

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE TODD RICHARDSON

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 25, 2019

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Honorable Todd Richardson on being named the Poplar Bluff Chamber of Commerce's Citizen of the Year. I had the honor of serving alongside Todd in the Missouri State House and have grown to admire and respect him dearly.

Todd became Speaker of the Missouri House in 2015, leading the chamber and state during a tumultuous time. He passed sweeping tax reform legislation, making Missouri more competitive economically. He also passed historic legislation protecting the unborn and Missourians' Second Amendment rights, while overseeing a rewrite of harassment policies in Missouri's Capitol. All of these accomplishments were done while carrying himself with dignity and integrity, garnering the utmost respect from members on both sides of the aisle. Todd was the right person in the right position at the right time to lead our state through some significant times of uncertainty.

Todd was recently selected by Governor Parsons to be the Director of MO HealthNet. He is already making an imprint by leading an effort to root out fraud and prevent waste while providing accessible, quality healthcare to all Missourians.

Todd is a man of great character, who sought for his tenure in the Missouri State House to be consistent with his moral and personal values, or as he put it "to be the same person when I leave as I was when I arrived." And Madam Speaker, he has done just that. On behalf of the Eighth Congressional District of Missouri, it is my great privilege to recognize a true gentleman from Butler County, Todd Richardson.

CONGRATULATING REVEREND LUKATA AGYEI MJUMBE

HON. BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 25, 2019

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Reverend Lukata Agyei Mjumbe on his appointment as Pastor of the Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church of Princeton.

Reverend Mjumbe has been a lifelong leader in his community. He has assumed roles as activist, grassroots community organizer, and anti-violence advocate centered in Black and Brown communities. During the aftermath of the 1992 Rodney King Rebellion, he rose to the occasion to assist as a campus and community leader in the city of Atlanta. He has been recognized as a leader for his work in

organizing campaigns with organizations and formations in the Black Belt and across the Southern United States. Reverend Mjumbe currently serves as the National Coordinator of the Black Organizing Capacity Support Project of the Praxis Project and as a Member of the Coordinating Committee of the Black Alliance for Peace.

On Sunday, January 27, 2019, Reverend Mjumbe will give his inaugural sermon at the historic church. I wish him many wonderful years leading his congregation and success in his new role.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Reverend Mjumbe on his appointment and I pray for God to bless him, his congregation, and the greater Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church community.

RECOGNIZING COACH KEN KRAUSE

HON. BRYAN STEIL

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 25, 2019

Mr. STEIL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ken Krause, Muskego High School's head football coach. Ken was nominated by the Green Bay Packers as a contender for the 2018 Don Shula NFL High School Coach of the Year Award. This national honor is given to high school coaches for their character, leadership, and commitment to player health and safety. Ken's dedication to his players and community is evident to those in Southeast Wisconsin and throughout the state.

A West Allis native and West Allis Central High School and University of Wisconsin-Whitewater alum, Ken began his coaching career at the age of 19 and became a head coach at 23 years old. This past season, Ken led the Muskego High School football team to its first WIAA Division I State Championship title after a perfect 14-0 season. Ken was also named the 2018 Wisconsin Football Coaches Association/Green Bay Packers Coach of the Year.

I am proud to recognize Ken for his successes and dedication to his players. On behalf of Wisconsin's First Congressional District, I thank Ken for being a role model to young players, for helping them reach their full potential on and off the field, and for his contributions to our community.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Ken, his wife Julie, and their four sons, Cody, Dylan, Aiden, and Ashton for this great honor and achievement. Go Warriors.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF PATTY SCHRAMM

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 25, 2019

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Patty Schramm, a cherished member of the Central New York community. A devoted student of her faith, Patty allowed religion to guide her as she strived to improve the lives of others. Patty will always be remembered as a compassionate, joyful individual.

