

IN RECOGNITION OF THE JOHN CHAMPE HIGH SCHOOL WIND ENSEMBLE

**HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 23, 2017

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the John Champe High School Wind Ensemble on participating in the 2017 Music for All National Festival. Their dedication, hard work, and perseverance, along with the guidance and direction of their esteemed band director, Jonathan Phillips, helped earn John Champe High School its first appearance in the Music for All National Festival.

The Music for All is one of the nation's largest and most influential organizations, and only a mere 59 high school and middle school concert band and percussion ensembles from across the nation were selected to perform at the 2017 festival. Despite the fact that the John Champe High School Wind Ensemble is still in its nascent, as John Champe High School only opened in Aldie, Virginia, in 2012, they have the honor and unique distinction of being the first ensemble from Loudoun County to be invited to perform at this festival. Furthermore, in five years, the band program at John Champe has blossomed from 26 students who were in the inaugural marching band in 2012 to 230 students today. The John Champe Knights have also earned the distinction of Virginia Honor Band three times and 19 students successfully auditioned into the All-District Band this year.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the John Champe High School Wind Ensemble on participating in the 2017 Music for All National Festival. I am proud to represent these students and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING DR. LOREN P. GRESHAM ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM SOUTHERN NAZARENE UNIVERSITY

**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 23, 2017

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Loren Gresham on his retirement from Southern Nazarene University (SNU). For the past 50 years, Dr. Gresham has devoted his time and efforts to providing students a top tier education in a Christ-centered environment.

Dr. Gresham has demonstrated a lifetime passion for education, including his own. Before becoming the President of SNU, Loren received a number of degrees. Loren earned his Bachelor of Arts degree at Pasadena College (now Point Loma Nazarene University) in 1962 and went on to receive his Master of Arts degree in international relations from the University of Southern California. In 1964, Loren married former Pasadena College classmate, Linda Brown, and together they have one child, Suzanne.

In 1967, Loren moved to Bethany, Oklahoma where he became a professor of political science at Bethany Nazarene College. He

became a Fulbright Scholar and was granted leave for the 1970–71 academic year to conduct research in New Zealand. During his time as a professor, Loren continued to pursue his higher education studies at the University of Oklahoma and earned a Ph.D. in political science in 1973.

At Bethany Nazarene College, Dr. Gresham pursued his lifelong interest in the sport of basketball. He became assistant coach and later the head coach of the men's team. Under his leadership, the team achieved remarkable success including a national championship in 1981 in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) defeating the University of Alabama in Huntsville. As President of SNU, Dr. Gresham has continued this tradition of competition as an active advocate of the 18 SNU women and men's athletic teams.

By 1985, Dr. Gresham became provost of Bethany Nazarene College and four short years later, in 1989, the board of trustees named Dr. Gresham the president of the institution, now called Southern Nazarene University. Currently, Dr. Gresham is the longest serving president among the eight Nazarene institutions of higher education in North America. Additionally, he is the longest tenured president serving at any college or university in the state of Oklahoma.

During Dr. Gresham's presidency at SNU, the institution has had 28 consecutive years of balanced budgets, and last fall's total enrollment was the all-time high in SNU's school history. During Dr. Gresham's tenure, SNU has been ranked the number one "Best College" in Oklahoma and one of "The 50 Most Affordable Private Colleges" in the nation by Money (2016). Dr. Gresham is also credited with raising the needed funds for operating, endowment, and capital projects. The funds raised have gone to many programs that will educate the next generation of SNU leaders and enhance student life such as campus beautification projects, construction of new living centers, major upgrades to athletic facilities, and the establishment of a online campus and a satellite campus in Tulsa, Oklahoma, among others.

Dr. Gresham has served in many professional organizations to help improve education for students and educators across the nation. He has chaired the NAIA Council of Presidents as well as serving on the Board of Directors for the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. He has chaired the Council of Christian Colleges and Universities Board of Directors, an organization that represents more than 111 Christian colleges and universities across the nation.

Dr. Gresham's wife, Linda, has also served extensively on campus ministries. Linda and Dr. Gresham have a clear passion for education and love for SNU. Together, they founded The Gresham Leadership Grant to recruit outstanding young leaders to SNU. This highly selective first-year grant is awarded to students who have clearly demonstrated leadership in their community, church, and school and possess exemplary character in all aspects of their lives.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th District of Texas, I would like to thank Dr. Gresham for his 50 years of commitment and leadership to Southern Nazarene University. Dr. Gresham's work ethic, values, and integrity have set an example for those in higher education. I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in

wishing Dr. Gresham continued success as he enjoys his retirement.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SHIRLEY RYAN ABILITYLAB, THE FUTURE OF THE REHABILITATION INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO ON THE OPENING OF THEIR NEW FACILITY

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 23, 2017

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago (RIC) on the opening of their new state of the art facility, the Shirley Ryan AbilityLab, opening on March 25, 2017.

