

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MOLLY EDWARDS

HON. PAUL D. RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2018

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I address the House today, the last one with Molly Edwards serving on my staff. After more than five years, Molly is moving on from the House, where she will be missed by not just me but the many with whom she worked to make this institution shine. A proud—very proud—North Carolina native, Molly was part of our team at the Ways and Means Committee, and she was there for the unexpected journey to the speaker's office. It has been a privilege to watch her take on ever-expanding roles over these years. Through hard work Molly earned her way to be my director of press operations. When dignitaries or diplomats visited or whenever the biggest events had the world watching the Capitol, Molly was there to ensure things always went off without a hitch. With a steady hand, as well as some southern charm, no moment was ever too big or challenge too great. Poised under pressure, she is a true professional. And she has always made me look far more polished than I really am. I am enormously grateful for Molly's service, and I wish her nothing but the best in her next adventures.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH JEFFERSON PARK

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2018

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of First Baptist Church Jefferson Park in Newport News, Virginia.

First Baptist Church Jefferson Park was established in the fall of 1918, following a long period of uncertainty and displacement for its future congregation. When the United States government purchased Mulberry Island in response to the outbreak of World War I, those already living on the island were forced to uproot their lives and relocate. This also meant that the thriving church community which had already made a home on the island had to be broken up; when Colossian Baptist Church's property was repurposed by the government and its congregation moved to their new location in Newport News, not everyone could go with it. Many former members were forced to live far apart following their relocation, branching off and eventually setting down roots in areas all across the city. Jefferson Park became such an area, and although the area was significantly underdeveloped with no public schools, mail delivery, or church, a small group of pioneers from Mulberry Island came to call it home.

Deacon William & Mrs. Lucy Wooten, also originally from Mulberry Island, heard the group's call for a church in their new location at Jefferson Park. With the help of other community members, Deacon William built their first place of worship, including the pews, pulpit, and communion table. At the time there was not sufficient money or space for a proper setup for an organ, piano, or formal choir, and the church was lit with kerosene lamps rather than electricity. Despite the limited space, enthusiasm and membership for the church grew under the leadership of Reverend Zechariah White, who served as a spiritual pillar for the congregation in the church's early days despite never serving as pastor. In 1925 Reverend J.O. Atkinson was able to oversee the construction of a larger church building to accommodate the congregation's needs.

Reverend Atkinson became First Baptist Church Jefferson Park's first official pastor in 1920, following the death of Reverend M. Massenburg, who was called to pastor the congregation but unfortunately passed before his installation. Following Reverend Atkinson's departure from the church in 1927, he was succeeded by Reverend T.H. Ashe in 1929, Reverend F.A. Rylander in 1937, Reverend Mack Samuel in 1940, and Rev. O.D. Henry in 1952.

The First Baptist Church Jefferson Park congregation expanded in 1967, following Reverend Dr. Bernard Schiele's purchase of nearby property and subsequent construction of a new church.

Reverend Dr. Reginald C. Woodhouse was installed as First Baptist Church Jefferson Park's next pastor in 1999, and the church has only continued to grow and expand since then. The church's community is incredibly active, participating in a variety of ministries and programs established by Rev. Dr. Woodhouse, including Youth Choir, Junior Gleaners, Little Angels Choir, Junior Deacons, Junior Trustees, Junior Clerks, and Youth Bible Study.

First Baptist Church Jefferson Park's congregation takes the call to community engagement seriously, which is evident in their annual Education Day Celebration, Church-School partnership with Newsome Park Elementary School, and Tutorial Program.

Over the last 100 years, The First Baptist Church Jefferson Park has been served by many dedicated men of faith—Rev. Zechariah White, Rev. M. Massenburg, Rev. J.O. Atkinson, Rev. T.H. Ashe, Rev. F.A. Rylander, Rev. Mack Samuel, Rev. O.D. Henry, Rev. Dr. W. Bernard Schiele, and Rev. Dr. Reginald C. Woodhouse.

Mr. Speaker, as First Baptist Church Jefferson Park of Newport News, Virginia celebrates this historic milestone, its congregation can take pride in an inspiring 100 years of fellowship, worship, and service. I would like to congratulate Reverend Dr. Reginald C. Woodhouse and all of the members of the church's congregation on this joyous occasion, and I wish them many more years full of growth and prosperity.

