

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INCORPORATED MU XI OMEGA CHAPTER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a group of women who have shown what can be done through hard work, dedication and a desire to serve their community, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated Mu Xi Omega Chapter. The Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated Mu Xi Omega Chapter has served the Warren County community through informational meetings, social and civic engagement.

Known throughout the world for its programs of service, Alpha Kappa Alpha, Incorporated chartered the Mu Xi Omega Chapter as a beacon of service to the Vicksburg community on December 17, 1978 at Bethel A.M.E. Church. The Chapter has remained an active part of the community through its membership. Members can be found working on every level in the church, community, and other civic and professional arenas.

Since 1988, the Chapter's signature program has hosted reading workshops and book distributions through a partnership with Reading is Fundamental. Additionally, the Mu Xi Omega Chapter hosts other community service projects on health and wellness. The members sponsor the Mu Xi Omega Pearls Girl's Club as well as the Biennial Beautifillion Presentation for young men. They also partner with organizations such as the American Cancer Society, the Susan G. Komen Foundation, the American Diabetes Association, and the American Heart Association in addressing the needs of Warren County and supporting the Launching New Dimensions of Service platform. Mu Xi Omega supports the sorority's national program through its many collaborative efforts with organizations in fulfillment of AKA Global Impact Days.

On August 1, 2015 the Mu Xi Omega Chapter along with International President, Ms. Dorothy Buchanan Wilson and South Eastern Regional Direction, Mrs. Mary B. Conner paid tribute to the only two national presidents that hailed from the State of Mississippi by unveiling a Marker in their honor. Both Bobbie Beatrix Scott and Ida L. Jackson hometown was the River City of Vicksburg. While serving in the capacity of National President they helped to expand AKA's current national program while establishing new programs to continue to effect social change on a national level. Jackson and Scott courageously led Alpha Kappa Alpha, Inc. during a time when women were considered inferior to men and certainly not intellectually equipped or sufficiently astute in business to run a major corporation. But these women defied the odds and helped to catapult the organization into even greater national prominence, allowing the voices of thousands of African American women to be heard on the national stage.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Mu Xi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. for its dedication to remaining a vital entity of public service in the Vicksburg Warren community.

TRIBUTE TO PETER COWNIE

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Peter Cownie for being named a 2016 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2016 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 640 business leaders and growing.

As Executive Director of the Iowa State Fair Blue Ribbon Foundation, Peter continues to work hard to improve the offerings and support for one of our state's main attractions, the Iowa State Fair. His dedication to improving and growing the state fair is a true testament to his passion for Iowa. Not only is Peter dedicated to his role with the State Fair but he also advocates on the behalf of his constituents as a state representative. He works tirelessly to speak for those who can't speak for themselves, and to move the state forward for an even better, more prosperous future for the next generation.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Peter in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud him for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Peter on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2016 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

HONORING ANDY CREWS FOR BEING NAMED CITIZEN OF THE YEAR BY THE GREATER MANCHESTER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Mr. Andy Crews for being named Citizen of the Year by the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce.

Andy's impact on the Queen City is immeasurable. During his time with the AutoFair Automotive Group he has personally lent public and financial support to numerous organizations such as New Horizons, the Manchester Boys & Girls Club, the Manchester Animal Shelter, Veterans Count and of course the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce. This involvement, in addition to the time he spends working with both high school and college students teaching valuable life lessons, exemplifies his commitment to education and generous spirit.

Andy's input has always been greatly valued. His service to his country as a member of the United States Marine Corps and his service to his community serves as a great example for others to get involved and stay engaged in assisting those in need of a helping hand.

It is with great pleasure that I recognize Andy for all that he's done to improve the lives of people throughout the Granite State, and wish him the best on all of his future endeavors.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UKRAINIAN AMERICAN YOUTH ASSOCIATION

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 25th Anniversary of The Ukrainian American Youth Association, located in Whippany, Morris County, New Jersey.

In 1925, in Kyiv, Ukraine, the Ukrainian Youth Association was formed. At the time, Ukraine was under Russian Communist oppression. The goal of the organization was to continue Ukrainian national and cultural identity and start a struggle against the Russian Communist effort to carry out a genocide of the people of the Ukrainian nation. From 1929–1930, the majority of the organization's members were repressed, their commanders were arrested, confined in Soviet Gulags and in the end, murdered.

By the end of World War II, many Ukrainians were living in displaced person camps in

• 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.

Germany. The people noticed the need to start the organization again, so that the displaced Ukrainian youth army might benefit from its programs. Once again, they wanted to continue to promote the national and cultural heritage of the Ukrainian people living outside Ukraine and to protest against Russian Communism. In 1946, in Augsburg, Germany, the first branch of a revived Ukrainian Youth Association was officially formed.

In 1991, Ukraine gained its independence and branches of the Youth Association were formed across the territory of the new democratic and independent Ukraine. After the first branch of the Ukrainian Youth Association was formed, other branches formed in Europe, North and South America and Australia. In 1991, one branch, located in Whippany, New Jersey was formed.

