

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE FOR MOHAMMED CHOWDHURY

HON. MAX ROSE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2019

Mr. ROSE of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mohammed K. Chowdhury, a Staten Island resident. Mr. Chowdhury is an activist, community organizer, and civil servant who has spent his life fighting to make the world a better place.

Mr. Chowdhury was born in rural Bangladesh. Beginning as a college student, he fought to better the lives of rural Bangladeshis in a whole host of areas, including education, infrastructure, healthcare, and communications. He also pushed for democratic reforms, fighting against autocratic government and ensuring that everyone would have the right to vote.

Upon moving to the United States, Mr. Chowdhury did not stop trying to better his communities. He has served as a civil servant in both the New York City and New York State systems. In both jobs, he was an active union member. He currently serves as the Council Leader for the New York State Public Employees Federation (PEF) Division 349.

Mr. Chowdhury has consistently fought on behalf of Staten Island's South Asian community. In 2015, he became the Staten Island Chapter Secretary of the Alliance of South Asian American Labor (ASAAL) in 2015. By 2016, he had risen to become the National Secretary of the ASAAL. Under his leadership, ASAAL has grown to include 12 chapters across five states.

Mr. Chowdhury's work to raise the voice for the voiceless and build coalitions between labor and community organizations should serve as an example to all of us. With a vision for the future, a desire to bring people together, and a tenacious work ethic, we truly can enact change.

So, Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in honoring Mohammed Chowdhury's work to make communities across the world, from Staten Island to rural Bangladesh, a better place.

CELEBRATING TELEGRAM NEWS- PAPER'S 75 YEARS OF LOCAL JOURNALISM

HON. RASHIDA TLAI

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2019

Ms. TLAI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the Telegram Newspaper, a local paper serving the Wayne County communities of Detroit, Ecorse, and River Rouge.

Founded in 1944, the Telegram is a multi-cultural community newspaper that is distributed weekly with the goal of connecting citi-

zens within the region by publishing information that educates, enlightens, uplifts and empowers its readers. The Telegram has been in continuous publication since its inception and continues to be unique in its approach to providing news the community turns to for local, state and national information.

We are especially proud of the Telegram's legacy as an African American-owned and run business and its outstanding commitment to the communities it serves. Their staff has developed partnerships with local schools, businesses, non-profit organizations, and city governments. They also participate in volunteer opportunities and provide media sponsorships for community events. The Telegram is helping to prepare the next generation of media personnel by establishing internship programs with local colleges & high schools. They expose youth to newspapers through the Newspapers in Education Program and Write Steps Internship Program.

Please join me in saluting publisher Gina Steward and the Telegram Newspaper for seventy-five years of local reporting.

IN MEMORY OF MR. LARRY N. WOFFORD

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2019

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise to pay tribute to a great man and dear friend of longstanding, Mr. Larry N. Wofford. Larry passed away on Tuesday, December 3, 2019, and a funeral service will be held on Saturday, December 7, 2019, at 11:00 a.m. at the Chapel of Vance Brooks Funeral Home in Phenix City, Alabama.

A native son of Columbus, Georgia, Larry was born on August 1, 1944, to the union of the late Claude Newton Wofford and Zola Coker Wofford. He was retired from AT&T where he faithfully worked for over 47 years. During his distinguished career, he served as President, Communication Workers of America (CWA) Local No. 3212 for over 38 years; President, CWA Retirees for over five years; member of five Bargaining Committees; member of Telephone Pioneers of America; President, Chattahoochee Valley Labor Council for four years; and was actively involved with the Georgia Sheriff's Youth Homes in LaGrange, Georgia for over 25 years. Former Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm once said that "Service is the rent that we pay for the space that we occupy here on this earth." Larry paid his rent and he paid it well!

He will be remembered for his insightful and optimistic spirit, his passion for helping others, and his immense love for his family. He leaves behind a great legacy in how life should be lived and warm cherished memories in the lives of those who knew him.

