

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARKWAYNE MULLIN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 2, 2020

Mr. MULLIN. Madam Speaker, I was not present the week of February 25–28, 2020 on account of supporting my son's continuing recovery. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 71; YEA on Roll Call No. 72; YEA on Roll Call No. 73; NAY on Roll Call No. 74; NAY on Roll Call No. 75; YEA on Roll Call No. 76; YEA on Roll Call No. 77; and NAY on Roll Call No. 78.

RECOGNIZING MS. ELIZABETH MANN AS THE SANTA ROSA COUNTY, FLORIDA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. MATT GAETZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 2, 2020

Mr. GAETZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Ms. Elizabeth Mann as the Santa Rosa County Teacher of the Year. Ms. Mann has served the Santa Rosa County School District with talent, passion, and an unwavering commitment to serving her students.

In Northwest Florida, we are fortunate to have some of the best teachers in the Nation. Teaching is a difficult profession, yet immensely rewarding. Ms. Mann has performed her teaching duties exceptionally, while also being an active and supportive member of our Northwest Florida community.

Her passion for teaching stemmed from her childhood, as both of her parents served as educators. I commend her for her steadfast willingness to serve those that matter most—the students and youth of our Nation.

Ms. Mann has set an example for all of her students, and has achieved the excellence that we strive for in Northwest Florida.

For all of her contributions to our community, I am truly proud to have Ms. Mann as a constituent in Florida's First Congressional District.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Ms. Elizabeth Mann for her many accomplishments, and her deep commitment to excellence, professionalism, innovation, and collaboration in the Santa Rosa County School District. I thank her for her service, and I wish her all the best for her continued success.

HONORING DELEQUA DRAKE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 2, 2020

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable community servant Ms. Delequa Drake.

Ms. Delequa Drake was born in Natchez, MS on December 12, 1986. She graduated with honors from Natchez High School in 2005. From there, she received an Associate of Arts degree from Copiah-Lincoln Community College in 2007. After receiving her Associate's degree, she transferred to Mississippi State University to pursue a degree in education. Upon arrival, she discovered a field (kinesthesiology) that piqued her interest as well as fed her burning desire to learn anything about everything. Two years later, she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Education with a concentration in Clinical Exercise Physiology. It was after this feat that this young adult experienced one of life's many curveballs.

While prepping and planning to attend graduate school at the University of Tennessee Chattanooga, this 22-year-old, Delequa Drake, received a call that would change her life forever. Her favorite person in the world, her grandmother, had just been notified that the lump in her breast was malignant. Ms. Drake decided to put her plans on hold and stay home to be closer to her family. She began working odd jobs that had no connection to her degree to make ends meet. In her downtime, she also volunteered to coach pee-wee basketball in the local recreational league. It was then that she first discovered her love for working with children. The philosophy for her players was "Grades before Plays" which worked out fine for everyone except a struggling young reader on the team. Ms. Drake took it upon herself to tutor this struggling reader while coaching him.

Much to his surprise and hers, the tutorials worked better than expected. The student's grade began to increase mightily. His reading grade improved from a letter grade of D to a letter grade of B by the end of the semester. Still, Ms. Drake had no clue that teaching was where she belonged. It wasn't until a few more success stories later that she even considered reverting to her original plan of teaching. After a lot of urging from family and friends, she was now 27 years old and finally decided to pursue her passion by taking the necessary steps toward becoming a teacher. She enrolled in Belhaven University's Master of Arts in Teaching program in the Fall of 2016 and never looked back.

Ms. Drake became the 2019–2020 Teacher of The Year from Gilmer McLaurin Elementary School. Congratulations to Ms. Delequa Drake for her accomplishments. She still lives by the philosophy of "Grades before Plays" and tries to instill in every child that she crosses paths with the importance of learning and her love for reading.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Delequa Drake for her dedication and tenacity to serving the community and the desire to be an example for all.

