

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PHYLLIS WEBSTER 90TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2019

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize Phyllis Womack Webster on the occasion of her 90th birthday.

A lifelong resident of St. Albans, West Virginia, Phyllis is known for her joyful approach to life and compassionate and kind nature. A member of St. Albans Baptist Church for more than half a century, Phyllis has impacted many lives for the better through her ministry with her church and the American Baptist Association. She was recognized in 2010 for her dedicated involvement in her church with the American Heritage Award.

Her outreach to people extended beyond her church family. Her door has always been open to host family, friends or anyone in need of a good listening ear or warm meal. Thanks to her hospitable nature, I would not be surprised if, as Scripture says, she hosted Angels unaware.

She can, and has made everyone and anyone feel special. Her love for family and people and sharp mind, she can remember the names of every family member through multiple generations. Phyllis' life, efforts and love for others are an example for us all of a life well-lived serving others.

It is my pleasure to recognize my beloved Aunt Phyllis on this momentous occasion. I wish her a very happy 90th birthday and may God continue to bless her.

HONORING SUPERINTENDENT
MICHAEL WATKINS

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2019

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools, Michael Watkins, on his retirement after serving the Santa Cruz County Office of Education since 1980. Mr. Watkins was the first African American elected as a School Superintendent in the State of California in 2006. An outstanding citizen and educator, Superintendent Watkins made an unparalleled impact in the educational community of Santa Cruz County through 35 years of service.

Superintendent Watkins began his career with the Santa Cruz County Office of as the Learning Handicapped Program Specialist, a position which set the tone for Superintendent Watkins' career as a visionary advocate for change and accessibility in education. After one year, he was offered the role of General Administrator in charge of the Special Education Programs for Santa Cruz County,

where he worked to mainstream educational opportunities for students with special needs across the district. In addition, Superintendent Watkins pioneered and developed community and vocational programming through his role as Director of Alternative Education. Under Superintendent Watkins's leadership, the schools he developed have received acclaim and statewide recognition for their commitment to excellence. With the backing of his tremendous record as an educator, Michael Watkins was elected Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools in 2006 and is currently serving his third term.

Superintendent Watkins' expertise in education also led to his appointment by the California Senate Rules Committee to the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence and the Special Education Task Force. He has also held statewide office as President of the Juvenile Courts, Community, and Alternative School Administrators of California for three years. In addition to his service in education, Superintendent Watkins has been an exemplary citizen and community member. He has coached multiple youth sports and sits on several significant local boards.

Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize the dedication and work of Superintendent Watkins. I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing Superintendent Watkins and to congratulate him on his well-earned retirement. I extend my earnest appreciation to Superintendent Watkins for his service to our community.

RECOGNIZING ALICJA EDWARDS
OF EUREKA

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2019

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Alicja Edwards of Eureka, a Montana artist, author, and World War II refugee, who overcame the atrocities of war and recorded her family's journey as part of the historic diaspora of the Polish people.

When she was a teenager, Alicja's small town in eastern Poland came under attack by Nazi Germany and suffered a brutal Soviet occupation. She and her family were forced into a Soviet gulag where they endured mistreatment, illness, and hunger.

Three years later, Alicja and thousands of other Poles were exiled to Iran. It was there where she met American Army Lieutenant Ernest Edwards who she married in 1945. The couple raised two children, lived in Japan, France, and America, and were married for 50 years before Ernest's passing.

Alicja is renowned for her memoirs, *And God Was Our Witness* and *They Called Us D.P.'s*, that detailed the suffering of her family and hundreds of thousands of Poles displaced during and after World War II.

In *And God Was Our Witness*, she describes the value of freedom and liberty:

"Priceless Freedom has never been perceived or truly understood by anyone, till it was lost or forcibly taken away. Only then, one becomes aware of the magnitude of its potency and power in directing one's life and fate."

Alicja is a noted artist and owns an antique and art shop in Eureka, where she continues to paint, play the piano, and inspire others.

Madam Speaker, for her indomitable resolve, strength and courage, and her inspiring memoirs of the Polish diaspora, I recognize Alicja Edwards for her spirit of Montana.

IN RECOGNITION OF DENTON
COUNTY COMMISSIONER BOBBIE
MITCHELL

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2019

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Denton County Commissioner Bobbie Mitchell, who will receive the 2019 Dr. Bettye Myers Humanitarian Award on January 19, 2019 after more than 30 years of dedicated service to Denton County.

