

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING ANNIE AVERY

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 17, 2018

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Annie Avery, the newly crowned Ms. Alabama Nursing Home 2018. Ms. Avery was the only African American among the top 10 finalists in the 35th annual pageant held at the Hyatt Regency Birmingham on Monday, July 30, 2018. She has lived at East Glen Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation for 6 months and has already established herself as a valuable leader at the facility.

Born in New Orleans, Ms. Avery was a longtime resident of "The Big Easy," graduating from Booker T. Washington High School in New Orleans. Later, she married James Avery, Jr. and together, the couple raised two sons. She is the grandmother of nine grandchildren, 29 great-grandchildren, and one great-great grandchild.

In New Orleans, Ms. Avery served as a historic preservationist, community organizer, and motivational speaker.

Ms. Avery's passion for activism started at a young age. As a young woman, she courageously marched with Dr. King during the Civil Rights Movement in an effort to secure equal voting rights for all Americans. Her passion for equality and justice carried her through countless missions in life and led her on numerous adventures.

Some of her most cherished memories from her many adventures include a walk through Nelson Mandela's prison cell during her visit to South Africa. She says that this moment affected her deeply because of "the spirit [she] felt knowing he served 27 years in those walls and his carvings on the walls." Additionally, Ms. Avery says that her visit to a church in Savannah, Georgia that was built by slaves had a significant impact on her. When asked what the purpose of the holes on the church floor were, she stated that she "felt a body movement" because the holes were for the slaves' breathing as they hid from slave holders. Inspired by these experiences, Ms. Avery formed 'Ladies in Red,' an organization that recognizes women and the obstacles they have overcome in their lives.

Ms. Avery served as the Director of the African American Heritage Preservation Council of the Preservation Resource Center in New Orleans, which was founded on the idea that African Americans needed to be stewards of their history. She also worked with the First Time Homebuyer's Association, served as chairwoman of the Crescent City Peace Alliance, and as assistant director of the Comeback Alliance, an organization designed to purchase and renovate historic buildings. For all of her hard work and dedication, Ms. Avery was recognized as the 2002 Woman of the Year in New Orleans.

Following Hurricane Katrina, Ms. Avery moved from New Orleans to Denver, Colo-

rado. After a year and a half in Denver, she relocated to Birmingham to be near her son, Calvin, following his retirement. She has said that she likes Alabama, because she enjoys the local jazz and blues music and historic houses. She says it reminds her of her time in New Orleans.

Today, Ms. Avery continues to be an inspiration to both the workers and the other residents at East Glen, going so far as to establish a "Ladies in Red" group at the nursing facility. Ms. Avery says she hopes to establish as many groups as she can in nursing homes throughout Alabama, saying it brings her joy to make everyone feel welcome in her home.

Additionally, Ms. Avery is a member of the community prayer line and is the Secretary of Resident Council at East Glen. The staff at East Glenn admire how Ms. Avery never allows her physical impairments to affect her personality or keep her from serving as an inspiration to all at the facility.

I am honored to congratulate Ms. Avery on being crowned Ms. Alabama Nursing Home 2018. Because of her impact at East Glen, her significant contributions to the community, and the respect and praise she receives from those close to her, I know that she is most deserving of this remarkable and respected recognition.

For her exemplary accomplishments, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the life and legacy of Annie Avery, an extraordinary resident of East Glen in Birmingham, Alabama.

HONORING JAMES KELLY

HON. JOSH GOTTHEIMER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 17, 2018

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of James Kelly, who celebrated his 90th birthday on July 20, 2018. James is known by his friends and neighbors in Tenafly as a deeply committed member of our community. Always there for others, James is a dedicated father, husband, grandfather, and career police officer, who has devoted his life to keeping his community safe. People like James are what make North Jersey such a special place to live.

Born in 1928 in Philadelphia, James moved to New York City with his family in his teenage years. In New York, James worked in his family's grocery store, until joining the New York Police Department. In 1950, James married his adored wife Lorraine, with whom he enjoyed a loving marriage of fifty-eight years. With Lorraine, James raised three daughters, Pat, Adrienne, and Lisa, and now has seven grandchildren and one great grandchild. A lover of Jazz music and corny jokes, James always makes sure to entertain his entire family during each and every gathering. James continues to be an essential member of his family and community, and is cherished by all who know him.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply grateful for James Kelly's invaluable contributions to our community and our country, and I am confident that he will continue to inspire everyone around him with his quick wit and abiding commitment to service. I congratulate James Kelly on his 90th birthday and wish him many more years of success and happiness.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. DONALD E. CORNFORTH

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 17, 2018

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Dr. Donald E. Cornforth, a Central Valley resident who provided outstanding medical care to his community for over twenty years.

