

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING PATRIC T. POWELL

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 12, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I am joined with Speaker PELOSI as we rise to honor Patric Powell and celebrate the 45th anniversary of his floral business, Bloomers. He is an inspiring leader in the community, creating both beauty and change through his work at Bloomers.

Born in St. Helena and eventually moving to San Francisco, Mr. Powell has always been passionate about flowers. His first job working after school was at a St. Helena flower shop, and when he moved, he continued to work in flower shops across San Francisco. In 1977, he established Bloomers. The small florist shop was originally located on Sacramento Street, eventually moving to its permanent location on Washington Street. Now, it occupies a pre-earthquake building constructed in 1900. Overtime, Bloomers has evolved to include ribbons, baskets, antiques, and even a gallery area for artists and authors to share their works. Bloomers is a beloved community asset and resource.

Under Mr. Powell's leadership, Bloomers has regularly contributed to a variety of local non-profit organizations. These past 45 years, Mr. Powell has demonstrated a remarkable dedication to serving his community. Beyond non-profit work, Bloomers is a full participant in multiple life cycle events, resulting in multiple generations of families becoming loyal patrons of the shop.

Bloomers' excellence goes beyond the customer experience. The staff are equally impressive. Their long tenures at the store exemplify this, with three employees serving for 30+ years, 2 for 20+ years, and 1 for 15+ years. This longevity is a testament to Mr. Powell's inspired leadership and the care with which the business is operated and managed.

In addition to being a successful business owner, Mr. Powell is a devoted husband to his wife, Mary, a proud father to his children, Blair and Alex, and loving grandfather to Zoe, Luke, Mathilda and Lucie.

Madam Speaker, Patric Powell works incredibly hard for the individuals and community he serves. He and his store, Bloomers, have been a remarkable part of San Francisco for over 45 years. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor him and his staff here today.

RECOGNIZING MS. GERI KILSDONK

HON. HALEY M. STEVENS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 12, 2022

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, it is my great honor to rise in recognition of Ms. Geri

Kilsdonk, a spirited resident of Plymouth, Michigan, who has dedicated herself to numerous causes that benefit Michigan's 11th District. Ms. Kilsdonk has made an immense impact on the lives of those around her, and I am thrilled to join the community in celebrating Ms. Kilsdonk for her many contributions to her fellow Americans.

In 1943, Ms. Geri Kilsdonk was born to Mr. Joseph Kilsdonk and Ms. Loretta Kilsdonk. Her father was a member of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, as a "milk man" in Illinois, while her mother worked hard raising Geri and her two brothers at their home in Evanston, Illinois. Geri was prepared for her life of service through her Catholic School education, instilling in her values that guided her through her adult life and activism.

In 1968, Geri Kilsdonk married John Flinn, beginning their 33-year marriage. The couple made Southeast Michigan their home after departing Illinois. Taking advantage of an FHA loan, Ms. Kilsdonk submitted a \$2,000 down payment on their first Michigan house, making Dearborn Heights, Michigan their new community. Like many in Metropolitan Detroit, the family made their living by working in the automotive industry. Ms. Kilsdonk was proud of her husband's 33-year career at Ford Motor Company, eventually earning him an executive-level position. In 1974, the family chose the Northville/Plymouth area as their permanent residence, launching a nearly-50-year career for Ms. Kilsdonk as a prolific activist and promoter of the community.

A new chapter began with the passing of Geri's husband, John, in September of 2001. Geri bravely delivered her husband's eulogy before returning to what she did best, advocating for a better society. As a member of an automotive family, Geri understood the importance of the industry to the lives of many of her neighbors. During the automotive financial crisis, Geri lost the healthcare coverage she earned as a surviving spouse of a Ford retiree. Geri knew that her neighbors were also feeling the strain from the struggling automotive industry, so she created her own script and called her neighbors to discuss these important issues and urge them to take action through civic participation.

Described as a "doer" by those who know her, Geri donates immense amounts of time to the causes that she valued. She has supported Ronald McDonald House Charities for many years, along with contributions to the arts and culture through her support of the Plymouth Historical Museum and the Penn Theater. Geri's impact extends to education, as well, having created a nursing scholarship for future medical professionals and part of the Schoolcraft College Foundation. Many in Michigan's 11th District and across the state have benefitted from expanded educational opportunities, gained access to critical services, and engaged with the vibrant cultural experiences that have been supported by Ms. Kilsdonk.

