

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR.
STEPHEN BERMAN

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 20, 2023

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Stephen Berman.

Dr. Berman dedicated his life to improving the health and well-being of people around the world.

After earning his medical degree from Temple University, Steve moved to Colorado to complete his residency at the University of Colorado.

Little did anyone know that this first-year resident, fresh out of medical school, would go on to be one of the university's most influential professors, the Director of the Center for Global Health and a world-renowned leader in the field of public health.

Dr. Berman was one of the most highly regarded members of his profession. He received numerous awards and recognitions for his work. He wrote multiple textbooks and authored hundreds of peer-reviewed research articles over the course of his career.

He was the President of the American Academy of Pediatrics, a special advisor to the World Health Organization, to the U.S. Agency for International Development, and to numerous countries around the world.

But what made Steve truly special is how much he cared for his patients, and how dedicated he was to both serving his community and giving back.

He was determined—with a tireless devotion and every ounce of his being—to make the world a better place, not just for the patients he was treating, or the officials he was advising, but for everyone, everywhere.

Steve made a point to form friendships and professional relationships with elected officials across the political spectrum and at every level of government with a singular goal: to make sure that our health care laws ensure access to treatment for every child, no matter their race, economic status or country of origin.

Like so many in our community, I was heartbroken to hear of Steve's passing this week. Our community lost a true leader and many of us lost a dear friend.

His legacy will continue to live on, not only with the thousands of people he treated throughout his life, but with the untold millions he impacted with his work along the way.

During this difficult time, my heart goes out to his family—his wife Elaine, who was his true partner in all he accomplished, his sons Ben and Jim, and his brothers Jim and Ed. He will be missed.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
HAROLD SKELTON

HON. BARRY MOORE

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 20, 2023

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the life and legacy of Harold Skelton, who sadly passed away on Friday, December 12, 2022, at the age of 80.

Mr. Skelton was born on February 18, 1942, in Evansville, Indiana. He served 22 years in the U.S. Army, including two tours in Vietnam as a Chinook pilot, and retired as a CW4. Later, Harold served as an instructor pilot and ground simulator instructor at Fort Rucker. Mr. Skelton's remarkable work and involvement ranged from many organizations including the American Legion Post 73, VFW, DAV, Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association, VVA, Civitan, Mason's, and Shriner's. His devotion and sacrifice to our Nation will be remembered with his incredible service.

Harold Skelton dedicated his life to bringing joy to his friends, family, and everybody else around him. He was a loving son, husband, father, brother, and grandfather. He is survived by his wife, Donna Skelton, two children, and five grandchildren.

Harold Skelton was a joyous and loved citizen of Alabama's Second Congressional District that left lifelong impressions on many people. He will be deeply missed by many friends, family members, and all those he made smile.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JAY
POWELL

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 20, 2023

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and exemplary public service of Assistant Police Chief Jay Powell of the Lewisville, Texas Police Department. Chief Powell passed away unexpectedly from cardiac arrest on January 6, 2023, at the age of 52.

A life-long resident of Denton, Texas, Powell graduated from Denton High School and earned both a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Accounting from the University of North Texas, graduating in 1993. Powell began his 29-year career with the Lewisville Police Department in 1994, starting as a patrol officer and rose through the ranks of Sergeant, Lieutenant, and Captain. He was promoted to Assistant Chief in 2014. His previous assignments included Field Training Officer, Hostage Negotiator, Recognition Program Manager, and SWAT Team Member.

Powell was also a graduate of the Institute for Law Enforcement Administration's "School of Police Supervision" and "Management College" as well as a graduate of the Federal Bu-

reau of Investigation's "National Academy" in 2016. As Assistant Police Chief, he competently oversaw the Support Bureau, supervising officers in Training, Traffic, Personnel, Criminal Investigations, Special Operations, Communications, SWAT, Warrants, Narcotics, and Budget Resources.

Assistant Chief Powell will truly be missed, and I extend the House's profound condolences to his wife Rhonda, his parents Pat and Becky Powell, as well as to his fellow officers and colleagues in the Lewisville Police Department. He was a consummate law enforcement professional and fostered crucial community relationships. I am proud and grateful to have had someone with the character and servant heart of Chief Jay Powell serving the City of Lewisville and the North Texas community.

COMMENDING LAURA STAGNO ON
HER WORK FOR ALABAMA DIS-
TRICT ONE

HON. JERRY L. CARL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 20, 2023

Mr. CARL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Laura Stagno for her service to Alabama's First Congressional District. A native of Birmingham, Alabama, Laura previously worked for the USDA and then for Representative Mac Thornberry before joining my Washington office during the 117th Congress as a Legislative Assistant. In this role, she did an excellent job and proved herself to be one of the sharpest minds on the Hill. Her strong knowledge of natural resources, energy, healthcare, agriculture, education, and labor and her outstanding work ethic earned her a promotion to Legislative Director in January of 2022. In this role she continued the work in her policy portfolio and meeting with constituents across our district, while she also managed 2 Legislative Assistants and a Legislative Correspondent. Laura has been a huge asset to Alabama's First Congressional District and will be greatly missed. I wish her the best in all her future endeavors.

