

RESOLUTION OF CONGRESSIONAL CONDOLENCE
IN MEMORY OF TONYA RENA CHISSELL-WILLIAMS

DECEMBER 15, 1980–NOVEMBER 16, 2018

“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you” John 15:12

Whereas, Tonya Chissell Williams was born December 15, 1980 to her parents Sharon and Joseph Chissell in New Orleans, Louisiana; and

Whereas, Tonya Chissell Williams was a high achiever and attended H.C. Schaumburg Elementary, Edward Livingston Junior High School, McDonough 35 College Preparatory High School, Marion Abramson Math & Science—Magnet High School for the Gifted, and Delgado Community College in New Orleans, Louisiana and received her Associate Degree in Computer Information Systems from the University of New Orleans in 2005 and her Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from the University of Houston Downtown in 2009; and

Whereas, Tonya Chissell Williams was forced to leave New Orleans in August 2005 due to the devastation by Hurricane Katrina and relocated with her relatives to Houston, Texas where she met and united in marriage to her husband Kendrick Lawrence Williams on September 10, 2006; and

Whereas, Tonya Chissell Williams accepted Jesus Christ at an early age, believing strongly in God and believing deeply in the teaching of the Bible; she was a faithful servant and Minister of Music at New Orleans East Seventh Day-Adventist Church where she served in many choirs while singing along with Fred Hammond and the late Raymond Myles; and after relocating to Houston she joined Bellfort Seventh Day Adventist Church, now known as World Harvest Outreach Seventh-Day Adventist Church, as a faithful member under the leadership of Senior Pastor Keith S. Goodman; and

Whereas, Tonya Chissell Williams overcame life-changing challenges to complete her college education; her hard work and resilience was rewarded with both a prestigious Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Congressional internship in the Office of Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee and a Mickey Leland Congressional Fellow in 2010; and

Whereas, Tonya Chissell Williams started her career in public service in the Office of Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee in the United States House of Representatives in 2010 as a Field Representative and Caseworker, she was later promoted in 2014 as a Senior Casework Manager and Special Events Coordinator; and

Whereas, Tonya Chissell Williams was a beloved employee and public servant, she was always there to lend a helping hand as demonstrated through the countless projects on which she worked on behalf of those who needed a hand up including the annual Beat the Heat Program; the 18th Congressional District's “Moms Summit” and the “When Women Succeed America Succeeds” events designed to empower, educate and uplift women; the “Back to School” event that furnishes children with backpacks and fresh haircuts; the annual Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway; and her biggest love, the Toys for Kids annual event that provides young children with the wonder and joy of the Christmas season; and

Whereas, Tonya Chissell Williams' desire to expand and continue her service to the Houston community led her to accept a position as Community Liaison with the City of Houston in the Health and Human Services Department; and

Whereas, Tonya Chissell Williams leaves to cherish her legacy her husband; Kendrick Lawrence Williams; one son, Jason Alex-

ander Chissell; her mother, Sharon Ann Chissell; her father, Joseph Rodriguez Chissell; two sisters, Shannon Elizabeth Chissell-Uzomaka (Santa Eugene) and Khian Chissell-Martin (Jeffrey); two brothers, Joseph Nicholas Chissell and Rodriguez Joseph Lomax (Kewanda); her brother-in-law, Carlton Anthony Williams (Danielle); two nieces, Shariann (Sharie Berry) Elaine Uzomaka and Kamryn A. Martin; three nephews Shawn A. Robinson, Jamoriss Martin, and Joseph N. Chissell, Jr. (deceased); and numerous other relatives, friends and colleagues.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that, on behalf of the constituents of the Eighteenth Congressional District of Texas, I, in great humility offer condolences to the family of Tonya Chissell Williams and those she leaves in God's hands. Tonya was a true servant for the people of this city, state, and nation. Tonya's work on earth is finished, and is deserving of the commendation and admiration of the United States Congress. As the Master says in Matthew 25:21, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant.”

HONORING JEREMIAH WILLIAMS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable student, the late Mr. Jeremiah Williams.

Jeremiah Williams was born on January 21, 2002 in Greenville, Mississippi to Lashona Williams and Timothy Hawkins. Sr. Jeremiah was the sixth of eight children. Jeremiah's earthly journey ended on November 9, 2018.

Jeremiah was known to family and friends as “Dugga Wugga” or “Dugg”. He was very passionate about sports.

