

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### RECOGNIZING CHARLES "RANDY" RANDAL BENJAMIN

#### HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2020*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Charles "Randy" Randal Benjamin, who passed away on Wednesday, February 12, at the age of 70.

Randy was born on February 23, 1949, in Pontotoc County, Mississippi. He graduated from Hurricane High School in 1967 and later answered the call to serve our great nation in the United States Air Force.

In 1970, Randy married Pat Graham, and they remained together for over 49 years and had two children. He started his business, Connect Two, Inc., in 2001 in Pontotoc. Randy was an active member at First Baptist Church in Pontotoc and set an example of faith for his family to follow. He was an avid bass fisherman and a proud charter member of the Pontotoc Bass Club.

Left to cherish his memory is his wife, Pat Benjamin; his daughter, Tonya Shirley; his son, Chip Benjamin; his grandchildren, Lindsey Claire Shirley, Ryan Shirley, Harper Benjamin, and Tripp Benjamin, as well as many friends and extended family members.

Randy's life was one of service, grace, and love for his family and community. He will be greatly missed by all whom he encountered.

### RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND EFFORTS OF LT. COL. JIM CANNON

#### HON. CAROL D. MILLER

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2020*

Mrs. MILLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize retired Lieutenant Colonel Jim Cannon for his efforts in pioneering the National Workforce Awards. Located in Athens, West Virginia, this company's sole purpose is to provide national awards for employers that want to appreciate, encourage, and motivate exceptional employees. Given after fulfillment of stringent criteria, these awards include the National Economic Welfare Medal, The National Productivity Cross, The National Distinguished Service Star, and The National Order of Job Formation.

Lieutenant Colonel Cannon has truly dedicated his life to civil service. In 1965, he joined the Army and would serve for a total of 34 years as both an active duty and reserve officer. He received the Legion of Merit award in 1983 for eighteen years of exceptional meritorious conduct. After retiring from the military, he worked in the private sector as a Corporation Manager, yet he still involved himself in public affairs by becoming the Mayor of Princeton, West Virginia, in 1984 and serving until 1988.

In 1993, Lieutenant Colonel Cannon became the Vice President of Business and Finance at Concord University. This is where he came up with the idea to create a company that honors those that go above and beyond for their employers: while at work one unfortunate evening, Concord University's South Tower Residence Hall was caught ablaze by a student's candle. The Athens Fire Department quickly put out the fire, but students on two floors of the residence hall were displaced because of structural damage and fire extinguisher residue. The custodial staff at Concord worked around the clock to make the dorms habitable for the students effected, resulting in many moving back-in only after 24 hours.

Lieutenant Colonel Cannon wished he could have put a medal on each and every community member, including Concord's Staff and the firefighters, that went above the call of duty to overcome this terrible accident. This is why he started the National Workforce Awards in 2015 to honor people across our nation that have done similar acts of excellence for their employers. I commend the National Workforce Awards for encouraging higher productivity, more innovation, and a strong, complete work ethic.

May God bless Lieutenant Colonel Cannon, and may he continue his work in recognizing great Americans throughout our country.

### CONGRATULATING TRACEY CHILDRESS AS THE HOT SPRINGS ARKANSAS WOMAN OF THE YEAR

#### HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2020*

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Tracey Childress of Hot Springs on her recognition as the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce's 2020 Woman of the Year.

This award is given yearly by the Chamber of Commerce based on the impact that members of a community have on their fellow man. Since she moved to Arkansas in 1992, Ms. Childress has been a vital part of the Hot Springs area, specifically in her work with the Cooper Anthony Mercy Child Advocacy Center where she has served as Director since January 2019. She worked as a forensic interviewer for several years, often cited as one of Arkansas' leading experts on Child First Forensic Interview Protocol.

In addition to her work, she is also a respected and active member of her church, a state and national forensic interview instructor, a certified law enforcement instructor, and a beloved mentor in the local YMCA Reach and Rise Program.

Ms. Childress provides this nation with a perfect example of what service can accomplish in a community both professionally and personally. I am proud to call her a friend and

a fellow Fourth District citizen. I take this time to congratulate her on her success as Woman of the Year and thank her for her continued service to the young people around us.

