

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING COACH SEAN DESAI

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 1, 2021

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Coach Sean Desai, the first person of South Asian and Indian heritage to attain the elite position of Defensive Coordinator in the National Football League (NFL). Sean's trailblazing ascent with the Chicago Bears football team serves as a shining example of what South Asian and Indian-Americans can achieve in our nation and in professional sports.

Coach Desai was born in Shelton, Connecticut and attended Boston University, where he majored in Philosophy and Political Science and graduated Cum Laude in 2004. He then earned a master's degree in higher and postsecondary education from Columbia University, and a doctorate in educational administration from Temple University. Postdoctorate, Coach Desai served as an adjunct professor at Temple and Defensive and Special Teams' Coordinator for the Temple Owls football team. He joined the University of Miami as Assistant Director of Football Operations in 2011 and spent the 2012 season as the Running Backs' Coach and Special Teams' Coordinator at Boston College.

In 2013, Coach Desai was hired by the Chicago Bears as a Quality Control Assistant, working with defensive backs and linebackers while assisting the special teams' coaches. Coach Desai held this position until 2018, when he was promoted to Safeties Coach. His colleagues attribute Coach Desai's meteoric rise to his experience as an educator and his ability to connect with his players. In his own words:

The ability to develop and have a chance to lead young men and bring them past what they can do . . . opened my eyes to a whole new world of education. To me, that's what an educator has to do—whatever you are teaching . . . I mean, if you're not out there to develop and help bring kids to a place that they can't be on their own, then I don't know what the purpose of education is.

Racial biases have thwarted upward mobility for men and women of color since the NFL's inception in 1920. As the first South-Asian and Indian-American Defensive Coordinator in the NFL, Coach Desai will inspire young men and women of all ethnicities and races to believe that they can and should aspire to positions of leadership in professional sports.

As a die-hard Chicago Bears fan, I am thrilled to congratulate Coach Sean Desai on his remarkable achievement with the Bears and the trail he is blazing for future generations. I wish him great success in his new role and in all his future endeavors. Let's Go Bears!

CONGRATULATING DEREK BERGSTEN OF ROCKFORD FOR RECEIVING THE "FIRE CHIEF OF THE YEAR" AWARD FROM THE ILLINOIS FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 1, 2021

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Derek Bergsten for winning the Fire Chief of the Year Award from the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association. This honor recognizes an exemplary fire chief who makes "significant ongoing contributions" to the profession and who was a full-time chief serving a city of more than 25,000 people.

After joining the Rockford Fire Department in 1994, Derek worked his way through the ranks to become a Captain. In 2007, he was named chief, becoming just the 10th chief in department history since 1880. During his time he created a mobile integrated health program that has worked to reduce visits to area emergency rooms, hospital admissions, and ambulance calls. Derek is responsible for the success of departmental accreditation through the Center for Public Safety Excellence, Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services, and Accreditation for Government Fleet Management Services. He expanded the certified fire vehicle repair shop operated by the department to reduce down time for fire equipment across the region while creating revenue. He also created a program that allows Rockford fire personnel to transport patients experiencing a mental health issue to the Rosecrance Mulberry Center for evaluation rather than a potentially stressful emergency room. In order to prevent overdose deaths, he created a program that provides Naloxone kits and training to the families of those who have overdosed, driving down the number of opioid overdose deaths. Derek is the first Fire Chief from our region chosen for this honor in over forty years. I commend him on his work to better the Rockford community through his job as a fire chief.

It is because of leaders such as Derek Bergsten that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally recognize Derek Bergsten for winning the Fire Chief of the Year Award.

LEXINGTON MEDICAL CENTER
50TH ANNIVERSARY PROCLAMATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 1, 2021

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, Lexington Medical Center celebrated its 50th anniversary in January 2021.

From starting as a small community hospital in 1971 to becoming the anchor of a modern medical complex today, the hospital's mission is to provide quality health services that meet the needs of the community.

In 1966, voters approved a referendum for the hospital, creating the biggest development project ever in Lexington County. A gracious donation of more than 22 acres of land from the Hulon family provided the site in West Columbia.