I gladly pay tribute to the memory of Jeremiah, and although it was short, I commend the exemplary life he lived. It was his young life that walked by, leaving his footprints in our hearts forever.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and accomplishments of the late Mr. Jeremiah Williams for his dedication to serving others and giving back to the community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN J. RUSSELL

HON. JOSH GOTTHEIMER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of John J. Russell of West Roxbury, Massachusetts, who was the loving and devoted father of Tricia Russell, my exceptional and incomparable Chief of Staff.

Originally born in County Cork to parents James and Norah, John was a proud son of Ireland through and through. Like many generations of Irish who came to this country before him, he and his loving wife Joanne raised their family in Boston—proudly preserving and celebrating their heritage, faith, and traditions. John was blessed with the gift of the gab and was known for his ability to make friends or

engage complete strangers anywhere. For this and the other gifts he was blessed with, including his family, he was thankful—showing a devotion to his faith and his fellow parishioners.

While I did not know John personally, I feel as though I have come to know his many exemplary qualities and his character through his daughter, who embodies his values day-in and day-out: selflessness and dedication, resilience, and an unwavering commitment to doing right by others, no matter what.

John's devotion and adoration may not have always been spoken, but his actions and unadulterated love for his family were loud and clear. John undoubtedly was proud of Tricia and loved her dearly, helping her grow into the strong woman she is today. He was the rock on which the family was built and his spirit will continue to live on through Tricia and Joanne.

Mr. Speaker, there is a beautiful old Irish saying for mourning a loved-one: “Ar dheis Dé go raibh a h'anam,” meaning “May his soul be on the right side of God.” For us, there is no question: John's love for his family, his love for his home, and his faith have secured for him a new life in God's embrace. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of John J. Russell and his extraordinary legacy.

HONORING CHASEN BULLOCK

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a former member of my staff, Chasen Bullock, for his work in my office and his service to our state.

Chasen worked in my Indiana office for nearly a year, serving as the head of our political operations. Chasen is a rock star and was a tremendous leader and asset to our team. He brought a wealth of experience and knowledge and was someone who became a trusted adviser, but more importantly, a great friend.

On a personal note, Chasen is one of the rarest beasts you can find in Washington—a talented leader with humility and integrity. I wish Chasen continued success in all that God has planned for him and his family. I have no doubt Chasen's biggest impact on our nation are yet to come. I look forward to cheering Chasen on in those efforts.

RECOGNITION OF SARAH BLOCHER

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my gratitude to Sarah Blocher, a valued member of my Foreign Affairs Committee staff. Sarah is a dedicated public servant, committed to advancing the interests of the American people abroad. Her work has stemmed from her belief that strong, positive relations with our allies in Europe also strengthen our country.

I have come to value Sarah's insights into the challenges and opportunities in our transatlantic relationships, as well as her advocacy

for human rights, particularly international religious freedom and combating the disturbing rise in antisemitism around the world. As the security landscape has evolved and new threats have emerged for the United States and our allies in Europe, such as the increasing aggression from Russia and its use of unconventional and hybrid attacks, countering violent extremism and thwarting terrorist attacks against our allies, cutting off sources of funding and other support for Hezbollah and advocating for action to combat the trafficking of persons for the gruesome removal of their organs—Sarah has dedicated her time to drawing attention to and combatting these challenges.

As well as being a dedicated member of my staff, Sarah is also devoted to her family: her husband Paul, and their three children, Seth, Anneliese and Caroline. In all things, I have found that she has worked diligently in service to her country and her family. I wish Sarah all the best as I depart Congress.

IN MEMORY OF MELISSA DRISKO

HON. MAC THORNBERRY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, our nation is blessed with many hardworking professionals who work in the defense and intelligence communities, keeping our people safe and safeguarding American national security. Often they cannot talk about what they do, even among their family and close friends. And yet, some of the best and brightest in our country commit their lives to this dedicated service.

One of those individuals has unfortunately been taken away from us too soon, but her passing enables the public to get a glimpse of the critical roles she has played as an outstanding leader in our intelligence community.

Melissa Drisko most recently served as Deputy Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency. The daughter of a U.S. Army Officer, she graduated from University of Virginia on an ROTC scholarship and was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Navy in 1981. Her assignments in the Navy included watch officer, intelligence officer, Soviet submarine analyst, and aid to the Director of Naval Intelligence, where she met her beloved husband, Phil Kosmacki. She went on to work at the Department of State and as Flag Aide to the Director of Naval Intelligence.

Following her Naval service, Melissa continued her distinguished career as a civilian with leadership positions in several agencies including Office of Naval Intelligence, Central Intelligence Agency, and Office of the Director of National Intelligence. For the past 14 years, Melissa served at the Defense Intelligence Agency, culminating in her position as Deputy Director.

The Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, Lieutenant General Ashley called Ms. Drisko “brilliant, determined, and among the finest intelligence officers of her generation.” A quiet and visionary leader, she encouraged others to speak their mind, always with an eye to the greater good.

Melissa was known for her intelligence, her inquisitive mind, and her integrity. Those clos-

est to her also recognized her kindness, her quick sense of humor, and her way of being fully present in any given situation, qualities that were woven throughout her life.

While she was serving the nation as a national security professional, the center of her life was her family, as a spouse to her husband, Phil, and as a mom to their children, Alison, Rachel, and Jackson.

Like most of her colleagues in the Intelligence Community, Melissa served humbly and selflessly, directing accolades away from herself to those with whom she worked. She knew that she was part of a team, and she made that team better. The focus of that team and the professional calling of Melissa's life were to protect her fellow citizens and defend the United States of America. That is among the highest calling to which any of us can devote our lives.

Melissa passed away on November 14 after a two-year battle with cancer, which she faced with characteristic strength and dignity.

Day after day, year after year, Melissa Drisko served her country, setting a standard of excellence that made our country safer and stronger. May we all draw inspiration from this full, meaningful life well lived. And may we all use her passing to give thanks for the service of such an outstanding and dedicated professional.

RECOGNIZING THE GREAT WALL CHINESE ACADEMY

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Great Wall Chinese Academy in Highlands Ranch, Colorado. On Sundays, classes on Chinese language and culture, to include fitness classes, are taught at the Great Wall Chinese Academy to serve the entire Denver Metropolitan area. It is my honor to recognize the achievements of this vital part of our community here in the United States House of Representatives.

Originally founded in 2004, the Great Wall Chinese Academy offers classes to students of all ages, as well as adults, in various subjects, from Chinese dances and martial arts, to sports and educational tutoring. Every class is open to students from all backgrounds as the Great Wall Chinese School strives to achieve its mission of, “preparing our students to better face tomorrow's challenges by offering Chinese language lessons, cultural enrichment, and life-long skill training, all in an environment that promotes positivity, encouragement and sense of community.”

I would also like to recognize President and co-founder Dongqing Wei, and Principal and co-founder Shaomei Cheng for all their work at the Great Wall Chinese Academy. Their leadership has guided the Great Wall Chinese Academy to be an excellent school, and valuable asset to the state of Colorado that it is today. I look forward to and wish the Great Wall Chinese Academy continued success in its future.

HONORING CRAIG KUNKLE

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a former member of my staff, Craig Kunkle, for his work in my office and his service to our state.

I've known Craig for more than two decades and during that time, he has become a close friend and trusted adviser. Craig has proven himself to be one of our state's top political minds. There's no doubt that I wouldn't be where I am today without Craig's counsel and help every step of the way.

On a personal note, Craig is a talented leader and loyal friend. He has already impacted our state in extraordinary ways. But, I am certain that his biggest impact is yet to come. I want to thank Craig for his friendship and dedication to our work. I wish him continued success in all that God has planned for his family.

HONORING MAJOR GENERAL RONALD KIRKLIN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Major General Ronald Kirklin, a dedicated and distinguished veteran of the U.S. Army.

Major General Kirklin is a Distinguished Military Graduate from Mississippi Valley State University in the class of 1987. With a master's degree in Adult and Continuing Education from Kansas State University and in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College he has shown many that “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” as stated by Nelson Mandela.

MG Kirklin's military service began from 1988 to 1991 in the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, in Fulda, Germany, where, he served as a Platoon Leader, General Supply Officer, and Squadron S4, Combat Support Squadron. After graduating from the Advanced Course, he was assigned to the 5th Infantry Division, at Fort Polk, Louisiana, from 1992 to 1993, as a Class IX Accountable Officer. From 1993 to 1996, he was assigned to the 124th Main Support Battalion, 2nd Armored Division, at Fort Hood, Texas, as the Supply and Services Officer, Support Operations Officer, and later as the Light Maintenance Company Commander. After completion of Company Command, he served as the Task Force XXI Combat Systems Manager, 4th Infantry Division.

From 1996 to 1999, Kirklin was assigned to Hohenfels, Germany, where he functioned as the Combat Service Support Observer/Controller on the Grizzlies and Timberwolves Maneuver Teams, and later as the Operations Group S4. From 1999 to 2000, he was a student at the Command and General Staff College, at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Kirklin was then assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division, at Fort Hood, from 2000 to 2002, where he was the Executive Officer in the 215th Forward