

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## IN MEMORY OF AARON SHEPLEY

### HON. SEAN CASTEN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 5, 2020*

Mr. CASTEN of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Aaron Shepley. The State of Illinois has lost one of its most capable and dedicated public servants with the tragic death of Crystal Lake's longtime Mayor. In his long service to the community, as both mayor and city council member, a founding member of the drumline group the Crystal Lake Strikers, and dedicated husband and father, Aaron led with quiet humility, approachability, and selflessness.

A resident of Crystal Lake since 1972, Aaron was passionate and unwavering in his advocacy for the city, and eager to work in a unifying and positive manner to assist its residents. In a time when politics more often divides us, Aaron was most professionally proud of the congenial relationships among his fellow council members and the work of the Crystal Lake city staff. He leaves a beautiful legacy of highly competent and unselfish public service that should inspire us all.

In addition to his civic work, Aaron was also a drummer dedicated to supporting aspiring musicians. After learning to play drums for his 40th birthday, Aaron and two friends started Strikers, a drum line for adult percussionists. In the decade since their founding, the Strikers have gained local and national notoriety, and created several educational programs to support the performing arts in the northwest suburbs of Chicago. Aaron was the driving force behind the Strikers' Evening of Percussion fundraising event, and in the 11 years of awarding scholarships, the Strikers have provided over \$50,000 to local students.

Aaron Shepley was a class act, and I am grateful to have known and learned from him. I extend my deepest sympathy to Aaron's wife Regan and their daughters Chase and Madison, and the people of Crystal Lake, for this tremendous loss.

## TRIBUTE TO ROMEO WATKINS

### HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 5, 2020*

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a faithful, civic-minded man and a dear friend, Romeo Watkins, the father of my long-time Chief of Staff Yelberton Watkins, transitioned from this life on April 30, 2020. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

Romeo Watkins was a native of the Ridgewood community of Columbia, South Carolina. He was the third of eight children born to the late Deacon Leroy and Beatrice Harris Watkins. His was a close-knit family, with his ma-

ternal grandmother, Agnes Harris, living next door. She took Romeo and his siblings to her hometown of Bronson, Florida every summer, and played an important role in his upbringing. His maternal aunt, Mrs. Franklin Scott Harris, was very close to her nephew, and he spent many nights in her home across from the Governor's Mansion.

Romeo attended Ridgeway Elementary School and Booker T. Washington High School in Columbia. At a young age, he learned the value of hard work. In the mid-1960s, he became a civilian employee at the Fort Jackson U.S. Army training base and continued to work there until his retirement in 1993.

He began barbering as a 10-year old, practicing on his older brother Charles, and later owned and operated a barber shop on North Main Street in Columbia for over 40 years. Ever the entrepreneur, he was also a successful real estate agent. Known for his impeccable taste and style, he was always well dressed.

Those fortunate to know Mr. Watkins knew of his deep Christian faith. He was a life-long member of Ridgewood Baptist Church, joining as a child. A third-generation member, he served for many years on the Church History Committee and was regarded as a historian of the Ridgewood community. While he served in many capacities, his greatest joy at church was his long tenure as Leader of the Jubilee Choir, a role which his father held before him. He was well known throughout the city for his expert knowledge of shape-note singing of common meter hymns.

Mr. Watkins was also an avid golfer. It was on the golf course that we first met many years ago, and we bonded over our love of the sport. He learned to golf as a young caddy on Columbia's segregated golf courses, and he enjoyed playing in golf tournaments across Columbia and throughout the state. He was an annual attendee of my Rudolph Canzater Memorial Classic held each year in Santee, South Carolina, and he also served as a Commissioner of the Eau Claire Youth Baseball League.

Family was always at the center of his life. Left to cherish his memory are his wife of 58 years, Annette Caughman Watkins, and their four children: Quintus (Verdell) Young, Brigitte Watkins Long, Yelberton Romeo Watkins; and Vancito Ethridge Watkins; nine grandchildren: Quintus, Justin, Velicia, Gabrielle, Danielle, Autumn, Alexi, Tori, and Ashlyn; three great-grandchildren: Jamari, Raleigh, and Solomon; and a host of relatives, nieces, nephews, MeadowLake neighbors, and close friends.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of Romeo Watkins. He was a man grounded in faith and family, and no one can leave a greater legacy.

