

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING MAJOR ART MILLER ON HIS MILITARY RETIREMENT

### HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today out of extreme gratitude for my previous Defense Fellow, Major Arthur Miller, or Art as he is well known, and want to congratulate him on his retirement from the United States Army. Major Miller, a commissioned field artillery officer, served as my Defense Fellow during the second session of the 117th Congress. He consistently demonstrated exceptional and effective leadership, dedicated service, and commitment to the legislative relationship between our branches of government.

As a Defense Fellow, Major Miller positively and directly influenced the Army, Department of Defense policy, program recommendations, and the Fourth District of Oklahoma. His carefully communicated advice reflected the depth and breadth of his considerable experience and affected future programs appropriations and policies that will carry the Army through the end of the decade. Selected for this assignment from hundreds of applicants, Major Miller represented the Army and Department of Defense with distinction. His professional conduct with Members of Congress, and senior government leaders while assigned to Capitol Hill is to be commended.

Major Miller is no stranger to a history of honorable service. As a field artillery officer, he served proudly in the 18th Field Artillery Brigade at Fort Liberty, NC, where he performed duties above his grade multiple times, including as the acting Brigade S4 during multiple brigade-level exercises and several functions in garrison, and as a Battalion S3 during 3–27th Field Artillery Regiments Cumulative Training Exercise for deployment to Operation Spartan Shield in 2019. As a Captain, Major Miller planned, synchronized, and executed over 20 training fire plans in the brigade's first externally evaluated Large Scale Combat Operations Exercise in support of FOCUSED READINESS.

Major Miller commanded Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 3–27th Field Artillery Regiment while deployed to Operation Spartan Shield and Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 18th Field Artillery Brigade. Major Miller commanded the battery through COVID–19, meanwhile, his battery was recognized by GEN Michael Garrett, the commander of Army Forces Command, for having the best tactically emplaced area of operations of all units at the rotation.

As a junior officer, Major Miller excelled at every level in the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 2d Infantry Division from 2012 to 2015. Major Miller served with distinction as an executive officer in two formations and was then selected above all lieutenants in the brigade to serve as the adjutant for the 210th

Field Artillery Brigade before being selected to attend the Maneuver Captains Career Course, a unique and noteworthy honor given to only the most talented of young officers in our Army.

Major Miller is a proud member of the Military Officers Association of America, the Association of the United States Army, the United States Army Field Artillery Association, and is a recipient of the Honorary Order of Saint Barbara. His continued commitment to our Soldiers and their families will never go unnoticed and signifies the important degree of character in which he holds.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of his distinguished service to our country, I wish him, his wife Cassie, children Emma and Arthur, and their shell-protected friends, Donatella and Leonardo, all the best in his retirement. It is well deserved, and our country owes him a wealth of gratitude for his service. God bless my good friend.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF THE LATE HONORABLE TAMMY MARIE STEWART

### HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Late Honorable Tammy Marie Stewart, the most senior judge on the Orleans Parish Juvenile Court bench. She passed away after a brief illness at the tender age of 53.

As a judge, Stewart won over attorneys on both sides of the aisle. The Old Testament scripture teaches us that the office of judgeship in the tribal confederacy of the Israelites was centered in a covenant relationship with Yahweh and that judges arose as Yahweh saw fit to lead erring and repentant people to restoration. Knowing the work He would have our beloved do, God endued this beautiful soul with charisma, a spiritual power enabling her to judge and influence those she would encounter. He ordained her to be born to her earthly parents, Benjamin Armond Stewart, Jr., and Dianne Mary LeBlanc-Stewart, on Thursday, February 26, 1997, in New Orleans, Louisiana. This judge in training enjoyed a blessed and contented life with siblings Tracy and Benjamin III, where her life qualities and love of law were nurtured in her heart by her mother's service as an administrator in Traffic Court.

Her formative education began at Phillips Elementary. And as a student at Phillips Junior High, she was honored to carry the title "Miss Phillips Junior High." After graduating from John F. Kennedy Senior High School, she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Southern University at New Orleans, where her grace, beauty, and intellectual prowess gave rise to her being elected Miss SUNO. Never one to stand on

her laurels, she pursued her goal and was granted her Juris Doctor from The Ohio State University College of Law, Columbus, Ohio.

"You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor." Leviticus 19:15 ESV

Returning to her beloved New Orleans, she began her legal experience serving at the New Orleans Legal Assistance, Family Law Unit as a Summer Law Clerk, an Assistant District Attorney in the Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office under Harry Connick, Juvenile, Magistrate, and Trial Divisions; an Associate Attorney at Hailey, McNamara, Hall, Larmann and Papale, L.L.P.; a Trial Attorney at Casler, Bordelon, and McGinty; and a Senior Associate at Spears and Spears.

