

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING MR. AND MRS. BETTERTON ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MO BROOKS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 6, 2021

Mr. BROOKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. and Mrs. Betterton on their fiftieth wedding anniversary.

Erby Wayne Betterton was born on February 28, 1948 in Decatur, Alabama. Four years later, Valeri Lynn Dunaway was born on May 21, 1952, in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

While on leave from his duties in the U.S. Army, Wayne met Valeri through his brother. After Wayne finished his three-year commitment to the Army, he returned home and proposed to Valeri on her 18th birthday, which also happened to be the day she graduated from Butler High School. On August 01, 1971, Wayne and Valeri were married at West Huntsville Church of Christ.

Looking back over their life together, Wayne and Valeri recognize the many blessings they have experienced together.

For instance, Wayne served in the U.S. Army on the front lines of the Vietnam War and returned home safely. Upon returning home and completing his service, Wayne went to work as a tire builder with Dunlop Tire Company. Meanwhile, Valeri worked in the food stamp office until 1975, when she and Wayne welcomed their first daughter into their home. Later, in 1979, Valeri had another little girl. By this time, Valeri chose to change her career to become a stay-at-home mother.

Later, Valeri returned to work as a state employee and retired after twenty-five years of service. Wayne retired after thirty-three and a half years at Dunlop, which is when the plant was closed.

Today, Wayne and Valeri are enjoying retirement by being heavily involved in their grandchildren's lives and their local church and community. One of their favorite past times is watching the Atlanta Braves.

Madam Speaker, Wayne and Valeri Betterton's marriage serves as a reminder to us all, that with unwavering commitment and perseverance, marriage is truly a wonderful blessing.

I wish Mr. and Mrs. Betterton the very best as they enjoy their fiftieth wedding anniversary and celebrate with their family.

COMMUNITY FIRST FOUNDATION

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 6, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Community First Foundation as the 2020 Behind the Scenes award winner by the Arvada Chamber of Commerce.

For many decades, Community First Foundation has done exceptional work in supporting Colorado nonprofits, but they showed particular leadership and commitment to our community throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Community First Foundation was originally founded in 1975 as the Lutheran Medical Center Foundation. In these beginning years, they focused on fundraising efforts for the Lutheran Medical Center, a nonprofit hospital supporting the western suburbs of Denver. Today, they help donors with philanthropic planning, and support nonprofits with grants and resources in order to build resilient and connected communities across Jefferson County. The organization has seen incredible success in its initiatives, particularly in its founding and continued sponsorship of the annual Colorado Gives Day. Created in 2010, Colorado Gives Day is now the second-largest 24 hour day of giving in the nation, with more than \$419 million donated to Colorado nonprofits between 2010 and 2020. In recognition of this initiative, Community First Foundation was named the Outstanding Foundation of the Year by Ability Connection Colorado in 2014.

More recently, Community First Foundation served our community in exceptional ways through their efforts to strengthen and stabilize nonprofit organizations across Jefferson County during the COVID-19 pandemic. They established the Jefferson County Hope Fund to ensure the nonprofit community and government agencies serving Jefferson County could continue their services and response to the public health crisis. As of April 2020, they provided \$970,500 to 92 different nonprofits. Since then, they have disbursed three additional rounds of funding to aid in Jefferson County's recovery.

I applaud Community First Foundation for their incredible work and commitment to our community and congratulate them on being recognized as the Behind the Scenes Award winner by the Arvada Chamber of Commerce.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF SORAYA CORREA, CHIEF PROCUREMENT OFFICER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 6, 2021

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Soraya Correa, the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Chief Procurement Officer, upon her retirement from Federal service.

Ms. Correa has been a dedicated public servant for more than four decades. She started her Federal career as a clerk typist for construction contracts in 1980 and rose through the ranks to serve in leadership positions at several different agencies, including the General Services Administration and the National

Aeronautics and Space Administration. Ms. Correa has been with DHS since its inception. She served as an executive within DHS's Office of Procurement Operations, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services before she was appointed Chief Procurement Officer of the Department in January 2015.

