

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING WILLIS “BING” DAVIS OF DAYTON, OHIO

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 29, 2022

Mr. TURNER. Madam Speaker, my hometown of Dayton, Ohio, which I am proud to represent in this chamber, is home to many illustrious citizens who have dedicated their time and talents to making this world a better place to live. One of them is Willis “Bing” Davis, who has enriched us for over 60 years as an educator, artist, curator, community servant, and mentor. Bing has been the driving force behind many important cultural and arts projects and initiatives that enhance the understanding and appreciation of African American history and culture.

Bing Davis was born in Greer, South Carolina on June 30, 1937, the son of a coal truck driver and gospel singer. He grew up in Dayton, Ohio and attended Washington Elementary School on the east side of town. At six feet four inches tall, Bing was a two-time First Team All-City basketball standout at Wilbur Wright High School, where he graduated in 1955. With the help of coach Dean Dooley, Bing entered DePauw University to study Art Education. His athletic prowess on the basketball court and on the track team earned him induction into DePauw’s Athletics Hall of Fame.

After graduating from DePauw in 1959, and from Miami University in 1967, Bing studied at the Dayton Art Institute, and Indiana State University. He returned to DePauw in 1970 as its first full-time, tenure track, African American professor and taught a ceramics class at Central State University for 20 years.

While at Central State University, Bing was the Chair of the Art Department and Director of the Paul Robeson Cultural and Performing Arts Center. After retiring from teaching in 1998, Bing went on to create the Willis Bing Davis Art Studio & EbonNia Gallery in the Wright-Dunbar neighborhood of Dayton. Bing also founded SHANGO Inc., a non-profit organization designed to provide a positive art and culture-oriented environment for Dayton’s youth.

Over the course of his illustrious career, Bing has held exhibitions at the Renwick Gallery, the Studio Museum of Harlem, and the National Museum of Art of Senegal, West Africa, amongst many others. In tribute to his international acclaim, Bing’s artwork can be found across the world in England, China, Japan, France, Australia, and throughout Africa.

His distinguished career has led Bing to receive numerous awards, including the Ohio Governor’s Irma Lazarus Lifetime Achievement Award, given as the highest art award in the state of Ohio.

With strong roots in the Dayton community, Bing prides himself on being a champion for Dayton Public Schools and an advocate

against racism. Growing up, Bing’s mentors encouraged him to follow his dreams of becoming an artist. Following in their path, Bing takes it upon himself to “Reach High and Reach Back” to his Appalachian and East Dayton roots by inspiring the next generation of African American artists.

Looking back over his long and productive life, Bing once remarked: “I received two blessings: being born black, and being raised in East Dayton . . . It’s a unique worldview that gives me strength.”

Bing Davis has been selected by the Presidents Club of Dayton as the 71st recipient of the prestigious Citizen Legion of Honor Award. The Citizen Legion of Honor Award is an appropriate tribute to his lifelong legacy of scholarship and community service. I congratulate Bing on this well-deserved honor and thank him for his substantial contributions to the civic, cultural, and economic well-being of the Dayton region, and our Nation.

HONORING AMBER BENSON AND RUBY VOSS

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 29, 2022

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Amber Benson and Ruby Voss, eighth grade math teachers at Northside Middle School in Roanoke, Virginia, on being named National Educators of the Year by the Association for Middle Level Education.

Ms. Benson and Ms. Voss have been co-teaching math since 2017. Their approach to the subject engages and educates the students who enter their classroom and has earned the respect of parents and other educators.

According to the Association for Middle Level Education, the Educator of the Year award goes to outstanding educators who have made a significant impact in middle level education and on the lives of students aged 10 to 15 through leadership, vision, and advocacy. Ms. Benson and Ms. Voss have already been recognized by their school for this achievement and will be presented with the award at a conference in November.

I would like to thank Amber Benson and Ruby Voss for their dedication to teaching the rising generation and their care and skill in doing so. My congratulations go to them and to Northside Middle School and Roanoke County Public Schools on receiving such a high honor.

RECOGNITION OF JR MACHINE’S 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 29, 2022

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the 30th anniversary of JR Machine, a contract manufacturing company in Shawano, WI.

