

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE MINNESOTA TRANSGENDER HEALTH COALITION'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2017

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Minnesota Transgender Health Coalition, Minnesota's largest organization led by and for the trans community.

In 2002, concerned community members began to organize around the difficulties they and other trans people face in finding accessible, culturally competent healthcare. Organizers began hosting meetings and events as part of the University of Minnesota's GLBTA Programs Office and the Schochet Center for GLBT Studies. After years of activity, the group incorporated on March 30, 2007 to become a trans-led health service and rights organization, founded on their principles of racial, social and economic justice.

MTHC is a unique organization. In addition to organizing for trans-inclusive public policies, they provide direct medical and psychological support for hundreds of people from all over the Midwest. Through their Shot Caller program, MTHC ensures that trans folks, people with diabetes, and anyone else prescribed shots can get free help taking them in a safe, supportive space. They run a successful harm reduction program that includes syringe exchange, safe sex materials, and more. With a Community Innovation grant from the Headwaters Foundation for Justice, MTHC expanded three youth-oriented programs called Gender Jam, Little Rainbows and GR8. Since November 2016, their longest-running support groups have been pushed to capacity, reflecting both the success and great need for their programs. MTHC's reach also extends far beyond the LGBTQ community; in fact, dozens of people that MTHC helps regularly do not identify as LGBTQ. In this way, they have become a true center of community health in our state.

Through their advocacy, MTHC has worked with the City of Minneapolis, the Minnesota Department of Education, and many other public groups. They've advocated for stronger inclusion for and protection of trans youth in schools, effective policies to address bullying, access to life-saving transition healthcare, and more. Due to their tremendous leadership in the Twin Cities and around the Midwest, MTHC was named a Community Champion of Pride for the 2016 Twin Cities Pride festival.

During my time in Congress, I have been guided by generosity, inclusion, and justice for all. Organizations like the Minnesota Transgender Health Coalition represent the best of these values. We know that if we don't fight for all aspects of racial, social, and economic justice, we won't have any of them. I am honored to represent the Minnesota Transgender Health Coalition in Congress,

and I can't wait to see what they accomplish in the next decade of leadership.

HONORING PRINCIPAL JULIE PIERCE ON HER SELECTION AS ALABAMA'S 2017 NATIONAL DIS- TINGUISHED PRINCIPAL

HON. BRADLEY BYRNE

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2017

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Principal Julie Pierce of Fairhope Elementary School on being selected as Alabama's National Distinguished Principal of 2017. This is a remarkable and extraordinary achievement, and it shows Ms. Pierce's steadfast dedication to the young men and women she has taught and guided throughout her distinguished career that has spanned over 27 years.

A native of Oneonta, Ms. Pierce graduated from the University of Alabama with a degree in business and began work as an accountant before embarking on her career in education. She obtained her master's degree in Elementary Education from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and later a certificate in Educational Leadership from the University of South Alabama.

Prior to her time at Fairhope Elementary School, Ms. Pierce served as principal of Gulf Shores Elementary, assistant principal at J. Larry Newton School, reading coach at Summerdale School, second grade teacher in Guntersville and Albertville, and fifth grade teacher in Orlando, Florida. Ms. Pierce has been shaping our nation's youth for over a quarter century, giving them the tools they need to succeed in life.

Having spent much of my public life working in education policy, I have had the opportunity to spend a lot of time in our local classrooms. I am always struck by the hard work these men and women do on a daily basis, and they rarely get the attention they deserve. Great educators really care about their students and work very hard to get the most out of them. It is clear Ms. Pierce possesses these very important qualities.

So, on behalf of Alabama's First Congressional District, I want to thank Principal Julie Pierce for her dedicated service and congratulate her on being selected as Alabama's 2017 National Distinguished Principal.

HONORING THE CHRISTENING OF THE USS "THOMAS HUDNER", DDG-116

HON. SETH MOULTON

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2017

Mr. MOULTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr.

POLIUIN of Maine, Ms. TSONGAS of Massachusetts, and Ms. FRANKEL of Florida to celebrate the christening of the USS *Thomas Hudner*, DDG-116. This destroyer is named in honor of Captain Thomas J. Hudner Jr., a retired officer of the United States Navy and a former naval aviator.

