

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### TRIBUTE TO BRIAN C. COOPER

**HON. PAUL D. RYAN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 2017*

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Brian C. Cooper, who is retiring from the Office of the Parliamentarian after 35 years on Capitol Hill.

Brian is the son of Dolores and Ellsworth Cooper, and the youngest of seven children. He is a native of Baltimore, Maryland, and has lived in the city (in the same house he grew up in) for his entire life. Brian is a graduate of Frederick Douglass High School, whose notable alumni include the Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. Brian received a scholarship to the Community College of Baltimore (now Baltimore City Community College), where he received his degree in commercial and graphic arts.

Brian's first job on Capitol Hill came in September of 1982, when he was hired in the stock room of the Longworth Building, working in Publication and Distribution Services. Throughout the 1980s and early 1990s, Brian held a variety of positions on Capitol Hill, including work at the House Post Office and Document Room, before moving up to become staff assistant for the Small Business Committee and later the Government Operations Committee. In these roles, Brian learned the intricacies of the legislative process and the inner workings of House operations—skills that would serve him well when, in 1995, he was hired as an Assistant Clerk to the Parliamentarian.

Brian would spend the next 22 years in the House Parliamentarian's Office, and became Chief Clerk to the Parliamentarian in 2009. For over two decades, Brian has been a fixture at the House rostrum, dutifully assisting the presiding officer in timekeeping, recognizing Members on the floor, and preparing and reviewing reams of legislative paperwork for the House. Brian has also prepared the House for joint meetings to receive foreign dignitaries and other guests, and joint sessions of the House, including state of the Union addresses. As clerk, Brian also supervised House "documentarian" pages, and created the first computer network for the Parliamentarian.

An accomplished artist, Brian remains active in his artistic endeavors, which run the gamut from pencil drawings, watercolors, and oils, to photography, and architectural design. His retirement will offer new opportunities to continue these pursuits. His other retirement plans include travel and spending more time with family—including his numerous nieces and nephews. A devoted Baltimore sports fan, Brian will surely find his way to Camden Yards many times in the upcoming years to cheer on his beloved Orioles.

A consummate professional, Brian has spent his career on Capitol Hill committed to assisting with an orderly and accurate legislative process, observed in a fair and non-

partisan manner. Brian is a quintessential institutionalist, always striving to continue the traditions and customs of the House, and to pass on his institutional knowledge to others. The House of Representatives has known few individuals more dedicated to its proper functioning and legacy than Brian Cooper.

**COMMENDING LOCAL 2017 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES FOR THEIR DECISION TO ENLIST IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AND OUR COMMUNITY SALUTES OF FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA FOR HOSTING THE SIXTH ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL ENLISTEE RECOGNITION CEREMONY**

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 2017*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 11 Fredericksburg, Virginia area high school seniors who plan to enlist in the United States Air Force after graduation. These students have excelled in their academic and extracurricular activities, and I offer my sincere congratulations upon their high school graduation.

I commend these student leaders for their selflessness and courageous decision to serve their country as members of the United States Air Force:

Ashford, Jasmine; Beaty, Carter; Bratcher, Constance; Burton, Meghan; Erikson, Evan; Evertz, Kayla; Hibbs, Richard; Malpica, Alexis; Mathews, Adam; Papapetrou, Alexander; Smith, Christopher.

These students will be honored by the Greater Fredericksburg Chapter of Our Community Salutes at their 6th Annual Military Enlistee Recognition Ceremony on Saturday, June 3, 2017 at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, VA.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking these young men and women and their families for their dedication to serving this great Nation. We owe them and the many Americans who have served and will serve a debt of gratitude.

**THE HOLY SEE**

**HON. FRANCIS ROONEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 2017*

Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the special diplomatic relationship between the United States and the Holy See.

As a non-hegemonic sovereign, the Holy See plays a unique role in world affairs through its use of the soft power diplomacy through moral persuasion that only it can

exert. This gives the Holy See unparalleled influence in diplomacy and as a mediator in international disputes.

The United States and the Holy See have complemented each other in the past in combatting extremist ideologies, such as Nazism and communism, and on promoting human rights. From 2005–2008, I witnessed this firsthand as United States Ambassador to the Holy See. President Bush and Pope Benedict XVI worked together on combatting human trafficking, AIDS in Africa, promoting religious freedom and in denouncing radical Islamic extremism.

