

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING CHRISTINA ANDERSON SMITH'S SERVICE TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 4, 2023*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Christina Anderson Smith's service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

For more than 22 years, Tina has been one of the House's elite court reporters providing expert stenographic support to committees and the House floor. She is among the first African-American official reporters for the House; and from her seat in the well of the House, she has had a front-row seat to history while producing the daily CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Tina was born in Wilmington, North Carolina. Her father was one of the Veterans Affairs Department's first African-American hospital administrators—a position that required frequent relocation—and she grew up in North Carolina, Virginia, Illinois, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Michigan.

After completing a bachelor's degree at Oakwood University in Huntsville, Alabama, and a court reporting certificate from Southern Business College in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, Tina began her court reporting career in 1986, often working with public defenders at the Broward County jail.

Over the next decade, Tina expanded the scope of her work to include criminal and civil court divisions, and she became proficient in deposition work with a heavy focus on personal injury and medical malpractice cases.

In 1999, she moved from Florida to Maryland to work as an official reporter with the Prince George's County Courts in Upper Marlboro, a position she held until she came to the House in June 2001.

While her career has taken her from the jailhouse to the People's House, Tina's service to the Nation extends beyond the U.S. Capitol.

She served in the U.S. Navy Reserve from 1996 until she was honorably discharged in 2004. In the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, she was mobilized in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, working for the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations at the Pentagon and Washington Navy Yard.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the whole House, I wish to express my thanks for Tina's trailblazing and dedicated service to her country. While I will miss our chats during votes, I know Tina and her family look forward to this next chapter, and I wish her all the best.

HONORING THE LIFE OF NESTOR R. WEIGAND, JR.

### HON. RON ESTES

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 4, 2023*

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Nestor R. Weigand, Jr. who passed away on November 1, 2023. He was a pillar of the Wichita business community, a strong advocate for Kansas values, a devout Catholic, and a dedicated father. He will be missed dearly by those who knew him.

Nestor was born and raised in Wichita, calling the city home for most of his life. After serving honorably in the Army Reserve, he joined the family real estate business, J.P. Weigand & Sons, in 1961. In 1983, he became President and CEO of the company and for the next forty years he built one of the most respected businesses in the state of Kansas. Friends, customers, and even competitors recognized his devotion to his businesses and the real estate profession. In 1978, he was elected by his peers the president of the Kansas Association of Realtors. Ten years later he would go on to become president of the National Association of Realtors where he advised President Ronald Reagan and worked to strengthen fair housing laws across the country.

Nestor was proud to be a lifelong Wichita resident and made it a priority to give back to his community. He served in leadership roles at the Institute of Logopedics (now Heartspring), the Kansas Health Foundation, the Kansas Highway Commission, Wichita Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Kansas Policy Institute. One of his passionate roles was serving on the board of Wesley Hospital, where he served both as a member and as Chairman for over forty years.

Nestor's contributions to his business, his community, and his country cannot be understated. I send my deepest condolences to his family and friends as they say goodbye to their beloved husband, father, grandfather, uncle, and companion.

CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF SURFING SANTAS

### HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 4, 2023*

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. George Trosset of Rockledge, Florida, for his charitable work in creating and organizing a popular local event called Surfing Santas. Surfing Santas is an annual event hosted by the Florida Surf Museum Charity in Cocoa Beach that raises money for charities like Grind for Life, which helps individuals with cancer.

Surfing Santas is a Christmas Eve spectacle where participants are encouraged to wear

Christmas attire and surf on Cocoa Beach. When Trosset began the organization in 2009, there were two participants, himself surfing as Santa, and his son, George Jr., surfing as an elf. Trosset also had two spectators, his wife Nina, and their grandson Anderson.

Today, Surfing Santas regularly has 400 to 500 participants and close to 10,000 spectators. The Christmas event, which is now in its 15th year, has grown to include a costume contest, live music, and a show by a local Hawaiian Dancers group.

