

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING ERIC ATKINSON, PRESIDENT OF ATKINSON CANDY COMPANY

HON. LOUIE GOHMERT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to recognize today an east Texas man and an east Texas family who have realized the American dream the old-fashioned way—through a lifetime of hard work with complete dedication to his family, to his community, and to his craft.

Eric Atkinson is President of the company founded by his grandfather B.E. Atkinson Sr. in 1932. Atkinson Candy Company of Lufkin, Texas is not only a beloved landmark in Angelina County, it is a Texas tradition with a loyal following of candy lovers all over the world. The company still uses the original family recipes and machinery to make its iconic signature Chick-O-Stick, Peanut Butter Bar, Long Boy, and other legendary candies. In fact, his peppermint recipe uses ingredients of such phenomenal quality that exceptional strategic work was required in order to manufacture it in a way that keeps the costs from being astronomical.

Eric is an active leader in the candy industry who has held a position on the board of the Convenience Distribution Association for more than fifteen years. For his commitment to the industry, Eric has received accolades from numerous trade groups, including the 1990 Candy Man of the Year from Southern Tobacco & Candy Association, the 1998 Dean Award and a 2013 Hall of Fame recognition from the Convenience Distribution Association, and the Doc Reed Silver Candy Dish Award from the National Confectioners' Association in 2008. He also received a 2010 nomination for the Kettle Award, which is the highest recognition an individual working within the U.S. confectionery industry can attain. Most recently, Eric Atkinson was honored by being inducted into the prestigious 2015 National Confectionery Sales Association's Candy Hall of Fame following in the footsteps of his father Dr. Basil E. Atkinson Jr., who was named to the Candy Hall of Fame in 2011.

Away from the confection industry, Eric is an avid supporter of area athletic programs as well as our nation's military and regularly makes product donations to charitable events all over the region. His organization also extends its goodwill worldwide, shipping sweets from the legendary candy kitchen to American military personnel serving overseas.

It is a distinct privilege to honor this remarkable man along with his organization, his family and their cumulative legacy of excellence, extraordinary leadership, exemplary character, boundless enthusiasm, and a work ethic that never ever quits. Eric Atkinson's commitment to time honored quality and the preservation of family values is now recorded in this CONGRESSIONAL RECORD which will endure as long as there is a United States of America.

RECOGNIZING MR. CHARLES THOMAS HEAD FOR HIS LIFETIME OF SERVICE

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a distinguished citizen in my district, Mr. Charles Thomas Head. Later this month, Tommy will be retiring from banking after 38 years of tremendous service to the Mills County community.

Tommy began his career at Mills State Bank as a loan officer on October 1, 1977. He served in this position for nearly ten years before being elected President of Mills County State Bank. As president, his leadership helped the bank grow from \$30 million in assets to over \$290 million in assets. Tommy's hard work also helped the bank expand from one location to five throughout the area.

Although his professional accomplishments are impressive, Tommy's work within the community is even more extraordinary. He has been an active leader in countless community initiatives, including Goldthwaite's Texas Botanical Gardens & Native American Interpretive Center. The Native American Interpretive Center allows many residents of Mills County the opportunity to learn firsthand how generations of Native Americans in Texas have utilized the abundant resources Texas has to offer. The Texas Botanical Gardens is a living museum that offers visitors a look at the native plant species that were utilized by civilizations dating back 10–12,000 years ago. Many of these community initiatives would not be possible had it not been for the hard work, time, and dedication of Tommy Head.

In addition, Tommy has also been instrumental in assisting local high school students who have won the Congressional Art Competition. This event is a districtwide art contest where students submit entries to their representative's office. The winner of the competition is recognized with their artwork here in Washington, D.C. Many of these winners have come from Mills County, and Tommy has always voluntarily taken care of the costs associated with this trip for these students and their guardians. For many of these students, this is a trip of a lifetime and it is all possible because of Tommy's generosity.

We are blessed to have individuals in our country like Tommy. His selfless qualities exemplify every aspect of the American spirit and make our communities stronger. Tommy's lifetime of service will forever be an example of how people can make their home a better place.

On behalf of the 11th District, I am honored to recognize Tommy's distinguished career in serving Mills County. I wish nothing but the best for him and his wife, Wynona, as they embark on a new chapter in their life.

