

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING SERVICE OF COLONEL JOHN G. BUCK, DISTRICT COMMANDER FOR THE SEATTLE DISTRICT, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

## HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2017

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 26 year service record of Colonel John G. Buck, District Commander for the Seattle District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and I am proud to offer my sincere congratulations on his upcoming retirement.

Col. Buck received his U.S. Army commission in 1991 from the United States Military Academy. He has served in various leadership positions throughout the United States, Europe, and the Middle East.

In 2005, he was awarded the Bronze Order of the de Fleury Medal for his outstanding performance of duty. He then served as commander of the 14th Engineer Battalion at Joint Base Lewis McChord, where he effectively trained a battalion for deployment to Afghanistan. His successful training methods served as a model for other engineering units.

Throughout his career, Col. Buck has demonstrated strong dedication and leadership that has been an asset in every position he has held, exemplifying the values and ideals of the U.S. Army and the Corps of Engineers.

I have had the honor of knowing and working with Col. Buck over the past three years while he served as Commander of the Seattle District where he spearheaded the advancement of a number of key projects for the State of Washington.

During his tenure, the Seattle District successfully completed their first two favorable reports in nearly a decade. Thanks to his direction, the Puget Sound Nearshore Restoration Project and the Skokomish River Ecosystem Restoration Project were approved and congressionally authorized in 2016. Collectively these projects represent roughly half a billion dollars in new authority to complete over 2,000 acres of aquatic ecosystem restoration in our state. This is an enormous accomplishment.

I am also especially grateful for his hard work and dedication to resolving a difficult and complicated permitting issue and providing some much needed regulatory clarity to shellfish growers in our region. Thanks to his efforts, more people will have more economic opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly an honor to represent a man of this caliber here in our nation's capital. I am humbled to be able to speak in recognition of his impressive career and service record today in the United States' Congress, and I am grateful for the many contributions he has made to our country as well as the State of Washington.

IN RECOGNITION OF 26TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT ATHLETIC TEAMS

## HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2017

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize recent athletic victories within my district. I am proud to announce that the Argyle High School boy's golf team has claimed the title of state champions this spring.

The Argyle High School boy's golf team attained their third straight state title by thirteen strokes. The Eagles three-peat performance in the UIL Class 4A state tournament was led by Coach Brady Bell. Also of note, Luke Griggs took fifth place in individual performance at the state tournament. The team has won its local district tournament for six consecutive years, and continues to excel in this area of athletics. The team effort displayed by Argyle's High School golf team in the state tournament demonstrates the continued success and dedication in District 26.

It is my honor to represent Argyle High School boy's golf team in the U.S. House of Representatives. These dedicated student athletes and their coaches have represented the 26th District well, and our community looks forward to more successful seasons to come.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER ARMY STAFF SERGEANT (SSG) JORGE LUIS PENA-ROMERO, JR.

## HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of fallen soldier Army Staff Sergeant (SSG) Jorge Luis Pena-Romero Jr. who gave his life while in service to our nation on July 16, 2005, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. SSG Pena-Romero was killed when an improvised explosive device detonated near his military vehicle in Baghdad. SSG Pena-Romero was assigned to the 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Irwin, Texas, which was attached to the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team from Mississippi.

According to the Los Angeles Times, SSG Pena-Romero, a Guadalajara, Mexico native, moved with his family to the United States when he was 2. He loved to draw and build model planes and cars. He also loved anything military-related. He collected newspaper clippings, according to his wife, Melissa.

SSG Pena-Romero joined the Army in 1995 after graduating from Fallbrook High School. He played football, basketball and baseball. While stationed in Fort Hood, he met his wife on a double date with his roommate. Melissa recalls that date.

"My sister and his roommate didn't last," Melissa said. "We did."

The article also states that SSG Pena-Romero served tours in Korea and Kosovo. He became a U.S. citizen in 2003, the same year that he was assigned to Ft. Irwin.

SSG Pena-Romero was known in the Army for being generous and compassionate. He provided personal equipment if a soldier was missing a canteen or a first aid pouch.

