

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

KEITH CARLISLE

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2022

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Searcy's Battalion chief, Keith Carlisle, on his retirement from the fire service.

For 34 years, Chief Carlisle has worked to protect our community. Born and raised in Cabot, he went on to the fire academy and later returned on down the road to Searcy.

His greatest moments in service included comforting victims of car accidents or fires.

Every member of the fire service deserves admiration for their exemplary work for their communities. Public servants, like the chief, play a vital role in the infrastructure that keeps out citizens safe and healthy. I commend Keith Carlisle for his leadership and give best wishes as he transitions into retirement.

HOMETOWN HERO—BUFFER
INSURANCE

HON. BETH VAN DUYN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2022

Ms. VAN DUYN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize our Texas-24 Hometown Heroes of the week, Sean Turner and Buffer Insurance of Southlake, Texas.

In response to the recent Roe v. Wade decision, secular companies have offered to pay travel costs for employees to abort babies out-of-state. Fortunately, companies like Buffer Insurance have taken an opposite, humane approach.

Buffer Insurance in Southlake, Texas has offered to pay the medical costs for their employees who birth babies and provide paid time off for employees to have maternity and paternity leave. They would also pay medical costs associated with adopting a baby.

Buffer Insurance CEO, Sean Turner has served as a leading voice on Buffer's decision and how they are prioritizing families and their employees and setting an example of a real pro-life company. This veteran-owned North Texas business should serve as a guiding light to every American. Its dedication to helping mothers and their children is a powerful reminder of the sanctity of life, and I am honored to represent them in Congress.

I thank Sean Turner and Buffer Insurance, for affirming life and valuing children and parents in our community.

HONORING THE YPSILANTI SENIOR
CENTER

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2022

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Ypsilanti Senior Center for the 60th anniversary of their founding. Their decades of service to the Ypsilanti community are worthy of commendation.

Since December of 1962, the Ypsilanti Senior Center has been providing crucial services to the seniors in our community like opportunities for safe and structured recreation, lunches to order, as well as education in technology. The Center also provides a place in the community for friendship, socializing, and networking. With all that it provides, the Center has truly become a home away from home for our seniors.

Under the leadership of Director Monica Prince, the Ypsilanti Senior Center was able to continue its important work during the depths of the pandemic. They switched over to a frozen meal pickup, maintaining a service that is essential to those who cannot provide for themselves. Partnering with our Washtenaw Community College, fitness classes were taken online to make sure that our seniors could continue to access them. Despite being isolated, our seniors were able to maintain that feeling of community that the Senior Center provides.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Ypsilanti Senior Center for 6 decades of exemplary service to the seniors in the Ypsilanti community. I extend my gratitude to all the workers and volunteers that have provided comfort and joy to those who laid the foundation for future generations to grow and prosper.

RECOGNIZING REVEREND DR.
WILLIE GABLE, JR. RETIRING
PASTOR OF PROGRESSIVE BAP-
TIST CHURCH AFTER 34 YEARS
OF SERVICE

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2022

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to an outstanding, cherished public servant from my home State of Louisiana. Dr. Willie Gable, Jr., a native of New Orleans, received his Doctor of Ministry from United Theological Seminary (Dayton, OH), Master of Divinity from Union Baptist Theological Seminary (New Orleans, LA), Master of Public Administration from the University of Southern California (Los Angeles, CA) and Bachelor's of Science from Tennessee State University (Nashville, TN).

Committed to a life of ministry and community service, Dr. Gable retires as pastor of Pro-

gressive Baptist Church, only its third pastor in 123 years. He is also the founder and Executive Director of the Dr. M.W. McCaleb Educational Fund, Inc., a non-profit organization that offers housing through its four facilities, rental assistance, and tutoring services to low-income individuals and families.

During the formative years of life as a youngster growing up in the Callopie Public Housing units, Dr. Gable considered all kinds of careers, but initially was not drawn to serve God as a preacher. However, he ultimately found his true calling as a servant of the Lord, and our community is so grateful that he did.

