

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE EXTRAORDINARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MUSICAL BARBARA LEWIS

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 27, 2023

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a legend of R&B sound who hails not from a musical capital like Detroit, Chicago, or New York, but from a small town in Michigan's 7th district: South Lyon.

Barbara Lewis was born into a powerful legacy, as the great-granddaughter of Civil War veteran, John W. Lewis. She was also born with a musical heritage, as her bandleader father played trumpet, her mother and uncle played saxophone, and her aunt was a music teacher. Surrounded by this symphony of sound, it's no surprise that Barbara began playing piano, guitar, and harmonica at an early age, writing songs at age nine, and singing lead vocals at family jam sessions in her teens. While Barbara told her friends and family she had no intention of pursuing music as a career, a meeting with Ollie McLaughlin, an Ann Arbor DJ-turned-producer and manager changed all that, and changed the course of her life.

Impressed by her talent and her original songs, McLaughlin signed Barbara on the spot. In 1962, she recorded her first two singles. One of them, a peppy, upbeat piece called "My Heart Went Do Oat Da" was, according to Barbara, written on her upright piano while she was babysitting one night while still attending South Lyon High School.

Lewis holds the distinction of being the first Michigan artist to record for Atlantic Records, and in the span of her career, she went on to record three Top Ten R&B hits for McLaughlin's record label, including the number one smash, "Hello Stranger." She also had 10 songs on Billboard's Hot 100 during the 1960s, ranking her second to only Aretha Franklin in terms of chart success for female solo artists from the state of Michigan.

Barbara recorded songs at the legendary Motown studios in Detroit and performed with some of the greatest R&B artists of her time. Many of her songs have been remade and remastered and live on today, including by Queen Latifah, with others featured on hit movie soundtracks including "The Bridges of Madison County."

Barbara returned to Michigan in 1971, following stints in New York and Chicago, and lived many years in her home state before relocating to Florida. She received the Pioneer Award from the Rhythm and Blues Foundation in 1999, and in 2016, Barbara Lewis was inducted into the Michigan Rock and Roll Legends Hall of Fame. While health issues forced her to retire from singing in 2017, I ask that her legendary sound and contributions to the arts be forever recorded in our hearts.

RECOGNIZING REVEREND JACQUELINE DELORISE SMITH

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 27, 2023

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an inspiring woman of God, a loving wife, dedicated, doting grandmother, pace setting trailblazer, and friend to humankind, Reverend Jacqueline Delorise Smith. A retirement reception attended by her family, many friends and well-wishers was held on February 18, 2023, at 3:00 pm in Columbus, Georgia.

Reverend Smith's remarkable life began in Grady County, Georgia. She was educated in the Grady County School System at Washington Consolidated High School. She obtained her post-secondary education degrees in Sociology from both Thomas University and Bainbridge University.

Her professional pursuits took her to be the lead Psychiatric Assistant at Southwestern State Hospital and a Social Worker at Georgia Pine for the State of Georgia, serving for a period of 31 years. A multi-talented individual, she also trained as a Practical Nurse and worked as a CPR Instructor, Emergency Medical Technician and Home Health Technician.

Reverend's Smith's life was changed forever when she answered the call to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Because of her commitment to the Gospel and to God's people she was ordained as a Deacon in 1990 and in 1992 was elected to be an Itinerant Elder. She presented her first trial sermon in September of 1987.

Her pastoral care has taken her to many churches, often serving as the first female Pastor in these houses of God. She has served at the following churches during her powerful ministry to include Bryant Chapel in Reno, Georgia, Rock Hill in Beachton, Georgia, Saint John AME Church, Cedar Springs AME in Whigham, Georgia, she was the second female Pastor in Bainbridge, Georgia. This was followed by service at the St. Peter AME Church in Camilla, Georgia and the Bethel AME Church (Circuit) in Attapulgus, Georgia.

In 2004, her historical accomplishments on behalf of the Kingdom continued when she was appointed the first female Presiding Elder in the South Georgia Conference by Bishop Frank C. Cummings. She continued to pastor churches while serving as the presiding Elder to include Mount Olive in Ocilla, Georgia, Bethel AME in Alaptha, Georgia, St. Pete AMAE in Valdosta, Georgia, St. Paul AME in Valdosta, Georgia, Peyton AME in Claytonville/Valdosta, Georgia, Francis Lake in Lake Park, Georgia Bethel AME in Fitzgerald, Georgia and ATOC AME in Dawson, Georgia.