While he was preceded in death by his parents, he is survived by his loving wife, Sue,

and a host of family, friends, and colleagues in the labor movement, who will miss him dearly. On a personal note, I am proud to have called Larry my friend. He was always encouraging and supportive of my career in the Georgia General Assembly and in the United States Congress and I will be forever grateful for his friendship, advice, and counsel over the years.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, along with my wife, Vivian; and the more than 730,000 residents of Georgia's Second Congressional District in saluting Mr. Larry N. Wofford for his lifelong dedication to serving working men and women and humankind in general. I would also like to ask my colleagues in the House to join us in extending our deepest sympathies to Larry's family, friends, and loved ones during this difficult time. We pray that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

RETIREMENT OF MS. PAULA KOCHER BARNES

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2019

Mr. LEWIS. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Ms. Paula Kocher Barnes on her retirement from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and for her decades of public service.

For over 40 years, Ms. Barnes served our country—most recently as deputy associate general counsel for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the Office of the General Counsel located in Georgia's Fifth Congressional District.

It took some time for Ms. Barnes to make her way to our wonderful city. A native daughter of Iowa, Ms. Barnes completed her undergraduate degree at Coe College in Cedar Rapids. She continued her studies at Emory University's School of Law, where I believe Metro Atlanta infused her spirit. Ms. Barnes began a career in federal service at the Department of Education in 1980 and joined the HHS Office of the General Counsel in the Region IV Atlanta Office a couple of years later.

After five years in the regional office, Ms. Barnes transitioned to the CDC's Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), where she continued her federal career for the next 32 years. During her tenure with the ATSDR, Ms. Barnes served on the front lines of implementing policy at the intersection of environment and health policy, an issue that is near and dear to my heart. As an attorney-advisor, Ms. Barnes worked to implement the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act, a monumental bill which became public law the same year that I was elected to Congress.

As a senior attorney, Ms. Barnes continued this important effort by providing key counsel

• 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.

for interagency initiatives and memoranda on environmental health policy. In January 2014, the Centers for Disease Control promoted Ms. Barnes to the prominent position of deputy associate general counsel for the CDC/ATSDR Branch. Over the years, she contributed to litigation efforts regarding the Agent Orange exposure studies, the Federal Advisory Committee Act-National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Diesel Study, Freedom of Information Act, ATSDR cost recovery, and the precedential Hanford Downwinders case.

Ms. Barnes also managed to find the time to advance scholarship and policy in her professional field by contributing to numerous publications, including two prominent public health law textbooks and several articles. In addition, she served as an adjunct professor at Georgia State University's and Emory University's law schools and as a guest lecturer at Duke University.

During her esteemed career, Ms. Barnes played a critical role in several significant public health activities and events, including emergency responses to the September 11th tragedy, anthrax threats, Ebola Virus, Zika, and several major natural disasters. Our nation and the global family are forever grateful for Ms. Barnes and so many other CDC employees who help keep us safe, healthy, and alive.

Today, I would like to thank Ms. Barnes for her 41 years of federal service, for her dedication to public health, public service, and education. As she prepares for a well-deserved retirement, I wish Ms. Barnes the very best as she embarks upon this next chapter.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE CUNNINGHAM

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2019

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Madam Speaker, on December 3–4, 2019, I was absent from the House chamber. I remained in my district in South Carolina to attend to a family matter. Accordingly, I was unable to vote on five legislative measures on the floor.

Had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows:

Aye on Roll Call No. 643: H. Res. 546, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, Disapproving the Russian Federations inclusion in future Group of Seven summits until it respects the territorial integrity of its neighbors and adheres to the standards of democratic societies.

Aye on Roll Call No. 644 S. 178, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, Uighur Intervention and Global Humanitarian Unifed Response Act.

Aye on Roll Call No. 645: H. Res. 739, On Motion Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2534, the Insider Trading Prohibition Act.

Aye on Roll Call No. 646: H. Res. 739, On Agreeing to the Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2534, the Insider Trading Prohibition Act.

Aye on Roll Call No. 647: S. 151, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, Pallone-Thune Telephone Robocall Abuse Criminal Enforcement and Deterrence Act.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
WHITNEY DOTSON

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2019

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of long-time community advocate, Whitney Dotson.