### IN HONOR OF DR. MANUEL "MANNY" LOPEZ

#### HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2020*

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the remarkable life of Dr. Manuel "Manny" Lopez and his over 50 years of public service to the City of Oxnard. During his time as a dedicated public servant and throughout his career, Manny exhibited outstanding leadership, innovative community interaction, and distinguished professionalism, and he paved the way for future leaders to continue his unparalleled legacy of service to the community.

Manny was born in Oxnard, California on June 1, 1927 to immigrant parents who fled the Mexican Revolution. A son of farmworkers, Manny would graduate from Oxnard High School and Ventura College before finishing his undergrad at San Diego State University. It was shortly after that he attended the University of California Berkeley School of Optometry. In 1962, Manny opened the first bilingual optometry practice in the community and served patients for over 50 years until his retirement in 2016.

In 1978, Manny became the first Latino to be elected to the Oxnard City Council. He served as a member of the Oxnard City Council until 1992, when he became the first elected Latino Mayor of Oxnard. He served as Mayor until 2004. After serving as the Mayor of Oxnard for over a decade, Manny took a four-year break from public service. Manny returned to local government in 2008 when he was elected as the Commissioner to the Port of Hueneme five-member Board of Harbor Commissioners. He served as a Harbor Commissioner until his passing in 2020.

Manny devoted his time to giving back to the community and served on many local boards including the Oxnard Chamber of Commerce Board, Oxnard Community Relations Commission, City of Oxnard Redevelopment Agency, Oxnard College Foundation, Oxnard Planning Commission, Tri-County Optometric Association, and the Boys and Girls Club of Oxnard. He dedicated his life to helping those around him and was a founding member of several service-oriented and philanthropic groups including the CSUCI Foundation, Sister City Oxnard-Ocotlán, Ventura County Community Foundation's Destino Fund, and the Ventura County Community Foundation Women's Legacy Fund.

Throughout his life, Manny embodied the spirit of giving back, and his more than five decades in public service is evidence of his passion for making Oxnard a thriving community for everyone.

• 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.

I personally knew Manny to be a kind soul, who was a loving father, wonderful husband, and respected leader throughout our community. I will especially remember Manny for his big heart and thoughtfulness. He often provided me with words of advice and wisdom that continue to guide my work in public service.

For these reasons, it is with great honor that I offer Dr. Manuel "Manny" Lopez my heartfelt appreciation for his years of outstanding service to the City of Oxnard and unwavering dedication to our community during his exemplary career. On behalf of the people of Oxnard and a very grateful community, whom he served with distinction, I express my sincere condolences to his family and friends, and to all who knew him.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF MISSOURI UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

**HON. JASON SMITH**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2020*

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 150th anniversary of the founding of Missouri University of Science and Technology (Missouri S&T). Missouri S&T was originally established in 1870 as the University of Missouri School of Miners and Metallurgy, and it was the first technical institute west of the Mississippi River. In the last 150 years, Missouri S&T has grown into a world-class engineering school. While its name has changed over time, its focus has remained the same: to prepare the best young minds in Missouri and around the world to tackle the challenging technical demands of the modern era.

Missouri S&T students achieve a level of success that is unmatched, in large part because of campus programs that emphasize practical experience. This enables S&T graduates to combine their studies with real-world practice and execution and prepare for the workforce. For instance, students can compete on one of 18 competitive "design teams" to build optimized models of systems such as a Baja off-roader or an underwater robot. The skills learned in these applied programs benefit S&T students after graduation, and 92 percent of recent graduates find employment or gain admission to additional schooling within 6 months of graduation.

Being a student at Missouri S&T is both work and play. One fun tradition at S&T is to put on two full weeks of celebrations for St. Patrick's Day—St. Patrick being the patron saint of engineers. This tradition has been going on for 112 years, and preparation for the two weeks of celebration takes place all year, during which Miners count down to the next "Greatest St. Pats Ever." A wagon with St. Pat aboard leads the annual parade through Rolla with families and alumni lining the street to greet the figure. After the two-hour parade, festivities kick off with concerts and food vendors, and they go through the night.

I'm proud to represent Missouri S&T and honored to commemorate the 150th anniversary of its founding. Miners makes our community better, and after graduation, they work

in the defense, engineering, technology, and other sectors to make our workforce and country better. For Missouri S&T, the past 150 years have been bright, and I hope the next 150 years will be even brighter.