Born in Fall River, Massachusetts, Hudner attended the United States Naval Academy after graduating from Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts. On December 4, 1950, Hudner and his wingman, Ensign Jesse L. Brown, were patrolling near the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea when Brown's Corsair was struck by ground fire. Hudner intentionally crash-landed his own aircraft on a snowy mountain to help Brown. Brown died of his injuries and Hudner was forced to evacuate.

Hudner received the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions in trying to save the life of his wingman and received numerous military decorations including the Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star Medal. Following the incident, Hudner held positions aboard several U.S. Navy ships and with a number of aviation units, including a brief stint as Executive Officer of the USS *Kitty Hawk* during a tour in the Vietnam War. He retired from active duty in 1973. Since then, he has worked for various veterans' organizations throughout the United States.

In May 2012, the Secretary of the Navy announced that an Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer will be named USS *Thomas Hudner*. On Saturday, April 1, the Hudner family, the Brown family, veterans from across all branches, elected officials and the community of Phillips Academy will gather for the joyous occasion of the christening of the ship. It is a ship that embodies the spirit of Captain Hudner's school—non sibi, or not for self. He leads his life in that spirit from Fall River, to Andover, to the Chosin Reservoir and on to his continued service to the veterans community.

Together with Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POLIUIN, Ms. TSONGAS, and Ms. FRANKEL, we wish our very best to the Hudner and Brown families, and to the Phillips Academy community in the days to come.

HONORING THE MILITARY SERVICE OF PAUL LEMMON

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2017

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Paul Lemmon, as well as the entire Lemmon family, for their incredible service and sacrifice to the United States of America.

It is always an honor for me to recognize those American heroes who sacrificed so much defending and preserving our freedom in World War II. This truly was the greatest generation.

The Lemmon family devoted their lives to serving this nation, and it is with great admiration that I thank United States Navy veteran

• 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.

Edgar Paul Lemmon for his heroic actions during World War II in the Pacific theater.

Mr. Lemmon courageously answered the call to serve and defend his country at the age of 17. He was awarded the Purple Heart for injuries he suffered while his ship was sweeping the beachhead for mines to clear the way for the Marines on Iwo Jima. Mr. Lemmon and his five other brothers all served in the Armed Services. Two of his brothers were killed in action.

We thank Mr. Lemmon—as well as his entire family—for their bravery and sacrifice to our great nation.

**HONORING WHITTIER POLICE
OFFICER KEITH BOYER**

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2017

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor fallen Whittier Police Officer Keith Boyer. He was killed in the line of duty on February 20, 2017, and his funeral was March 3, 2017.

Officer Boyer is the 5th law enforcement officer to be killed and the first officer fatality from the State of California in 2017. He was born Nov. 27, 1963, in San Gabriel. He graduated from La Serna High School in 1981, and earned a dispatcher course certificate from Golden West College in 1989. He grew up in his hometown of Whittier, where he would serve his community for 25 years.

As was pointed out in the Whittier Daily News, he 'loved his job' because it gave him the opportunity to help people. Officer Boyer received several commendations from the Department for his work, including the Chaplain's Award for his handling of a child abuse call in 2016. He served on Whittier's Crime Impact Team, the SWAT team, as a traffic officer, a school resource officer at La Serna High School, and as a K-9 handler.

Last year was the 25th anniversary of the dedication of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington D.C. Today, the Memorial bears the names of over 20,000 federal, state, and local officers who have fallen while serving their communities. This year, Officer Boyer will be added to that wall.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Officer Boyer for his dedicated service and for making the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in extending my sympathies to his family during this difficult time.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2017

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed Roll Call vote numbers 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, and 202. Had I been present, I would have voted nay each of these votes.

JENNIFER KRNETA

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2017

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge Jennifer Krneta from Belleville, IL. Jennifer is a Case Worker with Caritas Family Solutions, a foster care organization, in Belleville.

Jennifer has served as an exemplary Case Worker in Belleville for several years. Her actions came to the attention of our office thanks to a letter written by A1C Dakota Greenwood, a current member of the United States Air Force who is serving at Osan Air Force Base. In this letter, Dakota captured the tremendous impact that Jennifer has had on Dakota's life and upbringing.