Surfing Santas is a widely beloved event that has made at least 8 billion people around the world smile and has raised close to \$250,000 dollars towards charity. Last year a Surfing Santa plush toy blasted or aboard a private Blue Origin space mission.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing George Trosset and his family, as well as saluting all the Surfing Santas participants for their charitable spirit and their efforts to bring people together in a fun and festive way during the holidays. Surfing Santas is an incredible community event that has quickly become a tradition for families on the Space Coast.

RECOGNIZING CHARLENE MAHER

### HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 4, 2023*

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, since 2016 Charlene Maher has served as the president and CEO of Blue Cross of Idaho. Charlene came to Idaho with decades of experience in multiple different facets of the healthcare industry. This broad range of understanding has made her an invaluable asset to the company and to Idaho's larger business community.

As a trained nurse herself, Charlene is keenly aware of the importance of ensuring communities have quality and affordable healthcare options. Her innovative approach and her dedication to improving access to healthcare for all Idahoans has truly distinguished Charlene as a leader in the industry, as evidenced by her seat on the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association Board of Directors, her time as president of the Idaho Association of Health Plans, her participation as a member of the Boise Metro Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, and her contributions to various other state and national industry groups.

Charlene's contribution to Idaho's healthcare landscape throughout her time as CEO of Blue Cross of Idaho has been immense. I am grateful for her work and wish her the best of luck in her retirement.

• 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.

HONORING THE SESQUICENTEN-  
NIAL ANNIVERSARY OF TEX-  
ARKANA, TEXAS

**HON. NATHANIEL MORAN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 4, 2023*

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 150th anniversary of Texarkana, Texas.

On December 8, 2023, the City of Texarkana celebrates its sesquicentennial anniversary—that's 150 years of bringing together the best that Texas and Arkansas have to offer. Two states, one city. It's twice as nice. And, it is a great place to call home. This remarkable milestone is a testament to the values, resilience, culture, and rich heritage of the citizens of Texarkana for fifteen decades.

Since its founding in 1873, Texarkana has grown from a small settlement along the Texas-Arkansas border to a thriving city that stands as a beacon of innovation, progress, and unity. The city's commitment to fostering a strong sense of community and preserving its unique State Line heritage is unsurpassed. From its vibrant manufacturing and industrial base, support for the Red River Army Depot, and its deep roots in agriculture to its investments in education, health care, technology, infrastructure, and planning, Texarkana stands as a shining example of what can be achieved when a community comes together with a shared vision and a commitment to excellence.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing and celebrating the 150th anniversary of Texarkana's founding. Congratulations to Texarkana on this momentous milestone. May the next 150 years be filled with continued growth and prosperity. Happy anniversary, Texarkana.

RECOGNIZING CHARLES J. HARDY  
FOR BECOMING A KNIGHT OF  
THE LEGION OF FRANCE

**HON. GUY RESCENTIALER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 4, 2023*

Mr. RESCENTIALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Charles J. Hardy for being named a Knight of the Legion of Honor, France's highest civilian honor.

Hardy joined the 282nd Engineer Combat Battalion on July 16, 1943, and was one of many brave soldiers who risked their lives during the Second World War. He fought valiantly in the battle of Saint-Malo and captured enemy submarine pens throughout his time on the Western front. He also contributed to the liberation of the Ardennes, the Rhineland, Central Europe, and France. During these grueling campaigns, Hardy consistently demonstrated fearlessness and determination.

Today, Hardy will be remembered and honored for his courageous service 79 years ago by receiving France's highest honor.

RECOGNIZING FLORIDA STATE  
UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL'S  
UNDEFEATED SEASON

**HON. NEAL P. DUNN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 4, 2023*

Mr. DUNN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the undefeated Florida State University Seminole football team, who recently secured the 2023 ACC Championship title.

Under Head Coach Mike Norvell's leadership, the Seminoles are 13–0 despite a devastating injury that prematurely ended the collegiate career of Quarterback Jordan Travis. This team plays with their hearts, and it shows. Throughout this season, they've displayed incredible grit, determination, and perseverance even when the odds were against them.