GEORGE JENKINS HIGH SCHOOL  
CHEERLEADING CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. ROSS SPANO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2020*

Mr. SPANO. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the George Jenkins High School Cheerleading team for their championship performance at the state competition in Gainesville, Florida.

George Jenkins High School cheerleaders won their first state title while competing in the Medium Non-Tumbling Division and beating second place by 4.6 points.

Not only was this the first state title for the school in cheerleading, but just the fourth time George Jenkins High School has captured a title in any sport.

Prior to this, the Jenkins squad had never made it to the finals. However, their strong preparation, passion, and unwavering commitment to one another were instrumental in their victory.

The Jenkins cheerleading squad was led by their head coach Nashan Davis, who, after winning the title, held back tears in stating, "The coaches gave them the tools and they went out there and did their job today."

Congratulations once again to the George Jenkins Cheerleading team and on their title. They earned it and deserved it, and I look forward to seeing them defend it next year.

IN RECOGNITION OF DIANE  
ALBERIGI, UNICAN OF THE YEAR  
FOR SCRANTON CHAPTER OF  
UNICO NATIONAL

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2020*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Diane Alberigi, who will be named UNICAN of the Year for 2019. Diane will be honored at the annual UNICO Charity Ball, held on February 29, 2020, at Fiorelli's Manor in Peckville, Pennsylvania.

Diane is the daughter of Francis Tougher and Grace Reidenbach. She grew up in the Hill Section neighborhood of Scranton along with her sister, Francie. After graduating from Technical High School, Diane was employed by the Chamberlain Insurance Agency for 35 years. Since 2007, Diane has worked at NEPA Center for Independent Living, where she earned a certification in payroll operations and oversees the disbursement of checks to employees in 10 states.

Diane has lived in Clarks Summit since 1984. She is committed to her church and community, having served as a lector at both St. Peter's Cathedral and Our Lady of Snows. Diane volunteered for and chaired the Our Lady of Snows picnic for a decade. In between time, she also worked at the Glint of

Gold Jewelry Store on South Washington Avenue in Scranton.

Since joining UNICO in 2004 under the sponsorship of Chris DiMattio, Diane has been invaluable in the Scranton Chapter's activities. She served as treasurer of the Chapter's Ladies Auxiliary and co-chair of the cappuccino stand at La Festa Italiana, and she currently sits on the board of La Festa as well as the board of the Scranton Chapter. She was named a Northeast Woman by the Scranton Times-Tribune in June 2018.

Diane is also passionate about helping rescue animals and has four dogs, including a blind, special-needs dog. She has seven nieces and nephews, one great niece, and one great nephew.

It is an honor to recognize Diane as the Scranton Chapter of UNICO National's UNICAN of the Year for 2019. May she continue to honorably represent and serve the people of Northeastern Pennsylvania for many years to come.

TRAVIS AGUIRRE RECEIVES THE  
YOUNG ALUMNI HALL OF FAME  
AWARD

**HON. PAUL COOK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2020*

Mr. COOK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service and commitment of Travis Aguirre, who received the Young Alumni Hall of Fame Award from the Victor Valley College Foundation on February 22, 2020.

Captain Travis Aguirre's commitment to public service came from a passion of wanting to make an impact and difference in his career field. After receiving his Associate's in Fire Science from Victor Valley College, Travis transitioned from student to teacher and taught at the Fire Academy and within the EMT Program at the college. Beginning his fire career with City of Victorville Fire Department, he has progressed from Engineer to Captain with the San Bernardino County Fire Department. He consistently stays involved in his community, by mentoring local youth, serving in the San Bernardino County Fire Department Honor Guard, and serving as the Vice President of IAFF Local 935.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives, I congratulate Captain Travis Aguirre on this award, and thank him for his dedication and service to the residents of San Bernardino County. Captain Aguirre is a true mode of the professionalism and service of the San Bernardino County Fire Department.

HONORING FRANK PAREDES ON  
HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 25, 2020*

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Frank Paredes on his 100th birthday. Mr. Paredes is an upstanding World War II veteran and Pearl Harbor Survivor who I am proud to represent in Washington.

Mr. Paredes was born on February 15, 1920 in Douglas, Arizona and enlisted in the Army