IN HONOR OF THE LATE SHIRLEY CHISHOLM

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of the late Shirley Chisholm whose courage helped pave the way, for a little black girl from Selma to walk the hallowed halls of Congress as the Representative from Alabama's 7th Congressional District.

I strongly believe that in order to be a Congresswoman, I had to first see myself as a Congresswoman. The person who most embodied that was Shirley Chisholm. Through her—I was able to see that I too could be in Congress. I too could represent my community and work towards positive change for people who were denied a seat at the table.

I am fortunate to have met Ms. Chisholm before she passed away. I took a train to Mount Holyoke my senior year at Princeton to interview Ms. Chisholm for my senior thesis, "Black Women in Politics: Our Time Has Come." As luck would have it, it started to snow just as soon as I sat down in the chair across from her. My thirty minute interview turned into a four hour interview, and Ms. Chisholm shared the challenges and struggles she encountered as the first African-American woman ever elected to Congress.

Whenever I feel the weight of the world resting on my shoulder . . . I walk by her portrait hanging in the Capitol to remind myself of her strength, courage, and conviction. I know that whatever challenges I have encountered pale in comparison to the trials she faced. It was not easy for her to walk the halls of Congress as the only black woman. She opened the door for Barbara Jordan, and everyone else who followed including me.

Even though many barriers have been broken since her tenure here, there is still much work to do. Ms. Chisholm once said that "service is the rent we pay for the privilege of living on this earth." I can only hope that my service in this august body will one day inspire others to work for a better, more just society in the same manner that Shirley Chisholm has inspired me.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND ACHIEVEMENT OF RONALD MATHEWS

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary service of Mr. Ronald Mathews. Ronald, a lifelong resident of the City of Struthers, Ohio, has recently retired from a remarkable career as an elected councilman for 26 years spanning 13 election cycles—the longest tenure of service in 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.

town's history. As a union member for the Teamsters local 377, Ron always felt he was representing the middle class and working families. He was most proud when he could vote in favor of projects that would put union members to work and make the City of Struthers a better place to live and raise a family. Public servants like Ronald are what makes the civic fabric of the United States so strong. He will be missed in public life, but can enjoy retirement knowing he contributed greatly to Struthers. Ron loves Struthers, he loves his family, and has earned the respect of the citizens of our region. We were lucky to have him as a leader in our community, and I wish him a wonderful retirement with his wife, Pat, and 6 children.

TRIBUTE TO DETECTIVE FIRST
GRADE DENNIS C. DERIENZO

HON. DANIEL M. DONOVAN, JR.

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Detective First Grade Dennis DeRienzo of the New York City Police Department, Aviation Unit, for his dedication to the citizens of New York City and this Nation.

After 22½ years of service in the NYPD—the last ten years as Chief Pilot for the Aviation Unit—he retired on November 30th, 2015. He was appointed to the NYPD in August 1993 and subsequently entered Military Extended Leave from the NYPD. He served with distinction in the United States Marine Corps. Commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in June 1993, he graduated Naval Flight School in August 1996 and served as an AH-1W Super Cobra Pilot. In February 1999, while serving with Marine Light Attack Squadron 269 (HMLA-269), then-Captain DeRienzo suffered serious injuries in a crash. After the mishap, he was medically retired from the Marines as a result of his injuries after the Class A Mishap. Following extensive medical treatment and rehabilitation, he returned to active service with the New York City Police Department.

Detective DeRienzo was transferred to the NYPD Aviation Unit on September 10th, 2001, and was appointed Chief Pilot in July 2005. He has served as Chief Pilot for 10 years. During his years of service in the Aviation Unit, he guided and executed countless rescues of civilians and mariners. He likewise conducted countless support operations for his NYPD brothers and sisters on the ground. Additionally, Det. DeRienzo carried out multiple support operations for the President of the United States and distinguished visitors to the City of New York.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Detective DeRienzo on his retirement from the NYPD and thank him for his dedication and service to this Nation and the People of the City of New York. I wish him and his family well in all future endeavors.

HONORING CONGRESSWOMAN
SHIRLEY CHISHOLM

HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor one of my personal heroes, former Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, who posthumously received the Presidential Medal of Freedom last week.

Congresswoman Chisholm was the first Black woman elected to the U.S. Congress and the first woman (and African American) to run for a major party's presidential nomination. The Congresswoman was also one of the 12 founders of the Congressional Black Caucus. She was a catalyst for change.