CONGRATULATING DALLAS KRUEGER FOR HIS WIN AT CLASS 1A STATE FINALS FOR WRESTLING AT THE IHSA STATE TOURNAMENT

### HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 5, 2020*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dallas Krueger, a senior from Rockridge High School, who won the Illinois High School Association's Class 1A State Finals Wrestling Tournament in the 138 pound weigh class.

At 138 pounds, Dallas pinned his opponent in four minutes and forty seconds to finish 47-0. As a former athlete, I appreciate the fortitude Dallas displayed to achieve his dream of being a state champion and commend him for his efforts and attitude. Dallas is an example of the importance of dedication and a strong work ethic, and I am proud to see him represent Taylor Ridge so well throughout the state with his talent and passion.

It is because of student leaders such as Dallas Krueger that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Dallas Krueger on his Class 1A State Finals title in Wrestling.

IN HONOR OF CHERISHED PUBLIC SERVANT, LETTER CARRIER MS. ANGELA SUMMERS—USPS

### HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 5, 2020*

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a cherished public servant of the United States Postal Service (USPS), Ms. Angela Summers.

Tragically, my congressional district, the 7th District of Indiana, recently lost Ms. Angela Summers, a Letter Carrier with the USPS, to gun violence while she was performing her duties on April 28, 2020. Angela joined the Postal Service almost two years ago, and she quickly became a prized employee. Her friends remember her as "fun-loving and bubbly." Her colleagues remember her as a public servant dedicated to customers. In turn her customers remember her not only as their Letter Carrier—but also as their friend, neighbor, and member of the community.

Postal workers are quite often the human face of government in our communities. They walk door-to-door in our neighborhoods, no matter the weather, earning the trust and confidence of our citizens, just as our neighbors earn our trust. Their deliveries not only mean that a highly anticipated package has arrived at your doorstep. Their work also serves as a subtle reminder that the government, composed of vast institutions, can still reach deep

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

into our communities to build trust on a human level and perform the work that must be done. The Postal Service—and its dedicated employees—are a testament to the work and value of government.

Each day, thousands of federal employees go out in our communities to work and live a life of service, sometimes facing very real, yet underappreciated risks to their lives. Their hard work and dedication often go unnoticed even though both are indispensable for our country, especially now during the current Covid-19 pandemic. I believe that we must recognize this great, indispensable work and commemorate the lives of America's public servants when the moment arises. And we must recognize those risks and the sacrifices made by our public servants to overcome them.

Today, I ask that my colleagues join me in commemorating the life of Ms. Angela Summers, and recognizing the United States Postal Service and the hard work of Letter Carriers in Indianapolis and across the country. Without the service and sacrifice of people like Ms. Summers, the ability of government to carry out critical services would stall and fail. I hope my colleagues will join me and extend our deepest condolences to the family and friends of Ms. Summers, and to express our most sincere gratitude for her service.

AMERICA'S GLOBAL LEADERSHIP  
DURING COVID-19

**HON. DAVID E. PRICE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 5, 2020*

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, now, more than ever, America must remain a global leader. We cannot afford to ignore what is happening outside our borders.

As we have learned from the Ebola and Zika crises before, and now the new coronavirus pandemic; infectious disease respects no borders and it has no political ideology.

No matter how successful we are in combating COVID-19 here at home, we will never neutralize the pandemic's threat unless we also fight it abroad.

As Congress continues to address the urgent domestic health and economic crisis, we also must maintain our nation's commitment to providing emergency resources to confront COVID-19 around the world. Such assistance must address both the immediate health crisis and the long-term effects of this pandemic.

Furthermore, the spread of the novel coronavirus has the potential to undo decades of American investments in democracy, health, education, agriculture, and security around the world. Only a robust, comprehensive response from the United States can ensure these investments are not lost and can prevent the exacerbation of second-order intractable social, economic, and political crises in communities ravaged by COVID-19.

As chairman of the House Democracy Partnership (HDP), a bipartisan congressional commission that works to strengthen parliaments in emerging democracies, I have seen first-hand the success of U.S. development assistance programming on the ground. We cannot and should not abandon these

hard-fought development gains or withdraw our leadership and leave our partners in the lurch at this critical time. HDP is organizing virtual round tables with our parliamentary colleagues, starting with Tunisia and Kosovo, to keep up the dialogue and show support.