Her judicial experience began in 2002 when the Louisiana Supreme Court appointed her; she served the First City Court of New Orleans as Judge Pro-Tempore until 2007. The Honorable Tammy Stewart served as an Orleans Parish Juvenile Court Judge since 2009, wherein she presided over juvenile cases involving delinquency, Families in Need of Services (FINS), and adoptions.

"Open your mouth, judge righteously, and defend the rights of the poor and needy." Proverbs 31:9 ESV

The Nationwide Registry of Who's Who in Executives and Businesses recognized Judge Stewart as an Honored Professional. Well-rounded and socially conscious, she was a former board member of Innocence Project New Orleans and a former adjunct professor of Criminal Justice at Southern University in New Orleans. Judge Stewart volunteered with the Louisiana SPCA, the Humane Society, and the Louisiana State Bar Association's Secret Santa Project, where she worked as a liaison with organizations such as Boys Hope Girls Hope and Head Start. Judge Stewart was also a member of the Advisory Committee to the Supreme Court for the Revision of the Code of Judicial Conduct and served as Judge Pro Tempore in First City Court (2003 through 2007); and was a member of the Franklin Avenue Baptist Church.

Professionally, she held memberships and affiliations in the Louisiana State Bar Association, Louisiana Judicial Council, National Bar Association, American Bar Association, New Orleans Bar Association, Fourth and Fifth Circuit Judges Association, Louisiana Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, Louisiana District Judges Association, Fourth Circuit Judges Association, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Metropolitan Area Committee, Leadership Forum Graduate Municipal Yach Harbor Corporation, former Board Member Association for Women Attorneys, Most Senior Judge of Juvenile Court of New Orleans National Association of Women Judges, National Bar Association, National Association of Women Judges, National Judicial College Project One: One-Family, One-Judge Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Inc., and the Black Law Student Association.

• 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.

On Monday, July 24, 2023, at half past two in the morning, our Lord and Savior dispatched His angel to carry this beautiful soul home. She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Eddie LeBlanc Sr., Florence LeBlanc, Benjamin Stewart, Sr., and Martha Stewart; her aunt Jenette LeBlanc, Uncle Larry O. LeBlanc, and her beloved dog Mocha.

Judge Stewart's memory will be forever cherished by her beloved son, Dylan Jackson, whom she shared with Calvin Jackson; her parents, Benjamin Armond Stewart, Jr. (Regina) and Dianne Mary LeBlanc-Stewart (Harry Albert); sister Tracy Stewart Hill (Gregory); brother Benjamin Armond Stewart, III (Rachel); Stepbrothers David Gillard, Daniel Gillard (Chanitra), and Dominick Gillard; Godchildren Tyler Phillip McMahon and Karina Angelique Brown; a host of aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces, other relatives; good friends Glenn Jones, Andrea Foster, and Tina Haines; civic and judicial associates, and the legion of youth she represented.

Her life, legacy, and impact on our community will forever be remembered.

ITZEL CHAVEZ-SANDOVAL

**HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 6, 2023*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Itzel Chavez-Sandoval for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Itzel has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Itzel, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Itzel's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Itzel Chavez-Sandoval on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR COLONEL EDWARD MESCHKO

**HON. PAT FALLON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 6, 2023*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel Edward Thomas "Tom" Meschko of Whitesboro, Texas, and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Colonel Meschko honorably served in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War.

In 1961, Colonel Meschko applied to the newly built Air Force Academy and was selected to join their seventh class. He trained as a fighter pilot and was stationed at the Wright Patterson Air Force Base and Bien Hoa Air Base in Vietnam. During his Air Force career, Colonel Meschko participated in 216 combat missions against North Vietnamese

forces in the F-100 Super Sabre jet fighter. Furthermore, he was a flight instructor and test pilot for over 36 models of the most advanced aircraft prototypes at the time, including the F-16 fighter aircraft.

Using test data gained through Colonel Meschko's experimental flights, the United States was able to transform the F-16 into a modern air superiority fighter that is currently in use by 25 countries. Through his extensive qualifications and expertise, Colonel Meschko became the Deputy Commander of Operations for F-16s located in U.S. bases throughout Europe. His efforts help bolster and strengthen our NATO allies' capabilities to defend against Soviet-led aggression. For his outstanding service, Colonel Meschko received numerous awards, including the Legion of Merit and Distinguished Flying Cross.

