

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LEGACY OF THE
AFRICAN AMERICAN
BATEAUMEN OF THE JAMES
RIVER

HON. A. DONALD McEACHIN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mr. McEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and remember the legacy of the African American Bateauxmen of the James River. These men played critical roles in establishing the economy of colonial Virginia, and it is imperative we honor and remember their work.

The James River Bateau, a series of flat-bottomed wooden cargo vessels first used in the 1770's, was the primary means of transporting goods on the James River until 1840. Crews of men performed the difficult, dangerous, and physically demanding work of moving tobacco and other goods and services up and down the river, connecting Richmond to the wider world. Their efforts helped make the City of Richmond a regional hub for industry and commerce.

I am pleased that the Commonwealth is recognizing the profound impact of the African American Bateauxmen of the James River with a historical highway marker designation from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. By highlighting the experiences of these men, this highway marker helps us achieve a more inclusive understanding of our shared history.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the legacy of the African American Bateauxmen. Their contributions to colonial Virginia were formative in growing the Commonwealth's economy, and I am grateful for their work. This landmark designation will help us remember the important work they did and preserve their legacy for future generations.

IN RECOGNITION OF TAIWAN'S
NATIONAL DAY

HON. MARK MEADOWS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mr. MEADOWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Taiwan's National Day. On October 10th, Taiwan celebrated the 108th anniversary of the Republic of China. On the occasion of Taiwan's National Day, I congratulate the people of Taiwan on this important anniversary and express the sincere commitment of our nation and Congress to the bilateral relationship. As security, diplomatic, and economic challenges in the Pacific region grow, it is vital for our mutual security that the bond between the United States and Taiwan remains strong.

I am proud to support our continued defense partnership, trading relationship, and a shared belief in democracy and human dignity

that stands in stark contrast to the behavior of the government on the mainland. The United States and Taiwan have built an alliance that can withstand future threats, and to which I know President Trump and his administration is committed to preserving. I also want to commend the Americans serving in the American Institute in Taiwan for their patriotism and commitment to preserving this critical partnership.

We cannot be complacent when the Chinese Communist Party in Beijing attempts to export authoritarianism and corruption and tries to weaken our democratic allies. I encourage my colleagues to support measures to stop Beijing's ongoing attempts to undermine Taiwan's participation in international fora and its increased disruption of Taiwan's diplomatic ties.

From its beginning over a century ago to its embrace of a vibrant democracy today, the Republic of China (Taiwan) shares a bond with the United States founded on common principles. As Taiwan celebrates Double Ten Day, I extend my best wishes and congratulate the Taiwanese people for all they have achieved.

HONORING THE CAREER OF
LAURA HAND

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Laura Hand as she retires after 47 years as a celebrated journalist in Central New York.

For nearly five decades, Laura Hand has been a trusted source for news in our community, a household name in broadcasting, and beloved by many in Central New York. Throughout her career, she has told countless community stories, inspired rising journalists, and used her platform to raise awareness for childhood literacy.

Born in a military family in Virginia, Laura Hand spent much of her childhood travelling around the world to countries including England, Germany, Thailand, and Italy. Developing an interest in news and politics at a young age, Laura Hand followed this passion and enrolled in Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, where she studied journalism and political science. While a student at Syracuse University, Laura Hand became the first woman to direct the campus radio station, WAER. After graduating in 1971, she took her first full-time position as a radio news reporter with WFBL in Syracuse, NY.

In 1972, Laura Hand transitioned from radio to television, joining the NBC 3 broadcast team. Throughout her reputable career with NBC 3, she held a number of positions, but has become best known for anchoring "Weekend Today" and "Monday Night Answer

Desk," where she encouraged viewers to get involved and have fun in the Central New York community. Passionate about her community, for years Laura Hand maintained the "In Your Community" webpage, a site dedicated to informing residents of the many community events in Central New York.

Throughout her career, Laura Hand has interviewed some of the most prominent figures in American politics, including former New York State Governor Nelson Rockefeller and former First Lady Nancy Reagan.