IN HONOR OF TWENTY YEARS OF SERVICE BY CHILDREN'S SAFE HARBOR

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2018

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the Children's Safe Harbor for their twenty years of service to the communities of Montgomery, San Jacinto, and Walker counties.

The Montgomery County Children's Advocacy Center, Inc., also known as Children's Safe Harbor (CSH), was established over two decades ago to address child abuse. Specifically, CSH cares for children between the ages of two and seventeen who have suffered sexual abuse, physical abuse and trauma. Since this important organization opened its doors on August 31, 1998, it has provided a safe place for children where they can be heard, helped and healed.

From the beginning, CSH's principle mission has been to provide a supportive, safe environment for children while enhancing the coordination between criminal investigations and the monitoring of child abuse cases. Instead of children unnecessarily accessing multiple law enforcement agencies and child protection systems to seek healing and justice, CSH utilizes a multi-disciplinary, team-oriented approach to successfully coordinate effective, efficient, and child-centered casework. This method allows CSH to offer victimized children the care they need while also ensuring that the evidence necessary for prosecution is gathered effectively and mental health resources for children and non-offending family members are coordinated through completion of care.

First founded in Montgomery County, CSH has since expanded its operations and is now a multi-county resource for children and families. In its first few months, approximately 23 children were referred to the organization. Now, the average number of cases assisted by CSH totals over 200 a month. Though the increase in requests for help brought forth new challenges, CSH met them head-on. CSH's hard work and selfless service has helped 14,369 vulnerable children seeking the healing and justice they deserve—a truly incredible accomplishment.

In 1993, I joined my fellow CSH board members and signed a charter application to initiate this life-changing nonprofit organization. It is amazing to see the miracles this organization has accomplished since its founding, and I am proud to recognize CSH for the crucial work it has done in our community over the past twenty years.

To the staff, volunteers, and community leaders, such as my close friend Executive Director Victoria Constance, Ph.D., who have worked tirelessly to make CSH the life-changing organization it is today—thank you. Without your dedication, CSH would not be able to

• 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.

change the lives of the thousands of children who have sought help from your organization. You are all champions of social justice, and it is my honor to congratulate you all on twenty years of devoted service.

IN RECOGNITION OF MERCY
PEDALERS 1ST ANNIVERSARY

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2018

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mercy Pedalers and its volunteers and supporters as they celebrate their 1st Anniversary. As the community gathers today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring them and their successful first year of service to the Sacramento region and beyond.

On September 1st Sister Libby Fernandez founded Mercy Pedalers after serving as the Executive Director of Sacramento Loaves & Fishes for eleven years. During her many years of service for the people in our community experiencing homelessness, she realized that compassion and personal connections were what made a difference in people's daily lives. Through her small but meaningful, individual actions, the inspiration for the organization was fostered.

Mercy Pedalers is comprised of local, kind-hearted individuals, who cycle through the streets of Sacramento, reaching out to men and women who are in crisis and living on the streets. They emphasize their outreach and actions based on the "Works of Mercy" and "Welcoming the Stranger." The work and care that the volunteers bring into the streets of our city cannot be overstated. As we struggle to address the causes and symptoms of homelessness, Mercy Pedalers bring a ministry approach to day to day outreach. The dignity and respect that Sister Libby and the Mercy Pedalers show homeless men and women is one that should be present in all of us.

Mr. Speaker, as the members and volunteers of Mercy Pedalers celebrate their first year of service to the Sacramento community, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring them for their dedication to our neighbors through their charitable work.

TRIBUTE TO DENIZ FRANKE

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Deniz Franke for being named the 2018 Women Business Owner of the Year honoree by the award-winning central Iowa Publication, Business Record. Franke successfully built her own business, a wealth management company named Franke Miller Group.

For 19 years, the Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of women who have made a significant difference in business, civic, and philanthropic endeavors throughout the Greater Des Moines Area.

