

HONORING JACQUELINE CHARLES

**HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 20, 2018*

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Jacqueline Charles, who reports on the Caribbean for the Miami Herald and is a recent recipient of Columbia University's prestigious Maria Moors Cabot Prize for outstanding coverage on the Americas. Maria Moors Cabot Prizes are the oldest international journalism awards and are presented to journalists in the Western hemisphere who have made significant contributions to upholding freedom of the press in the Americas and Inter-American understanding.

"Charles' great contribution has been as a narrator of the agonies of Haiti, the hemisphere's poorest country, crippled by misgovernment and battered time and again by nature," the judges wrote in their citation.

Charles was born to a Haitian mother in Turks and Caicos and grew up in Miami's Overtown neighborhood. As a child, she frequently traveled to Haiti to visit her grandparents and other relatives. She began her reporting career as a 14-year old intern at the Miami Herald. As a journalism student at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, Charles co-founded the Carolina Association of Black Journalists.

Charles has worked as a journalist at the Miami Herald since 1994 and has covered the Caribbean for the Herald since 2006, with a special focus on Haiti. After the catastrophic earthquake in 2010, Charles was the first foreign reporter to reach Haiti. She remained in Haiti for the next 15 months to report on the reconstruction process and the ongoing struggles of those living in displaced persons camps. Her work on Haiti was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in 2011, the same year she was named the National Association of Black Journalists' "Journalist of Year." Additionally, Charles co-produced a documentary on Haiti, titled *Nou Bouke (We're Tired): Haiti's Past, Present and Future*, which earned a regional Emmy Award and was broadcast nationally.

In addition to covering ongoing humanitarian challenges in Haiti, Charles writes about Haitian politics, music, and immigration. As restrictive immigration policies have prevented many Haitians from seeking a better life in the United States, Charles has taken her reporting on the Haitian immigrant experience to Mexico, Canada, and Chile. Her work has greatly added to everyday Americans' knowledge and understanding of Haiti and its people.

Haitian Americans form a vital part of our community in South Florida and we are fortunate to have an outstanding reporter like Charles covering Haiti-related issues at the Miami Herald. I wholeheartedly commend Jacqueline Charles for her outstanding journalism on Haiti and the Caribbean and congratulate her on receiving this honor.

HONORING WILLIAM "BILL" McBRIDE'S SERVICE TO THE STATE OF MICHIGAN

**HON. FRED UPTON**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 20, 2018*

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise on behalf of the Michigan Congressional Delegation—Reps. DEBBIE DINGELL, TIM WALBERG, DAN KILDEE, BILL HUIZENGA, BRENDA LAWRENCE, JUSTIN AMASH, MIKE BISHOP, DAVE TROTT, PAUL MITCHELL, and JACK BERGMAN—to acknowledge and commend one of the finest public servants the Great State of Michigan has been blessed to have: Mr. William "Bill" McBride.

There has never been a better friend and advocate for Michiganders than Bill McBride.

Over the past 44 years of Bill's service he has earned immense respect for his integrity, sincerity, and civility. No matter which political party was in power, in any of the branches of government, our constant source of information and enlightenment was—and is still—Bill.

Bill's distinguished career includes serving as chief of staff to Michigan Delegation Members Carl Pursell and Vern Ehlers. He also served as deputy chief of staff for Governor John Engler and most recently director of Governor Snyder's federal office.

Bill is not just a beloved colleague and friend, he is a Michigan institution. "Ask McBride" has become a fond and common phrase for all of us. As loyal as the day is long, Bill has set the gold standard for public service.

Bill exudes kindness, a sense of humor, and a sense of fair play. Always.

They say home is where the heart is and Bill's has certainly always been Michigan. When any issue has arisen affecting our state, Bill has been in the thick of it. His hard work has had a positive impact that will ripple far beyond when he leaves public service. We are sure to confront many situations and challenges where we will dearly miss his sage counsel, wit, and wisdom. He will stay on speed dial for several of us on both sides of the aisle for years to come.

The Michigan Congressional Delegation stands today to wish Bill the very best of luck as he turns the page and moves on to write many more, which we are sure will be just as storied and successful.

God speed Bill, and I thank him from the bottom of our hearts.

HONORING THE 45TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY OF DALLAS A. WALKER, JR.

**HON. BRENDA JONES**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 20, 2018*

Ms. JONES of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 45th Pastoral Anniversary of Dallas A. Walker, Jr., Minister of Detroit's Wyoming Avenue Church of Christ.

