

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL POLICE WEEK 2020

HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in solemn recognition of the selfless sacrifice made by law enforcement officers across this great nation and to honor those who have fallen in the line of duty. Ever since President John F. Kennedy signed a proclamation designating May 15th as Peace Officer's Memorial Day, we as a nation have paused to show our support and eternal gratitude for the brave men and women who have paid the ultimate sacrifice while serving and protecting their fellow citizens.

I embrace this opportunity to pay tribute to our fallen law enforcement officers. These are true and brave public servants who made the conscious decision to stand in between the men, women, and children in their communities and those who would do them harm. While these courageous individuals hail from a broad spectrum of social and economic backgrounds, they all share the common instinct to protect and serve their fellow citizens. These officers are husbands and wives, fathers and mothers, sons and daughters. They understand the perils they face every day when they go to work in service of others, but they are defined by a rare sense of duty and a love for their fellow human beings. They keep our roads and highways safe. They safeguard our property. They secure the event sites and venues where we gather. They respond to incidents of domestic violence and calls for help. They bring criminals to justice. They are the ones who are moving toward the sound of the gunfire when everyone else is running away.

Law enforcement officers engage in thousands of face-to-face encounters throughout their careers. They do so in most cases without knowing, even in the midst of the encounter, if the individual or individuals they are confronting are in need of their help or intend to harm them. Too often, these encounters end tragically. 128 officers died in the line of duty in 2019. Including officers identified from previous years, 307 names will be added to the National Law Enforcement Officer Memorial here in Washington, D.C. this year. Eight of those names are from my home state of Maryland.

Officer Kyle David Olinger was a husband, a father, and a Police Officer in the Montgomery County Police Department. On August 8th, 2003, while serving the citizens of my home district, he initiated a traffic stop in Silver Spring, MD on a vehicle with three passengers. Officer Olinger observed one of the occupants attempting to conceal a handgun under the seat, and he ordered the man to drop the weapon. A struggle ensued, and Officer Olinger was shot in the neck and paralyzed below the chest. Despite his wounds, Officer Olinger, a former U.S. Marine, contin-

ued to serve his department until his injuries forced him to retire in 2007, demonstrating the type of man he was and his commitment to the service of others. On April 18th, 2019, Officer Olinger succumbed to complications from the gunshot wound he suffered in the line of duty. He is survived by his wife and two sons.

Beyond recognizing the bravery and sacrifice of law enforcement professionals like Officer Olinger, we must acknowledge the sacrifices made by their loved ones. Every day our officers leave for work, their families must live with the anxiety of knowing that they may not return home. The burden of the profession is not just borne by officers themselves. Their family members endure these circumstances for the benefit of others—in exchange for all the pain and suffering that is prevented by the actions of these dedicated officers. So, today we salute not only the fallen officers, but the loving families that supported them in their very challenging profession.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring all the courageous men and women who have taken the oath to protect and serve, and who have fallen in the line of duty. We are forever grateful for their sacrifice, and they will not be forgotten.

HONORING MURINDIA WILLIAMS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and ambitious woman, Ms. Murindia Williams. Murindia has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication and a desire to serve others.

Murindia was born and raised in Rolling Fork and began her career with Sharkey County in 1992 as a deputy clerk in the Chancery and Circuit Clerk's office. Ten years later she was chosen by the voters in the county to serve them as the first black Chancery and Circuit Clerk.

She is also heavily involved in community organizations, serving as co-chair for the Deep Delta Blues Heritage Festival and is a longtime member of the Ebonette Social and Civic Club. She is currently a member of the Circuit Clerks Leadership Committee, and is past president of that association, a member of the WWISCAA Advisory Board, and member of the Shiloh M. B. Church where she serves as choir president.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Murindia Williams for her passion and dedication to serving Sharkey County and desire to make a difference in the community.

RECOGNIZING GREATER VALDOSTA UNITED WAY

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Greater Valdosta United Way from Georgia's First District.

Since 1954, Greater Valdosta United Way has raised over \$35 million to support human services across their community.

Through their hard work and dedication of numerous businesses, clubs, and individuals, the organization has made a difference in the lives of thousands of Georgians.