Deniz was born in Istanbul, Turkey. By the time she was eighteen years old she had an

entrepreneurial spirit which led her to develop, design, and produce her own fashion line. Deniz and her family moved to Memphis, Tennessee where she attended the University of Memphis earning two degrees in finance and marketing. She has become one of the top private wealth advisors in Iowa and has been recognized nationally by Forbes magazine as Best in State Wealth Advisors for 2018 and was part of Forbes Top Women Wealth Advisors in 2018. Deniz also finds the time to give back to her community as a trustee for the Boys and Girls Club of Central Iowa, volunteers for Big Brothers and Sisters, the American Heart Association, and the Alzheimer's Association.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Deniz Franke in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Deniz Franke on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing Ms. Franke a long and successful career.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL ESTUARY
WEEK: SEPTEMBER 15 TO 22, 2018

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2018

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, this week we celebrate National Estuary Week, a week dedicated to raising awareness of the importance of our nation's estuaries. This marks the 30th anniversary of National Estuary Week, and on Monday, September 17, I joined my fellow co-chairs of the Congressional Estuary Caucus and Restore America's Estuaries in kicking off this celebration with the 2018 National Estuaries Week Hill Expo. This Expo was a great showcase of research and resources for coastal habitats. The Environmental Protection Agency, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service were on hand to talk with staff and Members and explain how we can improve the health of our estuaries.

Former Congressman Jim Gerlach taught us "Estuaries are coastal bays, harbors, sounds and lagoons, places where rivers meet the sea." My own Eighth District of Florida is home to the Indian River Lagoon, one of the most diverse estuaries in North America and the world. I grew up around Cocoa Beach, raised my family along the Lagoon, and worked in local real estate for many years. I learned firsthand why it's so important for us to work together to care for our environment.

That is why, in early 2017, I founded the bipartisan Congressional Estuary Caucus with several of my colleagues to give the nation's estuaries a stronger voice and presence in Congress. Since that time, more than forty Members of Congress have joined the Estuary Caucus and become actively engaged in our efforts to support estuary restoration and conservation. The Caucus has already held eleven briefings on Capitol Hill about the critical role these delicate ecosystems play in our communities.

Stretching 156 miles along Florida's east coast, our Lagoon is a sanctuary for nearly

4,000 species of wildlife, an economic engine for our community, and an invaluable recreational and educational resource for residents and visitors. Since estuaries are places where freshwater mixes with saltwater, preserving the delicate balance is as critical as it can be difficult. Our quality of life, economy and tourism, property values and the survival of many indigenous species of plant and wildlife depend on our efforts. Scientists often call them "nurseries of the sea" because estuaries are the nesting and feeding habitats for many aquatic plants and animals. Experts at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration estimate that up to 80 percent of the fish and shellfish that we catch spend at least part of their lives in estuaries. That catch includes salmon, herring, and oysters, and our fishing industry is valued in the billions of dollars. Estuaries also contribute to healthy ocean environments by filtering out sediments and pollutants from rivers and streams before they flow into the oceans. Estuaries are also important recreational destinations. Millions of people each year boat, swim, watch birds and other wildlife, and fish in our nation's estuaries. Coastal recreation and tourism generate billions of dollars to our economy.

Many estuaries, including our lagoon, are experiencing challenges like harmful algae blooms, declines in sea grass, and invasive species. These threats require our immediate attention. Acidification also presents uncertainties within our precious estuaries. The problem of estuarine acidification is less well understood than acidification in the open ocean and could pose severe effects for the biodiversity of our estuaries like the Indian River Lagoon.

As we seek to restore and protect our estuaries, I believe we have to adopt the proverbial "all of the above" strategy. That means a coordinated effort involving federal, state and local cooperation with each level of government doing what it does best. Our state and local government will lead the efforts that improve our water quality and will provide leadership in assuring we adapt to sea level rise in the way we build and manage our land use. The federal government supports state and local leadership with restoration programs that include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Environmental Protection Agency, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

I've joined my colleagues, Congressman BRIAN MAST and Congresswoman BONAMICI, in introducing legislation aimed at mitigating and solving our hypoxia and toxic algal bloom challenges. In Florida, we are working to raise the priority of projects that benefit the estuaries within the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan.

To get a leg up on the challenges to our estuaries posed by acidification, I've introduced the National Estuaries and Acidification Research Act of 2018. This legislation creates a research program so that we can understand how better how acidification works in estuaries and how we might be able to combat it.

For the 2018 Fiscal Year, the Interior Appropriations bill includes \$16.8 million that will provide \$600,000 to each of the 28 estuaries, and also includes my plan to direct \$1.5 million for the National Estuary Program's competitive grants program for special projects and prevention and mitigation focused research. This is a win for our estuaries, communities, and economy.