Donald E. Cornforth was born in Media, Pennsylvania on November 2, 1942. In 1964, he completed his undergraduate degree at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado. Four years later, upon graduating from Loma Linda University School of Medicine, Mr. Cornforth began a year-long internship at Fitzsimons General Hospital. Following this internship, Dr. Cornforth began his Radiology Residency at St. Joseph's Hospital in Colorado and became certified by the American Board of Radiology in 1975.

Dr. Donald Cornforth's drive and dedication to help those in need was further demonstrated when, during his final year in medical school, he made the selfless decision to enlist in the United States Army. After five years of Active Duty, two of which were spent as a Radiologist at Ireland Army Hospital in Fort Knox, Kentucky, Major Cornforth was honorably discharged.

Over the next fifteen years practicing radiology, Dr. Cornforth continuously proved himself to be a fundamental leader within the medical community. During this time, Dr. Cornforth developed innovated services within his field and even brought his knowledge and services to Saudi Arabia for a teaching sabbatical. Additionally, Dr. Cornforth performed groundbreaking procedures including Colorado's first percutaneous trans-renal kidney stone extraction and the world's first percutaneous trans-renal UPJ endopyeloplasty.

Then, in 1991, Dr. Cornforth brought his expertise to the Central Valley as the President of San Joaquin Imaging Medical Associates in Bakersfield, California. Dr. Cornforth upheld his commitment to provide vital medical services to those in need while leading various practices throughout the Kern County. His most notable practice, Quest Imaging Medical Associates, Inc. became a permanent fixture of the San Joaquin Community Hospital in 2010, expanding access to these critical services throughout the community.

Whether he was serving our country in the United States Army or serving those within our

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community, Dr. Cornforth has always provided care with the highest standard of excellence. Dr. Cornforth's dedication to serving others extends far beyond practicing medicine. In 2012, he and his wife, Edna, donated one million dollars for the cancer center at San Joaquin Community Hospital, its lobby now named the Cornforth Family Pavilion. Dr. and Mrs. Cornforth's generosity to those in need is truly commendable and has made a lasting, positive impact on the Central Valley community.

Today, Dr. Cornforth retires from his practice in Delano, Donald E. Cornforth, M.D., Inc., and from his position as Chief Medical Officer at the San Joaquin Community Hospital, where he also served as the head of their nationally recognized Stroke Center for three years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in thanking Dr. Cornforth for his service to his country, the medical community, and the Central Valley.

CONGRATULATING THE THOUSAND ISLANDS BRIDGE AUTHORITY ON ITS 80TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 17, 2018

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the Thousand Islands Bridge Authority on its 80th anniversary.

On August 18, 1938, President Franklin Roosevelt and Canadian Prime Minister Mackenzie King officially opened the Thousand Islands Bridge System, marking a key connection between the North Country and Ontario. Made using 30,000 barrels of cement, 6,550 tons of steel, and 575,000 Canadian and American man hours, the system of five bridges covers 8.4 miles and serves over 2,000,000 vehicles annually in the Thousand Islands region of the St. Lawrence River. For 80 years, the Thousand Islands Bridge System has not only served as a key economic route for American and Canadian businesses and tourists, but has also fostered the sharing of knowledge and culture between the United States and its important ally.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I want to commemorate the Thousand Islands Bridge Authority and its 80 years of service to the North Country and Ontario.

IN MEMORY OF ARETHA FRANKLIN, LEGENDARY PERFORMING ARTIST, CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST, CULTURAL ICON, AND FIRST LADY AND QUEEN OF SOUL

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 17, 2018

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the extraordinary and consequential life of Aretha Franklin, the "First Lady and Queen of Soul."

Aretha Franklin passed away this morning at the age of 76 at her home in Detroit after waging a long and valiant battle against pancreatic cancer.

For more than a half-century the world was thrilled, inspired, and captivated by the scintillating presence and magical voice of the woman instantly known and recognizable the world over simply as "Aretha."

Born in 1942 in Memphis, Tennessee, Aretha's family eventually relocated to Detroit, where she was raised and learned to sing.

When Aretha was 10, her mother passed, and a number of women, including the legendary gospel singer Mahalia Jackson helped take care of Aretha and her siblings.

It was around this time that Aretha started playing piano, singing and performing gospel songs at her father's church in Detroit.

On singing in church Aretha once remarked, "You have the ethereal feeling there. It is the house of the Lord. It is the Supreme Being. So there is no greater space to sing in than the church."