Laura Hand has coupled her prominent career in journalism in Central New York with her passion for reading, and, for more than 30 years, has organized the "Books Breaks" summer reading campaign, an annual program that promotes childhood literacy in our community. She plans to continue this work into retirement. In addition, she has served as a long-time member of the Salvation Army/Syracuse Board.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring Laura Hand for an incredible 47-year career in journalism. I wish her all the best in her retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE GROUND
BREAKING FOR FORT STREET
BRIDGE PARK AND THE 50TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF THE ROUGE
RIVER FIRE

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Rouge River fire and celebrate the ground breaking of the new Fort Street Bridge Park.

On October 9, 1969, sparks from an acetylene torch ignited debris in the Rouge River. With flames rising 50 feet into the air, the burning river quickly became a symbol of societal indifference to pollution and became a catalyst for change in our community. Years before the Rouge fire, the river also served as an important site for another event that provoked societal transformation. On March 7, 1932, thousands of unemployed auto workers embarked on a march from Detroit to the Ford Rouge Factory in Dearborn to protest the economic devastation in Detroit's automotive industry during the Great Depression. In a painful part of our community's history, the marching autoworkers clashed with police and Ford Motor Company security guards on the historic Fort Street Bridge above the Rouge River, resulting in the death of five protestors and leaving dozens of others injured. Later known as the Ford Hunger March, this event laid the groundwork for the formation of the United Auto Workers in 1935.

Without a doubt, the Fort Street Bridge and Rouge River are prominent symbols of Detroit's past.

In the half century since the Rouge River fire, heightened public and political attention to

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America's environmental crisis has generated both formal legislation like the Clean Water Act of 1972 and independent action to transform the severe health hazard into a regional asset. Thanks to the river's renewed health and viability, members of our community have taken the initiative to commemorate the legacy of the Ford Hunger March by planning the creation of a pocket park located at the foot of the Fort Street Bridge. The new park will honor our community's vast history and highlight the significance of the Rouge River fire and the Fort Street Bridge for generations of Michiganders to come.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 50th anniversary of the Rouge River fire and celebrate the ground breaking of the future Fort Street Bridge Park. I am grateful for our community's efforts to ensure our history is never forgotten.

HONORING MS. KATHY TEAL

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mr. BUCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the life and legacy of Ms. Kathy Teal of Greeley, Colorado.

Kathy Teal was an accomplished woman who always kept the needs of women and children at heart and fought hard for life. Ms. Teal dedicated her career to serving teenage and unwed pregnant mothers, working as a certified midwife. In the 1980s, Kathy was part of a group that founded Birthright of Greeley where she served as a counselor and later as the organization's director. She also played an instrumental role in drafting and advocating for the law legalizing lay midwifery in the state of Colorado.

From 2002 until her passing on March 21, 2019, she helped found and was actively involved in the Genesis Project of Northern Colorado, a faith-based, nonprofit organization serving single mothers and their children. She later served on the Executive Board and the Advisory Board, continually guiding this organization with her passion to protect life.

Madam Speaker, I would like to honor Ms. Kathy Teal for all her contributions to Eastern Colorado and recognize the profound legacy that she leaves behind. It is an honor to celebrate her impact on our community and state.

CELEBRATING THE 300TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMITY TOWNSHIP

HON. DANIEL MEUSER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect and appreciation that I rise today to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the Township of Amity, Pennsylvania.

The oldest incorporated township in Berks County, Amity predates the county itself. Settled by Swedish settlers on land granted by William Penn in 1701, Amity is home to the county's oldest structure, the Mouns Jones House, which was built in 1716, as well as St. Gabriel's Church, Berks County's first orga-

nized religious congregation. Among Amity's other contributions to history is the White Horse Inn, which served as a gathering place for officers of the Continental Army during the American Revolution and was visited by President George Washington in 1793. The Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County has been instrumental in preserving Amity's rich history as part of Morlatton Village.