On January 6, 1971, Lexington County Hospital, as it was first called, a four-story building a fraction of the size of the hospital today, opened. There were 125 beds and 250 employees.

Over the years, Lexington Medical Center has emerged as a leader in health care. It grew steadily into a large health care organization with a wide variety of services.

Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, Lexington Medical Center pioneered community medical centers throughout Lexington County, created the Lexington Medical Center Foundation, began operating a skilled nursing facility and Alzheimer's care center, and established a physician network with a variety of medical specialties.

In the early 2000s, Lexington Medical Center added a new tower to its campus along with medical office buildings.

In 2012, Lexington Medical Center began providing a full range of heart services including open heart surgery and therapeutic cardiac catheterizations. Since then, Lexington Medical Center's heart program has established itself as a national leader in cardiac care, earning a three-star rating—the highest rating possible—from The Society of Thoracic Surgeons, and becoming one of only 30 hospitals in the United States to receive a HeartCARE™ Center National Distinction of Excellence from the American College of Cardiology.

In 2019, Lexington Medical Center completed the largest hospital expansion in South Carolina history when it opened its new patient care tower.

Today, Lexington Medical Center has 557 beds, four community medical centers, 70 physician practices and more than 7,000 employees. The network also has an occupational health center and the largest skilled nursing facility in the Carolinas. Lexington Medical Center operates one of the busiest Emergency departments in South Carolina, treating nearly 90,000 patients each year. The hospital delivers approximately 4,000 babies each year, performs more than 27,000 surgeries and has more than 1,000,000 physician office visits.

Lexington Medical Center has received local and national awards for its outstanding patient care.

As the only locally owned, independent hospital in the Midlands, Lexington Medical Center strives to offer the most outstanding care to our families, friends and neighbors now and in the future.

• 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.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF DR. CHARLES EUGENE
COWLES, JR.

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 1, 2021

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my dear friend Dr. Charles Eugene Cowles, Jr. of Houston, Texas. Dr. Cowles went to be with the Lord on December 26, 2020 following a motor vehicle accident.

Charles was born on April 19, 1968, to Charles Eugene Cowles, Sr. and Carol Janice Wood Cowles in Houston, Texas, at Hermann Hospital. He grew up in the Houston area with varied interests and developed lifelong friendships in the process. Charles suffered a personal tragedy as a young adult when his father died unexpectedly.

In 1986, Charles completed an associate's degree and became a paramedic and firefighter with the Beaumont Fire Department. He pursued degrees in sports medicine and nursing and completed studies to become a registered nurse (RN) in 1998 and also worked in area trauma centers in the ER as a nurse. He continued as a paramedic supervisor until 1995, when he began teaching EMS courses at San Jacinto College. Charles also had the opportunity to assist in the creation of curricula for medical training of NASA astronauts serving aboard the International Space Station and personally instructed several classes of Astronauts and Cosmonauts in emergency medical response at the Johnson Space Center in Houston from 1995 to 2006. Charles obtained his bachelor's degree in Sports Medicine from the University of Houston in 1998. He later earned a master's degree in business administration from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in 2013.

Charles took the next step in his professional career when he began medical school at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center—Houston. He graduated in 2004 and accepted an anesthesiology residency at UT Houston, training in the same hospital where he was born. Upon completing his residency, he joined the faculty in the Anesthesia division at the world-renowned MD Anderson Cancer Center, working as a neuro-anesthesiologist, and rose to the rank of Professor before his untimely death.

Dr. Cowles used the knowledge and wisdom he gained as a first responder throughout his medical and professional career. He served on multiple institutional safety committees and was ultimately named the chief safety officer for the Anesthesiology Division in 2016. Charles was an international expert in operating room fire safety and traveled worldwide teaching from his unique experience as both a firefighter and anesthesiologist. He served on multiple committees for local, state, and national medical societies. Not wanting to limit his contributions solely to anesthesia, Dr. Cowles also served as the Tactical Medical Director of the Pasadena Police Department and as the Local Health Authority for the City of Pasadena, Texas. Additionally, Dr. Cowles advised my staff, and I, on health care policy matters.