The strength of this relationship depends on how highly each president views the Holy See's soft power in world affairs. President Trump's choice to visit the Vatican on his first overseas trip is a good step toward a close relationship between the United States and the Holy See going forward.

**IN RECOGNITION OF THE TAYLOR AUXILIARY POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR THEIR WORK PROTECTING THE CITY OF TAYLOR**

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 2017*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Taylor Auxiliary Police Department for their work protecting the City of Taylor and its residents. The auxiliary plays a critical role in protecting the city and supporting the work of the Taylor Police Department with individuals from all walks of life.

Established in 1962 as a volunteer civil defense organization to assist the Taylor Police Department, the Taylor Auxiliary Police play a key role in safeguarding the public. In addition to helping the full-time police department staff community events like high school sports events and assisting with regular police patrols, the auxiliary police also serve as a reserve force to assist the City of Taylor in the event of a disaster or emergency situation. Additionally, the auxiliary has partnered with the city to further crime prevention initiatives, including Taylor on Watch, an education and outreach program that shares best practices for neighborhood and community safety. These initiatives have helped make Taylor a safe city to live and work.

The Taylor Police Auxiliary is critical to safeguarding the city from crime and other threats. Each member of the auxiliary is well trained and credentialed, and the approximately 45 officers provide thousands of hours of annual community service and protection to the city and its residents. In the past, the Taylor Auxiliary Police have helped provide traffic control during a visit by President Obama, as well as helping secure the annual Taylor Summer Festival and other community gatherings. These individuals perform the critical work of ensuring that the residents of Taylor remain

● 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.

safe at great personal risk, and it is my hope that the Taylor Police Auxiliary continues to build on its legacy of success.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Taylor Auxiliary Police Department for its public safety and service to the City of Taylor. The auxiliary volunteers have helped make the community safe through their work and activism.

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HONORING THE 27TH ANNUAL D.C. BLACK PRIDE CELEBRATION

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**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2017

Ms. NORTON, Mr. Speaker, this Memorial Day Week, May 22nd to 29th, Washington, D.C. celebrates “The Ties that Bind: Twenty-Seven Years of D.C. Black Pride!”—the theme of the 27th annual D.C. Black Pride.

This multi-day festival begins on May 23rd at the Human Rights Campaign with the 2017 D.C. Black Pride Awards Reception. We congratulate Countess Clarke Cooper and Daryl Wilson, recipients of the Welmore Cook Award; Check It Enterprises, recognized with the Leadership Award; Unsung Heroes Savanna Wanzer and Shannon Garcon; Aaron Bryant, winner of the President’s Award; and Maurice David Parker, the Charlotte Smallwood Volunteer of the Year for 2017.

Black Pride continues through Memorial Day with community town halls; educational and interfaith workshops; a poetry slam hosted by Mary Brown; a film festival; an interfaith worship service; and social events, including speed dating, breakfast, brunch, dinner and happy hours. The Black Pride parties range from Super to Grand; Mega to Ultimate; Picnic to Pool; and Purposeful to Epic. Performances by musicians, dancers, and artists enliven the festival. Sunday, the festival’s penultimate day, features its main event, a Cultural Arts and Wellness Exposition and Epic Live, at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. Black Pride culminates with a traditional Memorial Day picnic, the “Us Helping Us Annual Picnic in the Park” at Fort Lincoln Park and concludes with evening parties thereafter.

The D.C. Black Pride festival began during my freshman year in Congress, Sunday, May 26, 1991, at Banneker Field on Georgia Avenue across the street from Howard University. I have watched it mature from an ad hoc event to what is now widely considered to be one of the world’s preeminent Black Pride celebrations. It now draws more than 30,000 participants from the United States, Africa, Europe, and the Americas to our nation’s capital.

D.C. Black Pride fostered the beginning of the Center for Black Equity (formerly known as the International Federation of Black Prides, Inc.) and the “Black Pride Movement,” which now consists of 40 Black Prides on four continents.

I commend Shannon Garcon, Genise Chambers-Woods, Reginald Shaw-Richardson, Ralph “Rocky” Ferguson and Gladece Knight, the volunteer Advisory Board that assists. Earl D. Fowlkes, Jr. and Kenya Hutton with the coordination, planning, and execution of D.C. Black Pride. I take pleasure in noting that this year Earl commences his third decade of involvement with D.C. Black Pride and the Black Pride Movement around the globe.