Madam Speaker, Geri continues to bring about positive change to Michigan's 11th Dis-

trict with her ongoing contributions to civics, health, and the arts. Please join me in thanking Geri for her commitment to strengthening our communities.

HONORING KIERRA JONES-WILLIAMS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 12, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and self-motivated leader, Kierra Jones-Williams. Kierra has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication, and a desire to achieve success.

Kierra Jones-Williams, a native of Cleveland, the daughter of a single parent, said her passion for helping others stems from her Delta roots; volunteering and mentoring in the MS Delta, and being crowned Miss Tougaloo College (2017–2018). She attended Tougaloo College, where she received a full ride and other scholarships including the Congressional Black Caucus Scholarship. Her journey continued when she enrolled in Jackson State University's School of Public Health (SPH), which is the only SPH in Mississippi. Her concentration was Behavioral Health Promotion and Education within the Department of Behavioral and Environmental Health. With a strong desire to impact public health and practice medicine, Kierra Jones-Williams, wanted to return to the Mississippi Delta as a medical doctor because she's seen how the lack of education and resources can impact the health of communities.

She was then accepted into the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) School of Medicine Fall 2019. Kierra was awarded two scholarships totaling \$41,000 annually to help achieve her goal of becoming a physician. She has also been awarded \$30,000 per year toward her tuition by the Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship Program and \$11,000 per year by the Robert M. Hearing Support Foundation Minority Scholarship. Jones-Williams is also a Daniel Hale Williams Scholar in the Jackson Heart Study Graduate Training and Education Center. Kierra plans to return to a rural area of Mississippi to practice. As many who have paved the path before her, she plans to integrate public health with clinical care in her practice. She wants the legacy of her career to be labeled as a physician who considers the influences of culture and genetics on patient health and one that primarily generates a professional relationship of trust, understanding, and sound medical treatment practices with her patients. While enrolled as a medical student at UMMC, Kierra has served as Vice President of UMMC Student National Medical Association, Advocacy Chair of UMMC Obstetrics and Gynecology Interest Group, Community Liaison for Rural Scholars, received the Dee and Bill Keeton Award (for

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demonstrating scholarship, leadership, and service) as a third-year medical student, and received a Diversity Supplement Scholarship from the National Institute of Health.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Kiera Jones-Williams for her passion and dedication in medicine, and caring for patients in the rural communities.

APPRECIATING CONGRESSWOMAN
JACKIE WALORSKI

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 12, 2022

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, last week Congress experienced a personal loss with the death of Congresswoman Jackie Walorski, one of our greatest Members. Many of us lost a dear friend.

Jackie has been memorialized with extraordinary, deserved tributes. Congresswoman ANN WAGNER praised, “Jackie was a no nonsense, get it done woman.”

Republican Study Committee Chairman JIM BANKS correctly cited, “[Jackie] embodied what it means to be a public servant.” Republican Leader KEVIN McCARTHY praised her passion, “empowering children and families, running a foundation in Romania . . . fighting for justice from fentanyl victims.”

Republican Whip STEVE SCALISE praised Jackie for “her kindness, tenacity, and commitment to helping others” as a valued member of the Whip team.

Ways and Means Republican Leader KEVIN BRADY thoughtfully stated, “God took a special angel home today. Congresswoman Jackie Walorski was a happy Hoosier who would light up the room with her joy, passion, brilliance, and love of life.”

I will always cherish leading a delegation with Jackie to Poland where her Polish heritage was beloved. She and her husband Dean were a great team in helping liberate Eastern Europe for America.

God Bless our Troops. We will never forget September 11th as the Global War on Terrorism continues moving from a safe haven in Afghanistan to America.

HONORING 1440 KEYS 75TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL CLOUD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 12, 2022

Mr. CLOUD. Madam Speaker, today, I wish to honor the 75th anniversary of Corpus Christi’s home of talk radio, 1440 KEYS.

On August 14, 1947, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) approved KEYS to move from the 1490 frequency it was originally granted, to its new frequency at 1440.

With this change, KEYS also increased its power from 250 watts to 500 watts, improving its reach and beginning to increase its influence in the community.

For now over 75 years, KEYS has remained on air at 1440 AM, serving the public throughout wars, hurricanes, and natural disasters.