Greater Valdosta United Way strives to advance the common good by investing in education, income, and health, which are the pillars for a strong and healthy community.

Last year, they remarkably exceeded their fundraising goal of \$750,000 by 105 percent.

I am so thankful for the tremendous work this organization has done to improve the lives of countless individuals across our district for so many years, and for their outstanding volunteers.

I want to encourage all involved with Greater Valdosta United Way to keep up the wonderful work they've done, and I wish them the best of luck in the future.

RECOGNIZING TEJ PATEL AS CONSTITUENT OF THE MONTH

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Tej Patel and his team at Fluxergy, a local company developing rapid COVID-19 testing, as my April Constituent of the Month. During this time of uncertainty and crisis, Americans are looking for beacons of hope in the fight against COVID-19. Tej and his team answered the call. Founded in 2013 by engineers Tej Patel, Ryan Revilla, and Jonathan Tu, Fluxergy, a medical diagnostic company based in Irvine, worked in collaboration with UC San Diego Health to create a testing system designed to diagnose COVID-19 in under an hour.

Tej saw a deficiency in the turn-around of testing for COVID-19, and knew there was a better way to address testing in the most efficient way possible. Many tests sent to outside labs range from days to weeks for a patient to receive their results. Fluxergy's on-site test for COVID-19 requires a very small sample, typically a nasal swab. This swab is mixed with a reagent solution, loaded onto the Fluxergy card and inserted into the Fluxergy Analyzer that produces results in under an hour.

During a rapidly spreading global pandemic, it is imperative to know the results of a patient's test as soon as possible. The quicker

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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.

we have results, the sooner we can implement proper precautions and care. Solutions like the testing system that Fluxergy developed can help us save lives.

I launched a Constituent of the Month program to recognize individuals who have gone above and beyond to make our region and our country a stronger place for everyone to live and thrive. There are countless health care workers, first responders, grocery workers and many others who deserve recognition. Today, I am proud to recognize Tej and his team's innovation during this time of crisis for our country, which is both inspiring and encouraging. I am honored to recognize Tej Patel and the Fluxergy team as my Constituent of the Month and I thank them for being beacons of light and hope for our community as we fight this global pandemic together.

HONORING IOWA'S TEACHERS AS
IOWANS OF THE WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, in honor of National Teacher Appreciation Week, I am recognizing the incredible educators of Iowa's Third Congressional District as our Iowans of the Week. Their daily contributions to our children's lives have perhaps never been more evident than during the past couple of months while our nation battles the COVID-19 pandemic. As distance learning has become the new norm, parents-turned-home-educators have developed a whole new appreciation for the academic, social, and emotional support teachers provide our children.

It has been remarkable to see educators and school staff rise to the challenge of serving their students in the face of this unprecedented crisis. With little time to plan and while coping with the pandemic themselves, they transitioned lesson plans to fit the constraints of distance learning and have worked hard to find creative ways to keep students engaged. Within the Des Moines Public School district alone, teachers have now moved more than 6,300 Pre-K through 8th grade classes to an online learning platform and distributed nearly 21,000 laptop computers to students across grade levels. In districts across central and southwest Iowa, teachers have also packed countless bags of books, school supplies, games, and other supports for students and families. And at Thomas Jefferson High School in Council Bluffs, teachers are now hosting activities like Anime Club meetups via Google Hangouts.

Their efforts extend far beyond traditional lesson plans. Teachers were among the first to recognize and fill the void of food insecurity for many students in their school districts; for weeks now, they have stepped up to pack and serve tens of thousands of meals weekly for students who might otherwise go without. They know many students still need a wellness check, so educators have donned masks and knocked on doors to make sure students are safe and secure. And at the end of the day, teachers still find the energy to organize parades through their school districts just to put a smile on their students' faces.

Their contributions to our community don't end with their students. We even have teach-

ers who are working around the clock to produce face shields for health care workers on their school's 3D printers.

Teachers deserve special recognition this week and every week for their willingness to go above and beyond for the benefit of our students and families. In many ways, educators are the heart of Iowa's communities. They are thoughtful caretakers and mentors of our generations to come, and it is a role they approach with purpose and compassion. While educators face various professional challenges, many see teaching as their life's calling. I am grateful for every person who has chosen to spend their careers sparking curiosity and creativity in our children. So please allow me to express my deep appreciation and thanks to every teacher in Iowa's Third Congressional District, and to honor them as Iowans of the Week.

