EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND SERVICES IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2021

SPEECH OF

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Family Violence Prevention and Services Improvement Act. The Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence and its members have clearly communicated to me the critical nature of the Family Violence Prevention and Services funding and the improvements included in this legislation to Chicago and the state of Illinois.

In 2020, these funds helped provide over 547,287 hours of service in Illinois, assisting 42,886 adult survivors of domestic violence and 8,055 child witnesses. These dollars provided shelter, transportation and parental support, legal advocacy and education, crisis intervention, and connections to community resources. For example, Ascend Justice use these federal funds to support their vital work to obtain Orders of Protection for their clients.

Similarly, Metropolitan Family Services used these funds to provide direct emergency support to their clients to help survivors of domestic violence to find or maintain safer housing, feed and clothe their families, protect themselves from COVID–19, and access lifesaving services remotely during the pandemic. Specifically, here are just a few ways Metropolitan Family Services used these funds:

Provided rent and utility payment assistance of between $500 to $1000 for 32 clients;

Paid for five hotel shelter nights for a client who was unable to access other emergency shelter when she needed it;

Provided grocery gift cards of between $50 to $250 per client for 18 clients experiencing food insecurity;

Provided clothing, toiletries, and/or PPE kits to 50 clients;

Purchased and distributed educational materials about COVID–19 to clients and community members;

Purchased eight Chromebooks to loan to clients to participate in remote domestic violence counseling services to overcome their lack of adequate technology; and

Purchased four laptops for the Domestic Violence Court advocates, allowing them to continue assisting clients with Orders of Protection, legal referrals, and courtroom support while the Centralized Domestic Violence Courthouse in Chicago was operating remotely.

These funds and services mean the difference between safety and harm, and I applaud this House for improving the Family Violence Prevention and Services program. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this legislation.

RECOMMENDING THAT THE HOUSE FIND STEPHEN K. BANNON IN CONTEMPT OF CONGRESS

SPEECH OF

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 2021

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I would like to associate myself with the remarks of all of my colleagues on the Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol, and particularly those of the Select Committee's Vice Chair, LIZ CHENEY of Wyoming.

Their contributions to this debate have underscored our legislative purpose, the centrality of Steve Bannon's role in our investigation, and the importance of compliance with a duly issued congressional subpoena to the rule of law. I am proud to lead them in this investigation authorized by the House in H. Res. 503.

HONORING THE CAREER OF MAJOR DENNIS ALLEN

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 27, 2021

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and recognize the retirement of a true American hero, Major Dennis Allen. Major Allen has served his community and Nation admirably for 55 years, including three years in the military and 52 years as a law enforcement officer.

Born on August 13, 1947, to parents Jo and Bill Allen, Dennis spent his childhood in Silsbee, Texas. Following his graduation from Silsbee High School in 1966, he joined the Army and served a year-long tour of duty in Vietnam from January 1967 to January 1968. In Vietnam, he spent his time as a light weapons member of a 10-man reconnaissance team in the Central Highlands area of North Pleiku.

After being honorably discharged in 1969, he attended Georgetown University and trained at the Metropolitan Police Academy in Washington, D.C. He later served as a patrolman, undercover detective, and member of the Civil Disturbance Unit for the Washington D.C. Metropolitan Police Department (MPD). As an MPD officer, he was one of many called to respond to the mass demonstrations in D.C. on "May Day" in 1969, which resulted in the arrests of more than 6,000 rioters and protesters of the Vietnam War.

In 1973, Dennis returned to his hometown in Texas and began working for the Silsbee Police Department, eventually serving in every position within the agency, including Chief of Police. He later moved on to work for two other law enforcement entities located in Southeast Texas, including the Polk County Sheriff's Office, where he was the Captain of Detectives for ten years, and the Hardin County Sheriff's Office, where he held the positions of Deputy Sheriff, Sergeant, and Major of Criminal Investigations during his stay. In addition to his law enforcement education, Dennis holds a Master Peace Officer License through the state of Texas and has held that level of certification since 1994.

