

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO JOHN REASONER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 16, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate John Reasoner of Creston, Iowa for being named Creston Youth of the Year for 2017. John is the son of Mike and Margaret Reasoner.

John has participated in numerous activities during his time at Creston Community High School. He has been active in choir, band, winter drumline, speech and musicals. He has also spent three years on the student body government and this year as the student body President. He credits his parents, family and some great teachers for his success as a student.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent community leaders like John in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize him today. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating John for this outstanding recognition and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

COMMENDING MICHAEL THOMAS AND OTHER CITIZEN-ACTIVISTS DEVOTED TO PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 16, 2018

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, with pride I rise to pay tribute to Michael Thomas, a multi-talented young man and professional football player, who is volunteering as an NFLPA extern in my office.

Before he joined the Miami Dolphins in 2013 to bolster its secondary as a free safety, Michael Thomas, who starred and attended Chester W. Nimitz High School in Houston, Texas, was rated the 75th best high school player in the nation by ESPN.

Michael went on to collegiate stardom at Stanford University earning All-Pac-12 Honorable-Mention after his senior year campaign with the Cardinal.

Michael Thomas is one of those rare individuals who has a knack for making good things happen.

In the very first game he played with the Miami Dolphins, Michael made the game-saving play against the New England Patriots with an end-zone interception of the great Tom Brady.

But what I find most exciting and inspiring about this winner is that Michael Thomas also earned his degree from Stanford University and continued his education by earning his MBA from the University of Miami Business School.

Michael Thomas comes to my Washington office as an extern during the Second Session

of the 115th Congress to get hands on experience on how the legislative branch of the federal government works.

During his time in my office, Michael has made a difference by:

Attending committee hearings, meetings, and briefings;

Researching legislative proposals, advocacy documents, and policy analyses;

Contributing to my Budget Committee work; and

Drafting memoranda regarding important legislative priorities.

Michael Thomas has observed and contributed to the important legislative work that is performed every day in my office to advance a positive legislative agenda that puts children, families and the elderly first at the forefront of public policy initiatives and funding.

Michael's work in public service did not begin with his decision to become an extern, nor did it begin when he decided to take a knee in silent protest against a criminal justice system that too often appears to value some lives less than others.

Michael Thomas is determined to make a difference in the world of professional sports and in society at large, which inspired him and other athletes to engage in next-step initiatives beyond "Taking A Knee."

Michael's commitment to making the world just a little bit better is exemplified by his work on education reform in the city of Houston, as well as with the Miami Dolphins.

Michael Thomas is a leader and public entrepreneur in his own right.

He proposed that the Miami Dolphins create a "Project Change Scholarship" through the Dolphins Foundation, which made its first award this year.

Michael is now expanding this effort into a campaign to persuade every sports organization to adopt a similar scholarship program.

Michael is challenging all athletes to take an internship or externship in the office of one of their local, state, or federal government elected officials or agencies to gain a better appreciation for and understanding of the central importance of democratic norms, traditions, and institutions to democratic governance that is responsive, effective, innovative, and efficient.

There are present and future citizen-activists in every community in America and as Members of Congress we should actively encourage them to become and remain engaged in the important work of citizenship.

I am reminded of this pearl of wisdom from Margaret Mead: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

I thank Michael Thomas for everything he is doing and has done to promote greater civic tolerance, understanding, inclusion and diversity, and commend him as an example and inspiration to young people everywhere who are asking not what their country can do for them, but what they can do for their country.

IN HONOR OF GARRET VICKERY AND NATHAN FAWCETT FOR EARNING THE EAGLE SCOUT AWARD

HON. LIZ CHENEY

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 16, 2018

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to Garret Vickery and Nathan Fawcett on earning the Eagle Scout Award.

Earning the rank of Eagle Scout requires fulfilling rigorous requirements and a dedication to hard work. Throughout their time as part of Boy Scouts of America Wyoming Troop 145, Garret and Nathan have exhibited outstanding leadership abilities, service to their community, and outdoor skills that have made it apparent that they are deserving of this award. I commend their commitment to scouting, excellence, and higher education. I have no doubt the lessons they have learned throughout their time in the Boy Scouts will benefit them for many years to come.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Garret Vickery and Nathan Fawcett for earning the Eagle Scout Award. Both them and their families deserve to be very proud of this significant honor and achievement.

TRIBUTE TO MAKAYLA McMANN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 16, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Makayla McMann. Makayla was recently named a winner of the Uncommon Students Award. The award is given through the Hoover Presidential Library-Museum in West Branch, Iowa.

The Uncommon Student Award program annually identifies and honors up to 15 Iowa high school juniors who propose and accomplish a project of their own design. Makayla created and implemented a day camp in the small town of Villisca, Iowa. The camp ran for five weeks and served students in kindergarten through sixth grade.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Makayla for this award and I am proud to represent her in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Makayla for receiving this outstanding award and in wishing her nothing but continued success.

• 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.

IN RECOGNITION OF HER SERVICE
TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE: MS.
DONNA JIMENEZ

HON. ALAN S. LOWENTHAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 16, 2018

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, after twenty years of dedicated service to the American people as a staff member with the United States House of Representatives, Ms. Donna Jimenez will officially retire on February 28, 2018.

Ms. Jimenez served with honor and distinction as the longtime District Office Manager for Congressman David Dreier from 1997 to 2012, and as a Senior Constituent Services Representative for my office and the residents of California's 47th District from 2013 until her retirement.