Sadly, the College Football Playoff Selection Committee failed to recognize this team's incredible talent by excluding them from the 2023–24 College Football Playoffs. This was a devastating blow to the team and the city of Tallahassee, who proudly displayed the Seminole spirit all season.

It's a shame that an undefeated team, who earned every bit of their perfect season, won't get a shot in the College Football Playoffs. Make no mistake, Florida's Second Congressional District knows our Seminoles are champions even if the selection committee denies them a chance to prove it.

I congratulate Florida State University on a perfect season. I thank them for playing with their hearts and making our district proud. Go Noles.

RECOGNIZING KERREEN CONLEY'S  
SERVICE TO THE CITY OF  
BELLEVILLE

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 4, 2023*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kerreen Conley as she ends her twelve-year tenure as Mayor of the City of Belleville, Michigan after serving her local Wayne County community for over three decades. Her tremendous dedication to public service while also maintaining a full-time career is impressive and worthy of commendation.

Kerreen graduated from Central Michigan University with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Management before pursuing Master's degrees in Business Administration (MBA) and in Human Resources and Organizational Development from Eastern Michigan University. She began her decades of public service in 1990, working as Controller for the City of Ypsilanti before becoming Belleville City Manager in 1995 and Novi's Director of Developmental Services in 1998. Kerreen was successfully elected to the Belleville City Council in 2000, and was elected as the City's Mayor in late 2011. After serving three consecutive terms, she decided not to seek re-election and plans to dedicate her full attention to Human Resources Consulting when her political tenure draws to a close.

Kerreen can look back on an accomplished mayoral record that truly benefitted her community. Chief among her achievements is the preservation of essential city services, such as the Belleville District Library. The library, which is over a century old and sits in the heart of downtown Belleville, recently received some much-needed renovations that will ensure it can continue to serve tri-community residents for years to come. As mayor, Kerreen also served on the bipartisan Board of Directors of the Conference of Western Wayne alongside the chief elected officials of seventeen other member communities. She has chaired the Conference since January 2020, coordinating emergency services and working to alleviate countless other needs for an area encompassing 340 square miles and over 700,000 residents.

Perhaps most impressively, Kerreen was a dedicated mayor while simultaneously juggling various other demanding roles. She has been the Chief Executive Officer of RD Advisors, LLC for over a decade and served as Redford Township's Human Resources Director from 2014 through 2016 before assuming a similar role in Canton Township. Two years ago, she took on her current title of Senior Manager Human Resources Consultant at Rehmann. In addition to her time in local government and HR work, Kerreen has made many other significant contributions to our local community. She has dedicated herself to various organizations over the years, notably serving as an advisory board member at the Boys and Girls Club of Southeastern Michigan for seven years and being an avid fundraiser for various local non-profits, including the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Kerreen's devotion to serving the residents of Wayne County and beyond is nothing short of inspirational, and I am proud to have such a selfless individual leading our local community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating Kerreen Conley for her lifetime of dedication to serving Wayne County's local communities as she wraps up her tenure at the helm of the City of Belleville. For the last three decades, Kerreen has worked tirelessly to benefit those around her and has made significant contributions to preserving and providing invaluable local services. We thank her for her tremendous efforts, and wish her all the best as she embarks upon her next endeavor.

THANKING MY 2023 FALL INTERN  
CLASS FOR THEIR SERVICE TO  
ILLINOIS' 13TH DISTRICT

**HON. NIKKI BUDZINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 4, 2023*

Ms. BUDZINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my profound gratitude and appreciation for the incredible dedication and hard work of the interns who have supported our office during the 2023 fall semester. I have been honored to work with Madison Barr, Rochelle Williams, Thomas Greco, Jameel Muhammad, and Colin Bellows in my Washington office and Cameron Shivley in my Belleville office. Each of these special and talented individuals has brought new perspectives and an