Her life is an example of how one person can make a difference when carrying out God's will for their lives. Presiding Elder Smith has served her God and she has served him well.

Presiding Elder has accomplished much in her life but none of her successes would have been possible without the Love of God and support of her husband, Charles Dewey Smith who serves as an area consultant of the Southwest Georgia District, their three children and nine grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, my wife Vivian, and I, along with the more than 765,000 people of the Second Congressional District and my colleagues extend their congratulations to Presiding Elder in honor of her distinguished career in service to God and humankind. May the next phase of her life be filled with happiness and a continued servant's heart.

RECOGNIZING THE 31ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE KHOJALY MASSACRE

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 27, 2023

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, February 26 marks the 31st anniversary of the massacre of hundreds of people in the town of Khojaly, Azerbaijan. Khojaly, which is in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, was once home to 7,000 people. This was the largest killing of ethnic Azerbaijani civilians during the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict. On February 26, 1992, Armenian armed forces massacred over 600 unarmed people—including 106 women, 63 children and 70 elderly people—and left less than 2,000 survivors. Hundreds more became disabled due to their injuries. More than 100 children lost a parent and 25 children lost both parents. At least 8 families were entirely killed.

Although a cease-fire was negotiated in 1994, it is my hope that Armenia and Azerbaijan can come together and find peace. Escalation of conflict in the Nagorno-Karabakh region is not in the interest of the South Caucasus. Long-term peace, security, and regional cooperation would greatly benefit the region and the world.

Azerbaijan has been a strong partner of the United States and its allies. This cooperation has included sending significant humanitarian aid to Ukraine during the ongoing war with Russia; playing a leadership role in non-proliferation issues; providing troops to serve shoulder-to-shoulder with U.S. forces in Kosovo, Iraq, and Afghanistan; allowing transit of non-lethal equipment used by coalition forces through Azerbaijan to Afghanistan; construction of the Southern Gas Corridor from the Caspian Sea to Italy, thereby providing Europe with an alternative to Russian energy sources; and supplying 40 percent of Israel's oil. Azerbaijan also has a thriving Jewish community and has outstanding relations with Israel.

As Azerbaijanis throughout the world commemorate the massacre and continue to grieve the loss of loved ones, I hope they can find peace amidst this tragedy.

• 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 LIFE AND LEGACY
OF CIVIL WAR VETERAN ALEX-
ANDER JOHNSON

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 27, 2023

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to a man who should have been hailed as a hero, but for too long his story was lost in history. Alexander Johnson was a Black Civil War Veteran who lived and worked in Owosso in the late 1800s, and when a group of white residents chased most Black folks out of town, Johnson and two other Black men refused to go.

Born in Tennessee in 1833, Johnson fled slavery and made his way to Michigan before enlisting in a Union regiment of African Americans in Kalamazoo to fight in the Civil War, then moving to Canada at the war's end, and later returning to Michigan to settle in Owosso with his wife.

No one knows for sure why he chose Owosso. Some historians believe Johnson's wife may have had family nearby. Others surmise he might have had connections to a home in Owosso rumored to be part of the Underground Railroad, and still others say that at the time, the growing community was a place where people of all races moved to explore economic opportunity. Whatever the reason, Owosso is where Alexander Johnson chose to put down roots, opening up a downtown barbershop and was, by all accounts, a well-liked businessman and respected member of the community.

Unfortunately, the good times did not last long, as racial tensions grew and the Ku Klux Klan became active in the county. The tensions culminated in 1871 when 40 white vigilantes gathered together and attempted to drive all the Black residents out of town. There is little we know about this dark moment in Owosso's history, but we do know that Alexander Johnson was a light that would not be extinguished. Johnson stayed in Owosso, along with two other Black men, until he died. In 1907 Johnson received a military burial at Oak Hill Cemetery in Owosso, and his story was buried with him for more than 100 years.

There are those who seek to ignore or even wipe away the more painful pieces of our history, and there are those who understand that we cannot ever be great without acknowledging our failures, learning from our mistakes, and moving forward with a commitment to grow. The Owosso Rotary Club falls into the latter category, as they were the ones not just to uncover Johnson's story, but to acknowledge it and honor it as a piece of Owosso's history.

Alexander Johnson was formally recognized by the Owosso Rotary on Veterans Day 2021 with a solemn ceremony at his gravesite. It is only fitting that I, too, join in paying tribute to this brave man whose convictions led him first out of slavery, then to fight for a country he believed in, to establish the life he wanted, and to stay in the community that he loved. May his memory be a blessing and an inspiration to us all.

