

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF RALEIGH BALDERSON'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 21, 2020

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Raleigh Gilbert Balderson, in honor of his 90th Birthday on December 19, 2020. I would like to take this time to recognize the many achievements of Mr. Balderson, as well as commemorate this special occasion in his life.

Mr. Raleigh Balderson is a resident of my hometown, Montross, Virginia. He is a very well-respected citizen and barber in the town of Montross, and he is known and loved by the entire community. He has served as a deacon and trustee at Nominist Baptist Church and is currently a deacon emeritus, a testament to his strong involvement in the community and care for those he knows and loves.

This year marks a second major milestone for Mr. Balderson, as he retired from his own barber business on March 21, 2020. Mr. Balderson started his own business in Montross, Virginia, and recently retired after 62 years of being in business. Mr. Balderson's barbershop in Montross is well loved by the entire community and is known for a place of good company and great conversations.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I ask that you rise with me today to honor and celebrate Mr. Raleigh Gilbert Balderson's 90th Birthday on December 19, 2020. I would like to also recognize and remember the late Bonnie Jean Owen Balderson, Mr. Balderson's beloved wife of 59 years. I wish Mr. Balderson a happy 90th birthday, and I hope this time is filled with celebration and God's continued blessings.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. A. DREW FERGUSON IV

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 21, 2020

Mr. FERGUSON. Madam Speaker, I missed the vote on H.R. 3384, the MORE Act on December 4, 2020 to leave to care for a sick family member. If I had been present, I would have voted "Nay" on H.R. 3384, the MORE Act, Roll Call No. 235.

IN RECOGNITION OF GARY JOHNSON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 21, 2020

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Gary Johnson, Assistant Manager for the City of Roanoke, Texas,

as he retires from a career spanning almost four decades in public service.

Prior to his work for the City of Roanoke in 2003, Chief Johnson served the City of Watauga's Department of Public Safety for more than two decades, from 1982 to 2003. His tenure at Watauga DPS included several positions including Detective, Paramedic, Fire Fighter, SWAT Team Leader, Patrol Commander, and Deputy Chief. During this period, the agency was a totally integrated public safety department with all personnel cross-trained in the areas of law enforcement, fire suppression, and emergency medical services.

Chief Johnson joined Roanoke's Police Department as Chief in 2003. Under his leadership, the Roanoke Police Department became one of the best in the state, achieving the Texas Police Chief's Best Practices Recognition in 2011, a highly respected accomplishment requiring meeting 168 standards. This recognition has been repeated every four years since and is one of many achievements that led to the addition of his role as Assistant City Manager in 2016, with responsibility over Police and Fire Services and special projects.

In 2018 Mr. Johnson transitioned to assume full responsibility as an Assistant City Manager, providing invaluable administrative input on operations, budgets, personnel policies and other support critical to the City Manager's Office. He also carried responsibility for many major City initiatives, including the role of Project Manager for the New City Hall facility, the implementation of the Roanoke Citizen's Academy and many others. His departmental direct reports included the Police Department, Fire Department, Informational Technology, Special Projects, Solid Waste Services, and City Hall facilities.

A graduate of both Dallas Baptist University and having completed a Master of Public Administration from the University of North Texas, Denton, Chief Johnson is also a graduate of the F.B.I. National Academy; 207th Session. Beyond his duties with the City of Roanoke, he was also active within his profession as a member of the F.B.I. National Academy Associates, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, and the Texas Police Chiefs Association, which he served as President in 2018.

Through his decades of service in Public Safety and City Management, Gary Johnson's effort and leadership have created a legacy represented in the quality of life citizens of Roanoke and the other communities enjoy in the communities he has served. I wish him and his wife, Sherrill, his daughters and family, all the joy and satisfaction deserved in a well-earned retirement from a life of public service.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LEGACY OF SHERIFF MICHAEL J. ASHE, JR.

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 21, 2020

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, it is with great satisfaction that I rise today to recognize the remarkable career of retired Hampden County Sheriff Michael J. Ashe, Jr. Sheriff Ashe, in a career spanning over four decades, has created the model of rehabilitating inmates across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the country. A native of my hometown of Springfield, Massachusetts, Sheriff Ashe has spent his life embodying the fundamental principle that all who are willing to work for a second chance, ought to receive one. His signature philosophy of "strength reinforced with decency; firmness dignified in fairness" led to countless lives being changed for the better, while resulting in one of the lowest reincarceration rates in the United States.