Whitney Dotson's commitment to the good of his community is demonstrated by his career with the East Bay Regional Park District. Beginning as an appointed member of the Park District Advisory Committee, he later was elected to the Board of Directors where he worked on his passion for parks and health.

During his many years on the Board of Directors, Whitney has supported several significant projects, including the Atlas Road Bridge at Point Pinole, restoration of Albany Beach, and preservation of the North Richmond Shoreline. He also supported the completion of two Bay Trails, one between Pinole Shores and Bayfront Park and the other between Berkeley and Albany. Director Dotson fought to prevent commercial and residential development of the Breuner Marsh at Point Pinole, which was renamed the Dotson Family Marsh. Through this project, Director Dotson was able to continue the work of his father, Reverend Richard Dotson, to keep the marsh a natural place for everyone in the community to enjoy. Director Dotson has been described by his colleagues as tirelessly pursuing environmental protections in his community.

Director Dotson's service extends beyond his work with the East Bay Regional Park District. He is the president of the North Richmond Shoreline Open Space Alliance, Associate Director of the Neighborhood House of North Richmond, and Vice Chair of the Community Advisory Group. Throughout his tenure with the East Bay Regional Park District and through his philanthropic work, Director Dotson has fought to preserve open space and ensure a clean and healthy environment for generations to come.

Director Dotson departs the East Bay Regional Park District with a legacy of championing the environmental well-being of his community. We wish him great luck and joy in retirement.

IN HONOR OF LADY LIBERTY DAY

HON. LANCE GOODEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2019

Mr. GOODEN. Madam Speaker, the following Proclamation is in honor of Lady Liberty Day:

Whereas, in 1986, the City started planning, a pavilion that would showcase three flag poles—one for the American flag, the State flag and initially the Texas Sesquicentennial flag; and

Whereas, the pavilion was to provide a base structure for the placement of the Lady Liberty statue and to light flag poles at night; and

Whereas, on December 7, 1986, with a deep sense of pride in our state's heritage, Forney held its Sesquicentennial Flag Dedication ceremony commemorating a new City landmark and gateway to the City; and

Whereas, due to highway reconfiguration and construction, the monument and flag poles had to be taken down until they could be placed in a new location; and

Whereas, today, 33 years later, the City is proud to be able to re-dedicate the redesigned and rebuilt Lady Liberty Monument, bringing back a much-loved City landmark and gateway to the City; therefore, be it

Resolved, I, Lance Gooden, representative of the 5th District of Texas, do hereby recognize the 7th day of December 2019, as Lady Liberty Day.

RECOGNIZING ILLINOIS STATE
TROOPER TODD HANNEKEN OF
ILLINOIS STATE POLICE DISTRICT 10

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2019

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Illinois State Trooper Todd Hanneken for his heroic service on May 8, 2018. On that day Trooper Todd Hanneken was on the scene of a previous accident on the northbound lane of Interstate 57 when suddenly a semi-truck slammed into the last vehicle in line. The vehicle, driven by Andrew Bergan, burst into flames as it was thrust forward into the car in front of it. When Mr. Bergan's truck came to rest, the cab was engulfed in flames and its doors were blocked. As others attempted to keep the fire at bay, Trooper Hanneken kicked out the windshield and, with the help of two others, pulled Mr. Bergan to safety. The quick response saved Mr. Bergan's life.

In recognition of Trooper Hanneken's actions that day, he was awarded the Medal of Honor on October 30, 2019. This honor is awarded to Illinois State Police personnel who "perform a heroic act that by its nature results in saving a life, preventing a serious crime or apprehending a person who committed a serious crime." Since the events of May 8, 2018, Trooper Hanneken has called Mr. Bergan several times, visited the hospital and met with his parents, while Mr. Bergan was present for the awarding of the Medal of Honor.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure I stand to recognize Trooper Todd Hanneken for his heroism. His dedication to duty and to his fellow man is an inspiration to us all. I wish him the very best, along with all of the survivors of the crash that day.

TRIBUTE TO YOUNG STAFF MEMBERS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF THE 18TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS AND THE UNITED STATES

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, as Members of Congress we know well, perhaps better than most, how blessed our nation is to have in reserve such exceptional young men