

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND DR. W.B. LEWIS

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 8, 2017

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Reverend Dr. W.B. Lewis who is retiring after fifty-three years as the Pastor of First Cosmopolitan Baptist Church in Raleigh, North Carolina.

I have come to appreciate over many years the gracious hospitality and faithful witness of Rev. Lewis and this congregation. Early in my term of service—but well into his—we worked together to help land a so-called “section 202” Housing and Urban Development grant to construct rental housing for the elderly under First Cosmopolitan’s sponsorship. Those apartments stand as a symbol of Rev. Lewis’s leadership and the church’s understanding of its ministry.

Under Rev. Lewis’s leadership, First Cosmopolitan has grown into a powerful pillar of the Raleigh community. Dr. Lewis himself has become an institution of sorts within North Carolina. For four years, he served as the President of the General Baptist State Convention. He was appointed by North Carolina Governor James Hunt to serve on the board for Smart Start. His service has also included the Raleigh Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, the Raleigh Interracial Ministerial Association, the Raleigh YMCA Board of Directors, the State Board of Chaplaincy, the Rich Park Board of Directors, the Board of Trustees at Shaw University, Prince Hall Lodge, the Masonic Order of Raleigh, Wake and Johnston Missionary Baptist Association, Wake Baptists Association Ministers, and the Deacons Union.

Reverend Lewis has rightfully been recognized on numerous occasions for his roles as a pastor, builder, teacher, mentor, spiritual and community leader, and friend to many. In 2013, he was inducted into the Wake Baptist Association “Hall of Fame”. In 2017, he was presented with the “Loving Cup”, the highest award that can be presented to an individual minister or pastor who has served with distinction, from the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

During his tenure he was also instrumental in the planning and execution of two projects critical to the South East Raleigh Community: the Willie B. Lewis Family Center, and Rich Park, a 100 unit apartment complex that serves the elderly and handicapped. Reverend Lewis also co-authored “A Splendid Enterprise,” a history of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. Having an artistic eye, he was also instrumental in the design of the beautiful Martin Luther King Jr. Park in Raleigh.

In celebration of his great accomplishments, Rev. Lewis will be the recipient of the order of the Long Leaf Pine, which is the highest honor bestowed upon a citizen by the Governor of the State of North Carolina. I am pleased to

join the State of North Carolina and the Raleigh community in celebrating this remarkable man, whom I and many others regard as a mentor and friend. We thank Rev. Lewis for a legacy of lives touched and a community made more welcoming and just, and we wish him the very best in retirement.

CONGRATULATING ADAM GAUZY OF THE WASHINGTON BLUE JAYS

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 8, 2017

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Adam Gauzy of the Washington Blue Jays for his first place win in the 400 meter dash at the 2017 Missouri Class 4 Boys Track and Field State Championship.

Adam and his coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Adam Gauzy for a job well done.

HONORING MICHAEL JOSE ZELAYA

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 8, 2017

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exceptional young person from my district. Michael Jose Zelaya, a member of Boy Scout Troop 220 in Albuquerque, NM. Michael recently achieved the rank of Eagle Scout following 12 years in scouting. Michael’s perseverance and dedication in the Boy Scouting program has helped shape his desire to be a leader in his community.

For his Eagle Scout Service Project, Michael constructed several large barriers at the Albuquerque Bio Park. This was designed to deter aggressive gorilla behavior, enhancing both the experience for the patrons as well as the safety of the animals.

Through scouting Michael has grown as an individual and as a member of his community. With Boy Scout Troop 220, Michael and many of his fellow boy scouts have volunteered countless hours of community service. Landscape projects, food banks, trail preservation, awareness walks, tree and garden restoration, and several improvement projects at his church that kindly host the troop are just a small representation of Michael’s character and work ethic.

Over the last 12 years in scouting, Michael has hiked hundreds of miles, learned life-saving first aid and CPR, has visited the Federal Court and U.S. Marshall Facility, also learned auto mechanic basics, practiced gun

safety, rifle shooting, and many more experiences; but most importantly, he has built friendships and grown in the love he has for his country.

I am confident that Michael will continue to be a leader in our community and I look forward to hearing about his continued success. Congratulations, Michael.

CONGRATULATING ALICIA BURNETT OF THE FORT ZUMWALT SOUTH BULLDOGS

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 8, 2017

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Alicia Burnett of the Fort Zumwalt South Bulldogs for her first place win in the 100, 200, and 400 meter dash at the 2017 Missouri Class 4 Girls Track and Field State Championship.

Alicia and her coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Alicia Burnett on a job well done.

CONGRATULATING BRIANNA HALLER OF THE FATIMA COMETS

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 8, 2017

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Brianna Haller of the Fatima Comets for her first place win in the 1600 and 3200 meter run at the 2017 Missouri Class 3 Girls Track and Field State Championship.

Brianna and her coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Brianna Haller on a job well done.

RECOGNIZING AIXA TORRES

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 8, 2017

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary accomplishments of Aixa Torres on the occasion of her birthday and retirement. Ms. Torres was born in Santurce, Puerto Rico, to Domingo Arturo Torres and America Figueras. She moved with her parents and sisters to New York City in

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1955, where she attended public schools. Ms. Torres graduated from the City University of New York and Lincoln University.

