program allows local law enforcement to act as immigration officials, which has led to rampant abuses throughout the country, most notably in Arizona, where the practices under 287(g) led to an unprecedented civil rights investigation by the Department of Justice.

As the Representative of the 9th Congressional District of New York, I have worked diligently to decrease the amount of racial profiling in New York City. I have worked to reduce the number of stop and frisks for the past year and eliminate the racial and ethnic intolerance that has plagued New York City and other cities around the country.

By cutting the funding for a program that relies on racial profiling like 287(g), we are sending a clear message that we will not tolerate bigotry. Programs like 287(g) have created mistrust between Latino and other immigrant communities throughout the country and local law enforcement. Ending the 287(g) program will move our country in the right direction to repair the trust that has been lost and is a step forward in fixing our broken immigration system and restoring the rule of law.

We must continue to work to build a supportive environment for immigrant and minority communities in every part of our civil society.