In his personal life, SSG Pena-Romero preferred to spend time with his family. He played soccer with his daughter, Alexis. He played football with his sons, Jorge III and Adrian.

SSG Pena-Romero is survived by his wife, Melissa; parents, Jorge Sr. and Maria Pena; three children, Alexis Jorge III, and Adrian; and four siblings.

SSG Pena-Romero became a citizen of the United States to live the American dream and defend the freedoms we all enjoy. His service will always be remembered.

RECOGNIZING GREG ELLIOT FOR RECEIVING THE JOE WARNER PATIENT ADVOCACY AWARD

## HON. ALEXANDER X. MOONEY

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2017

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a truly outstanding constituent in the field of health care, Greg Elliot of Charleston, West Virginia. Mr. Elliot has been selected this year as one of the recipients of the prestigious Joe Warner Patient Advocacy Award.

The National Center for Assisted Living, a branch of the American Healthcare Association (AHCA/NCAL), is the nation's largest association of professional long term health providers. They bestow this annual award on Association members who have worked diligently to educate Members of Congress about the needs of long term care patients, and to advance quality in the long term and post-acute care community.

These members share the same passion and commitment to progressing long term and post-acute care as the late Joe Warner of Illinois-based Heritage Enterprises, for whom the award is named. All the recipients share a compassionate and caring view of our nation's frail, elderly, and disabled.

Greg Elliot's commitment to improving long-term care continues today as the Vice President of American Medical Facilities Management in West Virginia. Mr. Elliot is a second-generation owner of AMFM, which operates 17 long-term care, skilled nursing and rehabilitation centers throughout West Virginia.

Three of these centers are located in my congressional district including the Braxton Health Care and Rehabilitation Center in Sutton, Clay Health Care Center in Ivydale and the E.A. Hawse Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Baker.

• 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.

AMFM Nursing and Rehabilitation Centers employ more than 1,700 West Virginians, provides care for more than 1,100 patients, and is the largest privately held-multi-facility nursing home company in West Virginia.

Greg is frequently in Washington visiting my Congressional office advocating on behalf of West Virginia seniors. I always appreciate his ideas and insight into health care issues and I look forward to many more meetings in the future. With Greg Elliot's leadership, AMFM has received countless awards such as the Silver Achievement in Quality Award from the American Healthcare Association. He also received Administrator of the Year Award from West Virginia Health Care Association. The third-party research institute, My Inner View, has ranked AMFM facilities in the top 10 percent in the nation 46 times for customer or employee satisfaction.

Mr. Elliot is currently on the board for the Charleston Area Alliance & Chamber of Commerce, and is an At-Large Representative on the American Healthcare Association Board of Governors.

Greg Elliot has been very involved in charities throughout West Virginia. In fact, to date the AMFM Charitable Foundation has donated more than \$500,000 for charitable organizations throughout West Virginia including food pantries, local volunteer fire departments, libraries and women's shelters.

Mr. Elliot founded The AMFM Grill Team, a group of employee volunteers that band together to provide great BBQ to the AMFM centers and surrounding communities. In 2016 following the devastating flooding in our state, the team went to two flooded communities and prepared hundreds of meals for the affected residents.

Greg Elliot resides in Charleston, WV with his wife Jennifer of 16 years, his 10-year-old daughter Elizabeth and their two dogs. Greg enjoys the outdoors, cooking out, and all things electronic, especially building robots with his daughter.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Greg Elliot for his years of dedication and care to our nation's frail, elderly and disabled. His career and life accomplishments truly reflect the ideals embodied in the Joe Warner Patient Advocacy Award.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF 26TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT ATHLETIC TEAMS

### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 20, 2017*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize recent athletic victories within my district. I am proud to announce that the Colony High School softball team claimed the title of state champions this spring.

Coach Deana Coleman led the Colony Cougars to their first appearance in the UIL Class 5A state championship, and sophomore Karlie Charles was named the game's most valuable player. Furthermore, five team members have joined the 5A 2017 All-Tournament Team. I would like to congratulate the Colony High School softball team on its successful 2017 season, capped off by this well-deserved state championship.