Amity's 300th anniversary has been heralded with great celebration. Events commemorating the township's tricentennial have brought the people of Amity together to recall and celebrate their longstanding sense of community that was the foundation of its establishment 300 years ago. Amity has remained a strong community because it holds the same values as at its founding.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives and the citizens of Pennsylvania's Ninth Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me and the great people who call Amity home in celebrating 300 years and wishing them many more years of community and prosperity.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. RODNEY ALLEN MORTENSON ON THE EVE OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. TED BUDD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mr. BUDD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of Dr. Rodney Allen Mortenson of Greensboro, North Carolina on the eve of his retirement.

Dr. Mortenson has practiced sports medicine and orthopedic surgery for nearly five decades in the Greensboro and Eden areas. He has been a stalwart of the medical community, expertly servicing the needs of his patients while expanding the knowledge within the orthopedic field more broadly. Through his service as a faculty clinical professor of orthopedic surgery at the Bowman Gray School of Medicine and authorship of numerous published studies, Dr. Mortenson's intellectual contributions to his field and positive impact on future surgeons have been measurable.

In 1976, Dr. Mortenson founded the Sports Medicine and Orthopedic Center in Greensboro specializing in trauma care, joint function, and hand and foot surgery. Countless patients have come to see Dr. Mortenson with serious, debilitating afflictions and left his office with a new lease on life.

Dr. Mortenson now steps into a new phase of life, retirement, with the love and support of his wife Linda and daughters Ashley, Julie, and Lindsay. I am beyond grateful for the work Dr. Mortenson performed in a community that we both care deeply about, and I wish him only happiness in the years to come.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in celebrating the career of Dr. Rodney Allen Mortenson and honoring his service to the city of Greensboro.

RECOGNIZING STU SKAUGE, TOMMY SPENCER, AND SHANA THORNTON FOR THEIR INDUCTION INTO THE UPPER PENINSULA LABOR HALL OF FAME

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2019

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it's my honor to recognize the lives and service of Stu Skauge, Tommy Spencer, and Shana Thornton on the occasion of their induction into the Upper Peninsula Labor Hall of Fame. Through a lifetime of unparalleled service and devotion to the public good, these three leaders have become indispensable parts of the state of Michigan.

The U.P. Labor Hall of Fame was established in 1993 to recognize unionists who have made an outstanding contribution to the cause of worker dignity and workplace fairness. With their lifetimes in service to their fellow workers, Shana, Tommy, and Stu are all clearly deserving of this honor.

Stu Skauge served as a Michigan school teacher for 33 years. As a member of the Michigan Education Association (MEA), Stu served as president-elect, president, and chief negotiator for his bargaining unit in the Marquette Area Public Schools district for over 25 years. He would go on to become the MEA UniServ director in Marquette and Alger Counties for another 10 years before his retirement. He has remained a dedicated leader in retirement, serving on the Ishpeming City Council and continuing to be active with the MBA-Retired organization. Stu also served as a Sergeant E-5 in the Korean War and is a life member and former commander of the Ishpeming VFW.

As a member of the United Steelworkers for 38 years, Tommy Spencer served as a leader, trainer, and activist for on-the-job health and safety, eventually becoming the Company Committee Safety Chairperson. His efforts were critical in forming the Steelworkers Coalition and establishing the Worker Memorial Day event—helping to remember workers killed or injured on the job and continue the fight for stronger safety and health protections. Tommy has devoted countless hours to volunteer work and public service through organizations like the Marquette County Labor Council, the Cliff's Shaft Mining Museum Board, the Negaunee Township Building and Recreation Committee, and the Harley Owners Group.

While she started her career as a teacher's aide, Shana Thornton quickly found her calling as a union activist—serving as steward, chapter chair, and local president in her local organization. Her drive led her to become a Staff Representative for the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) before ultimately serving as the Director of Field Services for AFSCME Council 25, where she supervised 23 Staff Representatives across the state of Michigan. Shana was the first and only woman to serve as President of the Marquette County Labor Council. She also served at the state-level on the Michigan AFL-CIO General Board and the Michigan Labor-Management Council, representing the U.P.

Madam Speaker, induction into the U.P. Labor Hall of Fame is a tremendous honor