After the tragic death of Dakota's mother at the hands of a drunk driver, Dakota grew up in foster care and transitioned between living with several extended relatives, group homes, and foster families. Throughout childhood, Dakota faced poverty, hunger, neglect, and abuse. Through all of these adversities, Dakota credits Jennifer as the only person who showed devotion to improving Dakota's life. Dakota believes that without Jennifer's positive influence, Dakota would not be alive today.

In addition, Jennifer played an essential role in helping Dakota to enlist in the Air Force. It was Jennifer who cared enough to ask about Dakota's life goals and interests. It was Jennifer who helped Dakota identify that service in the U.S. Air Force matched those goals and interests. And it was Jennifer who ensured that Dakota was prepared to meet with an Air Force recruiter when the time came.

I offer my deepest admiration and gratitude to Jennifer Krneta for all that she has done for A1C Dakota Greenwood and all that Jennifer continues to do for the foster children of Southern Illinois. I hope that she continues to make life better for these children for many years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES A. HIMES

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2017

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, on March 28, 2017, I was unable to be present to cast my vote on H. Res. 229, the rule providing for consideration of the Honest and Open New EPA Science Treatment Act of 2017 (H.R. 1430). Had I been present for roll call No. 198, I would have voted "NAY."

RECOGNIZING EDWARDSVILLE
HIGH SCHOOL'S SENIOR GUARD
MARK SMITH

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2017

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Edwardsville High School's senior guard Mark Smith, who is now

better known as Mr. Basketball of Illinois for the 2016–2017 season.

Mark received the Mr. Basketball honor after a senior season in which he filled up the stats sheet. Over the course of the season, Mark averaged 21.9 points, 8.2 rebounds, 8.4 assists, and 2.1 steals per game. He recorded double figures in 31 of the Tigers' 32 games, and had eight games in which he scored more than 30 points. In the championship game of the Ottawa sectional, Mark scored a career-high 45 points in Edwardsville's win over Danville.

Outside of Mark's individual statistics, the Tigers boys' basketball season was an unforgettable one in the Metro East, as the team finished 30–2 and played in the Class 4A Super-Sectional in Normal.

In addition to the Mr. Basketball honor, Mark was named the "Illinois Gatorade Player of the Year," and has scholarship offers from multiple Division 1 schools.

I am proud to congratulate Mark on his spectacular senior season and receiving this honor. I look forward to continuing to follow his basketball career.

HOLY SEE ARTICLES

HON. FRANCIS ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2017

Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues several more articles that I have written over the years regarding the Holy See. As a Member of the Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats Subcommittee on Foreign Affairs, these pieces serve to outline and inform discussions that our Committee will cover in the 115th Congress.

**RELIGION AND DEMOCRACY: THE EMERGING
DIPLOMACY OF POPE BENEDICT XVI**

While many Americans only see him as a spiritual leader of Roman Catholics, the Pope exerts an often subtle but undeniable influence in international affairs. The Pope is the final authority of the Holy See, which derives its name from "seat" in Latin and signifies the repository of authority and direction over the organization and affairs of the Church. As an institution and sovereign, the Holy See is the "oldest diplomatic entity in the world."

During the two World Wars, Popes Benedict XV and Pius XII boldly promoted peace without preconditions. The jovial Pope John XXIII and more reserved Pope Paul VI implemented the Vatican II reforms. The unforgettable legacy of John Paul II, the Polish Pope, is his unswerving opposition to communism. The current Pope Benedict XVI, formerly known as Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, continues the diplomatic tradition of the Holy See aimed at salvaging faith in some parts of the world and promoting reason in others.

While Benedict XVI is often characterized as being less media-centric and charismatic than his predecessor, Pope John Paul II, he demonstrated remarkable strategic focus and clarity in his papal visit to the United Kingdom, September 16–20, 2010. His spirit of goodwill enabled him to overcome vocal and hostile opposition to the visit and, as a result, this visit will likely be remembered as a defining moment for the diplomacy of the Holy See.

In his in-flight press conference, the Pope made it clear that he wasn't willing to compromise or soften his outreach, saying that