Ms. Correa has been a driving force in maturing DHS's management functions and has forged a reputation as one of the Federal government's most innovative procurement leaders. She has led several initiatives at DHS focused on building a highly qualified acquisition workforce that is empowered to take smart risks to procure what the Department needs. For example, she created the Procurement Innovation Lab in March 2015 as a testbed for new acquisition techniques aimed at improving the Department's procurement process and saving taxpayer dollars. In 2016, Ms. Correa and her team were awarded the prestigious DHS Secretary's Award for Excellence for this effort.

As Chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security, I have come to appreciate Ms. Correa's steadfast commitment to fostering an open dialogue with industry and promoting opportunities for small, disadvantaged, and minority-owned businesses that face barriers to entering the Federal marketplace. Under her leadership, DHS has continued to earn an "A" grade on the Small Business Administration's Small Business Procurement Scorecard; a grade it has earned for a total of 11 years in a row.

Ms. Correa has received many accolades from both industry and government throughout her career, including the 2018 Presidential Rank Award for Distinguished Service. We thank Ms. Correa for her service to our country and wish her the very best in her retirement.

HONORING AUBREY ALVAREZ AS IOWAN OF THE WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 6, 2021

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Aubrey Alvarez, the executive director of Eat Greater Des Moines, as Iowan of the Week. Since its founding in 2013, Aubrey and the Eat Greater Des Moines team have helped connect numerous nonprofit organizations, businesses, and community leaders to work to strengthen the food system in Des Moines.

Aubrey, who holds a degree in health and wellness management from the University of Northern Iowa and a Master of Public Administration degree from Drake University, has worked in various health and wellness positions throughout her professional career. Now, Aubrey works with the Eat Greater Des

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Moines team to make sure no food goes to waste. They emphasize the use of local foods and community gardens, and have a food rescue system to make sure restaurants and grocery stores don't throw away good food. Their work has also proved fruitful as they have supported 90 community, school, and faith based edible gardens.

One of the organization's biggest projects, Operation Fresh Produce Drop, started in April 2020 in response to the strains put on the food system due to unexpected closures and an increase in need for food. The Operation Fresh Produce Drop initiative began as a way to help move excess bulk products from wholesale distributors while also supporting organizations serving those affected by the pandemic. This evolved into distributing almost 90,000 food boxes through the USDA Farms to Families food box program. With a team of 3 full-time staff and no warehouse space or necessary equipment, Operation Fresh Produce Drop was only possible due to collaborations with local partners like Des Moines Public Schools and Forklifts of Des Moines.

Of the over 125 groups Eat Greater Des Moines worked with, 80 percent were not and are still not able to order or access food through the Feeding America food bank network or TEFAP, which makes the work Eat Greater Des Moines is doing to partner with trusted community members to get food to individuals and families even more important.

Aubrey is committed to not only making sure individuals and families in Des Moines don't go hungry, but that they also have access to fresh and healthy foods. It's impossible to tell how many people Aubrey's work has affected directly, but I do know that because of her families have and are still able to put delicious, fresh food on their tables. It is an honor to commemorate Aubrey and recognize her as the lowan of the Week.

TRIBUTE TO MELVIN BORTON

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 6, 2021

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life and accomplishments of Melvin Borton. Mel passed from this life on July 16 at the age of 94, having dedicated six decades to the betterment of farmers in Ohio and across this Nation through his skilled leadership with the Ohio Farmers Union and National Farmers Union.

Mel's passion for agriculture began at an early age. He grew up on a family farm, where he helped his brother cultivate everything from tomatoes to wheat. In 1948, four years after his graduation from Chesterfield High School, Mel began a fanning operation of his own and joined the Farmers Union.

By the end of the 1960's, Mel pursued a new endeavor: lifting up the voices of his fellow farmers as a National Farmers Union leader. He served as both a regional director and the national director of organization and field services for the National Farmers Union before returning to Ohio to serve as the Ohio Farm Union's director of marketing.

After nearly two decades of service to the Ohio Farm Union, Mel Borton served as the state committee Chairman of the United

States Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency. In this role, he advocated for farmers enrolled in federal farm programs.