Today, the Ukrainian Youth Association is filled with energetic youth trying to learn more about the principles of democracy and emphasizing the importance of the rights of individuals and the rights of nations in order to develop and continue their individual and national spirituality.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the members of the Ukrainian Youth Association of Whippany, New Jersey for all of their service to the community.

HONORING MS. LAURA JOSIEPHINE TOWNER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, this month and all this month I rise to give honor to a member of my district whom most people don't know but need to know. So today, I rise to honor Ms. Laura Josiephine Towner of Pace, MS.

Ms. Towner was born on July 2, 1923 to Willie and Ada Towner. She was born south of Pace, MS as the third child of three children born out of that union. She was affectionately called "Nina" by her father but the love between mother and daughter was unparalleled. Ms. Towner was educated in the colored school in Pace, MS. She later furthered her education through Coahoma Junior College and Jackson State College.

Life shrinks and expands according to one's drive and ambition. Ms. Towner taught school for a few years; however, knowing that her sister and brother were running a club and earning more money than she was at the time, \$50.00 per month, she widened her scope to include a club of her own. Life was great and her place earned the reputation as the place to be in Pace. Her move to open a club proved to be prosperous and opened up many doors to growth.

A woman is like a full circle because within her is the power to create, nurture, transform, and re-adjust when necessary. Ms. Towner was married three times and divorced just as many. She is the mother of four children: Auwilda, Herby, Sonya, and Monroe. She never broke stride in her pursuit of life and prosperity. To her, family meant everything, it was her mother, sister and brother who stepped in and helped her with her children while she pressed forward as a night club

owner, a beautician, and a farmer. Those professions were more than adequate income, thus allowing her to provide for her children. When she became a grandmother, Ms. Towner remembered the help she had and therefore it was her turn to help. She stepped in and helped her children with their children when necessary. Her grandchildren include: Carin and Myrick (Auwilda); Kevin, Chanay, and Barry (Herby); Gareed and Meagan (Sonya); and Aldrich, Lisa, Amara, and Tanji (Monroe). Ms. Towner is now the great grandmother to twelve great grandchildren. She made sure Auwilda, Herby, Sonya, and Monroe went to college and sometimes made contributions to her grandchildren's college education.

Just watch, all of you men and women, and see what a woman can do when she is determined. Ms. Towner's children were never without food or clothing. She fed both adults and children, many from the community, friends, acquaintances, and even a stranger or two. Oftentimes, men without wives went to her for a good southern meal because she was known for her cooking. Ms. Towner extended credit to many of the residents of Pace by allowing them to purchase items from her store and club on their promise to pay. And when someone did not pay, her understanding and big heart would not refuse them more credit. She would smile, only remembering how good God has been to her and therefore she could not refuse. Much of the early economic stability of Pace is attributed to her. She was mother and father to her own and many others in the community.

Ms. Laura J. Towner is a prominent member of Elbethel Missionary Baptist Church. Elbethel MB Church is home to many members of her family, both in life and after life. From 1973 to 1988 she was the City Clerk of Pace, performing her job with high integrity and standards. Her lifetime presence and service in Pace has won the hearts of many people from different races, black, white, and others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Laura Josiephine Towner of the Mississippi Second Congressional District.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for votes on Tuesday, April 12, 2016. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on roll call votes 139 and 140.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL MICHAEL AMARAL

HON. BETO O'ROURKE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Colonel Michael L. Amaral on his retirement from the United States Army after 30 years of service to our

country. An esteemed and respected member of the Army's Medical Service Corps, Colonel Amaral most recently served as the Deputy Commander for Administration at Fort Bliss' William Beaumont Medical Center. In this capacity, he managed the day-to-day operations of a facility comprised of over 3,700 staff members and over 72,000 beneficiaries. He also played an integral role in strengthening the relationship between Fort Bliss and the El Paso community.

Colonel Amaral's distinguished career began as a platoon leader with the 54th Support Battalion in Germany, and included assignments with the 44th Medical Brigade at Fort Bragg, North Carolina; the Walter Reed Army Medical Center; the TRICARE Regional Office in Rosslyn, Virginia; and within the Army's Training and Doctrine Command. During this time, he deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

As Colonel Amaral embarks on a new chapter in life, it is my hope that he may recall, with a deep sense of pride and accomplishment, the outstanding contributions he has made to the William Beaumont Army Medical Center and to the United States Army. I would like to send him my best wishes for continued success in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on March 23, 2016 I traveled to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to attend the funeral of my dear friend, John Sullivan, who lost his battle with cancer. For this reason, I missed rollcall vote Number 136 through 138 on the floor of the House of Representatives. Had I been present, I would have voted yea, nay, yea, respectively.

TRIBUTE TO ALEX DUONG

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Alex Duong for being named a 2016 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2016 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 640 business leaders and growing.

As a marketing and communications specialist at the Mediacom Communications Corporation, Alex has been given the opportunity to pursue his passion, marketing. His willingness to exceed expectations and dedication to