To say that Dennis has had a remarkable career is a vast understatement as few law enforcement officers reach 50 years of service. The positive impact he has made is evident by the number of officers he has mentored and trained, many of whom have become supervisors and administrators themselves. Their accomplishments are a direct reflection of the leadership and instruction they received from Major Allen.

Yet, life was not only about law enforcement for Dennis, especially after marrying his beautiful bride Sandy in 1973. Dennis and Sandy have two children, Kevin Allen and Stacy Caldwell, and are also the proud grandparents of six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank Major Dennis Allen for his more than half a century of unwavering commitment to his community and country. He has done so with incredible integrity and professionalism, and I am honored to represent such a patriot in Congress.

RECOGNIZING JOE EDMONSON AND FAMILY

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 27, 2021

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Mr. Joe Edmonson who has been named Mississippi's Farmer of the Year by the Sunbelt Agriculture expo. I am proud to have him representing our state.

Joe has been a motivated and passionate farmer for his entire life. At the age of fifteen, he purchased his first forty acres of land. Both Joe and his wife Melissa grew up in farming families and have dedicated their lives to Topshaw farms. Melissa is a full partner in the farms and is an essential figure in the Vardaman Sweet Potato Festival. Their daughter, Brandi also works in the business side of the farm. Her husband, Shaun manages the packing warehouse line. Son Trent oversees planting and harvesting, and his wife is a nurse who aids in minor medical incidents around the farm. Son Cody manages sweet potato planting and grain harvesting and his wife Lindsey works in the packing warehouse offices and manages H2A work.

The farm has endured multiple natural disasters that affected their crop and livestock. The Edmonson family has taken these hardships as opportunities to expand and built an impressive packing facility. They have taken

into stride changes in agriculture technology and continue to evolve with the modem world. Joe and his family contribute to their surrounding community through the Boy Scouts, Vardaman FFA, Calhoun County 4–H and the state Farm Bureau.

Family is at the core of Mr. Edmonson's farming career. Joe, Melissa, Brandi, Trent and Cody have been a pillar of the Vardaman community and have made incredible contributions to Calhoun County. I am grateful for their lifetime of service and commend him for his outstanding work in agriculture.

RECOGNIZING COMPASSUS HOSPICE IN SPRINGFIELD, MO

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 27, 2021

Mr. LONG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Compassus Hospice in Springfield, MO for their innovative work in providing hospice care.

Founded in 1979, Compassus Hospice in Springfield is the oldest facility in the Compassus system and has provided critical care for Southwest Missourians. Hospice providers deliver end-of-life services for seriously ill patients, including bereavement support for their families and community. Compassus Hospice has always been at the forefront of hospice care, leading the industry in innovation for end-of-life care.

Compassus Hospice has also worked to improve care by working with lawmakers to advance coordinated care with community partners. Their dedication to providing this critical care is truly commendable. November is National Hospice and Palliative Care Month, and Compassus in Springfield will celebrate its more than 40 years of patient care on November 18.

Madam Speaker, for 42 years, Compassus Hospice in Springfield has been at the leading edge of providing end-of-life healthcare along with bereavement service for families. I congratulate them on 42 years of service and wish them all the best in the many years to come.

CONGRATULATING JEFFREY VENHUIZEN FOR HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE ROCK ISLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 27, 2021

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Chief Jeffrey R. VenHuizen, who is retiring from the Rock Island Police Department after nearly 29 years of service. His last day with the Department will be October 31, 2021.

Chief VenHuizen first joined the Rock Island Police Department on February 1, 1993, after earning a degree in Law Enforcement Administration from Western Illinois University. From K–9 Officer to Patrol Lieutenant, Chief VenHuizen has held every position imaginable at the Department. His peers rewarded him for his hard work and steadfast dedication to protecting our community when he was named Chief of Police on December 10, 2012. Under his tutelage, the Department made outstanding strides forward. He helped enact the first body camera system in an agency of its kind in the Quad Cities region, implement community-oriented policing strategies, and reduce crime to unprecedented levels. Chief VenHuizen, along with his selflessness and dedication to the city of Rock Island, will be dearly missed.

It is because of courageous and venerable leaders such as Chief VenHuizen that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to, again, formally recognize Chief Jeffrey R. VenHuizen on his retirement and thank him for his almost 29 years of service to our community.