To quote Congresswoman Chisholm, "You don't make progress by standing on the sidelines, whimpering and complaining. You make progress by implementing ideas."

Let us remember her words during the remainder of our legislative session. The Members of this House have the opportunity to implement ideas that can transform this nation.

Just yesterday, we approved the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and address some of our nation's most pressing public education issues. The bill protects Title I funding, ensures equitable allocation of resources to schools, recognizes the importance of after-school education, and maintains subgroup disaggregation of data for reporting. The ESSA also gives states and local school districts more flexibility, while preserving the federal role in education and ensuring that states and districts honor the civil rights legacy of ESEA.

I am pleased my colleagues came together to pass this important bill. While not perfect, the ESSA is a step forward for public education in this country.

As Congresswoman Chisholm also said, "I don't measure America by its achievement but by its potential." Yesterday's actions showed the nation this Congress has great potential to put politics aside and serve the best interests of the American people.

May we continue in this spirit, and let us honor Congresswoman Chisholm by working together to improve the lives of all Americans.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PAUL T.
O'DOWD, JR.

HON. AMI BERA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Lieutenant Colonel Paul T. O'Dowd, Jr.

Colonel O'Dowd was a father, husband, teacher, and American hero whose life was dedicated to service. After graduating high school in San Francisco, he joined the Marine Corps, fighting for his country in the Pacific Theater of World War II as a tail gunner on B-52 aircraft. Upon his return, he attended the University of San Francisco and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army Reserve.

In 1949, Paul volunteered for active duty and was stationed in Washington. When fighting in Korea broke out, he was assigned as forward observer in the 2nd Infantry Division. In 1951, Paul was captured by North Korean forces. Declared killed in action, he was held and tortured for 938 days. After nearly three years, he was released. For his meritorious conduct in captivity, Paul was awarded the Bronze Star.

His service in the Army did not end after his ordeal. Paul continued to work for his country throughout the Cold War. He was stationed in Germany for three years and advised the Republic of China and the Chinese National Army, earning the recognitions of "Good Man of Good Deeds" and the Medal of Army Brilliance. For his service to his country, Paul O'Dowd was awarded two Bronze Stars, a Purple Heart, the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Service Medal, the UN Service Medal, the Air Medal, and the Legion of Merit.

Paul was a dad, a teacher, a husband, and an inspiration to many. He was a man who served his country and his family faithfully and fearlessly, and he will be missed.

"AMERICAN HERO, FORMER POW,
REMEMBERED"

[From the Seoul Times]

For those who knew him he was Paul, "Digger," "The Old Man," "Dad," and "Friend" but others have said "he was an inspiration to keep the faith between brothers in arms." A True American Hero.

Dateline: Arlington National Cemetery. Dec. 3, 3:00 p.m. Full Military Honors. An honor guard marches, the band plays, as the caisson passes with flagged draped coffin to grave side.

Laid to rest and Flag folded, the volley fired, that let all present know that a hero has died, Taps plays the last time. He will receive the Medal of Army Brilliance, A Class from the Republic of China (Taiwan) for service to their defense.

His life was one of service to his country and community. As an educator with two master's degrees," he said. "He and Judy broke the norm with a marriage lasting 67 years." A Vets Veteran always helping others who had served. Making sure they received the benefits of their service both in the United States and overseas.

Paul T. O'Dowd Jr. was born in San Francisco Oct. 18, 1924, the son of Paul O'Dowd Sr. and Charlotta Belle Boudreaux O'Dowd. Grew up there and graduated from Lowell High School.

After graduation Paul enlisted in the Marine Corps for the duration, plus six months, during WWII and as a heavy machine gunner in the Marine Air Wing as tail gunner on B25's, he participated in four combat operations in the Pacific (Solomons, Leyte, Bismarck Archipelago, and Treasury Bougainville).

After the war, he attended the University of San Francisco under the G.I. Bill. In June of 1948 he was commissioned as an Army Reserve Second Lieutenant in the Coast Artillery.

When the Soviets denied Americans access to Berlin in early 1949, Paul volunteered for active duty and was assigned to the 37th Field Artillery Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division (ID), at Fort Lewis, Washington.

Shortly after the Korean War started, the 2nd Division was alerted for movement to Korea. Paul was transferred to "C" Battery, 15th Field Artillery as a forward observer.

From Pusan parameter to the breakout and all the way north and back south again supporting the Division and the units they supported.