

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING THE SERVICE OF BILL CLERK PEGGY FIELDS

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2022

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the outstanding service of the Bill Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, Peggy Fields. For more than three decades, Peggy has devoted her career to the people's work here in the People's House. In doing so, she has earned the respect of Members and staff on both sides of the aisle and ensured the Congress could deliver for the Country.

A daughter of Huntsville, Alabama, Peggy began her career in public service by joining the office of former Congressman Bud Cramer when he was the District Attorney of Madison County, Alabama. After Congressman Cramer was elected to the House in 1990, she came with him to Washington so that she could continue to serve her beloved hometown community. For eighteen years, she was an integral member of his team as Grants and Special Projects Coordinator, an essential link between the Congress and her constituents.

In 2008, Peggy brought her talents, relentless work ethic and dedication to public service to the Office of the Clerk of the House. As an Assistant Bill Clerk, she helped process the many bills, amendments and cosponsor forms filed in the House: essential work to keep Congress functioning. Peggy embodies the extraordinary meticulousness, teamwork and professionalism that this essential responsibility demands. Her excellence was on full display during her exemplary performance as Bill Clerk on duty during the opening day of the 114th Congress, when she managed the introduction of 161 bills with remarkable diligence and efficiency.

In July 2021, Peggy's hard work and valuable contributions were recognized when she was promoted to serve as Bill Clerk of the House. In this role, she has demonstrated outstanding leadership of her team: bringing energy, camaraderie and humor to the long hours and late nights to ensure the business of the House could get done. Her mastery of the mechanics of the legislative process, extensive institutional knowledge and refusal to shy away from a challenge were especially valuable last year—helping facilitate an historically productive legislative session despite the many challenges posed by the lingering pandemic.

Peggy's work has been central to the health of our Democracy and to the benefit of our Country: ensuring that the business of legislating is both efficient and accessible for the American people. She takes immense pride in always placing the duties of her office above all else, never allowing partisanship or politics to infiltrate the sacred trust bestowed upon the Office of the Clerk.

While she will be missed, Congress and the Country are grateful to Peggy Fields for her

longtime and patriotic service. When she returns to her beloved Huntsville after she graduates with her Doctorate of Ministry from Wesley Theological Seminary this May, she will continue her leadership by helping local churches serve their congregations and their communities. On behalf of the House, we wish her all the best as she prepares for a deeply deserved retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2022

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 89.

WOMEN OF THE REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS MOVEMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 29, 2022

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, as a senior member of the Committees on the Judiciary, Homeland Security, and the Budget, it is my pleasure to join Congresswoman LIZZIE FLETCHER and the Pro-Choice Caucus for this Special Order with my colleagues, to commemorate the women who have been prominent figures in achieving reproductive rights.

One of my greatest joys as a member of Congress is the opportunity to work on behalf of women to ensure that every voice is heard when discussing equality and women's rights.

I was inspired by many of the women who led the movement for women's equality and reproductive rights. When I was a young woman, their passion and purpose were instilled within me, and their indomitable spirit continues to light the way.

Before I share a few thoughts about two of the women who led the movement and were role models for me, I must emphasize how vital their lessons and their work continue to be.

This is a critical time to discuss women's reproductive rights because they are under attack in many states. Women in my home state of Texas have been stripped of their reproductive rights due to the revolting abortion ban that was enacted last September.

Restrictions on abortion disproportionately harm low-income women and women of color. Low-income individuals and people of color face a range of worse health outcomes than higher income individuals and white people.

These worse outcomes are the result of higher barriers to accessing quality health care, higher rates of stress, poorer living and working conditions, and, for people of color, racial discrimination.

People of color and low-income individuals experience the highest rates of unintended pregnancy, partially because of barriers to accessing quality family planning services and contraception, lack of insurance coverage, and, for racial minorities, discrimination in health care.

Because of this, low-income people and people of color have higher rates of abortion, as abortion rates mirror rates of unintended pregnancy.

But the erosion of our rights in Texas and elsewhere makes clear how important the movement was in the 1970s. We owe a great debt to the women who paved the way for the reproductive rights that many women in this country enjoy today.

