

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE OF ANTHONY RAY HINTON

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2018

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to honor the extraordinary life of Mr. Anthony Ray Hinton. Mr. Hinton was on death row for 30 years before being cleared of a crime he never committed. He has now written a memoir relaying his experiences and frequently speaks about the need for reform of our nation's criminal justice system. As we debate passage of legislation which would transform our criminal justice system, I believe it is important that Mr. Hinton's story is told and that his call for reform is heard in the halls of Congress.

The story that led to Mr. Hinton's wrongful incarceration began in 1985 after the murder of two men in two separate armed robbery incidents at Birmingham restaurants. Later that year, a third restaurant manager in Bessemer was shot and wounded. The manager then identified Mr. Hinton from a photo lineup, even though Hinton was working at a warehouse 15 miles away on the night of the shooting. Despite the lack of evidence against him, Mr. Hinton was soon arrested.

Police recovered six slugs from the crime scenes and the state forensics department matched them to a rusty .38 special that detectives took from Mr. Hinton's mother's home, where he lived. Mr. Hinton was charged with two counts of capital murder. He maintained his innocence and passed a lie detector test before his trial.

During his arrest, Mr. Hinton says police refused to explain the charges against him, but they assured him that he would be convicted simply because he was black. Mr. Hinton's court-appointed attorney believed that most black people would lie about committing a crime, so he failed to represent the case adequately. Despite limited evidence and a sworn testimony provided by Mr. Hinton's employer stating that he had been at work on the night of the robbery, the jury convicted Mr. Hinton and sentenced him to death.

To pass the days while serving his sentence, Mr. Hinton began to read and organized a book club for fellow prisoners. He made friends and says he never saw any of his fellow inmates as 'monsters.' Instead, he learned to see the good in all people and believes it was his attitude that helped him survive.

After a decade on death row, the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery took on Mr. Hinton's case. During their appeal, evidence was introduced from three forensic experts. Still, the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals refused to overturn his convictions or grant a new trial. For 16 years, the Equal Justice Initiative continued to push for a retrial. Finally, in 2014, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Mr. Hinton's original defense lawyer was "con-

stitutionally deficient," and remanded his case to the lower court for retrial. After the Supreme Court ruling, the Jefferson County District Attorney moved to drop his case.

On April 3, 2015, Mr. Hinton was released from prison after three decades on death row. Mr. Hinton had 30 years of his life taken away from him. During this time his mother, a woman who never ceased to believe in her son's innocence, passed away. Mr. Hinton says it broke his heart to realize she would never have the opportunity to see her son as a free man again. Mr. Hinton was punished for another person's crimes. But if he were to live the rest of his life in anger, he would have even more of his life taken away. In his own words, "The rest of my life is mine. Alabama took 30 years. That was enough."

Mr. Hinton's wrongful conviction shines a light on the failures of our criminal justice system. He has written a memoir, *The Sun Does Shine: How I Found Life and Freedom on Death Row*, and has travelled the country, giving readings and talks on his experiences. Today, Mr. Hinton continues to work with the Equal Justice Initiative, sharing his story nationwide. He even spoke at the Peace and Justice Summit, held by the Equal Justice Initiative, earlier this year. Mr. Hinton's work bringing awareness to the issue of criminal justice has encouraged advocates across the country to join the fight for prison reform.

Mr. Hinton is far from alone in his experience with our criminal justice system. Since 1973, a total of 158 people have been released from death row after evidence of their innocence was uncovered. As Congress debates passage of legislation to reform our criminal justice system, the lessons learned from Mr. Hinton's case, and from others who have wrongfully been sent to death row, must be remembered.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 7th Congressional District and the State of Alabama, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and the extraordinary sacrifices made by Mr. Anthony Ray Hinton in our pursuit of a more perfect Union. He is a symbol of hope and perseverance in our fight for reform. His legacy of resilience will lead the way for equality in our justice system.

TRIBUTE TO SHARON SCHULTZE

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2018

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passing of a truly dedicated public servant, Sharon Schultze. Sharon was a tireless advocate for social justice and civility, a loyal senior Congressional aide, and generous mentor. Sharon dedicated her life to serving the poor, the downtrodden, and the most vulnerable. She will be remembered by all those who knew her for her selflessness and love. Sharon was born and raised in Lin-

coln, Nebraska and moved to San Diego after getting married. She was instrumental in creating a ground breaking program at the University of San Diego's Law School, the Mira Mesa Mediation Center, which helped people from diverse backgrounds resolve conflict peacefully and civilly. The center later developed into the National Conflict Resolution Center.