During her time in the Legislative Branch, Ms. Jimenez served thousands of constituents of both Congressional districts, helping solve challenging cases with numerous federal departments and agencies. She demonstrated leadership and dedication in helping people navigate the federal bureaucracy, and derived great joy and satisfaction in serving those in most need of advocacy and assistance, among them including our nation's veterans, seniors, the disabled, and those immigrants seeking a brighter future in America.

In addition to her dedicated service to the American people, Ms. Jimenez further distinguished herself by earning her Master of Public Administration degree with an emphasis in Immigration, from the University of LaVerne in 2002.

It is with great pride and gratitude that I extend my best wishes to Ms. Donna Jimenez upon her retirement from the United States House of Representatives.

TRIBUTE TO STUART FRIENDS
CHURCH

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 16, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate a special Iowa church congregation from Stuart, Iowa. Stuart Friends Church recently celebrated the 140th anniversary of their congregation.

In 1855, pioneers founded the first church in the Stuart community. A new building was built in 1877, named Stuart Meeting of Friends and is still in use today. The congregation supports missions locally and abroad, and welcomes all people.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate the members of Stuart Friends Church for their many years of faithful attendance and service to their community. I am proud to represent them in the United States Congress and I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Stuart Friends Church and wishing them all nothing but the best in the years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF GEORGE G.
DODGE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

HON. DAVID P. JOYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 16, 2018

Mr. JOYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge an exceptional school in my district, the George G. Dodge Intermediate School in Twinsburg, which has been recognized by the Ohio Department of Education as an Ohio School to Watch and a National Forum School. An Ohio School to Watch is a school that exceeds in academic excellence, developmental responsiveness, social equity, and organizational structures and processes. Students who attend George G. Dodge Intermediate get one of the best hands-on education experiences in the nation. The teachers and administrators go above and beyond their normal duties to educate and influence young minds to succeed academically, socially, and in their future professions. There is no greater cause than educating the minds of the future. As a father, I know the amount of trust parents put into the hands of our educators. Knowing our school districts are exceeding in efforts for our children to succeed creates a closer, more positive community for the students, parents, and all involved in the surrounding neighborhoods. George G. Dodge Intermediate School's mission is to create an environment of pride for one's education while engaging with parents, administration, and fellow students to grow in civic engagement and extra-curricular activities. This recognition is all due to the hard work by George G. Dodge Intermediate School Principal Reggie Holland, his staff, Twinsburg City School District Superintendent Kathi Powers, and Twinsburg City School District School Board members Matt Cellura, Rob Felber, Matt Curtis, Tina Davis, and Angela DeFabio. The dedication and leadership of these men and women is remarkable and unmatched. I am truly proud to have such a great education system in Ohio's fourteenth district and congratulate George G. Dodge Intermediate School on this well-deserved distinction.

TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF
COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 16, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate the City of Council Bluffs, Iowa for its selection for three awards by the Iowa Tourism Office and Travel Federation of Iowa. Council Bluffs received the Outstanding Community Award, Outstanding Event Award, and the Outstanding Website Award.

Council Bluffs received these distinctions for its accomplishments on a new promotional website, strong hotel occupancy, and successfully attracting large meetings and sporting events to the city. The Council Bluffs Parks Department cited 45,000 attendees at special events during 2017. The Council Bluffs website, UnleashCB.com, had a triple-digit percentage increase in users, sessions, and

page views. Mark Eckman, Executive Director of the Council Bluffs Convention and Visitors Bureau, said, "it's definitely noteworthy when a community wins three awards. It speaks to the quality of our efforts."

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate the City of Council Bluffs for earning these awards. This community should be proud of receiving these outstanding awards. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Council Bluffs for these accomplishments and in wishing this great Iowa community nothing but continued success.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR.
MILDRED FAY JEFFERSON

HON. LOUIE GOHMERT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 16, 2018

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, we are blessed, in the First District of Texas, to have been home to a multitude of extraordinary individuals who have made significant impacts upon not only the State of Texas and our nation, but the entire world. Today, we honor one of these extraordinary individuals from east Texas, the late Dr. Mildred Fay Jefferson.

Dr. Jefferson was a young prodigy, raised in the town of Carthage, Texas. Her early education was completed before she reached the age of fifteen, graduating from Carthage Colored High School—later known as Turner High School—in 1943.

The determined young woman obtained a Bachelor's degree in Medicine from Texas College at the age of eighteen, and in 1947, she completed her Master's degree in Biology from Tufts University. Dr. Jefferson then conquered the odds and became the first African American woman to graduate with a Ph.D. from Harvard Medical School, in 1951.

After becoming a medical doctor, Dr. Jefferson continued to make history with a long string of "firsts" for women—including being the first woman to serve on staff at Boston City Hospital, the first woman to be granted membership in the Boston Surgical Society, and the first female Surgeon General at Boston University Medical Center.

Dr. Jefferson married former Navy Lieutenant Shane Cunningham in 1961. After their divorce in 1978, Dr. Jefferson turned her life to activism, by establishing the Massachusetts Citizens for Life Council.

It was a decision made by the American Medical Association in 1970, however, that ignited Dr. Jefferson's passion to defend life. It was at this time that the American Medical Association decided that they would allow member physicians, who performed abortions in states where this procedure was already allowed, to perform abortions and view them ethically. Viewing this decision as the abandonment of the Hippocratic Oath to "do no harm," Dr. Jefferson began a nationwide outcry against abortion.

Dr. Jefferson helped form the Value of Life Committee which was one of the organizations that initiated the national "right-to-life" movement which endures to this day. She quickly became one of the most sought after and fervent spokespersons in the nation to represent the pro-life stance. In 1981, Dr. Jefferson testified before Congress as a result of the historic 1973 Supreme Court case, *Roe v. Wade*.