Patty was born in Omaha, Nebraska and later relocated with her family to Syracuse. She attended high school at St. John the Baptist Academy, then earned degrees from Syracuse University and Mercyhurst University. She used her knowledge to educate Central New York youth, working as an Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Education Program counselor for OCM BOCES and the Diocese of Syracuse Catholic Schools. This included time at Bishop Ludden Junior/Senior High School, Immaculate Conception School, Cathedral Academy at Pompei, and her alma mater St. John the Baptist Elementary School. Patty was admired at all these schools and influenced the lives of countless students throughout her career.

Outside of her professional life, Patty displayed the same inspirational qualities. She brought a positive attitude and caring personality to her church and social gatherings. She truly knew how to lift people's spirits.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in celebrating the life of Patty Schramm. She was a kind spirit who genuinely cared for the well-being of all she interacted with and worked to see them succeed. She will be dearly missed throughout the Central New York community.

RECOGNIZING THE 29TH ANNIVERSARY OF BLACK JANUARY

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 25, 2019

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, today I rise to remember the 29th anniversary of what is known as Black January. This month, 29 years ago, the Soviet Union sent its Red Army into Azerbaijan to violently put down a growing independence movement. The 26,000 Red Army troops attacked peaceful demonstrators in the capital city of Azerbaijan, Baku. The attacks killed more than 130 civilians, left over 700 wounded, and another 800 people were imprisoned.

The U.S.S.R. had hoped the sudden strike and violence of action would send a message to not only the Azeri people but to millions of others under the oppressive Soviet thumb.

• 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.

The message was clear: dissent will not be tolerated.

The Soviets underestimated the resolve of the freedom-loving Azeri people, and their actions galvanized the population. The people would continue to push for freedom and democracy, and the Parliament formally declared it on August 30, 1991.

Since then, Azerbaijan has been a crucial ally of the U.S. in the region, even providing troops to serve with U.S. forces in Kosovo, Iraq, and Afghanistan. Azerbaijan plays a key role in Europe's energy security by shipping natural gas to Europe.

I urge my colleagues to recognize the 29th Anniversary of Black January and the sacrifices of the Azeri people.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND MILITARY SERVICE OF WORLD WAR II VETERAN JOHN ROY SHANNON, JR.

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 25, 2019

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and military service of World War II Veteran John Roy Shannon, Jr. Mr. Shannon has always placed God and family first in his life, offering friendship and brotherly love to all those who crossed his path.

Mr. Shannon was born on November 4, 1918, in Quitman, Mississippi. His father, a World War I Veteran, met and married the former Ruby Olivia Harper. They resided in Quitman, Mississippi, eventually moving to Birmingham, Alabama. Mr. Shannon had three siblings; Joyce Mitchell, Mary Ann McWaters, and Harper Shannon.

In 1938, Mr. Shannon married, Minnie Catheren Cook, a fellow church member and a Jefferson County High School classmate. Mr. Shannon worked for Pan Am Oil Company which later became part of American Oil Company. From July 1943 until November 1945, Mr. Shannon answered the call to serve our great nation in the U.S. Army. Stationed at the Iceland Base Command, Mr. Shannon rose to the rank of Staff Sergeant receiving the Good Conduct Medal, European African Middle eastern Campaign medal, and the World War II Victory Medal in recognition of his distinguished military service.

Upon Mr. Shannon's return from military service, the family grew to include four sons; Harold, Ralph, Roy, and Sam Shannon. Roy Shannon, his third-born son, recently said his father was proud to serve our nation during World War II. "Dad said America called and he answered," Roy Shannon said. "He inspired three of us boys to follow in his footsteps. Harold, Ralph, and I are all U.S. Military Veterans."

Throughout his life and to this day, Mr. Shannon set an example for his children to follow. Mr. Shannon, a lifelong Christian, was an active member of Huffman Baptist Church in Birmingham, an Adult Sunday School Class teacher for over 20 years and was chosen to be a lifetime deacon of the church. "My father practiced what he believed," Roy Shannon said. "He believed in God and country and he instilled that in us."

Sam Shannon, Mr. Shannon's youngest son, said that he was lucky to have a father who was so devoted to God and family. "At the time, we did not realize how fortunate we were," Sam said. "He made it his main mission to be a good father and husband. He made sure we were fed, clothed, and housed and above all—loved."