Born in Vernon, Alabama, Pastor Walker comes from a strong lineage of faith leaders. His grandfather was a pioneer minister in Northwest Alabama and his father served as a

church elder at the Mayfield Church of Christ in Fayette, Alabama. His mother was a devout Christian that lived to see her two youngest sons fulfill a family legacy proclaiming the Gospel of Christ.

Pastor Walker graduated from Lamar County Training School, and went on to attend Southwestern Christian College. He later earned a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from the University of Detroit Mercy and a Master's Degree in Professional Counseling from Wayne State University in Detroit. Pastor Walker began his formal ministry at the Church of Christ in Athens, Alabama. He has also served two other Alabama congregations, the Woodland Park Church of Christ in Birmingham, Alabama and the Farris Drive Church of Christ in Huntsville, Alabama.

Pastor Walker and his wife of 54 years, Beverly MacDonald Walker (deceased), have three kids, Pamela Spear, Jennifer Leake, and Dallas A. Walker, III.

Widely known as a "Preacher's Preacher", he is an international evangelist, that has traveled firsthand to numerous biblical sites, among them the Mountain at Nebo, Bethlehem, the Sea of Galilee, Jericho, and the Garden of Gethsemane.

Pastor Walker is a stalwart spiritual compass in the city of Detroit. He can be seen all over the district sharing the scripture and hosting revivals. His dedication to the community was honored with secondary street naming of Wyoming and Chippewa Avenues. He also sits on the board of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Celebrated Seniors.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in applauding Pastor Dallas A. Walker, Jr. for his 45 years of service in ministry at the Wyoming Avenue Church of Christ.

RECOGNIZING THE WASHINGTON REGIONAL ALCOHOL PROGRAM LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE RECIPIENTS

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 20, 2018*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) and to congratulate the recipients of the 21st Annual Law Enforcement Awards of Excellence for Impaired Driving Prevention.

Founded in 1982, WRAP is an award-winning, public-private coalition formed to fight drunk driving, drugged driving, and underage drinking in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan region. Through educational and innovative public outreach programs, WRAP is credited with keeping local alcohol-related death rates consistently below the national average. Its programs educate students and the general public on the dangers of alcohol and drugs, particularly driving while under the influence. Through the WRAP Holiday SoberRide program, individuals who are impaired can request a free cab ride home. Since SoberRide was launched in 1991, 73,123 free cab rides have been provided in the Washington Metropolitan area, preventing potential accidents and deaths.

In 1982, the year that WRAP was founded, 26,173 people in the United States lost their

lives in alcohol-related car accidents, and 60 percent of all traffic fatalities involved drunk driving. Due to the tireless efforts of WRAP, other organizations such as MADD and SADD, local and state police, and enforcement of more stringent anti-drunk driving laws, considerable progress has been made in decreasing the number of alcohol-related traffic fatalities, especially here in the Washington Metropolitan Region. According to the Council of Governments, the number of alcohol-impaired fatalities, injuries, and crashes have all decreased since 2014. However, more work still remains as 28.04 percent of all traffic fatalities in the region in 2016 were alcohol or drug related.

Since 1997, WRAP has sponsored an annual Law Enforcement Awards Ceremony to honor local law enforcement professionals who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in the fight against drunk driving. It is my honor to include in the RECORD the names of the 2018 Law Enforcement Awards of Excellence for Impaired Driving Prevention recipients:

Officer Joseph Winkler, City of Alexandria Police Department; Officer Michael Mitchell, Arlington County Police Department; Officer Bryce Cooper, City of Falls Church Police Department; Patrol Officer First Class Rashid S. Roberts, Fairfax County Police Department; Officer Jonathan Heavner, Town of Herndon Police Department; Deputy Gerald Presson, Loudoun County Sheriff's Office; Trooper First Class Anthony Wallace, Maryland State Police; Officer Zachary Speck, Metropolitan Police Department; Police Officer III John P. Romack, Montgomery County Department of Police; Police Officer First Class Thomas H. Kosakowski, Prince George's County Police Department; Officer Matthew Sciabica, Prince William County Police Department; Officer Seth A. Carll, United States Capitol Police; Traffic Safety Unit, United States Park Police; and Trooper Lucie Vajglova, Virginia State Police.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the recipients of the Law Enforcement Awards of Excellence and in recognizing WRAP for its 36 years of public service. I commend the staff of WRAP under the leadership of President and CEO Kurt Erickson and Board Chairman Gary Cohen for their tireless dedication to eradicating underage drinking and drunk or drugged driving. Their efforts combined with the support of partner organizations and law enforcement agencies have saved lives and are deserving of our highest praise and gratitude.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COMMANDER EVAN A. KARLIK, USN

### HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 20, 2018*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Lieutenant Commander Evan Karlik, United States Navy, on his final day serving as a legislative fellow in my Washington, DC office. Evan has played a critical role this year supporting my work on the House Armed Service Committee and representing the large Navy community in Eastern Connecticut.