RECOGNIZING JO ELLIS AND
MAKE.DO.

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, today I recognize Jo Ellis and her team at the nonprofit organization Make.Do., an organization that has been restoring hope through creativity, connection, and compassion in Searcy, Arkansas.

The team at Make.Do. has shifted their focus during the current public health crisis due to COVID-19 and have dedicated their abilities to making masks for the community and healthcare workers, so far producing more than 780 masks.

The team has also adapted their community outreach by starting the Quarantine Craft Camp. Here, they provide craft supplies to Searcy residents and encourage them to participate in the educational Facebook Live events that they host.

This initiative has shined a light on how creativity encourages positive attitudes and can unite a community even amidst a public health crisis.

I congratulate Jo Ellis and the team at Make.Do. for their creative way to bring the community of Searcy together.

HONORING ESTHER MARTIN
RIGSBY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Mrs. Esther Martin Riggsby. Mrs. Esther Martin Riggsby entered into eternal rest March 17, 2020. She was born August 31, 1932 to Reverend and Mrs. Alex L. Martin in Port Gibson, Mississippi. She was a graduate of Claiborne County Training School, where she was the class salutatorian and choir accompanist. She matriculated at Alcorn State University where she received a Bachelor of Science Degree in English Education. While at Alcorn, she was a member of the col-

lege choir, the Dramatic Guild, and was initiated into the Gamma Phi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.

On December 25, 1954, she united in holy matrimony to her college sweetheart: Dr. John D. Riggsby. He predeceased her.

Her other educational attainments included the Master of Science Degree in English Education from Indiana University. She also attained advanced certifications in Curriculum and Instruction and did additional studies at Mississippi State University, University of Southern Mississippi and New York University.

Her teaching career was in several Mississippi School Districts: Quitman County, Leflore County, Rankin County and Jackson Public Schools. During her career, she taught English, Journalism, Speech, Drama and Reading. She served as newspaper and yearbook advisor, District-wide English Department Chair, and participated in the writing and implementation of English instructional manuals. She was also employed at Tougaloo College as an Assistant Professor of English and Coordinator of Humanities Special Events. During her career, she served as an Adjunct Instructor of English at Alcorn State University, Jackson State University and Hinds Community College.

Further, she was an Essay Reader for the Graduate Record Examination administered by the Educational Testing Service.

As a child, she joined First Baptist Church in Port Gibson, Mississippi where she was the pianist for the church and state pianist for the General Missionary Baptist State Convention of Mississippi. Mrs. Riggsby was a member of New Hope Baptist Church in Jackson, Mississippi for over sixty years. She served in many capacities: pianist for the Senior Choir; Co-Director of the Junior Choir; Alto vocalist in the Sanctuary Choir; Vice President of the Women's Missionary Union; Publicity Coordinator; and Deaconess Chair.

Her community service included membership in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Jackson Urban League, and the International Community Ambassadors Network.

Mrs. Riggsby served Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority on many levels: President of the Beta Delta Omega Chapter, 17th South Eastern Regional Director, member of the International Board of Directors, and served on five international committees: Standards, Membership, Programs, Nominating and Constitution. She was co-author of the local chapter history book: "Capturing A Vision Fair" and a member of the Editorial Advisory Board for the Sorority's centennial history publication: "Pearls of Wisdom." She was a charter member of The LeFleur's Bluff Chapter of The Links, Incorporated where she served as Financial Secretary and Chair of the Arts Facet.

She was inducted into the Alcorn State University's Hall of Honor and received the NAACP's Mother of the Year Award. She also received many recognitions and honors for her leadership in various organizations. She served as a mentor to numerous students and teachers.

Mrs. Riggsby is survived by her four sons: Reginald D. Riggsby, M.D., of Madison, Mississippi; Delbert K. Riggsby, Esq. of Mitchellville, Maryland; Mark D. Riggsby of Beech Island, South Carolina; and Kenneth W. Riggsby of Nashville, Tennessee. Her daughters-in-law are Terri, Linda, and Virginia