Shirley Anita Chisholm was a trailblazer throughout her career. In 1968, Shirley Chisholm ran for Congress in New York's 12th district. With her victory, she became the first African American woman ever elected to the United States House of Representatives.

Congresswoman Chisholm was a pioneer in the fight for reproductive rights. In a one-minute speech to the House, Congresswoman Chisholm explained that "by forcing a young girl to have an unwanted child, we are assigning her to society's trash heap. She will be cut off from avenues of opportunity."

In her 1970 book *Unbought and Unbossed*, Chisholm argued that "access to legal abortion was an issue of economic and racial injustice, as poor African-American and Hispanic women were the most likely to be victims of unsafe "back alley" abortions while wealthy white women were much more likely to receive abortions from licensed doctors, even when the procedure was still illegal."

Her efforts and advocacy led her to be named the honorary co-president of the National Association for the Repeal of Abortion Laws in 1969. Chisholm also co-founded the National Organization for Women, an organization that I hold dear to my heart.

I believe all women must be recognized for their achievements, but today I would like to pay special tribute to the strength and resilience of my hero and mentor, Barbara Jordan.

She was resolute and fearless in her pursuit of justice and equality.

Barbara Jordan was a prominent public figure, civil rights advocate, woman's rights advocate, and leading presence in Democratic Party politics for four decades.

Barbara Jordan was a ground-breaking "national icon": the first African American woman elected to the Texas Senate (1966); the first woman to represent Texas in the U.S. Congress (1972); and the first African American woman to deliver the keynote address at a Democratic National Convention (1976).

I was very fortunate to have known Congresswoman Jordan, and I had the honor and pleasure of thanking her for laying a path for me to follow when I decided to seek a career in public service.

Barbara Jordan grew up in Houston's Fifth Ward, graduated from Wheatley High School, and attended Texas Southern University.

• 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.

Through the grace of God, a personal commitment to excellence, and hard work, she became someone who we all take pride in calling a Houstonian, and who is beloved nationwide.

Congresswoman Jordan's nonstop advocacy for women's rights and equality helped propagate the idea that women deserve to be given equal rights to men, and that women need to stand up to the male-dominated world, and assert our own leadership.

In a speech titled A Fundamental Right, by Congresswoman Jordan at the Planned Parenthood Federation of America's conference in 1990, she exclaimed that a "fundamental right must not be subjected to a callous calculation of political winners and losers."

She explained that many politicians were deliberately politicizing the debate about the fundamental right to privacy and reproductive health.

We still need leaders like Barbara Jordan and Shirley Chisholm to stand up and fight on behalf of women for reproductive rights and the full range of reforms that would create gender equity. It is because of women like them that we have made it this far, but the fight is not over yet.

The politicization surrounding abortion continues today and has led to new extremes that have eroded the progress that has been made up to now.

Just this year, Oklahoma, Idaho, and South Carolina have effectively banned the procedure, putting thousands of women's lives at risk.

It is a central part of our job as Members of Congress to advocate and fight for women. I am so honored and proud to be here today surrounded by so many outstanding and dedicated women who are dedicated to this cause.

I will continue to fight for reproductive rights for all women and gender equity for women everywhere.

RECOGNIZING MAJOR GENERAL BRAD OWENS

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2022

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Major General Brad Owens for his more than 37 years of distinguished service to the United States Army and South Carolina Army National Guard (SCARNG).

Major General Owens served as the Assistant Adjutant General for Joint Force Headquarters, South Carolina where he worked to increase the readiness and capabilities of our military. Major General Owens was the driving force behind the modernization of SCARNG facilities by partnering with academic institutions such as The Citadel, USC-Upstate, and Greenville Tech. His tremendous efforts have also set the conditions for an Aiken Readiness Center located on campus of the University of South Carolina-Aiken.

When the COVID-19 pandemic struck, Major General Owens served as the designated Dual-Status Commander for Defense Support of Civil Authorities where he led the effort to establish a Unified Command Group with multiple State Agencies that successfully

responded to the needs of South Carolina. His service to the community and the guard will have an everlasting, positive effect far into the future.