Without his efforts, the National Farmers Union and Ohio Farm Union wouldn't be what they are today. In 2013, Mr. Borton's tremendous efforts were recognized by the National Farmers Union as they awarded him its Meritorious Service Award—the top award bestowed by the organization—for his contributions to agriculture, humanity, and the union.

Despite his numerous accolades and accomplishments, Mel Borton was a humble and soft-spoken gentleman. Ungregarious by nature, he cared most about looking out for the most vulnerable among us, recognizing that our communities are only as strong as their weakest link. His vigilance, perseverance, and compassion were palpable during our frequent visits.

Everyone who had the pleasure and privilege of knowing Mel Borton knew that he, above all else, was utterly passionate about agriculture and the plight of small farmers. He made sure others were taken care of before himself and lived a life a true service.

Melvin Borton's legacy will live on forever through those that he touched throughout his life. The great state of Ohio and our Nation are better because of his contributions. To his wife, Linda, his family and friends, we offer our deepest condolences as they mourn the loss of this treasure of a man.

AMY POWELL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 6, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Amy Powell for being awarded the 2020 Chamber Leader of the Year by the Arvada Chamber of Commerce.

Amy has served the Arvada Chamber of Commerce with a sense of commitment and engagement over the past few years, including on several committees such as workforce, Leadership KAPS Council as well as presented on a variety of topics.

Amy is also the founder of Well Works, which trains and coaches the construction industry professionals to address unique problems within their industry. She also spent many years at Golden Triangle Construction company where she held several different positions, including director of training and outreach. She earned her B.S. in Construction Management from Colorado State University as well as her Master's in Adult Education and Training.

When describing her job, she says, "I understand that there's the people side of building and the building side of people." She explains that in construction too often the focus is on the building and the money, but not the people. Amy understands the importance of a thriving business community and the power of people and is committed to ensuring that Arvada is a topnotch community. Congratulations to Amy Powell for being recognized as the 2020 Chamber Leader of the Year by the Arvada Chamber of Commerce.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
COMMANDER MICHAEL FILES

HON. LLOYD DOGGETT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 6, 2021

Mr. DOGGETT. Madam Speaker, one of the most important honors we have as Members of Congress is to nominate candidates from a competitive pool of young men and women who want to attend our Nation's elite military academies. Among the first I nominated was Michael Files, a James Bowie High School graduate from Austin, Texas, who sought admission to the United States Naval Academy. A nomination doesn't guarantee admission or success, but Commander Files enjoyed both.

It brings me great satisfaction to know that Commander Files has gone on to do so much on behalf of our Nation, in and out of the uniform. His service in the U.S. Navy, which led him all over world, such as Guam and Japan, earned him several awards such as the 2011 Navy Times Sailor of the Year, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal and many others.

In addition to serving in the Armed Forces, Commander Files served his fellow neighbors as a Commissioner for the City of Alexandria Human Rights Commission. During his tenure from 2009 to 2011, Commander Files held public hearings related to housing discrimination and age discrimination in Employment—highlighting his dedication to civil rights. In recent years, Commander Files has led the Navy Talent Acquisition Group in San Antonio where his team recruits high-quality candidates from Texas who are interested in joining the U.S. Navy.

Outside of his uniform, Commander Files is actively involved in the community, volunteering with organizations such as Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and the NAACP. Commander Files' exemplary service to America and his local community is emblematic of what makes America a great Nation.

I wish Commander Files the very best as he and his family celebrate his well-deserved retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR.
ROBERT WARD

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 6, 2021

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to recognize and celebrate the life of Dr. Robert "Bob" Ward. Born on July 4, 1933 to Al and Lovera Ward in Huntington, California, Bob was one of six children. He would later graduate from Burbank High School, a school where he would develop his athleticism and deep faith, two traits that would become among his greatest attributes.

Bob would go on to Whitworth University, earning All-Conference honors in both football and track and field while furthering his academic pursuits. Bob would later serve his country as a member of the United States Marine Corps, during which time he was on active duty at Quantico and Camp Pendleton.