Sharon worked for Bob Filner throughout his entire political career, from the San Diego School Board to San Diego City Council to the United States Congress. Sharon passionately served the people of San Diego for over three decades, taking on various responsibilities throughout Filner's different elected offices. One of her favorite projects while working for Congressman Filner was helping him chose the district winner of the Congressional Art Competition wherein high school students from every congressional district in the country compete for an opportunity to display their artwork in the Halls of Congress.

Her favorite role, and the one she found most rewarding, was that of advocate. Sharon took the most joy out of writing legislation that promoted veterans and San Diego residents.

Perhaps the achievements of which Sharon was most proud were her contributions to the veteran community. She helped draft and pass the Post-9/11 Veterans Education Assistance Act of 2008, which provides full, four-year tuition to military veterans who enlisted after September 11, 2001 attending public universities across the country. She was instrumental in the passage of legislation supporting Filipino veterans and Merchant Marines who served the United States during World War II receiving full veteran benefits, which they had been previously denied.

Sharon was an amazing, accomplished woman. Her strong worth ethic and professionalism made her a role model and devoted mentor to the young people who looked to her for guidance both in San Diego and in Washington, DC. My office and I were on the receiving end of some of her mentorship. Soon after I was elected to Congress, Sharon was the first to offer guidance and support. Her best quality, noted by many of her friends and family, was that Sharon was a gifted listener. She was there for whoever needed her help, without regard for her time and energy. Sharon bestowed unconditional positive support, kindness, compassion, and empathy to those around her, assuring them that they were loved and valued. She shared her ideas and common sense with others, always making sure to keep people's best interest in mind. She never gave up on making a difference in the world.

Our thoughts go out to her partner of nearly 30 years, Doug Duffield; her three children, Blair, David, and Carol; and Natalie and Zachary, her two grandchildren, who made her heart smile.

• 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.

BIRTHDAY CONGRATULATIONS
FOR GLADYS COOKE

HON. BRENDA JONES

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2018

Ms. JONES of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish a very happy birthday to a retired teacher in my district, Gladys Cooke. Born on December 17, 1938, Gladys was the third child of Jessie Mae and Robert Jones.

She graduated from Parker High School and Miles College in Birmingham, Alabama, and became a teacher in the Detroit school system, where she taught math at Cass Technical High School, Mumford High School, and Cooley High School. As a young woman she was featured in *Ebony Magazine*.

She has 3 brothers and 4 sisters, one of whom is deceased. She is the proud mother of Dr. Tiffany A. Cook of Atlanta, Georgia.

She will be celebrating her 80th Birthday next week with friends, family, and loved ones at Joe Muer Seafood at the Renaissance Center in Detroit.

RECOGNIZING DANIEL
LAFROMBOISE FOR THE 2018
MONTANA CONGRESSIONAL VET-
ERAN COMMENDATION

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2018

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Daniel LaFromboise of Wolf Creek, a recipient of the 2018 Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to his country and leadership in his community.

Mr. LaFromboise proudly joined the United States Marine Corps soon after graduating high school. He served as a Corporal stationed in Korea in the late 1950's, following the Korean War. His service to his community has continued well after his military career.

Mr. LaFromboise became a member of the Montana law enforcement community, serving thirteen years with the Montana Highway Patrol and three years as a Deputy Sheriff in Lewis and Clark County. A member of the Turtle Mountain Chippewa tribe, Mr. LaFromboise participated in a state sponsored bison program and volunteered his personal time to deliver bison meat to families in need. His dedication to serving hungry families often meant driving hundreds of miles on deliveries.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending Daniel LaFromboise for his dedication and service.

SUPPORT FOR H. RES. 1169, RE-
AFFIRMING THE COMMITMENT
OF THE UNITED STATES TO PRO-
MOTE FREE, FAIR, TRANS-
PARENT AND CREDIBLE ELEC-
TIONS IN BANGLADESH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2018

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1169 calling for a free and fair election in Bangladesh. My district is home to a large population of Bangladeshi ex-pats, and I've heard from them about the need for a free, fair, transparent, and credible election.