HONORING BENJAMIN BYNUM, SR.

HON. DWIGHT EVANS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 27, 2021

Mr. EVANS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a renown and trailblazing entrepreneur from Philadelphia, Benjamin Bynum, Sr., a savvy businessman, and former United States Marine who died on Tuesday, October 19, 2021 at the age of 93.

Benjamin Louis Bynum, Sr. was born in Lexington, South Carolina on April 6, 1923. He was one of five brothers and five sisters. During World War II, he was a member of the Montford Point Marines, making him among the first African Americans to join the U.S. Marines Corps.

Mr. Bynum was also a long-time businessman that operated some of the most popular; restaurants, jazz, and blues venues in the city of Philadelphia. Venues including—the Cadillac Club, which became known for booking well-known entertainers such as Aretha Franklin, Nina Simone, Kenny Gamble, Count Basie, George Benson, Fats Domino, Woody Herman, Bill Paul, and the Stylistics. As a matter of fact, Bill Paul's first album was called ''Feeling Good at the Cadillac Club,'' paying homage to the venue.

His venues were known for providing an upscale environment and terrific cuisine.

A cultural hub that was often frequented by black professionals and famous people. Which gave it a national reputation and following. Former Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter, who worked as a disc jockey under the name ''Mixmaster Mike'', at a Bynum establishment, credits Mr. Bynum in influencing him into getting in politics. Nutter said he got lessons in diplomacy, hospitality, and government while working there. He proclaimed, ''I would never have been in public service if not for Ben Bynum.''

Additionally, Mr. Bynum raised his sons to be business savvy and great restauranteurs. They are successful entrepreneurs in their own right. He was super proud of his children and their careers, declaring ''This is the seed that I planted.'' Mr. Bynum was a hard worker that often stressed that he would never retire. He worked well into his 90's. He could often be detected working the door at his sons' restaurants.

As evidenced by his extraordinary life and career, Benjamin Bynum, Sr. served his nation in the military and was a trailblazing entrepreneur. He was a model citizen and proud Philadelphian. The 3rd Congressional District of Pennsylvania extends gratitude to Mr. Bynum for his dedicated support and service to the people and the city of Philadelphia. I offer sincere condolences to his family; to his brother, Jimmy, his sons Robert and Benjamin Jr., his daughters Antoinette, Benita, and Denee, nine grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild, his partner, Thelma and friends on his passing.

RECOGNIZING JOES, CO, VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER LARRY WYANT

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 27, 2021

Mr. BUCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Joes, Colorado, volunteer firefighter Larry Wyant. On Tuesday, October 26, 2021, Mr. Wyant was headed to the funeral of another area firefighter, Mr. Darcy Stallings, when a fire began in a cornfield in southern Yuma County. Mr. Wyant was responding to the call when high winds changed the direction of the grasslands fire, claiming his life.

The small town of Joes is a close-knit community, and Mr. Wyant an integral part of it. Every volunteer stopped what they were doing to help contain the grasslands fire that day, according to Joes Fire Department. Mr. Wyant's commitment to his friends and community will be remembered. His bravery and heroic actions serve as a reminder of the great sacrifice our first responders make.

Madam Speaker, I am humbled and honored to recognize Mr. Wyant's service and sacrifice. I want to extend my deepest condolences to Mr. Wyant's family, friends, fellow firefighters, and community.

TRIBUTE IN MEMORY OF NANCY MITCHELL

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 27, 2021

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the memory of my dear friend, Nancy Mitchell of Corbin, Kentucky, who earned her heavenly reward on October 24, 2021 after an extended battle with cancer.

Nancy and I first became acquainted when her husband, Bob Mitchell, helped lead my first congressional campaign in 1980. I asked Bob to serve as my District Director in 1981, and for 40 years, even after Bob retired, Nancy was a tried-and-true member of Team Rogers, quickly earning the friendship of countless folks across southern and eastern Kentucky with her welcoming smile and delightful personality. When it was time to hit the road for Town Hall meetings across my expansive rural, mountainous district, Nancy put her life and her business on hold to join us for many long days and nights traveling from county to county, learning how we could help