

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING DR. JENNIFER NORRELL AS THE 2023 AFRICAN AMERICAN LEADER OF THE YEAR

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 3, 2023

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Dr. Jennifer Norrell's achievements as she is honored as the 2023 African American Leader of the Year. Since her historic appointment in 2018, Dr. Norrell has become a central figure in the support of the district's 14,000 students, their families, District 131's faculty and staff, and the East Aurora Community.

As the first woman to serve as superintendent of the state of Illinois' first public school district, Dr. Norrell has made impressive strides in her work to improve academic success. She has cultivated an academic culture that allows students to build a sense of positive identity, healing, resilience, and overall academic success.

During her five years with District 131, Dr. Jennifer Norrell has played an instrumental role in helping to increase the high school graduation rate by 17 percent to an impressive 87 percent which is steadily improving.

Dr. Norrell's passion for improving the quality of education for students has always been apparent. Before joining District 131, Dr. Jennifer Norrell served as assistant superintendent for curriculum, instruction, assessments, and grants for Bloom Township High School District 206.

I am proud to represent Aurora, and I am grateful for the dedication Dr. Jennifer Norrell has shown to improving the academic quality and success of District 131 students. Join me as I celebrate Dr. Jennifer Norrell as the 2023 African American Leader of the Year.

HONORING THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA ON THEIR CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 3, 2023

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Virginia on their centennial celebration on March 4, 2023.

For 100 years, the Virginia VFW has worked hard to protect and fight for our veterans to ensure that they receive the benefits that they have earned and deserve. They support veterans, servicemembers, and their families by providing opportunities through education, scholarships, and living assistance.

I thank the VFW for their relentless advocacy and support of those who sacrificed for our country.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Virginia on 100 years of service to our veterans and to making the Commonwealth of Virginia a better place for our veterans and their families.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSMAN BOB MICHEL ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 3, 2023

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I recognize former Congressman Robert H. Michel, the longest serving Republican Leader of the House of Representatives, born on this day 100 years ago. From his time in the U.S. Army on the front lines fighting for democracy in World War II to his long career in government service, Bob Michel sought to defend our freedom and the American Dream at every turn.

Leader Michel defined public service and bipartisanship during his 38 years serving in the U.S. House of Representatives. He cherished his time spent in the House, and he revered the institution. He was a product of Midwestern values that made our central Illinois community a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

Often known for being a patient listener, flexible goal setter, and gentle persuader, he remained committed to legislative compromise and appealing to the spirit of bipartisanship. Building relationships across the aisle and promoting civility and debate helped move legislation through the House Chamber. His common sense, middle-of-the-road policymaking left a legacy that will continue for centuries.

Congressman Michel's steadfast work to improve the lives of citizens of central Illinois stands as a model for progress to further the greater good and prosperity of America and Illinois. Peorians were always proud to have him fighting for them in Congress. On what would have been his 100th birthday, the legacy he left behind should serve as a reminder for how we as public servants can continue our work to move our country and democracy forward.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RESOLUTION OBSERVING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF JOHN LESLIE "WES" MONTGOMERY AND COMMEMORATING HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO JAZZ MUSIC

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 3, 2023

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, it is with great Hoosier pride and joy that I rise today to intro-

duce a resolution celebrating the 100th anniversary of the birth of John Leslie "Wes" Montgomery.

Wes Montgomery was born in my hometown of Indianapolis, Indiana on March 6, 1923 to Frances and Tom Montgomery. He was naturally gifted in the musical arts and demonstrated his talents on the 4- and 6-string guitar in his youth. He was a self-taught musician who learned to play the guitar by listening to recordings of another jazz genius, guitarist Charlie Christian. Wes Montgomery developed a unique and innovative finger style playing technique by using the thumb to play base notes simultaneously with the melodic lines. This wonderful style helped to propel his success as a renowned jazz guitarist.

His musical gifts and performances became famous in jazz clubs in Indianapolis and he was recruited to tour with the Lionel Hampton Orchestra. In 1957, he joined his brothers Buddy and Monk to perform with other bands, and later released the album, the "Wes Montgomery Trio" and "The Incredible Guitar of Wes Montgomery". One of his biggest hits and most beloved albums was "A Day in the Life", which was rated the premier album on the Billboard Jazz Album chart, 2nd on the Billboard R&B Albums chart and 13th on the Billboard 200 chart.