After returning to civilian life, Colonel Meschko worked as a senior engineer for Lockheed Martin and sought to be a test pilot on the prototype F-22 Raptor. As he experienced health complications that affected his ability to fly the F-22, he retired from Lockheed Martin after 10 years and later became the President and CEO of Fightertown Aviation, Inc., and a senior consultant for military contracts. In 2018, Colonel Meschko retired after decades of important contributions to the Air Force and aviation industry. I commend him for his selfless service and sacrifices to defend our great nation.

I am honored to represent Colonel Meschko in Texas' 4th Congressional District. It is a pleasure to award him the Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to our Nation and to the people of North Texas.

RECOGNIZING THE LOSS OF A GREAT MUSICIAN AND OUTSTANDING LIFE OF DAVID RUSSELL BATISTE, JR.

**HON. TROY A. CARTER**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 6, 2023*

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate an outstanding gentleman, legendary drummer, and New Orleans musical prodigy David Russell Batiste, Jr. Born on December 12, 1965, Mr. Batiste was known for providing the backbeat in groups such as The Funky Meters, Papa Grows Funk, Vida Blue and other well-known Crescent City bands. After years of musical achievement, Batiste passed away on Sunday, October 1, 2023, at the tender age of 57.

Raised in a musical household, Mr. Batiste started behind the drum kit at the young age of 4. Additionally, he learned to play the keyboard, saxophone, guitar, and bass, officially taking a slot in the family band when he was only 7 years old. He and his brother, Damon, joined the Batiste Brothers Band when they were still in grade school. To avoid being confused with his father, David Jr. used his middle name, Russell.

At St. Augustine High School, Russell drummed for the school's Marching 100 marching band. After graduating in 1983, he attended Southern University, where he studied under the late jazz saxophonist, Edward "Kidd" Jordan. After 2 years, he left Southern to become the drummer for singer Charmaine Neville.

The brothers made their New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival debut in 1978 under the band name Young Gifted & Black. They returned the following year with the Batiste Brothers Band, launching a career that eventually landed them a spot with the Funky Meters, the reincarnation of the original New Orleans funk band, The Meters, featuring talents such as George Porter Jr., Brian Stolz, and Art Neville. Mr. Batiste was also a member of the all-star trio, Vida Blue, featuring Phish keyboardist, Page McConnell, and Allman Brothers Band and Dead & Company bassist, Oteil Burbridge.

As a solo artist, Batiste Jr. and the Orchestra from 'Da Hood released two full-length albums, including the 2000 self-titled set and 2003's The Clinic. In time, the musician climbed the musical ranks, receiving praise from iconic musicians such as Rolling Stones' front man, Mick Jagger.

Mr. Batiste frequently joined organ player, Joe Krown, and guitarist, Walter "Wolfman" Washington, to perform as the "Krown Washington Batiste Trio." The trio ultimately produced a live album titled, Live at the Maple Leaf, in 2008. Batiste carved out a legacy performing alongside Papa Grows Funk, Harry Connick, Jr., Maceo Parker, Champion Jack Dupree, and the late Robbie Robertson among other celebrated groups.

Until the musician's passing, he participated in weekly gigs every Sunday at Le Bon Temps Roule. Just last week, Batiste returned to his former high school to watch the football game, alongside other members of the class of 1983. Prior to the tragic news, Batiste was scheduled to perform three sets at NOLA Funk Fest with his band, the Gladiators, and Leo Nocentelli.

"He never was interested in accolades and money," stated his brother, Damon Batiste. "He wanted to make the music right. Russell loved New Orleans more than anything. He just wanted to be at the Maple Leaf Bar and Le Bon Temps Roule."

Following the artist's passing, family, friends, collaborators, and others shared memories of admiration for Batiste. Included was the musician's brother, Damon Batiste, who wrote, "It's a very sad day, I lost a brother, a friend, and a bandmate for life. We will share all details but remember fame and fortune mean nothing without having the ones that mean the most to share in your success."

Oteil Burbridge shared, "If you knew Russell Batiste, then you know there are no words to describe his talents or his insanely funny personality. Some people live with their knobs turned to 11. I'm pretty sure that I never laughed any harder than when we shared these times." The sentimental message also included thanks to Phish's McConnell for bringing them together in a jam session.

Legendary musician, Cyril Neville, chimed in via Facebook, writin: "Russell Batiste is a New Orleans root culture originator from one of the most prolific music families New Orleans ever produced. The only way to possibly be funkier than Russell is to be born a Skunk! One of a kind!"

Jon Batiste shared a heartfelt message. "He spoke his mind with conviction and didn't ever hold his tongue but somehow, in equal parts, with swagger and compassion. He could be both demanding and magnetic all at once, leaving an impression wherever he was. I've never had stories of a family member relayed