It is my honor to represent the Colony High School softball team in the U.S. House of Representatives. These dedicated student athletes and their coaches have represented the 26th District well, and our community looks forward to more successful seasons to come.

#### HONORING GARDEN CLUB OF LEXINGTON

### HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 20, 2017*

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a very special organization, the Garden Club of Lexington as they celebrate their 100th anniversary.

The Garden Club of Lexington was formed in 1917, and in 1924, they were invited to join the Garden Club of America. For their first large civic project, members planted trees along Richmond Road. This provided an attractive and lasting entrance to the city of Lexington.

One of the major undertakings of the Garden Club of Lexington was the establishment of public gardens at Ashland, the historic home of the renowned Henry Clay. Clay represented Kentucky in the United States Senate and in the House of Representatives, where he served three terms as Speaker. Club members over the years raised funds, designed, and established beautiful garden areas at Ashland, including the Saunder Peony Garden. The award winning gardens are enjoyed by countless citizens and visitors to Central Kentucky.

The Garden Club of Lexington organizes many other civic projects designed to beautify Lexington and to provide the public with wonderful opportunities to enjoy nature. As this outstanding organization celebrates its first 100 years, I applaud them for past accomplishments and wish them a bright future.

It is my honor to recognize the Garden Club of Lexington before the United States House of Representatives.

#### RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN MISSISSIPPI NAVY PETTY OFFICER FIRST CLASS (PO1) STACY OREDIA JOHNSON

### HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 20, 2017*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Navy Petty Officer First Class (PO1) Stacy Oredia Johnson who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our great nation on July 18, 2011, during Operation Enduring Freedom. PO1 Johnson was killed in a motorcycle crash in Manama, Bahrain. PO1 Johnson was assigned to Naval Security Force Bahrain.

According to the Associated Press, PO1 Johnson, a 1993 Rolling Fork High School graduate, reported for recruit training in November 1993. He served on the amphibious ships USS *Ogden* and USS *Peleliu* as well as the carrier USS *Nimitz*. His duty stations included being located in Texas and Hawaii, but

he spent most of his time in service in San Diego, California. He reported to Naval Security Force Bahrain in September 2010 after spending a year at Region Southwest Security Detachment, San Diego.

While PO1 Johnson was stationed in San Diego, he met and married his wife, Randa. They had three children together, Dallas, Jordy, and Nashira. Randa recalled her husband's service in an online tribute. She said PO1 Johnson served his country for nearly 18 years and he was fortunate to have traveled the world and connected with many people with whom he developed amazing friendships.

PO1 Johnson is survived by his wife, Randa Johnson; children, Dallas Johnson, Jordy Johnson, Nashira Johnson, and stepson, Demonte Fagan. He was preceded in death by his father, Ernest Lee Johnson; and his mother, Lillie Mae Jones.

PO1 Johnson's service to our nation will not be forgotten.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF 26TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT ATHLETIC TEAMS

### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 20, 2017*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize recent athletic victories within my district. I am proud to announce that the Keller High School softball team has claimed the title of state champions this spring.

The Keller High School Indians softball team, coached by Bryan Poehler, this season earned its second consecutive UIL Class 6A state championship. Also of note, Keller's second baseman Camryn Woodall was named most valuable player of the championship game. This is the fourth title earned by the Keller Indians in school history. This team put forth great effort in securing the 6A division state title, persevering through two weather delays in their path to championship victory.

It is my honor to represent the Keller High School softball team in the U.S. House of Representatives. These dedicated student athletes and their coaches have represented the 26th District well, and our community looks forward to more successful seasons to come.

#### HONORING THE EMPLOYEES OF AEROJET ORDNANCE TENNESSEE

### HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 20, 2017*

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to recognize Aerojet Ordnance Tennessee (AOT) and their 81 employees in Jonesborough, Tennessee, on the delivery of their seven millionth M67 Hand Grenade body assembly in May 2017.

Awarded its first M67 Hand Grenade body assembly contract from the Joint Munitions Command at Rock Island Arsenal in 2001, when it became the sole supplier of the M67 grenade body for the U.S. and Canadian governments, AOT has been producing the M67 at a high rate. Over the past 16 years, AOT