Originally a social worker, Sheriff Ashe sought to provide long-term care and housing to the youth who were most in need of it. Serving as the first Assistant Director of Downey Side homes for the youth, Mike Ashe displayed remarkable leadership by being the first to welcome to his home battered or at-risk children, a reminder that no member of the community shall be forgotten. His commitment to those who are often forgotten in society led to his candidacy for Sheriff of Hampden County. Since his initial election in 1974, Ashe was re-elected every 6 years without contest until he announced his retirement in 2016.

Anyone who has gotten to know Sheriff Ashe will affirm that he had never been in the business of incarceration, rather his focus was on corrections. His doctrine on correctional supervision was guided by the simple principle that inmates should be held accountable and be positive and productive. The Sheriff long understood that if he were to adequately rehabilitate his inmates, he would need to put together a competent coalition of staff and volunteers who could command the situation, while exemplifying the upmost professionalism.

Sheriff Ashe instituted an inmate Basic Intensive Regimen in which all inmates are required to undergo during their first 5 weeks of incarceration. During this critical time, inmates are required to participate in programs that focus on substance abuse, anger management, cognitive thinking, victim impact, and more. In Hampden County, it is excepted that inmates work on assignments or some sort of productive activity, for at least 40 hours per week. With over 140 programs available, inmates are encouraged to famously "answer the bell" for a productive day, just like they will have to do if they are to be productive citizens.

Under his leadership, Hampden County was home to the nation's first Day Reporting Center, the first program of its kind to offer support

● 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 inmates close to re-entering society. A model that has been replicated throughout the country. Similarly, Sheriff Ashe was responsible for the nation's first Incarceration Support Systems, offering assistance to those newly freed from incarceration. And if that wasn't enough, Sheriff Ashe helped construct the Western Massachusetts Correctional Addictions Center, one of the nation's original correctional facilities dedicated to substance abuse treatment.

Throughout his career, Sheriff Ashe's tireless work has made our community a safer, more just, caring place. During his tenure, Sheriff Ashe witnessed over 4,600 inmates graduate his educational programs, earning a GED or a high school equivalent diploma. While Mike Ashe oversaw his inmates contribute over 1 million hours of community service to Hampden County communities. While heading the Massachusetts Sheriffs Association, Ashe was able to present his successful philosophy for community corrections to the rest of the Commonwealth, further promoting an emphasis on rehabilitation rather than punishment. A recipient of the White House "Champions of Change" Award, Sheriff Ashe has made the Commonwealth proud while illustrating through his work, that the United States is indeed a nation of second chances.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 21, 2020

Mrs. LESKO. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 244.

DALE SCHMITZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 21, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Dale Schmitz, WWII Veteran who served with the 115th Cavalry. Mr. Schmitz not only served his country honorably; he is a grandfather and a man of integrity that has committed to serve his community. On December 22nd, Mr. Schmitz will turn 100 years old. On this day, Adams County will proclaim, "Dale Schmitz Day", honoring his six years of service to our country and commitment to his family and community.

After his service with the 115th Cavalry in World War II, Mr. Schmitz took a job with Eaton Metals in Denver, CO, staying with the company until the 1980's. During this time, Mr. Schmitz continued his service to the community by helping the Guardian Angels Catholic School in the Berkley neighborhood with maintenance work. Mr. Schmitz was an active volunteer for Habitat for Humanity until the age of 95 and continues to give back to Veterans through organizations like the Wounded Warrior Project. At the age of 97, Mr. Schmitz flew to Washington, D.C. by himself with the, "Rocky Mountain Honor Flight Program", visiting the memorials and landmarks that were dedicated to the service of WWII Veterans.

Mr. Schmitz has been recognized by his community and has helped every neighbor through acts of service by shoveling their snow, mowing their grass, outdoor repairs, and becoming a favorite with the neighborhood dogs by providing them with hot dogs. Mr. Schmitz was called to service when his country needed him, and then continued his service to his fellow neighbors and community. I want to extend my deepest appreciation and thanks to Mr. Schmitz for his contribution and service.