Sadly, we lost this incredibly bright star far too soon, when he died at his home in Indianapolis on June 15, 1968, at the age of 45. But his music and his legacy still shine in our hearts and wherever his music is played. His beautiful and heartfelt music inspired generations of other musicians, and it continues to fill us with joy today.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this resolution to honor a Hoosier and an American music legend. I urge the House to support this resolution.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF FRED RODGERS

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 3, 2023

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and legacy of Mr. Fred Rodgers, a fierce champion and advocate who helped guide the City of Aurora's young people onto a path of success.

Mr. Rodgers was the City of Aurora's first ever youth services director, a role he held for 25 years. During his time, he directed the City of Lights Sports Tournament, the Aurora Sports Festival, Stepping Into the Arts Music Program, and several summer camps. He also coordinated several city events, including the Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebrations.

Upon his retirement, Mr. Rodgers was recognized with the creation of the Fred Rodgers Community Center in 2009. He believed that our youth are essential for our community's future success, and it is estimated that Mr. Rodgers' advocacy work impacted the lives of

• 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.

more than 25,000 Aurora children. In 1996, he traveled as part of a group to meet with former Alabama Governor George Wallace to offer his forgiveness for the Governor's racist views, which ultimately led to the Governor repenting his past remarks.

Fred Rodgers always taught Aurora's youth to work with compassion in order to be good and productive citizens. I am proud to represent Aurora, and I, and many others, know that the incredible legacy left by Mr. Rodgers on the City of Aurora will provide a blueprint for our youth and community for years to come.

HONORING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF MORRISTOWN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

HON. MIKIE SHERRILL

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 3, 2023

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 90th anniversary of Morristown National Historical Park as a unit of the National Park Service.

Morristown National Historical Park is a treasured part of New Jersey's Eleventh Congressional District and an important part of our nation's history. During the coldest winter of the Revolutionary War—from 1779 to 1780—George Washington and the Continental Army camped in Morristown, New Jersey. Centrally located between New York City and Philadelphia, Morristown was a strategic location for the Continental Army.

Recognizing the important history of the park, the 65th Congress established Morristown National Historical Park. It was signed into law by President Herbert Hoover on his last day of office, March 2, 1933. As a member of the 118th Congress, I am grateful for the work of my predecessors in making Morristown National Historical Park the first national historical park in the United States, marking the start of a robust national historical park system that has educated and enriched the lives of generations of Americans in the years since.

Today, whether walking, biking or joining guided tours, visitors to the park can experience our nation's history firsthand. Visitors can see where the troops built cabins for their encampment at Jockey Hollow or tour the Ford Mansion that served as George Washington's headquarters. Over its long history, the Morristown Historical Park has preserved the history of the Revolutionary War while providing countless memories for its visitors from NJ—11 and around the world.

With the 250th Anniversary of our Nation right around the corner, I look forward to gathering with my family and my fellow Americans to mark this historic milestone at the crossroads of the American Revolution—Morristown National Historical Park.

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING: THE PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO ORGANIZE ACT

HON. HAKEEM S. JEFFRIES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 3, 2023

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following statements from key individuals and organizations in support of the Richard L. Trumka Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act of 2023:

President Joe Biden: "A union is about working people having each other's backs, making sure you get the pay and benefits you deserve. That's how we rebuild the middle class. Employers aren't supposed to undermine that. The PRO Act will make sure your right to join one is protected. Pass it."

Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi: "The right of workers to organize is a basic right that improves working families' lives & strengthens our economy. Richard Trumka was a champion of this right. Proud to support the PRO Act named in his honor, which empowers workers to fight for fair wages, benefits & dignity."

President Liz Shuler, AFL-CIO: "The PRO Act is how we level the playing field. It is how we stop the intimidation, the lies. This is how we let workers, not wealthy corporations, decide for themselves if they want the power of a union."

