

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING PANDORA REDMOND-WILLS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and self-motivated leader, Mrs. Pandora Redmond-Wills. Mrs. Redmond-Wills has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication, and a desire to achieve success.

Pandora Redmond-Wills (born June 29, 1967) is the owner of Hearty Helpings Food Pantry. She is a native of Greenville, MS, and is married to Charles E. Wills, Sr., to whom God has given the same passion and ministry to help those in need.

Mrs. Redmond-Wills is a registered nurse, graduate from Baptist School of Nursing, Little Rock, Arkansas. Prior to becoming a registered nurse, she was a licensed Practical nurse for 10 years and a CNA from 1987 to 1988.

She has over 35 years of experience in nursing ranging from pediatrics to critical care, including five years each of working in the burn center and dialysis. She holds a special love for Geriatrics, helping the elderly and disabled.

In 2014, the soup kitchen was born. The primary goal of the soup kitchen was to offer a hot meal for supper while the Salvation Army was already providing daily lunches.

Considering the closure of the Salvation Army in 2018, Hearty Helpings Food Pantry & Soup Kitchen took on the challenge to continue the fight to eliminate hunger in Greenville, MS, Washington County. Numbers more than doubled but services continued. In 2019, Hearty Helpings Food Pantry moved into its current location, 749 Main St, a 60,000 sq.ft. warehouse. During the pandemic, numbers more than doubled and the pantry was serving up to 800 families a week and over 500 hot meals a week. Through a collaboration between MARS Food, Molina Healthcare & Kroger, the pantry was blessed with a 16ft. delivery truck that allows three times as much food to be brought into the community. In 2022, she was awarded: the Human Rights Award, presented by Church Women United, she was also named 2022 Delta Hot Tamale Queen, presented by Main Street Greenville, and the 2023 Martin Luther King Jr. Award, presented by 100 Black Men of the Mississippi Delta.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Pandora Redmond-Wills for her passion and dedication and tenacity to serving her community and desire to be an example for all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEBORAH K. ROSS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes on the House floor on April 17 due to a family medical situation. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 183 and YEA on Roll Call No. 184.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 185, NAY on Roll Call No. 186, and NAY on Roll Call No. 187.

COMMENDING LONNIE STEPHENSON ON HIS RETIREMENT AS INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as an electrician and proud union member to congratulate Lonnie Stephenson, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) International President, on his retirement and commend him on his lifelong leadership advocating for workers.

The son of two factory workers from Illinois, Lonnie chose to join an apprenticeship program with Rock Island Local 145. Starting his career as an electrician in 1975, he had a front row seat to the challenges facing workers in the industrial Midwest. Through his advocacy for hardworking people, Lonnie's leadership potential was quickly recognized, and he rose through the ranks of the local's leadership, winning election as vice president in 1984 and serving as president and assistant business manager before taking over as business manager in 1991.

In 2002, Lonnie was appointed international representative assigned to the Sixth District, and in 2010 he became Sixth District International Vice President. During his tenure, Lonnie led the fight against the passage of right-to-work laws across the Midwest, making sure workers' voices were heard.

In 2015, Lonnie was elected international president of the IBEW. He led the union through unprecedented challenges, including a Supreme Court imposed right-to-work laws on the entire public sector workforce in 2018. And

in 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic shuttered construction sites, offices, factories, schools, and more. Despite it all, IBEW continued to grow steadily under Lonnie's outstanding leadership.

As Lonnie steps down, the IBEW counts more "A" members than at any time in its history. The IBEW Strong Program has established a membership that looks more and more like the communities its members serve. He built the closest and most productive relationship between a union and the White House in more than half a century. And he worked alongside congressional leadership to pass and then implement laws to improve worker safety, increase wages, create millions of jobs and make more things here in America.

After nearly 50 years, Lonnie Stephenson leaves a stronger, more diverse, more powerful, and more optimistic IBEW. I wish him the best as he begins this new chapter.

INTRODUCTION OF THE OCEAN SHIPPING COMPETITION ENFORCEMENT ACT

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the "Ocean Shipping Competition Enforcement Act," which would allow the Federal Maritime Commission to block any agreements among ocean carriers and marine terminal operators determined to be unreasonably anticompetitive without having to first obtain a federal court order.

Current federal law requires the Commission, which is an independent federal regulatory agency, to review proposed agreements to ensure they are not unreasonably anticompetitive. However, the Commission cannot block anticompetitive agreements without first obtaining a federal court order concurring with the Commission's internal determination that the proposed agreement would unduly reduce ocean shipping service to ports or substantially increase shipping rates. If the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia fails to act in time, then the agreement takes effect automatically, allowing ocean liners and marine terminals to collude openly. To the best of my knowledge, no other independent federal regulatory agency is required to obtain court orders to enforce similar regulations.

The ocean shipping industry was the last transportation sector deregulated by Congress in 1984 and again with the Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-258). Before the Shipping Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-237), the Commission could block anticompetitive agreements among ocean carriers and marine terminal operators without a federal court order. In December 2022, Federal Maritime Commissioners Max Vekich and Carl W. Bentzel requested that the U.S. House

• 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.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, on which I serve, make this critical change in federal law.

The ocean shipping industry is now dominated by nine foreign-flagged ocean liners that collude openly under three carrier alliances, handling some 80 percent of cargo globally. Last June, President Biden signed my bicameral, bipartisan Ocean Shipping Reform Act (Public Law 117–146) updating our nation's laws for the ocean cargo market for the first time in nearly a quarter century. Congress must now finish the job by restoring the Federal Maritime Commission's ability to ensure competitive ocean shipping markets by blocking illegal agreements to collude. We must ensure that the Commission can do its job and fully enforce the law.