IN RECOGNITION OF BENNY NAPOLEON

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 21, 2020

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the work of public servant Wayne County Sheriff Benny Napoleon as we honor his memory.

Born and raised in Detroit, Michigan, Benny Napoleon began his law enforcement career working in Detroit's police department in the 1975. He worked his way up the ranks to serve as chief of police in 1998 before retiring in 2001. Napoleon became assistant Wayne County executive in 2004. In 2009, he was appointed Sheriff of Wayne County, the role he continued to serve in until his recent death.

Benny Napoleon's tenure as Wayne County Sheriff was marked by his work to reduce inmate populations, by utilizing alternatives to incarceration and employing electronic tethering. Napoleon was well-known for his affable personality and big-heartedness. He is a true son of Detroit. His absence will be felt by the communities of Wayne County.

Please join me as we recognize Wayne County Sheriff Benny Napoleon for his many contributions to Wayne County and the 13th Congressional District and honor his memory.

HONORING THERESA SCHUTA

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 21, 2020

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the significant contributions of Theresa "Terri" Schuta, one of my closest friends as well as a true leader within the Buffalo Public Schools and the South Buffalo community she has so diligently served, on the occasion of her retirement as Principal of South Park High School.

A proud product of the Buffalo Public Schools, Terri returned to the halls of the schools we walked together as classmates throughout the 1970's as the Principal of Southside Elementary School for seven years until her appointment as South Park High School Principal in 2009. Rising through the administrative ranks, she also gained experience as the assistant principal at Lorraine Elementary.

In the profile of Mrs. Schuta following her appointment, The Buffalo News headline got it just right when it said "Community roots anchor new principal to South Park," Calling her-

self a neighborhood kid, Terri said, "Someone needs to lead South Park who loves South Park. I think that is going to resonate with the kids."

As Principal, Mrs. Schuta has more than resonated—she initiated, innovated and when necessary, intimidated, to deliver quality educational opportunities for her students, their families, her faculty and staff. She introduced new programs into her school, fought for more resources, stood up for her students and demanded more from them as well as herself to better prepare her students to achieve and succeed.

Terri brought the same energy, enthusiasm, tenacity and work ethic I saw in her as our 1978 class president with her every day as South Park High School Principal. She led the way in building partnerships with local businesses and non-profits and now as a designated Community School, South Park students and their families benefit from enhanced learning opportunities, parent engagement and healthy living experiences. She has been a source of positive change in the city's education system as a whole and has impacted the lives of both her students and colleagues.

Terri's enormous contribution to South Park High School has not gone unnoticed. In fact, she has been recognized for fostering accountability in the high school, which resulted in a 10 percent increase in its graduation rate over the past several years. She also pioneered the Bright Lights of South Park program. This project highlights successful South Park graduates as a source of inspiration for current students. Students can then use that inspiration as motivation for their academic work and to live up to their full potential. She oversaw the well-received and extensive building renovation project, the successful 100th Anniversary Celebration including the 2016 release of "Our Fallen Warriors, Remembered," a timeline of more than 150 of our bravest during their experiences as South Park students through their loss of life in service to our country.

Amazingly, Terri has always found time for others as she is an active and passionate community volunteer. Terri was awarded the organization's Campaign Volunteer of the Year award in 2019 in recognition of outstanding commitment to the United Way. Her professional achievements and personal contributions earned her well-deserved recognition as one of 42 extraordinary women featured in the book, "Women in The City of Good Neighbors."

Her work with United Way, local charities and families in need has positively impacted and inspired so many individuals as she personifies the values of faith, friendship and service others instilled in her as a member of the Drilling Family of Lilac Street. She and her husband, Michael Schuta, a retired Buffalo Police Officer, continue that tradition of service with their daughter, Katie, who has followed in Terri's footsteps as the principal of the Buffalo Public Schools' school of culinary arts and management. Katie and husband, Jonathon Whiteside, have recently had a son, Joseph Michael Whiteside, adding proud grandmother to Terri's many titles. Their son, Michael, holds an MBA and works as a senior accountant at PCB Piezotronics in Cheektowaga, New York.

Madam Speaker, I am so proud of all Terri Schuta has accomplished, the indelible mark she has made in uplifting the lives of her