Founded in 1992 in Wisconsin, the business came from humble beginnings when Tim Tumanic purchased JR Machine. Throughout its 30 years in business, JR Machine moved from a garage stall at the local Chevy dealer where they made pins to operating a nearly 40,000 square foot facility with cutting edge CNC technology they use to craft precision made custom parts. JR Machine has quickly become a leading contract manufacturing company of precision machine parts. The business has remained successful over the years by expanding their manufacturing services to include CNC multi-axis machining, engineering, robotic welding and mechanical assembly, and other full project services. I commend the JR Machine team for their sophisticated manufacturing capabilities and continued dedication to their work.

For the past 30 years, JR Machine has remained successful by knowing the importance of producing quality products and providing top tier customer service. Beginning in 2000, JR Machine committed to the task of becoming ISO certified. Since achieving this milestone, they have earned an AS9100 certification for the aerospace industry and ITAR compliance for the defense industry. Through achieving these certifications, JR Machine has experienced significant growth and have become a major competitor in the industry. I applaud JR Machine for their continued growth and success.

In support of their long-term growth, JR Machine is dedicated to developing a second-tier management team where they promote and train from within the company, highlighting their efforts to invest in their employees. JR Machine is a wonderful example of continuous improvement and a true credit to Shawano and all of Northeast Wisconsin.

I invite all members of this body to join me in celebrating the 30th anniversary of JR Machine. I extend my sincerest congratulations to Tim and the entire JR Machine team and wish them lasting success for the next 30 years.

HONORING MEMBERS OF THE SRPD SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT TEAM

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 29, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Santa Rosa

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Police Department's Special Enforcement Team (SET). I have named the team as Public Safety Heroes of the Year for Sonoma County in California's 5th District as a result of their extraordinary selflessness, dedication, and service to others.

SET was established in July 2021 in response to a rise in violent crime within the city of Santa Rosa. That year, the Santa Rosa Police Department reported a 25 percent rise in weapons violations and an 8 percent increase in aggravated assaults, including five homicides. SET's mission was to combat these trends via the confiscation of illegal firearms. The team prioritizes the interdiction of privately made "ghost guns" and monitoring repeat offenders. Initially, the team was comprised of Sergeant Terry White and Officers Jason Jucutan and Jeff Badger. These individuals were chosen because of their performance and experience within the Santa Rosa Police Department. Over the course of several months, the team conducted probation and parole searches, wrote and served search warrants, built relationships with confidential informants, supported the Special Services Division with major cases and responded to violent crime calls in support of patrol units.

In 2021, the team seized 44 firearms, an increase of 29 from the previous year. Due to SET's immediate success, officers Dane Schindler and Brett Wright were added to the team in January 2022. In the first six months of 2022, the team has seized 49 ghost guns. In total, the team's work has led to a 75 percent increase in total gun seizures and a 179 percent increase in ghost gun seizures. Most important, shootings within the City of Santa Rosa have decreased by 31 percent since the team's inception.

Madam Speaker, there is no doubt that the members of SET demonstrated an investigative skill and relentless devotion to our community's safety. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor them here today.

THE BLYTHEWOOD MINORS BASEBALL TEAM WIN THE DIXIE YOUTH WORLD SERIES

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 29, 2022

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize the South Carolina Blythewood Minors baseball team for their win of both the state AAA baseball youth championship and the Dixie Youth World Series.

For the first time in nearly 50 years, a South Carolina Blythewood Youth Baseball team won the World Series title with a 10–3 win over Alabama. This is an incredible victory for not just the thirteen players, Head Coach Marshall Dinkins, and Assistant Coaches, Matt O'Donnell, Justin Blackwelder, and Fred Cruz, but also for their families and the entire Blythewood community who have supported them all along. Throughout their sixteen-game stretch, the team and coaches worked hard in preparing for this big championship.

Since the age of seven, this was a dream for many of the players to one day achieve this impressive title. The win was especially meaningful for Coach Dinkins, as he played in the league himself a few decades ago.

Founded in the mid-1970s, the Blythewood Youth Baseball and Softball League has unified the community. Beginning with the building of the original baseball field, the team continues to bring families together weekly to cheer on the young players. This kind of abundant support exists throughout the Blythewood community, and I know they could not be more excited about the title earned by their team.