His tireless work has led to strong relationships with combatant commands worldwide that increased the SCARNG support to over sixteen different countries. More notably, Major General Owens was instrumental in the SCARNG's fruitful partnership with Colombia, which resulted in his receiving of two decorations, the Faith in the Cause and the Torre de Castilla medal. His outstanding career is further highlighted with his many decorations and badges such as Combat Action Badge, the Parachutist Badge, the Air Assault Badge, the Salvage Diver Badge, the Sapper identification tab, the Bronze Star Medal, six Meritorious Service Medals, seven Army Commendation Medals, and the Engineer Regiment's Silver de Fleury.

Major General Owens is known throughout the Aiken community and the state for his steady leadership and integrity. His notable service to both his country and community has made him beloved by those who worked with him and know him. We cannot thank him enough for his many decades of service to both his country and community.

RECOGNIZING JAMES SOLOMON RUSSELL DAY IN THE COMMON- WEALTH OF VIRGINIA

HON. A. DONALD McEACHIN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2022

Mr. McEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to celebrate James Solomon Russell Day in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

James Solomon Russell was an enormously important figure in the history of southern Virginia. He was born into slavery in 1857 and began his career as a teacher in 1874. By 1879, he began transitioning to ministry, building his first church and being ordained a deacon in 1882. His work included building new schools and senior housing in addition to increasing the number of African-American churches in his diocese from none to thirty-seven. Perhaps his most well-known accomplishment is his founding in 1888 and subsequent leadership of Saint Paul's College. As a result of his work, thousands of young African Americans obtained a higher education degree. Particularly important among the alumni of Saint Paul's College are the many teachers who went on to educate young people across the Commonwealth.

James Solomon Russell Day in the Commonwealth was first established on March 28, 2020 through a bill in the Virginia State Legislative Session. By introducing this bill, Delegate Roslyn Tyler and Senator Louise Lucas ensured that James Solomon Russell Day is celebrated on March 28th in the Commonwealth for years to come. Through this annual recognition, we will keep his memory alive and celebrate his work to better our Commonwealth.

This year, I want to particularly commend the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of African American History and Culture Robert F. Smith Center for the Digitization and

Curation of African American History for their work with the James Solomon Russell—Saint Paul's College Museum and Archives. Representatives from the Center have already travelled to Lawrenceville twice to lend their expertise on archiving and digitizing the museum's collection and are planning another trip this spring. With the experience of the Center, financial support from the state and federal government, and the passion of the staff at the museum, residents of southern Virginia will be able to access and learn from the history of James Solomon Russell and Saint Paul's College.

IN MEMORY OF JOHN HOLLOWAY

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2022

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor the memory of John Holloway, long-time resident and the City of Highland Park, Michigan's first African-American police officer.

Born in 1932 in Camp Hill, Alabama, John Holloway spent his formative years in the south. He later moved to Michigan at the invitation of his family, where he attended Highland Park Junior College. In November of 1953, he was drafted into the United States Army. After leaving the Army in 1955, John returned to Highland Park and was employed by the United States Postal Service. In 1961, he enlisted in the Air Force Reserves, stationed at Selfridge Air Force Base. He was honorably discharged in June of 1965.

In 1956, John Holloway was hired as a patrolman with the Highland Park Police Department as the first African American officer in the city's history. During his thirty-eight-year tenure, Officer Holloway faced many obstacles, including blatant racism. He was one of the few officers who earned each rank by passing the civil service exams required for promotion, rising through the ranks as patrolman, corporal, detective, sergeant, lieutenant, and captain. In 1979, John was appointed as the city's first African American Chief of Police by Mayor Jesse Miller. He continued to serve until he retired from the department in 1994, holding the rank of Executive Captain.

John Holloway was an active member of the Highland Park community. Outside of his public service as a police officer, he served on many civic organizations including as the first African American president of the Highland Park Goodfellows, the Highland Park Board of Education and the Highland Park Community College Board of Trustees for over 30 years. He was an active member of the Highland Park Lions Club and the Association of Retired Highland Park Police and Firemen, where he served as president until his death. John Holloway loved spending time with his family and traveling. He was especially proud of earning his bachelor's degree from Mercy College of Detroit at the age of 44.

Please join me in recognizing his many contributions to Michigan 13th District Strong as we mourn his loss.