Commissioner Mitchell has served her fellow North Texans in a range of leadership roles since 1985, when she began her tenure on the Zoning Board of Adjustment. During the last three decades, she served on the Lewisville Planning and Zoning Commission, as Mayor Pro Tem, and on the Lewisville City Council. A resident of Lewisville since 1971, she led the city as its mayor from 1993 to 2000 before being elected as a Denton County Commissioner.

During her many years as a devoted public servant, Commissioner Mitchell undoubtedly has made Lewisville a better place to work and live. In addition to her official service, she has had a significant impact on more than 30 nonprofit organizations in our community.

A longtime supporter of the United Way of Denton County, Commissioner Mitchell was a charter appointee to two of the organization's key initiatives: the Denton County Behavioral Health Leadership Team in 2016 and the Denton County Homelessness Leadership Team in 2017. She is the sixth recipient of the Dr. Bettye Myers Humanitarian Award, which was established by the board of directors and lifetime members of United Way of Denton County in 2014 to recognize outstanding community leadership, philanthropy, and impact.

On a personal note, I have had the good fortune of knowing Commissioner Mitchell since I began my medical practice in 1981. Throughout my medical career and my time in public service, whether solicited or not, she has never hesitated to provide wise counsel and guidance.

It is a privilege to recognize my friend, Commissioner Mitchell, for her dedication and commitment to her fellow North Texans, and I congratulate her on this well-earned honor.

● 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.

RECOGNIZING LTC BRAD CARVER
ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM MILITARY SERVICE

HON. BARRY LOUDERMILK

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2019

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Madam Speaker, on November 22, 2018, my friend William Bradley Carver retired from 28 years of service in U.S. Army Reserve. Today, I rise to pay tribute to Brad, a leader in the 11th Congressional District of Georgia, and a man who embodies the spirit of public service.

Brad was born in Valdosta, Georgia, the only child to Billy and JoAnn Carver, whom he has made proud by his multitude of life accomplishments thus far. Brad graduated from high school as Salutatorian and was voted “Most Likely to Succeed” due to his many achievements, including serving as a high school surrogate speaker for President George H.W. Bush’s 1988 campaign. He continued his education at Duke University as an ROTC cadet, and graduated with Honors earning his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. He later earned his M.B.A. and J.D. from the University of Georgia.

While attending law school, Brad took a hiatus to serve as a 1st Lieutenant in the 341st A.G. Company in support of Operation Joint Endeavor and Operation Joint Guard, Tuzla, Bosnia. He was promoted to Captain in 2000 and served as Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel of the 335th Theater Signal Command at Camp Doha, Kuwait and Camp Bucca, Iraq in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Brad was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for Exceptionally Meritorious Service. Brad continued his service in the U.S. Army Reserve for an additional 15 years, elevating to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Brad has also been serving the public by impacting conservative public policy and in supporting his beloved Republican Party. Brad has been engaged in local, statewide, and national Republican campaigns for the past 24 years. He has served as an elected officer in the Buckhead Young Republicans, Atlanta Young Republicans, Fulton County Republican Party, 11th Congressional District Republican Committee, and on the board for the Georgia Republican Party Foundation. Brad has also held gubernatorial appointments on the Georgia Board of Corrections and as Special Executive Counsel for the commission on water issues.

In 2006, Brad became a partner at the law offices of Hall Booth Smith, P.C., serving as senior managing director of government affairs. He was chosen as a James Magazine Top 4 Rising Star (2010) and one of Georgia Trend Magazine Top 40 Under 40 (2011).

Brad married Michelle in 2007 and their two sons, William Bradley Carver, Jr. (7) and Wesley Thomas Carver (4), regularly attend political events with their parents.

On behalf of Georgia’s 11th Congressional District and the United States House of Representatives, I commend Brad for his service to his community, state and nation, and congratulate him upon his retirement from the U.S. Army Reserve. We are fortunate to have a man such as Brad Carver in Georgia’s 11th Congressional District.

IN HONOR OF MILBRA DOLORES
WALTERS MATHIAS

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2019

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize and honor the life of an amazing member of our community, Milbra Dolores Walters Mathias, who passed away on January 3, 2019 in Conroe, Texas.