Harold Shannon said his father is proud to be a veteran. "Being away from our family was difficult for dad because while he was serving, he missed the birth of one of my brothers," Harold said. "Even so, our father was very, very proud to be a veteran. To this day, he always wears his World War II cap." Additionally, Harold said that Mr. Shannon was always a loving and caring father. "He worked day and night to take care of us. I cannot recall him ever raising his voice. He has the patience of Job. He is still an example for all of us to follow. We're so proud of him."

Mr. Shannon was married to Catheren Cook for 72 years until her death in 2010. After her passing, he became a resident of the Wesley Gardens Retirement Community in Montgomery, Alabama. Roy Shannon said his father is in great health which has the whole family counting their blessings daily.

Mr. Shannon is an American patriot who served our great nation and continues to set an example for others to follow. We wish him many more years of good health.

RECOGNIZING MS. MEREDITH NESS AS THE 2018–2019 WALTON COUNTY, FLORIDA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. MATT GAETZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 25, 2019

Mr. GAETZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Ms. Meredith Ness as the 2018–2019 Walton County Teacher of the Year. For seven years, Ms. Ness has served the Walton County School District with dedication, passion, and an unwavering commitment to serving others.

In Northwest Florida, we are fortunate to have some of the best teachers in the Nation. It is recognized that teaching is an extremely difficult, yet extremely rewarding, profession. Ms. Ness has performed her teaching duties exceptionally, while also being a pillar of her community.

Ms. Ness is revered by her Principal and colleagues for her incredible willingness to always lend a helping hand to those in need. She engages her students thoughtfully, and gives them a chance to take their thinking and knowledge to a deeper level.

Her sponsorship and involvement with the First Lego League, an after-school STEM robotics program for students, shows that her support and outreach for her students extends far beyond the walls of her fourth-grade class.

Ms. Ness has displayed dedicated teamwork in her implementation of this extra-curricular opportunity. I commend her for her steadfast willingness to serve those that matter most—her students.

For all her contributions to the community, I am proud that Ms. Ness is a constituent of Florida's First Congressional District.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Ms. Ness for her accomplishments.

Her longstanding commitment to excellence, continued achievement, professionalism, and innovation all reflect well on her. She is an exceptional educator, and her students are lucky to have her in the classroom.

Meredith Ness has truly made her community a better place. I thank her for her service, and wish her all the best.

HONORING THE CAREER AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MS. JOANNE GAUS

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 25, 2019

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Joanne Gaus and recognize her tremendous impact as a teacher at St. Richard Catholic Elementary School in Chicago. Ms. Gaus' dedication to her students is nothing short of remarkable. At the age of 71, she claims she is "not quite done yet" despite her reputation for being the first to arrive and the last to leave for over 50 years. Her commitment to her profession and distinguished tenure stand as an example to all educators striving to prepare our country's youth for the future.

Ms. Gaus started her career by teaching second and third grade at a time when teaching jobs were hard to come by. Her former students are quick to praise her, noting that she instilled confidence and curiosity in them, traits that have lasted throughout their academic careers and lives. Respected by her colleagues as well, the St. Richard School staff find her enthusiasm and creative approach to teaching to be contagious. She is also beloved by parents, since they know their children will be well taken care of and respected under her tutelage.

Examples of Ms. Gaus' efforts range from decorating her classroom for the seasons, redesigning the classroom to encourage peer interaction, and incorporating new technologies into her curriculum. She always goes the extra mile in all of her interactions with students, while teaching them both academics and how to be responsible. She is constantly planning new ways to get her students excited, with class pets, creative desk set-ups, and projects.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Joanne Gaus. This outstanding Catholic educator has devoted her life to bettering the lives of her students, and she continues to spark their appreciation of their faith at a young age. I congratulate her on her distinguished accomplishments, thank her for her service, and wish her well in her future endeavors, whether she is teaching in the classroom or teaching lessons of life.

HONORING MS. PATRICIA GARDNER

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 25, 2019

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Ms. Patricia Gardner and commend