Mr. Speaker, I have been working over the past two years to reform the ocean shipping industry to better protect American businesses and consumers from price gouging by foreign-flagged ocean liners. I urge all Members of the House to join me in cosponsoring the "Ocean Shipping Competition Enforcement Act." As the top Democrat on the House Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation from 2013 to 2018, I plan to make this new bill a top priority in my ongoing work to help fix the global supply chain crunch.

HONORING LTC. ERNEST E.
WILSON

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Commander (Ret.) Ernest E. Wilson of Johnson City, Tennessee for his 27 years of honorable and meritorious service to the United States of America while serving in the U.S. Navy.

Lieutenant Commander Wilson entered the Navy as an Airman Recruit. Through his unparalleled dedication, consummate professionalism, and tenacious determination, he achieved the rank of Lieutenant Commander.

He selflessly served with numerous attack squadrons and made several extended deployments onboard aircraft carriers. Each tour of duty exemplified our Navy's confidence in his capacity to excel in positions of continually increasing authority and responsibility.

During his final ship deployment, he served as Maintenance Officer for Attack Squadron (VA-172) "Blue Bolts", attached to USS *Shangri-La* (CV-38). During the extended deployment, USS *Shangri-La* took up position at Yankee Station, in the Gulf of Tonkin, off the Northeast coast of Vietnam. As a part of Task Force 77, the "Shang" served as a crucial launch site for air strikes over North Vietnam. Lieutenant Commander Wilson's superlative management and meticulous attention to detail ensured an unmatched level of operational readiness for all planes attached to the "Blue Bolts." Throughout his career, Lieutenant Commander Wilson's initiative, perseverance,

personal sacrifice, and loyal devotion to duty reflected great credit upon himself and were in the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

HONORING JAMES MCBRIDE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor teacher and self-motivated leader, James McBride.

James has enjoyed a long career teaching and serving. James is a graduate of Mississippi Valley State University, where he received a Biology and Chemistry Degree. He took a job in Skokie, Illinois, at a cardiovascular research lab, then returned to Mississippi to work for the Department of Agriculture in Prentiss County to help eradicate boll weevils. After his time with the Department of Agriculture, James came back to Bolivar County and took a job teaching at Broadstreet High School in Shelby, MS, for nine and half years. He went to work for Trunkline Gas, where he picked up a lot of skills in communication and public relations by working directly with farmers from Washington, Sunflower, Bolivar, Quitman, and Tallahatchie Counties. Then, James moved to Cleveland and started working with the Cleveland Park Commission.

James had top-notch skills working with children because he was a track and assistant football coach at North Bolivar. Then, a position came open to run for alderman in Cleveland, MS. He ran and won and served for five years. When James was elected as a Bolivar County Supervisor in 1997, he was the first minority supervisor for District Four and the third minority supervisor ever in Bolivar County. This year will make 26 years that he has served the district. James' wife also taught school at Parks Elementary School.

During his work history, although faced with some challenges, he made good friends across racial lines. In his position as supervisor, he always strived to bring respect, knowledge, and good work ethics. He worked hard to get along with everyone to do his job to the best of his ability.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing James McBride for his dedication to advocacy in education, public service and his selfless service to the Bolivar County and the Mississippi Delta Region.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEBORAH K. ROSS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes on April 18, 2023 due to a family medical situation. Had I been present, I would have voted

NAY on Roll Call No. 185, NAY on Roll Call No. 186, and NAY on Roll Call No. 187.

HONORING MARK ROBINSON OF
LIVINGSTON COUNTY CATHOLIC
CHARITIES ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the extraordinary career of a true servant leader. Mark Robinson has used his time, talent, and treasure to be the voice of the most vulnerable in our state, including more than two decades at the helm of Livingston County Catholic Charities.

But it all began with a young boy from Detroit studying his multiplication tables and catechism. Shortly after the death of his mother, a young Mark Robinson, newly enrolled in Catholic school, began learning some of the lessons that would shape his life, including compassion, kindness, gentleness, and humility. Mark went on to attend Mercy College (now University of Detroit Mercy), and received his Master's degree in social work from Wayne State University.

Armed with his faith, his education, and a firm commitment to make the world a better place, Mark began his social work career at Boysville, a haven for troubled young men, before taking a position at Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan. Through it all, he rooted himself in his faith, staying actively involved in Christian service at his local parish.

In January of 2001, Mark became the Executive Director of Livingston County Catholic Charities, a post he has held for the past 22 years. In that time, he has used every tool at his disposal to build a team of equally compassionate caregivers and to extend the organization's reach into the community. That includes spearheading the county's first day program for adults with dementia, overseeing the Special Ministries program for adults with developmental disabilities, securing a federal grant for a countywide substance abuse program, providing mental health counseling and foster care services, and ensuring that in all that it does, the organization lives up to its commitment to serve all residents regardless of religious preference, sex, age, ability or finances.

On several occasions Mark has opened up his office for me, and arranged meetings with local leaders so that I could hear from a diverse group of stakeholders. While he is retiring from his day job, I know his commitment to the community will never end, because it is who he is. I wish Mark all the best as he begins this new chapter, one I hope will be filled with quality time with his wife, Anne, and his daughter, Sarah. And if it isn't too much to ask, I wish for a winning season for his beloved Detroit Tigers. I would like to express my gratitude for the self-proclaimed "city boy" who has for so many years faithfully served Livingston County with his whole heart.