Combating COVID-19 requires a bold, complex, and comprehensive response that must include coordination with and support for allies, partners, and developing countries, as well as multilateral international institutions, such as the World Health Organization (WHO).

The WHO is at the forefront of conducting vaccine research, distributing resources, and sharing best practices with governments around the world. Whatever criticisms we may have, this is not the time to cut funding to the very organization that may have the largest global impact on combating COVID-19.

The United States has a proud history of global leadership that is rooted in our country's founding purpose and in our strategic interests.

We must build on that legacy and join with our partners at home and abroad to respond to this pandemic. The stakes could hardly be higher.

RECOGNIZING THE YUMA COUNTY  
FARM BUREAU'S CENTENNIAL

**HON. PAUL A. GOSAR**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 5, 2020*

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, the Yuma County Farm Bureau is celebrating its centennial this year. An article in the Yuma Morning Sun dated January 8, 1920 notified farmers of the upper valley of a meeting at the courthouse to form and organize a farm bureau. The article goes on to say, "It seems that at last the farmers have come to the conclusion that united they stand and divided they fall." A century later, Yuma County Farm Bureau members remain united in their efforts to protect and promote farming and agriculture locally and beyond.

From its beginnings, the Farm Bureau has existed to give members the tools needed for success. That can mean financial expertise, communication skills, advocacy opportunities, training and opportunities to network with and learn from fellow farmers. It all comes together to help farmers stay strong and prosperous.

Yuma County Farm Bureau leaders work with elected officials and government agencies at the county, state, and national level to advocate on behalf of its members to address issues ranging from food safety, air quality, and water. These efforts help ensure agriculture remains a strong and viable industry. In Yuma County, agriculture is the single largest private sector contributor to Yuma County's gross domestic product.

Yuma County Farm Bureau members are also members of the Arizona Farm Bureau and the American Farm Bureau Federation. This means that the Farm Bureau today is county, state, and national in its scope and influence and provides members with a voice at all levels.

I look forward to Yuma County Farm Bureau's continued work and success as a voice for farmers ensuring a prosperous future for farming.

RECOGNIZING SARAH MCWHIRTER  
FOR BEING NAMED "DEPUTY OF  
THE YEAR" FOR HER HEROIC  
ACTIONS TO SAVE A CITIZEN OF  
ROCKFORD

**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 5, 2020*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Deputy Sarah McWhirter for being named "Deputy of the Year" by the Illinois Sheriff's Association for her heroic actions during an incident in 2018.

Deputy McWhirter is a four-year veteran of the Winnebago County Sheriffs Police and currently serves in the Sheriffs Crime Scene Unit. In August of 2018, Deputy McWhirter went above and beyond the call of duty to save both herself and a citizen from an armed robbery. The robber approached her car and got several shots off, but she pulled her weapon, defended herself, and saved the citizen. I want to thank Deputy McWhirter for her courageous actions during a life-threatening incident and for saving another person's life. Deputy McWhirter is a hero and I commend her actions to protect and save innocent lives.

It is because of leaders such as Deputy McWhirter that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Deputy Sarah McWhirter for being named "Deputy of the Year" by the Illinois Sheriff's Association and recognize her for her heroic actions at a citizen's time of need.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF SHELLY  
KNAPP

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 5, 2020*

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Shelly Knapp for her years of service to our nation. Her spouse, Colonel Lewis Knapp, is retiring on July 1, 2020 after 26 years of service and Mrs. Knapp's extraordinary service to the Army, Army Reserve, Army Families, Veterans and her community total over 4,500 hours of volunteer service.

From 2015 to 2020 Mrs. Knapp served as the Senior Volunteer Advisor for the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program Instructor/Facilitator, and Army Reserve Minuteman ROTC Scholarship Program Coordinator for the 63d Readiness Division, a two-star level Army Reserve Command located in Mountain View, California. She also volunteered in multiple capacities at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Palo Alto, California. In these capacities she volunteered over 1,500 hours as documented in the Army's Volunteer Management Information System.

In her SVA capacity Shelly Knapp advised the 63d RD Commanding General on all Family Program activities. She trained and mentored Family Readiness Group leaders across the command, scheduling and conducting Family Readiness training, organizing and assisting with Family Days for the 63d RD Headquarters and subordinate units. This represents 390 hours volunteered.