As Black Pride comes to town, I also take this opportunity to inform the celebrants and to remind my colleagues of the various limitations Congress has placed on the District of Columbia. Despite paying more federal taxes than 22 states and having the highest per capita federal tax rate in the United States, the residents of Washington, D.C. still have no full voting representation in Congress.

I ask the House to join me in welcoming all attending the 27th annual D.C. Black Pride celebration.

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HONORING JAMIE MANCHESTER

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**HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS**

OF WASHINGTON  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2017

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jamie Manchester of Davenport, Washington.

Mrs. Manchester recently received the Recognizing Inspirational School Employees (RISE) Award for her exemplary service to the students of Washington State. Sponsored by the National Coalition of Classified Education Support Employee Unions (NCCESEU), the RISE Award seeks to recognize all classified school education support employees across the country for their ongoing contributions to education, and for the key role they play in promoting and ensuring student achievement, student safety and overall well-being.

During her 10 years of service as a Library Technician and Technology Coordinator in Sprague, Lamont, and Davenport, Jamie has been a strong advocate for technology in the classroom, creating her school’s first elementary computer lab, and implementing 1:1 Chromebooks for K-12. Furthermore, she has authored grants that helped to introduce STEM based curriculum and new technology in the classroom to enrich the education and overall lives of her students.

Jamie serves as the Vice President of the Creston Alumni Association, helping award over \$240,000 in scholarships to graduating seniors in the community. She has been a member of the Public School Employees (PSE) of Washington SEIU Local 1948 since 2006 and has served on the Education and Training Committee, as Chapter Vice President and Chapter Secretary, and as an Annual Convention Delegate.

Again I wish to send my congratulations to Jamie as PSE’s first recipient of the national RISE Award recognizing her leadership and contributions to the students of Davenport, Creston, Sprague, and Lamont.

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IN RECOGNITION OF THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2017 INTERFAITH BRIDGE BUILDER AWARDS

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**HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK**

OF VIRGINIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2017

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize this year’s recipients of the Interfaith Bridge Builder Awards, Mr. Rizwan Jaka, Rabbi Jack Luxemburg, and Ms. Priscilla Martinez.

Since 1978, the InterFaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington (IFC) has brought together people of eleven historic faiths to promote a dialogue and advocate for religious tolerance and cooperation across our nation and region. In order to bring these religious groups and our diverse community together, the IFC hosts a variety of events, including award ceremonies and seminars. The IFC also engages in grassroots activity while providing a broad range of educational tools.

This year marks the 13th Annual InterFaith Bridge Builders Awards, in which the IFC recognizes the achievements and leadership of individuals in our region. Mr. Rizwan Jaka, Rabbi Jack Luxemburg, and Ms. Priscilla Martinez are not only exemplary leaders within the IFC, but they are also extremely respected in our communities.

Additionally, I want to specifically recognize my constituents and friends, Mr. Rizwan Jaka and Ms. Priscilla Martinez, who for years have been tremendous leaders in Northern Virginia, both with very active roles within the All Dulles Area Muslim Society (ADAMS). In these roles, they have not only strengthened our region’s interfaith relations, but they have placed a great deal of emphasis on educating our youth. Mr. Jaka previously served as the President of ADAMS and is currently serving as a Member at Large of Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) and on the Board of Directors for the IFC.

Mr. Speaker, organizations, like the IFC, that focus on fostering strong and welcoming communities are vital to the success of our region. I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking the IFC for their continuous efforts and to congratulate Mr. Rizwan Jaka, Rabbi Jack Luxemburg, and Ms. Priscilla Martinez on receiving this year’s Interfaith Bridge Builder Awards. I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

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**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2017

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 93 Fredericksburg, Virginia area high school seniors who plan to enlist in the United States Marine Corps after graduation. These students have excelled in their academic and extracurricular activities, and I offer my sincere congratulations upon their high school graduation.

I commend these student leaders for their selflessness and courageous decision to serve their country as members of the United States Marine Corps.

Allander, Grace; Baez, Christopher; Bills, Scott; Blake, Elliot; Breland, William; Bridges, Brandon; Brown, Jalil; Buckles, Aaron; Campbell, Kailijya; Carhuacho, Andy; Clemente, Timothy; Cook, Thomas; Conte, Ibrahim; Corbett, David; Creed, Barton; Devin, Timothy;