Among her many achievements, Ms. Torres was instrumental in working with local elected officials to push the New York City Housing Authority to fully repair old, faulty gas pipes at Smith Houses that sometimes forced residents to go without cooking gas for weeks or months at a time. Under this leadership and partnership, Smith residents can reliably use their ovens and stoves without having to worry about looming gas outages.

Ms. Torres' leadership has also been put to the test by multiple natural disasters. Her efforts resulted in the successful evacuation of hundreds of Smith residents ahead of Hurricane Irene, and her advocacy during Hurricane Sandy demonstrated that an organized community can overcome the worst of disasters. On behalf of the residents of Alfred E. Smith Houses, she recently formed a Sandy Task Force for the purpose of overseeing the Sandy Recovery and Resiliency at Smith.

After decades of community work, serving on advisory councils and public school parent associations, Ms. Torres retired in 2014 from the Department of Education as the Lower East Side's Family Advocate. In August 2004, she, along with Principal Santiago Tavares, instituted a Citywide High School Summer Graduation. In 2010, Torres also began serving as President of the Alfred E. Smith Resident Association, on Manhattan's Lower East Side.

Ms. Torres married the late George Carmona, Jr. in 1971, and had two children, George III and Liza Noemi. For more than 50 years, she has resided on the Lower East Side of Manhattan, where she lives with her daughter and grandchildren, Mia and Elijah.

CONGRATULATING THE CAMDENTON LAKERS GIRLS RELAY TEAM

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 8, 2017

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Camdenton Lakers Girls Relay Team for their first place win in the 4x400 meter relay at the 2017 Missouri Class 4 Girls Track and Field State Championship.

This team and their coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

I ask you to join me in recognizing the Camdenton Lakers Girls Relay Team on a job well done.

CONGRATULATING CHLOE RAMSEY OF THE HELIAS CATHOLIC CRUSADERS

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 8, 2017

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Chloe Ramsey of the Helias Catho-

lic Crusaders for her first place win in pole vault at the 2017 Missouri Class 4 Girls Track and Field State Championship.

Chloe and her coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Chloe Ramsey on a job well done.

RECOGNIZING DESIGN COLLABORATIVE

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 8, 2017

Mr. BANKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Design Collaborative, an architecture and engineering firm in Fort Wayne, Indiana. This year marks their 25th anniversary.

Since 1992, Design Collaborative, and its team of architects, engineers, interior designers, and graphic designers has created projects in northeast Indiana, with work focused on higher education, healthcare, and workplace design. Over the last few years, it has developed a strong portfolio in the design of spaces for financial, recreational, multi-family housing, and civic clients.

The company was founded by two architects and an engineer with dreams of improving people's worlds through the design of people-first places. Today, Design Collaborative employs over 60 people and is a model business for developing a culture and environment that attracts and retains talent to the region. They are also consistently and actively involved in the development of downtown Fort Wayne and northeast Indiana. Their work has helped make the Fort Wayne region a destination to live, work, and play.

Over 25 years, Design Collaborative has designed thousands of projects in Fort Wayne and beyond, impacting clients in Indiana, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

Design Collaborative has earned multiple honors, including the 2011 American Institute of Architects Indiana Chapter Distinguished Firm of the Year, 2015 Indiana Office of Small Business Entrepreneurship Companies to Watch, 2017 Professional Services Management Journal Circle of Excellence, 7-time Best Places to Work in Indiana, and multiple local and national design awards from organizations like the American Institute of Architects, American School and University Magazine, and Illumination Engineering Society.

Since its beginning, Design Collaborative has always believed that the true measure of a project's success is the positive impact it has on the lives of the people who use it. Design Collaborative truly believes in people-first places. Its goal is to make life better for the people who live, work, learn, heal, or worship inside the spaces they design.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the entire team at Design Collaborative on 25 years of improving people's worlds through design, and wish them another 25 years and more.

CONGRATULATING DERIC PURNELL OF THE UNION WILDCATS

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 8, 2017

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Deric Purnell of the Union Wildcats for his first place win in the 100 and 200 meter dash at the 2017 Missouri Class 4 Boys Track and Field State Championship.

Deric and his coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Deric Purnell on a job well done.

CONGRATULATING DEVON RIDENHOUR OF THE OWENSVILLE DUTCHMEN

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 8, 2017

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Devon Ridenhour from the Owensville Dutchmen for his first place win in the long jump at the 2017 Missouri Class 3 Boys Track and Field State Championship.

Devon and his coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Devon Ridenhour for a job well done.

HONORING CAPTAIN JEFF PAGANINI

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 8, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Jeff Paganini upon his retirement after over forty years of firefighting in the Sonoma Valley. He has been serving as Captain at Sonoma Valley Fire and Rescue since 1997.

Captain Paganini began his fire service as a work experience student at Sonoma Fire Department in 1975. Two years later, at the age of eighteen, he became a regular volunteer firefighter and spent his summer working the fire season with the California Division of Forestry. In 1978, he served as a reserve firefighter for the Napa Fire Department before joining Sonoma Valley Fire and Rescue as a paid Engineer. The department promoted Captain Paganini to Lieutenant in 1990 and Captain in 1997.

In 1980, the Department recognized then Engineer Paganini as the Sonoma County Firefighter of the Year for his quick thinking during a house fire call. When he arrived to the scene with his crew, he witnessed a woman collapse and initiated CPR, an act that