During the 2014 general election, major Bangladeshi political parties boycotted the election due to concerns about the impartiality of the electoral process. Historically, Bangladesh would install a caretaker government during elections to ensure free, fair, transparent, and credible elections. However, during the 2014 election, that didn't happen. Since then, there have been political rivalries that have devolved into violent clashes. All parties should be free to participate in the political process. They should be free to express their political views, campaign and hold peaceful rallies and meetings, and not fear physical retribution for exercising a fundamental human right to participate in the democratic electoral process.

I believe that free, fair, transparent, and credible elections are the cornerstone of democracy. As Bangladesh is scheduled to hold general elections at the end of the month, I urge everyone to participate in the democratic process, and vote.

I'm a proud co-sponsor of this resolution and urge my colleagues support as well.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND CA-
REER OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL
THOMAS C. SMITH III

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2018

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and career of Lieutenant Colonel Thomas C. Smith III, who served ably as Director of the Birmingham VA Medical Center during his distinguished career in the U.S. Army and with the Department of Veterans Affairs. Throughout his career, Mr. Smith worked tirelessly to provide care for our nation's Service Members and Veterans. Mr. Smith was a man of the highest character who loved his family and who dedicated himself to God and country.

Mr. Smith was born in Phenix City, Alabama, on July 6, 1953, to parents Thomas C. Smith II and Ganelle Putnam Smith. He grew up with three sisters, Kaye, Phyllis, and Deborah, who he loved and cherished greatly.

After graduating from Central High School, Mr. Smith attended Auburn University where he was well known for his acting talent and often graced the stage of Telfair Peet Theatre. Upon earning his degree at Auburn, Mr. Smith worked at the Ritz Theater in Gadsden, Alabama. It was there, as Director of the Ritz

Theater, that Mr. Smith met the love of his life, and his future wife, JoDean.

Over the course of their marriage, JoDean and Mr. Smith had six beautiful children, including two sons, Justin and Drew, and four daughters, Adrienne, Emily, Laura, and Kathleen.

At the age of 29, Mr. Smith joined the U.S. Army, pursuing a career of service in the field of health care. As a Service Member, Mr. Smith studied at Baylor University, receiving his Masters in Healthcare Administration in 1992. Mr. Smith worked at U.S. Army hospitals around the globe, from the Army General Hospital in Seoul, South Korea, to the Army Health Center in Vicenza, Italy. His 22-year career in the U.S. Army culminated with Mr. Smith's work as Deputy Commander for Administration of the Army Community Hospital at Fort Benning, Georgia.

While in the military, Mr. Smith was inducted into the Order of Military Medical Merit, an honorary organization which recognizes leadership and significant contributions to the Army Medical Department. He also earned the Expert Field Medical Badge and received the Army Legion of Merit for exceptional meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services and achievements.

After retiring from the military in 2005, Mr. Smith began serving as Assistant Director and thereafter Director of the Central Texas Veterans Affairs Hospital. After eight years there, Mr. Smith accepted the Directorship role at the Birmingham Veterans Affairs Medical Center. For those who had the opportunity to work with Mr. Smith he will always be remembered as a tireless servant leader who cared deeply for our Veterans, appreciated those who worked with him, and related to everyone with compassion and respect.

While Mr. Smith dedicated himself fully to caring for Service Members and Veterans, he was also a devoted father and husband. He was always happiest when he was surrounded by his loving wife, his children, and his grandchildren. Mr. Smith's Catholic faith was of the utmost importance to him, and he truly sought to live each day according to Christ's example.

On a personal note, I got to know Mr. Smith when he assumed the role of Director of the Birmingham VA Medical Center. Mr. Smith was a true patriot who led by example. His warm smile and engaging spirit greeted every Service Member and Veteran that sought care at the Birmingham VA Hospital. Mr. Smith made a positive and lasting impact on the Veteran community in Birmingham. His legacy will live on in the many people he touched through his long career providing quality health care to our military Service Members and Veterans.

Mr. Smith is survived by his wife, JoDean, son Justin and daughter-in-law Molly, son Drew and daughter-in-law Angie, daughter Adrienne and son-in-law Richard Stravitsch, daughter Emily and son-in-law Daniel Henson, daughter Laura, daughter Kathleen, and fourteen grandchildren. He is also survived by his sisters, Kaye Latulippe, Phyllis Mann, and Deborah Smith. He is preceded in death by his parents, Thomas C. Smith II and Ganelle Putnam Smith.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 7th Congressional District and the State of Alabama, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the career and incredible contributions of Lieutenant Colonel Thomas C. Smith III. He served his