KEYS was founded primarily as a music and entertainment station but has evolved to

become a key voice in the Coastal Bend community with its talk radio programming.

A leading voice heard all throughout the region is none other than Corpus Christi’s very own, Bob Jones.

For over 25 of those 75 years, the Bob Jones Show has provided an engaging, informative, and entertaining platform for South Texans to discuss different topics and news of the day.

1440 KEYS became a legacy station depended on by the community for local, state, national and international news and information.

In addition, KEYS has not only increased its power to 1000 watts, but it can now be heard on FM broadcasting at 98.7.

1440 KEYS has become a pillar of the South Texas region, and it is a privilege to honor their service to their community for the past 75 years.

HOMETOWN HERO—SCOTT AND
ELLEN CHOI

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 12, 2022

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Scott and Ellen Choi of Colleyville, Texas.

In 2018, the husband-and-wife duo opened up Honey Teriyaki, a restaurant serving Japanese cuisine inspired by Scott’s mother’s old recipes.

However, aside from serving delicious meals, Scott and Ellen have gone above and beyond to carry out their philosophy on life: give back to the community they love so much.

On many occasions, they have provided food for the brave servicemen and women at the Colleyville Police Department. During the 2021 winter storms in North Texas, they provided free food to those without electricity. When tornadoes struck Kentucky in December of 2021, they even rented a U-Haul and drove 700 miles to provide their incredible food to the victims.

Scott and Ellen’s compassion and generosity should serve as an inspiration to all of us in North Texas. They love their community and do not hesitate to selflessly display that. I thank them both, and hope to visit their incredible restaurant one day soon.

HONORING CARLENE PALMER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 12, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a legend, Mrs. Carlene Palmer. Mrs. Palmer has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication, determination, and a desire to be a trailblazer.

Mrs. Carlene Palmer was born on October 3, 1926. She is the first female African American to own a dry-cleaning business known as Southside Cleaners in the Freetown Community of Crystal Springs, MS. During segregation times in Crystal Springs, Freetown was

known as the part of town that African Americans owned businesses such as cafes, hair salons, cab services, dry cleaning, laundry buildings, etc.

Mrs. Palmer proudly served her community with this business for 47 years from 1962 until her health caused her to retire in 2009. At the ripe age of 95 years old, Mrs. Palmer still looks forward to making her famous Sunday dinner every week. She is a true crown jewel of Crystal Springs, MS.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Carlene Palmer for her outstanding service and history making in Crystal Springs, Mississippi.

FRANK HOADLEY TRIBUTE

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 12, 2022

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memoriam of Frank Hoadley, a longtime resident of Lodi, WI, and legend in public finance circles.

Frank served the State of Wisconsin from 1988 to 2013 as the Capital Finance Director under 4 Democratic and Republican governors. His dedication to a strong, robust capital finance program ensured that our state was on solid fiscal standing and able to serve the citizens of Wisconsin through the construction and maintenance of important public facilities and infrastructure projects.

Wisconsin benefited enormously from Mr. Hoadley’s exemplary stewardship of public finances, but so did the entire public finance community as Frank led numerous industry efforts to enhance market practices and disclosure standards as a member and Chairman of the Government Finance Officers Association’s Debt Management Committee. He also contributed mightily over the years to initiatives at the National Association of State Treasurers’ State Debt Management Network, and the Council for Infrastructure Financing Authorities.

I had the pleasure of working with Frank on numerous occasions through the years on projects to strengthen the municipal bond market, such as maintaining the tax-exemption of municipal bonds, Dodd-Frank municipal advisor rules and regulations, and various other key public finance issues where congressional actions could help states responsibly finance public works projects. He truly did enrich communities throughout the country, including Milwaukee, with his generosity of knowledge and dedication to public service.

While Frank was not a native son of Wisconsin, his family has a long history in the state. His great-great grandfather, Edmund Ross, worked at the Milwaukee Free Democrat and the Milwaukee Daily Sentinel newspapers in the middle 1800s. At the time, Mr. Ross contributed to numerous anti-slavery efforts in Wisconsin and around the country.

Frank will be remembered for the extraordinary contributions he made across our great state and to the public finance community. I extend my condolences to Frank’s wife, Elizabeth, his daughters, Marci and Jessica, and their families, and Frank’s extended family.