Dr. Gable worked for years in the Health Public Administration field, including as the Fiscal Administrator of the Nashville Model Cities Program in Nashville, Tennessee. His achievements in program development gave the opportunity to join Meharry Medical College faculty to develop a new undergraduate program in Health Administration and Planning. He coordinated the development and construction of Pembroke Area Family Health Center and Health Department where he also served as CEO. He was recruited to Chicago, Illinois as the Administrator of Tabernacle Hospital, a 130-bed African American church-owned facility.

Dr. Gable has formerly served on many community boards throughout his career. Currently, he is a member of American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging as well as the National Baptist Convention Housing and Economic Development Commission as Board Chairman and President, which manages 27 housing facilities across 17 states. Also, he serves on the National Conference for Community and Justice, Legacy Foundation, Director Faith Based Initiatives HUD National Baptist Convention USA, Inc., and Gulf Coast Housing Partnership. He is 3rd Vice President of the 1st District Missionary Baptist Association and an Instructor with Louisiana Baptist and National Baptist Convention's Congresses of Christian Education.

He has been an inspirational mentor to me, and I will truly miss his service to this community.

RECOGNIZING THE AMARILLO ECO-
NOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORA-
TION

HON. RONNY JACKSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2022

Mr. JACKSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight a hard-working group that has had tremendous impact on the City of Amarillo and those who live there, including my family. The Amarillo Economic Development Corporation (AEDC), led by its' President and CEO, Kevin Carter, has worked with businesses over the last 30 years to bring jobs and innovation to the Amarillo area.

Focused on its work at the local level, AEDC offers economic development incentives and training programs to connect job

● 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.

searchers with meaningful employment opportunities. These programs enable businesses to either relocate or stay in Amarillo and provide a breeding ground for new and up and coming business ventures. AEDC helps to cultivate the true economic potential that Amarillo and the Panhandle have to offer.

Starting a business is risky and many people do not know where to start. AEDC has been there for more than 30 years to help existing local businesses expand while also helping to attract new businesses to Amarillo. One of AEDC's largest ventures is the Amarillo EnterPrize Challenge, which over the last 25 years has connected AEDC with the WT Enterprise Center to help over 90 companies develop their business aspirations.

The impact that AEDC has had on the businesses and residents of Amarillo cannot be understated. On behalf of the entire Amarillo community, I want to thank Kevin Carter and all AEDC staff for their unwavering commitment to promoting economic growth, and for helping our workforce maximize their potential.

HONORING NAACP MONTEREY
COUNTY BRANCH

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2022

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Monterey County Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) as they celebrate 90 years of service to the central coast of California. Since its inception in 1932, the NAACP of Monterey County has fiercely advocated for the expansion of civil rights. It has been at the forefront of all struggles and movements to defend and extend the political, social, and economic rights of all those who were the victims of injustice.

The Monterey County branch was originally founded as two separate branches. Both were created with the shared goal of raising awareness to racism and racial discrimination in all its forms. In 1932, Reverend Wellington Smith, Sr., then Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Pacific Grove, took a step toward equality by founding the Monterey Peninsula branch. Seven years later, Mr. William Greenwill founded the Salinas Branch with the same goal of ridding the county of its most abject forms of racism and discrimination. Despite enduring long periods of threats to their members and families, both branches never faltered in their quest to eliminate race-based discrimination and ensure political, educational, and social economic equality.

Before merging in 2006, each respective branch spearheaded decades-long battles in fighting against racist police practices, barriers to accessible housing, and employment discrimination. Over the years, both branches have received numerous national awards for their outstanding work in fighting for equality. Most recently, in 2012, the Monterey County Branch was awarded the Claude Hudson Award, which honors a local branch that exemplifies the NAACP standards. That same year, Mr. Jim Black, treasurer of the branch, was named Treasurer of the Year for his honorable work in the organization. In 2013, the Branch was awarded the Ruby McKnight Wil-

liams Award, which recognizes branches with the largest percentage increase in membership.

Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize this historic milestone. I personally extend my gratitude to the members of the Executive Team and the volunteers who have worked tirelessly to become one of the most effective civil rights organizations in Monterey County and the State of California.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF PASTOR EDDIE D. SMITH, SR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2022

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated man of God, dedicated family man, visionary leader, and friend of longstanding Pastor Eddie Smith on his retirement as the Pastor of Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church in Macon, Georgia. His retirement will be celebrated at the Macedonia Baptist Church in Macon, Georgia, on August 7, 2022, at 3:00 pm.