Born on January 16, 1923 in Ace, Texas, Dolores lived a determined life. Prior to retiring in Montgomery, Texas, Dolores spent time in the banking industry and later ran a dry cleaning business with her husband in Houston, Texas. Beyond her professional endeavors, she also led a service-oriented life with the goal of improving the community around her. One of her greatest joys was the community she found at the Montgomery United Methodist Church, where Dolores was a longtime and active member.

To those who knew Dolores, it comes as no surprise that she spent much of her retirement serving those in need. Dolores took genuine pleasure in being around people, and she found great satisfaction in helping others. She served in the Volunteer Auxiliary of Conroe Regional Hospital for several years and later as a Veterans Administration Volunteer at the Conroe VA Clinic. Here, Dolores dedicated over 9,500 volunteer hours to our veterans—a remarkable accomplishment, and one Dolores was extremely proud of. In recognition of her kindness, selflessness, and thoughtfulness, she was rightfully awarded the President’s Lifetime Achievement Award. This prestigious award highlights those like Dolores who go above and beyond to give back to their community.

She is survived by her nieces, Patsy Jackson, Betty Vanya and Charlotte Henner; nephew, Harold Stegall; and great nephews, Larence Jackson and Lynn Stegall; daughter-in-law, Joan Mathias; granddaughters, Nicole Panneton and Renee Mathias; and great grandchildren, Cooper and Ava.

While we mourn with her family, we also celebrate Dolores’ life and her remarkable legacy of service. She was truly a joy to all who had the privilege of meeting her, and I know I join her family, friends, and the entire Eighth District of Texas in honoring her extraordinary life and her unwavering devotion to our veterans, her community, her friends, and her family. Dolores will be greatly missed.

INTRODUCTION OF HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONGRESS’ SUPPORT FOR PROVIDING TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS TO HAITIAN NATIONALS RESIDING IN THE UNITED STATES AT THE TIME HURRICANE MATTHEW HIT HAITI

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2019

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my House concurrent resolution, which expresses Congress’ support for

extending Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to Haitian Nationals who resided in the United States when Hurricane Matthew hit Haiti on October 4, 2016.

Hurricane Matthew was the worst hurricane to hit the country in 50 years. It took the lives of over 1,000 people and directly affected 2.1 million Haitians with the internal displacement of 175,000 people and leaving 1.4 million in need of urgent humanitarian aid.

It is estimated that Hurricane Matthew resulted in damage that will cost Haiti \$1,000,000,000, or about 11.4 percent of its gross domestic product. This includes extensive damage to Haiti’s roadways, bridges, buildings, and other critical infrastructure. Additionally, Hurricane Matthew resulted in tremendous destruction in Haiti’s agricultural sector with crop losses estimated to be \$360 million.

Madam Speaker, as we all know, Haiti continues its efforts to rebuild from the 2010, 7.0 magnitude earthquake, and recover from the Cholera outbreak of the same year. With these tragedies in mind, and the knowledge that Haitians continue to work diligently to address these and other important issues, including creating strong democratic institutions, I encourage all Members to join me in letting the Haitian Diaspora know that we stand with them.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM DAY 2019

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 17, 2019

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I would like to include in the RECORD the following Presidential Proclamation on Religious Freedom Day 2019.

OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY

[For Immediate Release—January 15, 2019]

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM DAY, 2019

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

On Religious Freedom Day, we celebrate our Nation’s long-standing commitment to freedom of conscience and the freedom to profess one’s own faith. The right to religious freedom is innate to the dignity of every human person and is foundational to the pursuit of truth.

The Pilgrims who landed at Plymouth shared an experience common to many of America’s first settlers: they had fled their home countries to escape religious persecution. Aware of this history, our Nation’s Founding Fathers readily understood that a just government must respect the deep yearning for truth and openness to the transcendent that are part of the human spirit. For this reason, from the beginning, our constitutional republic has endeavored to protect a robust understanding of religious freedom. On January 16, 1786, Virginia enacted the Statute for Religious Freedom to protect the right of individual conscience and religious exercise and to prohibit the compulsory support of any church. Authored by Thomas Jefferson, the statute set forth the principle that religious liberty is an inherent right and not a gift of the state. Jefferson’s statute served as the inspiration and model for the legal architecture of the conscience