Aretha recorded a gospel album when she was just 14 and four years later signed with Columbia Records then Atlantic Records, where she achieved international recognition for internationally loved songs such as "Rock-a-Bye Your Baby with a Dixie Melody" and "Natural Woman."

Aretha's music defined a modern female archetype: sensual and strong, long-suffering but ultimately indomitable, loving but not to be taken for granted.

Aretha's contributions to music and pop culture received several honors throughout her life.

She won a total of 18 Grammy awards; the first in 1967 for "Respect."

Aretha's "Respect," the Otis Redding song that became her signature anthem, was never just about how a woman wanted to be greeted by a spouse coming home from work.

It was a demand for equality and freedom and a harbinger of feminism, carried by the voice of a woman who would accept nothing less.

Aretha's rendition of "Respect" resonated beyond individual relationships to the civil rights, counterculture and feminism movements.

As Aretha wrote in her autobiography, "It was the need of the nation, the need of the average man and woman in the street, the businessman, the mother, the fireman, the teacher—everyone wanted respect."

Aretha was later honored with a Grammys Legend Award in 1991 and a Lifetime Achievement Award in 1994.

In 2014, Aretha reached a new milestone by becoming the first woman to have her 100th hit on Billboard's Hot R&B and Hip-Hop Songs Chart.

In a career spanning more than 50 years, Aretha's performances marked certain pivotal moments in U.S. history.

A longtime family friend of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., she sang "Precious Lord" at the civil rights leader's memorial service.

Aretha was the first woman inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1987.

Aretha's stirring rendition of the "Star Spangled Banner" at the 1992 Democratic Convention in New York City is considered one of the greatest of all time.

Aretha performed "America (My Country 'Tis of Thee)" at the inauguration of President Barack Obama.

And Aretha brought President Obama—and much of the audience—to tears six years later when she surprised Kennedy Center honoree Carole King with "Natural Woman" in 2015.

Aretha's legacy goes far beyond music.

By the standards of Paradise Valley, the business district and entertainment center of a densely-populated African-American residential area in Detroit, Aretha was a young woman of status and privilege.

Nevertheless she suffered the same humiliations as any black woman travelling through the South or venturing into the white precincts of Detroit.

By the time of the murder of Emmett Till, in 1955, her father, Rev. C. L. Franklin had opened New Bethel Baptist Church to the movement, and, from his pulpit, he denounced segregation and white supremacy.

When Dr. King came to Detroit, he stayed at the home of the Franklins.

On June 23, 1963, Rev. C. L. Franklin helped Dr. King organize the "Walk to Freedom," the march of more than a hundred thousand people through downtown Detroit that set the stage for the March of Washington two months later.

At Detroit's Cobo Hall, Dr. King, acknowledging "my good friend" Rev. C. L. Franklin, delivered a speech filled with passages that would become world famous two months later when spoken at the March on Washington: "This afternoon I have a dream," he told the crowd. "I have a dream," that "little white children and little Negro children" will be "judged by the content of their character and not the color of their skin."

Dr. King later confided to Rev. C. L. Franklin, "Frank, I will never live to see forty."

At Dr. King's funeral, in April, 1968, Aretha was asked to sing Thomas Dorsey's "Precious Lord."

Aretha was now a central voice in both the black community, eclipsing her father, and in the musical world.

In 1970, Aretha offered to post a \$250,000 bond to free Angela Davis, the demonized black activist then being held on charges of conspiracy, kidnapping and murder—charges of which she was later acquitted.

Quoted in Jet magazine at the time, Aretha said: "Angela Davis must go free. Black people will be free."

Mr. Speaker, it is easy to forget how unusual this was in an era when Aretha's Grammy-winning albums were still sold in segregated "race music" sections of record stores and when even the suggestion that a black woman might one day appear on the cover of September Vogue, as Beyoncé now does, would have seemed like a pipe dream.

It is important, too, to note that wearing an Afro or the head wraps Aretha was early to adopt was once as risky a political statement as taking a knee would later become.

And while many of her musical contemporaries rarely ventured from their sartorial safe zones, Aretha remained boldly and exuberantly unconstrained in her tastes, confident about demonstrating both her individuality and her economic might by doing as another powerful black woman, Oprah Winfrey, one day would.

Mr. Speaker, Aretha was a musical, spiritual, and cultural leader for America and around the world.

Aretha exemplified the best of America—powerful, compassionate, fearless, and kind.

Aretha personified the community from which she came: forever young, gifted, and black.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to observe a moment of silence in memory of one of the