Pastor Smith is a native of Macon, Georgia, born to the union of the late Pastor Jack Smith, Jr., and Mrs. Mattie Mae Myers Smith. A highly educated man, Pastor Smith attended Bibb County public schools and went on to earn a Bachelor and a Master of Science from Fort Valley State College, now Fort Valley State University. On April 26, 1969, Pastor Smith received a calling that would change his life forever—he was called to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Pastor Smith served as a classroom teacher and a media specialist in the Bibb County Public School system for fourteen years before retiring to serve full-time at Macedonia Church, accepting the role of pastor in 1972. While pastoring, he was also called to public service, serving as a Macon City Councilman from 1975 through 1978, as well as a member of the Bibb County Board of Education for two consecutive terms.

The scripture reminds us in Proverbs 29 that “where there is no vision, the people perish.” Pastor Smith’s vision for Macedonia was evident from the very beginning of his ministry. In his early years at Macedonia, Pastor Smith led the congregation in raising the funds to pay off the church’s fifteen-year mortgage in a record five years. In 1999, Pastor Smith led Macedonia Baptist in the purchasing of a struggling sister church. Together, they relocated and revived the church’s congregation, and liquidated its \$1.35 million debt in under three years. In more recent years, he oversaw the funding and construction of the \$1.7 million dollar Family Life Center, a comprehensive faith-based service ministry that educates clergy across middle Georgia. Over the course of his ministry, Pastor Smith has licensed and ordained more than forty-five ministers, extending the reach of his servant leadership to the members of many congregations throughout the region.

Also, he led his flock through the COVID-19 pandemic, establishing community-wide food distribution services and virtual church services and tithing, while ensuring all bills were paid and no church staff lost their jobs.

Shirley Chisholm once said that “Service is the rent that we pay for the space that we oc-

cupy here on this earth.” Pastor Smith has paid his rent and he has paid well. Pastor Smith’s service has extended beyond the walls of the church, as he has been affiliated with several social and civic organizations throughout his career. He has served on the boards of the United Way, the American Cancer Society, the Macon Ministerial Association, and the Macon Police and Firefighter Disciplinary Hearing Board.

Pastor Eddie Smith has always fought for what is right. He is guided by his love of God and his love of people. Mother Teresa once said that “at the end of life we will not be judged by how many diplomas we have received, how much money we have made, how many great things we have done. We will be judged by “I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was naked, and you clothed me. I was homeless and you took me in.” This is how Pastor Eddie Smith has lived his life and served people in the name of Jesus Christ.

At the center of Pastor Smith’s accomplished life is the unwavering love and support of his family and his loving wife, Martha Kate. Pastor Smith is the father of five adult children: Suwandia; Eddie, Jr.; Corey and the late Alvy Smith and Edwanna Smith Stephens. He is the grandfather of fourteen and great-grandfather of three.

On a personal note, Pastor Smith has been my friend for many years. He has never told me what I wanted to hear, but he has always told me what he felt I needed to hear. I will be forever grateful for his wise advice and sage counsel.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian; and me, along with the more than 730,000 people of the Second Congressional District, The Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church family and entire Macon community, in extending our sincerest appreciation and best wishes to Pastor Eddie D. Smith, Sr. upon the occasion of his retirement as Pastor of Macedonia Baptist Church and his many years of humble service to humanity.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF COLONEL DR. RONALD G. SARG (USAF, RET.)

HON. LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2022

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the life and legacy of Col. Ron Sarg, a Vietnam veteran, a tireless advocate for Delaware’s Veterans, and a friend.

Col. Sarg served combat duty in Vietnam and pursued a career in the Air Force. After his time in Vietnam and throughout his career, he was posted from Turkey to New Mexico. Eventually, he was stationed in Dover, Delaware, where he retired from active duty in 1993.

But Col. Sarg continued to serve his country and community in retirement. He helped Delawareans gain rewarding careers as an instructor at Polytech Adult Education in Dover and he trained many students in the field of dentistry at the University of Pennsylvania.

Yet, he never forgot his fellow veterans. He spent his retirement serving those who heard