PEACE CORPS TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 2, 2020

Mr. TIPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the important contributions of the Peace Corps and its necessity to U.S. national security on its 57th Anniversary.

Over 235,000 volunteers have served in the Peace Corps since its creation in 1961. Of those volunteers, approximately 7,600 have been native Coloradans. All have played a critical role in creating community links that remain the foundation of U.S. security and diplomacy as well as building international personal relationships and living out a mission of service that extends beyond their tenure with the Peace Corps.

From teaching English, to helping farmers increase crop yields, to advising local business, the projects these volunteers pursue are wide ranging. In these various capacities, they function as the face of America overseas in locations where people have likely never met an American previously. Immersed in the local community through language and cultural immersion, volunteers are trusted by local decision makers.

As an important part of America's soft power arsenal, the Peace Corps has shown exceptional mission, vision, and outcomes. Its work abroad has resulted in improvements along U.S. borders because of its presence in Mexico, Nicaragua, and Peru, helping to fix conditions that have pushed citizens to leave their homes. In 2017, 121 retired generals and admirals wrote to Congress to convey their support for the Peace Corps because of this work, calling it vital to preventing conflict and reducing the need for military personnel to be put in harm's way.

Madam Speaker, through the dedication of each volunteer, the Peace Corps has become an enduring symbol of our nation's commitment to encouraging partnerships, creating opportunity, and expanding development at the grass-roots level in the developing world. I hope its service inspires other students and professionals from all walks of life.

EMMETT TILL ANTI-LYNCHING ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, one hundred years ago, Missouri Republican Congressman Leonidas Deyer introduced an anti-lynching bill in the 65th Congress. The legislation eventually died in the Senate in 1918. In the one hundred years since that failure, there have been over two hundred unsuccessful attempts to prohibit lynching in the

• 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.

United States through legislative redress. Those one hundred years saw the advent of the civil rights movement and Jim Crow, but it also was marred by undercurrents of racism and random acts of violence.

As the Representative of the Fourth Congressional District of Georgia and a senior member of the House Judiciary, this legislation, which would finally make the act of lynching a hate crime, has particular significance to me and my constituents. Our district is home to Stone Mountain which is commonly known as the symbolic birthplace of the modern Klu Klux Klan. Since 1915, the Klu Klux Klan has met at Stone Mountain and as recently as 2018, white supremacist organizations sought to rally atop the mountain with Confederate flags. Over the years, many civil rights battles have been won in our district, but our fight for equality is not over.

Lynching is a vestige of slavery and America's views on race and racism in this country. It has long been a practice used to keep enslaved Africans, and later, free Black men, women, and children living in terror. The practice has irrevocably damaged the American psyche. It is time to formally distance our country from these heinous acts and raise the crime to the consideration of a hate crime. In doing so, we declare to ourselves and the rest of the world that we will not tolerate bigotry in the United States and that those who would harm others because of the color of their skin will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Rep. BOBBY RUSH's Emmett Till Antilynching Act will finally be considered by the Full House. This bill honors Emmett Till, a 14-year-old African American boy lynched in Mississippi in 1955. As we progress towards a more perfect union by recognizing lynching for what it is—a hate crime, we reflect on how this heinous practice has been wielded to oppress minorities throughout American history.

My good friend Rep. RUSH brings this legislation to the House floor citing the riots that took place in Charlottesville in 2017 and during the deadly El Paso shooting in 2019. The lynching of black and brown people in our country is truly, as he says, prevalent in American society today. Its face may have evolved, but the crime of hate that it represents is indisputable.

The Senate passed a resolution in 2005 that apologized to victims of lynching crimes; however, lynching still is not classified as a federal hate crime. We honor, today, the herculean efforts from American heroes like my fellow Georgia Congressman JOHN LEWIS, who worked to mobilize our country against these violent acts.

We have waited too long to raise this crime to the level of a federal hate crime, and we cannot delay any longer. Only when we reckon with our troubled history and the epidemic of hate crimes against black and brown people in the United States can we begin to construct a more perfect union.