REMEMBERING JAYNE HARPER
PLANK

HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 27, 2023

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise, with Congressman ERIC SWALWELL, to honor the remarkable life of my constituent, Jayne Harper Plank, who passed away on February 23, 2023. Jayne dedicated her life to civic service, philanthropy, and historic preservation, and she will be greatly missed by her beloved family, her many friends, and our entire community.

Jayne grew up in Washington, D.C. and graduated from George Washington University. She served on the Kensington Town Council for 7 years and in 1974 became the first woman elected mayor of Kensington, ultimately serving 4 terms.

In honor of her extraordinary civic service to the town, the renovated Kensington Cabin, originally built in 1934, was renamed the Mayor Jayne H. Plank Kensington Cabin.

In 1982, President Reagan appointed Jayne as the Director of Intergovernmental Affairs at the State Department, a position she held for 5 years. Jayne served as a liaison to governors, mayors, county officials and state legislators on the administration's policies. She also worked as a cryptologic linguist for the National Security Agency.

Jayne was active in historic preservation, philanthropic and civic organizations. She was the first woman elected President of the Maryland Municipal League and the first woman to serve as the State of Maryland's representative to the National League of Cities.

Jayne was also appointed to the Christopher Columbus Quincentenary Jubilee Commission and served on the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, the Board of Trustees of Tudor House in Georgetown, and the Maryland Historical Society. She was active with the Women's Leadership Group of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington and the Citizen's Association of Georgetown. In 2016, Sister Cities International recognized Jayne for her work building strong international relationships.

Jayne was the beloved wife of the late William H. Plank, Sr. She is survived by her loving family, including her sons William Plank, Stuart Plank, John Scott Plank, Colin Harper Plank and Kevin Audette Plank; her grandchildren, Jack, Casey, Eve, Jesse, Campbell, Talya, Aitan, James and Katherine; and sisters Peggy DeFranceaux and Donna Miller.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the remarkable life and legacy of my trailblazing constituent, Jayne Harper Plank.

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL
OF THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN
WARS DEPARTMENT OF VIR-
GINIA

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 27, 2023

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the centennial of the Veterans

of Foreign Wars Department of Virginia (Virginia VFW). For the last 100 years and counting, the Virginia VFW has provided critical services and support to Virginia's veterans.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars National Headquarters formally chartered the Virginia VFW in February 1923. The Virginia VFW's members then formally organized in March 1923 in Norfolk, Virginia. Its founding members included veterans from the Spanish-American War and World War I. Membership in the Virginia VFW has grown substantially since its founding in 1923: it originally had 13 Posts and 663 members; now, it has 128 Posts and over 40,000 members. The Virginia VFW's membership includes members from all branches of the military and represents conflicts over the past 100 years.

The Virginia VFW's mission is: "To foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts. To serve our veterans, the military and their families. To advocate on behalf of all veterans."

The Virginia VFW advocated for the establishment of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for the passage of the Montgomery GI Bill, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019, the elimination of the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) offset, and the PACT Act. These are just a few of the many pieces of legislation they successfully supported that have helped countless veterans.

Additionally, the Virginia VFW's Service Claims Agents ensured that Virginia veterans received over \$13 million in earned benefits that otherwise may have been lost. Furthermore, Virginia VFW members avidly support their local communities. In the last five years, the Virginia VFW's members volunteered for 1,233,783 hours and donated \$9,155,822—of which the combined value is \$41,840,483. I have no doubt that the Virginia VFW will continue to fulfill its mission.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to rise with me in celebration and honor of the centennial of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Virginia. May God bless the Virginia VFW and its members as they continue to serve veterans, veterans' families, and their communities.

RECOGNIZING MR. GERALD MIXON

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 27, 2023

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my personal congratulations and best wishes to an exceptional community leader and outstanding citizen, Mr. Gerald Mixon, on his retirement as the Planning Director of the Middle Flint Area Planning and Development Corporation and the River Valley Regional Commission after 47 years of service. His retirement celebration was held on February 17, 2023 at the River Valley Regional Commission in Americus, Georgia.

For nearly five decades, Gerald has been a dedicated leader in the Middle and Southwest Georgia community, helping to bring much-needed resources and development opportunities to multiple counties in Georgia's Second District, including Dooly, Macon, Marion, Schley, Sumter, Taylor, and Webster counties. During his tenure, he has successfully applied