This first-time victory of the Dixie Youth World Series by the Blythewood team is well-deserved, and I congratulate the team, coaches, families, and community for all their hard work, making the kids' dream come true.

IN MEMORIAM—FAITHFUL AND DEDICATED CONGRESSIONAL SERVICE OF ERIC "RICK" ZABEL REMEMBERED

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 29, 2022

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Eric "Rick" Zabel, who worked for the U.S. House of Representatives' Chief Administrative Officer's Office of Payroll and Benefits, and passed away Saturday, February 5, 2022, after more than 43 years of Congressional service. Rick served as a Retirement Counselor, supporting staff in the offices of House Leadership, Officers, and Committees over his 13 years of service to the People's House. Before joining the House, Rick also worked for the U.S. Senate for over three decades as a Retirement Counselor for Senate Disbursing, providing faithful service to all Congressional staff throughout his tenure. Rick was a consummate professional and took great pride in providing detailed information, benefit options, retirement estimates, and advice to ensure Congressional staff could make well-informed retirement decisions and maximize their benefits.

The CAO was lucky to be blessed with the knowledge and expertise of Rick's more than 43 years of Legislative Branch retirement experience. The House truly benefitted from his expertise, with staff of the Office of Payroll and Benefits learning under Rick's tutelage to progress in their careers as Benefits Specialists. Rick equipped staff from the Office of Payroll and Benefits with his knowledge, professional pride in ensuring staff understood their retirement benefits, and ability to assist Congressional staff in maximizing their benefits.

Rick was an early-bird and always ready with a cheerful morning greeting of "Hey, how you doin'?" Those who knew Rick will miss his passion for retirement as well as chatting with him about his wife, Rosemary, and his sons, Christopher, Matthew, and John Paul, his Maine Coon cat, T.C., his love of golfing, his green thumb gardening skills, his time at Virginia Tech, and his excitement about baseball—in particular, the New York Yankees. Rick coached his son's little league baseball teams and loved every moment of imparting his love and knowledge of the game with a new generation, specifically his boys. One of Rick's most exciting professional baseball memories was attending the New York Yan-

kees World Series games in New York and being a part of the pinnacle of the sport, cheering on his favorite team. Rick also had a favorite National League team, the Washington Nationals, and was able to attend a World Series game for the 2019 season in which they won the World Series 4–3.

Dealing with the loss of a colleague and friend is always very difficult. The Legislative Branch lost a dear colleague and friend in Eric "Rick" Zabel, who will be sorely missed. However, his legacy will continue in the Congressional staff he counseled about their retirement and the colleagues he trained over the years.

HONORING JOI MITCHELL FOR HER WORK AS AN AMERICORPS FELLOW

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 29, 2022

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Joi Mitchell for receiving the Relationship Rockstar Award for her outstanding work as an AmeriCorps fellow with Saga Education in the District of Columbia.

Joi received the award for her exceptional work with students at Anacostia High School and Ron Brown College Preparatory High School in the District of Columbia during the 2021–2022 school year. The Relationship Rockstar Award prioritizes respect and values relationships and providing positive experiences through inclusiveness and excellence.

Improving the academic outcomes of low-income students is one of our nation's most urgent challenges. By high school, many low-income students are three or more years behind grade level, especially in math. In many schools, large class sizes have made it impossible for teachers to offer students the individual instruction they need. That is why the work that Joi is doing each day with ninth graders in the District of Columbia has made such a big impact on their lives.

Joi was previously a facilitator for a mentoring program in the South Side of Chicago, where she led sessions and offered personal guidance to young women. Joi is a joyful person who set out to help others, especially children and youth—part of what makes her such a great fit as an AmeriCorps fellow and tutor working with youth in the District of Columbia.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Joi Mitchell for her outstanding work as an AmeriCorps fellow with Saga Education and for her positive impact on students at Anacostia High School and Ron Brown College Preparatory High School in the District of Columbia.

HONORING BRIAN RINGO

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 29, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Brian Ringo, a Deputy Sheriff II with the Napa County Sheriff's Office. I have named Mr. Ringo as a Public Safety Hero of the Year for Napa County in