AFL-CIO: "For too long, employers have been able to violate the NLRA with impunity, routinely denying working people our basic right to join with co-workers for fairness on the job. According to the Economic Policy Institute, more than 60 million workers wanted to join a union in 2022 but couldn't. As a result of this ongoing trend, the collective strength of workers to negotiate for better pay and benefits has eroded, and income inequality has reached levels we have not seen since the Great Depression. The PRO Act would restore the original intent of the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) that gave working people a voice on the job so we can negotiate for higher wages, better benefits, a safe workplace and protection against discrimination."

Communication Workers of America (CWA): "The PRO Act, just reintroduced in the House & Senate, is the most significant piece of pro-worker legislation we've seen in decades. We're not going to stop fighting until we get it passed."

AFSCME: "Change begins with the Richard Trumka Protecting the Right to Organize Act. This vital piece of legislation would hold union busters accountable and allow thousands of working people to experience the union difference. It would give them the opportunity for a true voice on the job, leading to fairer wages and safer workplaces. In a country with rampant wealth and income inequality, unions are a proven solution. This isn't just about economic justice; this is about democracy. Workers deserve the freedom to form strong unions and to use their voices at work without fear. We urge Congress to pass the PRO Act swiftly."

International Brotherhood of Teamsters: "More workers are forming unions than ever before and yet, we continue to face challenges around income inequality and rising healthcare prices. I corporations take advantage of workers in the name of maximizing profits. American workers need the PRO Act to solidify the gains they have made and to fight back against systemic inequalities."

United Steel Workers (USW): "With some of the most significant labor reforms the country has seen in over eighty-eight years,

the PRO Act targets loopholes in worker organizing laws. The legislation, should it become law, would help ensure companies fairly negotiate and are held accountable during the collective bargaining process. It also protects the achievements of newly organized workers by establishing a much needed process for first contract between companies and newly certified unions, allowing for mediation, and when necessary, binding arbitration. When workers choose to use systems set up by our government that allow for a voice at the job, they should work in a timely and efficient manner. The PRO Act will reestablish that pact between Government, employer, and worker."

National Nurses United (NNU): "Across the country, nurses have been subject to intimidation and retaliation from their employers because of their efforts to unionize. The PRO Act would provide critical protections for nurses who want to organize collectively and, in turn, would help improve patient care. The dire need for this legislation has been made all the clearer during this pandemic. Due to employer neglect, nurses have been forced to struggle together for the most basic safety protections at their hospitals and clinics. Union organizing has led to improvements in infectious disease protocols, staffing levels, workplace violence prevention programs, and safe patient handling programs, all of which directly improve patient care."

American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE): "With the re-introduction of the PRO Act, members of Congress face a choice. Legislators can stand with American workers whose legal rights are being trampled by private employers to the detriment of the nation. Or they can stand with the ultrawealthy elites whose status depends on the continued oppression and exploitation of working-class Americans."

United Automobile Workers (UAW): "For too long, employers have been able to violate the law with little consequence, routinely denying working people their basic right to join with coworkers and have a voice in the workplace. Time and time again, workers have fought for a union only to be met with coercion, retaliation, and intimidation by employers seeking to prevent workers from exercising their fundamental rights such as illegally firing workers, holding captive audience meetings, and threatening to close plants. The PRO Act would address these and other impediments. UAW urges Congress to pass the Richard L. Trumka PRO Act and send it to President Biden's desk for signature."

House Labor Caucus: "We are proud to support the Richard L. Trumka Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act. This critical, bipartisan legislation will ensure all workers have the right to organize and collectively raise their voices for dignity and respect. The PRO Act would reverse decades of anti-union policies, strengthening the labor movement. It empowers workers to join a union, holds companies accountable for obstructing unionization efforts by creating enforceable penalties, and ensures free and fair union elections. This bill will help make sure every worker that wants to join a union can. Union membership is an essential pathway to the middle class and with the PRO Act, we can ensure every worker's rights are protected."

Unemployed Workers United: "Thanks to Rep. Bobby Scott and Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick for standing with workers to introduce the PRO Act in Congress Standing up for working people is not a Democratic or Republican issue—it is an American issue."

Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA): "The PRO Act would empower millions of Americans by strengthening protections for workers who choose to