Inside and outside of work, his family, and faith were essential to Charles. Dr. Cowles

was highly involved at First Baptist Church of Pasadena, where he served as a deacon and director of the church's medical committee. Charles was also a Board Member of First Baptist Christian Academy where his three sons attended elementary and middle school. He also served on the board of Youth Reach Houston, a home for troubled boys.

Dr. Cowles was a man of many personal and professional achievements, but more than all he was a family man. He and his loving wife Jennifer Kendrick Cowles met when she attended one of Charles' paramedic courses in 1995. Charles and Jennifer married on May 19, 2000 and celebrated twenty years of marriage earlier in 2020. Together they have three sons Christopher, Caleb and Jacob.

Dr. Charles Eugene Cowles, Jr. lived a full life focused on being a husband, father, man of faith, physician, first responder, teacher, medical leader, a connoisseur of barbeque, and grand storyteller. For all these things, he will be missed by many—myself included. I will continue to keep his family, medical family, and his friends in my prayers.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA NATIONAL
GUARD HOME RULE ACT**

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 1, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia National Guard Home Rule Act, which would give the mayor of the District of Columbia control over the D.C. National Guard. I am very pleased that Congresswoman CAROLYN MALONEY, Chair of the Committee on Oversight and Reform, which has primary jurisdiction over this bill, is an original cosponsor, as is Congressman ANTHONY BROWN, a member of the Committee on Armed Services, which also has jurisdiction over this bill. The mayor of the District should have the same authority over the D.C. National Guard that governors of the states and territories have over their National Guards. Each governor—including the governors of the three U.S. territories with National Guards—has the authority to deploy their National Guard to protect his or her state or territory, just as local militia did historically. The events at the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021, and the events at Lafayette Square on June 1, 2020, are prime examples of why this bill is so important.

The National Guards in the states and territories operate under dual federal and local jurisdiction. Yet the D.C. National Guard operates under the sole jurisdiction of the president. Today, by far the most likely need for the D.C. National Guard here would be for natural disasters, such as hurricanes and floods, and to restore order in the wake of civil disturbances. The mayor, who knows the city better than any federal official and who works closely with federal security officials, should be able to call out the D.C. National Guard for local natural disasters and civil disturbances. The president should be focused on national matters, including homeland security, not local D.C. matters. If it makes sense that governors have control over their National Guards, it makes equal sense for the mayor of the District, with a population the size of a small state, to have the same authority.

My bill is another important step toward completing the transfer of full self-government powers to the District that Congress began with the passage of the Home Rule Act of 1973, when it delegated most of its authority over District matters to an elected mayor and Council. The bill follows that model.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

**HONORING THE MOLINE PUBLIC
LIBRARY FOR ITS WORK WITH
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 1, 2021

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Moline Public Library for its work with people with disabilities. The library received an award from the American Library Association for their efforts—becoming the only library in North America to win in this category.

The Moline Public Library has made a special effort in recent years to make their library more accessible for everyone in their community—beginning with a reading and education book club for people with disabilities. Additionally, the Moline Public Library works with ARC of the Quad Cities and Quad City Arts to provide programming and activities for engagement. I commend the Moline Public Library for its work with people with disabilities, and I thank them for their continued service to the Moline community.

It is because of community leaders such as the Moline Public Library that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally honor the Moline Public Library for winning an award from the American Library Association for its work with people with disabilities.

**RECOGNIZING NATIONAL SCHOOL
COUNSELING WEEK**

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 1, 2021

Ms. SÁNCHEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the tireless work of school counselors across the country and in the 38th district of California that I am honored to represent. These public servants help develop well-rounded students by guiding them through their academic, social-emotional, and career development.

Marla Diaz, a counselor at El Rancho High School in Pico Rivera, California, is exactly the type of champion students need. Marla has been a counselor since 2001 and has been instrumental in the lives of the students she works with in the school.

Not only does Marla know all the students in her caseload of 400 but she also has created workshops and presentations for students and parents on the programs available at the school. Her leadership within the Project Lead the Way Biomedical Sciences and Engineering programs has helped students learn and apply a hands-on approach to solving and designing