RIC has been named the "No. 1 Rehabilitation Hospital in America" by U.S. News & World Report for 26 consecutive years. Their new facility will be the first research hospital in which clinicians, scientists, innovators, and technologists work together in the same space, surrounding patients, discovering new approaches and, applying research in real time.

The Shirley Ryan AbilityLab will significantly expand RIC's overall footprint of 1.2 million square feet, of which 800,000 are dedicated to clinical research. Their inpatient capacity will grow by 40 percent increasing their total beds to 242. The facility growth will include outpatient and research space along with expanding to five translational Ability Labs. RIC's applied research and therapeutic space will integrate patients in the process of discovery and innovation, providing the highest quality medical care and state-of-the art equipment for patients with Brain; Spinal Cord; Nerve, Muscles & Bone; Cancer; and Pediatric conditions.

RIC's dedication to providing the best rehabilitation care in the world and conducting cutting edge research in my Congressional District is resulting in medical discoveries and innovations that benefit patients all over the world. For that, Mr. Speaker, I applaud RIC and congratulate them as they open the Shirley Ryan AbilityLab.

RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF BELOVED DALLAS RESTAURANT WILLIAMS CHICKEN

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 23, 2017

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and a watering mouth that I celebrate the 30th anniversary of the most famous chicken restaurant in all of North Texas—Williams Chicken. What started as one 'chicken spot' in 1987 has now become a successful chain with over 40 stores including 20 franchises, and in addition to being responsible for the best wings you can find in the Dallas area, it boasts 500 employees.

Williams Chicken's amazing growth and story is due to the entrepreneurial spirit of its founder and CEO, Hiawatha Williams. Williams Chicken's humble beginnings are only

as humble as Mr. William's start himself, coming from a small Texas town then going to Paul Quinn College in Dallas. After learning the ropes of the industry at a nationwide fast-food corporation, Williams left to found Williams Chicken, to serve great food to the great people of Dallas.

Mr. William's story of entrepreneurship is an inspiration to business leaders in the greater Dallas community—but it is particularly important to the African-American community. Not only has he created a successful business, but he has chosen to practice his give-back spirit by conducting major outreach in education, youth programs, and corporate philanthropy. He and his restaurant have shown many young people in Dallas that it is possible to create a successful and meaningful business.

Though he can be found in numerous magazines and on TV often, Williams will be the first to say his kind family, his wife Doris and his two adult sons who work in the business, are the ones who keeps him reinforced. Mr. Speaker, Hiawatha Williams is an impressive man with an incredible business, and the taste of his chicken is only outweighed by his taste for the community.

**RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE  
OF THE SUMMIT OF HOPE**

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 23, 2017*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Summit of Hope, an

event organized by the Illinois Department of Corrections, the Illinois Department of Public Health, and local organizations throughout Illinois. The Summit of Hope is designed to help former inmates reintegrate into society and succeed as citizens once they've served their time in prison, promoting public safety and reducing recidivism in the process.

All too often, former inmates do not have access to the tools they need to succeed in our society. Without access to employment or housing, they in too many cases return to prison.

The Summit of Hope is a large community expo designed to provide individuals on parole or probation with access to the tools they need. Services provided at the event range from voter registration, to counseling, to job training, to health screenings and beyond. By providing access to these services, organizers are ensuring that these individuals have every opportunity to succeed and reintegrate in our society. I am grateful for the extraordinary efforts of Mr. Marcus King, Community Outreach Administrator for the Illinois Department of Corrections' Office of Constituent Services. Mr. King is a driving force behind this and other Summit of Hope events around the state of Illinois, and his impact on reducing recidivism cannot be overstated.

I also want to note the important efforts of Ms. Brandi Vigil, a full-time faculty member with Loyola University's Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology. Ms. Vigil and Loyola University have helped make the Summit of Hope a reality.

I am honored to have a Summit of Hope event take place in the 9th Congressional District of Illinois, and I hope that this and future events help make our communities safer and

equip former inmates with the tools they need to succeed.

**BMW EXPORTS EXCEED \$9 BILLION**

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 23, 2017*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, a recent article in Charleston's The Post and Courier titled "S.C. BMW sets pace for U.S. auto exports," details the remarkable production levels coming out of BMW's South Carolina plant with exports of over \$9 billion.

"The BMW manufacturing plant in South Carolina maintained its position as the nation's leading exporter of vehicles, sending \$9.53 billion worth of cars and SUVs to foreign countries in 2016—most of them through the Port of Charleston."

The president and CEO of BMW Manufacturing, Knudt Flor, said in a statement, "We had a record-breaking production and export year in 2016, and these new export figures reinforce BMW's commitment to South Carolina and the United States."

Governor Henry McMaster accurately indicated that "there's no overstating the value BMW has brought to South Carolina since opening its doors in Spartanburg County over 20 years ago. The fact that the same facility that represented such a commitment to our state is now the leading automotive exporter in the country is something that all South Carolinians should be proud of."