As Ranking Member of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces, I have the high honor of overseeing much of our nation's Navy. This year, as our subcommittee considered how best to fund important shipbuilding programs, reform Navy career paths, and review command and control of naval forces, Evan provided important insight and guidance into how our subcommittee could best provide the resources and platforms that our Sailors and Marines need to achieve mission success.

Evan has also seized the initiative in a variety of areas beyond naval affairs. He spurred a review required by this year's National Defense Authorization Act into how the Department of Defense reviews and awards imminent danger pay to servicemembers deployed to dangerous locations around the world. He has also served as the staff-lead for the Friends of Australia Caucus, of which I serve as co-chair, ensuring that the ties between our countries remain as strong as ever as we celebrated 100 Years of Mateship in 2018.

Evan is leaving Congress but he isn't going far. His next assignment will take him just across the river to support rolling out the Navy's fleet of F-35 fifth-generation fighter aircraft. On his final day here in Congress, I wish LCDR Karlik the best of luck in his new role, fair winds, and following seas.

COMMENDING DIXIE VALENTINE LOBMEYER

### HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 20, 2018*

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Dixie Valentine Lobmeyer for her service to my office and the 21st Congressional District of California over the past four years.

Miss Lobmeyer was born on February 8, 1997 in Hanford, California. After graduating from Hanford West High School in 2015, Dixie received her Associates of Arts degree from College of the Sequoias this year. She plans to attend California State University, Fresno beginning in 2019, studying Communications and Media Relations.

Miss Lobmeyer has been a member of my Congressional Team since 2014, serving in multiple roles. After showcasing incredible talent and potential as an intern, Dixie was hired in 2015 as our Staff Assistant. Her responsibilities quickly grew as she proved to be an effective and successful staffer. Dixie managed the daily operations of my district office, overseeing the intern program and producing tens of thousands of congressional certificates for the community. She also acted as my representative at many events, effectively communicating the ideals of our office. It isn't a hyperbole to say Miss Lobmeyer had a role in every aspect of district office operations. She is a hard, dedicated worker who was highly respected by her peers and was able to create and foster connections with constituents, business leaders, and public officials.

In 2017, Dixie transitioned to a campaign-centered role with my team. She became the Republican Party's Congressional Field Director for the California's Twenty First Congressional Race, managing the Kings County Victory program. Dixie recruited, hired, and su-

pervised hundreds of interns and organized voter contact initiatives. She continued to demonstrate leadership and served as an effective communicator. With her many successes and responsibilities, it is often forgotten that Dixie is younger than most of her peers. She is only in her early twenties but commands the respect of veteran political operatives.

Outside of work and school, Dixie enjoys volunteering in her community. Public service is her passion and she strives to give back to the city that has given so much to her. Dixie's family is also very important to her and she loves spending time with her brothers and sisters. For fun, she likes to go hiking with her friends and enjoy the natural beauty of California.

This January, Miss Lobmeyer will be moving onto new ventures. Knowing Dixie, her work ethic and talent, I have no doubt she will achieve many great things in her future. She is a natural leader who will inspire people for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in commending Dixie Valentine Lobmeyer for her public service to the people of the Central Valley and wishing her the very best in this next chapter of her life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JOHN K. DELANEY

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 20, 2018*

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote on roll call No. 443 through No. 445.

Had I been present to vote on roll call No. 443, I would have voted aye; had I been present to vote on roll call No. 444, I would have voted aye; and had I been present to vote on roll call No. 445, I would have voted aye.

HONORING DR. HOWARD SIMON

### HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 20, 2018*

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a true Florida civil rights icon, Dr. Howard Simon. Dr. Simon has served as executive director of the Florida branch of the American Civil Liberties Union since 1977. Before his appointment to his current position, Dr. Simon oversaw the ACLU's Michigan branch. Remarkably, his 44 cumulative years of service as a state director is the longest in the ACLU's 98-year history. In this capacity, he has been an outspoken champion for marginalized communities.

During Dr. Simon's tenure, the regional ACLU affiliate has taken on many major cases to defend Floridians' civil liberties. It successfully fought to end the use of paperless electronic voting systems after problems were exposed during a 2006 congressional election. This led to the optimization and standardization of voting across every county in the state.