I'm proud to lend my support and my vote to this important legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO DESIGNATE THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AS AN EMPOWERMENT ZONE

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, March 2, 2020

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce a bill that would statutorily add the District of Columbia to the national empowerment zone program, which provides federal tax incentives for businesses to locate and invest in low-income areas. In 1993, Congress created the national empowerment zone program and left it to federal agencies to designate a certain number of low-income areas as empowerment zones. The District was not one of the areas selected. However, in 1997, working primarily with Republicans in Congress, I created federal tax incentives for investment in the District by businesses and individuals. The business incentives were similar to, but more generous than, those available under the national empowerment zone program. I got the D.C. incentives reauthorized regularly until 2011, when Congress refused to extend only the D.C. program. At the same time, the national empowerment zone program continued to be reauthorized and was reauthorized last year through 2020. Under my bill, certain low-income neighborhoods, particularly in Wards 5, 7 and 8, would be treated as empowerment zones as long as the national empowerment zone program remains in effect.

The wisdom of the bipartisan, modest, targeted business tax incentives for D.C. has been amply and visibly demonstrated in the economic resurgence of parts of the nation's capital where they were applied. Among the most visible examples are the formerly run-down area around the Verizon Center (now Capital One Arena), which is now surrounded by offices, restaurants and vibrant nightlife, and the Penn Quarter neighborhood, which had limited residential, commercial and retail spaces, and is now a popular mixed-use neighborhood.

Unfortunately, the D.C. tax incentives were allowed to expire before the poorest D.C. neighborhoods were ready to make use of them, especially in Wards 5, 7 and 8. Withdrawing the D.C. tax incentives, particularly after they had proven to be effective in other areas of the city, has left the nation's capital with essentially half of a revival, and was tragically timed just as the lower-income parts of the District, which need the incentives most, are ready for redevelopment. The effectiveness of these incentives for the District has been demonstrated and their costs have been de minimis compared to the measurable benefits they have generated in the District.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING AL WHITE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, March 2, 2020

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable community servant Mr. Al White.

Mr. White was born in Duck Hill, Mississippi in July of 1955. Duck Hill is in Montgomery County, a county laden with much civil rights history. Mr. White has committed his life to documenting and preserving this history.

Mr. White graduated from Duck Hill High School in 1973. He is also a graduate of Mississippi Valley State University. Mr. White worked with "Why Was Mississippi Burning" in response to the "Mississippi Burning" documentary. He documented the inception of Southern Echo and other entities. He's worked with the NAACP, COFO, ACLU, Kellogg, and the Algebra Project. He also continues to be instrumental in documenting the conferences, events, and interviews around the Veterans of the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement.

Mr. White is currently the Director of the MVSU TV Studio and Instructor at Mississippi Valley State University. In this role, he shares the history of the civil rights movement with his students, ensuring that this history is passed on to the next generation.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Al White for his dedication and tenacity to serving his community and desire to be an example for all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, March 2, 2020

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, on Friday, February 28, 2020 I regret not being present for a vote session. Had I been present, I would have voted in support of H.R. 2339—Protecting American Lungs and Reversing the Youth Tobacco Epidemic Act of 2019, Roll Call vote 78, and voted in support of H.R. 2819—Gold Star Mothers Families National Monument Extension Act, Roll Call Vote 76.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, March 2, 2020

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I was unable to attend votes due to circumstances beyond my control. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call No. 76; Yea on Roll Call No. 77; and Nay on Roll Call No. 78.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BILL O'ROURKE, JR

HON. JOSEPH D. MORELLE

OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, March 2, 2020

Mr. MORELLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Bill O'Rourke, Jr., a beloved pillar of our community, who passed away on January 28, 2020.

Mr. O'Rourke was above all an educator, coaching hundreds of students in the Webster Central School District for over forty years. Under the coaching of his father, O'Rourke became an outstanding player at St. John