HONORING COUNCILMEMBER GARY
KRAUS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 20, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Councilmember Gary Kraus in honor of his retirement from the Calistoga City Council.

Mr. Kraus grew up in Claremont, California and graduated in 1974 from Mt. San Antonio College with an associate degree in fire science. After earning his degree, Mr. Kraus sought to protect his community by beginning

• 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.

a career in fire service for the City of Calistoga. He spent a total of 38 years working for the fire department, including serving the last 8 years as the Department's Fire Chief.

In 2006, Mr. Kraus ran for and was elected to the Calistoga City Council. Mr. Kraus served as a Councilmember for 16 years and was successfully re-elected 3 times. During his time in public service, Mr. Kraus was a strong advocate for local support of the environment and addressing climate change. This led him to push for the re-establishment of the Green Committee which will work to effectively implement Calistoga's climate action plan. Mr. Kraus also pushed for stronger building codes to improve fire safety and diminish negative environmental impact.

Mr. Kraus had a number of other accomplishments including introducing the idea for the community to have free park and recreation services, working to significantly reduce Calistoga's unfunded liability debt, and serving for years on the city's finance committee.

Even when not at work, Mr. Kraus was still serving his community as a passionate Rotarian. Due to his outstanding community service and leadership in the Rotary Club, he was eventually named Rotary Club of Calistoga President.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Councilman Kraus for his selfless service and commitment to the people of Calistoga.

RECOGNIZING PASTORS CHUCK
AND CHARLYN SINGLETON

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 20, 2023

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chuck and Charlyn Singleton for their many years of dedication to the city of Fontana as pastors.

Pastor Chuck has served his community for over 40 years as the Senior Pastor of the Loveland Church in Fontana with his wife Charlyn, who serves as the First Lady and Executive Pastor. Pastor Chuck holds a Doctorate in Theology and became an instructor at the Claremont School of Theology, the International School of Theology, and the Cincinnati School of Theology, among other institutions. He also served on the board of trustees for many of these institutions. Since 1981, Pastor Charlyn served as President and CEO of the God's Woman Conference, which aims to teach women about the principles of their church. Pastor Charlyn holds a Doctorate in Theology as well. Her service activities also include hosting a weekly podcast and bible studies. Pastor Chuck and Charlyn have separately authored several books. Additionally, they have been recognized by various government officials and faith and community-based organizations acknowledging their civic engagement and service to their community.

Today I speak in recognition of yet another one of their accomplishments. On Sunday, January 29, Mr. and Mrs. Singleton will celebrate their 50th anniversary together as husband and wife.

For their outstanding accomplishments, it is my honor to recognize Pastors Chuck and Charlyn Singleton. Their years of civic service

and commitment to the city and the people of Fontana are worthy of the highest commendation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR.
WILLIE JAMES EPPS

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 20, 2023

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of Dr. Willie James Epps, who passed away on December 27, 2022. A Former Director of the East St. Louis Campus of Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville (SIUE), he was a nationally recognized expert in early childhood education. Born on January 26, 1946, Dr. Epps was raised on a farm in Tchula, Mississippi, the poorest town in the nation's poorest county. His parents, Jonas and Nancy Ellis Epps, though literate and landowners, had never gone to college but insisted their children pursue higher education. Dr. Epps attended racially segregated schools, graduating in 1963 from Tchula Attendance Center, which the town's white leadership denied designation as a high school. Majoring in elementary education, he graduated from Mississippi Valley State University in 1966, having worked part-time as a custodian.

He then moved to Biloxi, Mississippi, where he taught sixth grade at Perkins Elementary School, the city's only primary school for Blacks, comprised of 400 young children and 30 teachers. At Perkins, he met Barbara Bacon, a 1966 graduate of Alcorn State University, who taught fourth and fifth grade. The two married at King Solomon Baptist Church in Natchez, Mississippi, on August 12, 1967.

While earning a master's degree in elementary education at the University of Southern Mississippi, Dr. Epps served as Lexington Elementary School's principal in Lexington, Mississippi, before being promoted to assistant superintendent of the Holmes County School System. In 1970, he joined the faculty of Alcorn State University for a couple of years, before heading off to Kansas State University to pursue a Ph.D., which he was awarded in 1974.

In the mid- to late-1970s, Dr. Epps worked at the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare in Washington, D.C., and as a faculty member at both Mississippi Valley State University and the University of South Alabama. After being recruited to the St. Louis region in 1980, he was associated with SIUE for more than two decades. Dr. Epps initially was director of the National Science Awareness Demonstration Program and later was named director of the University's Head Start Program in St. Clair County. On behalf of the University, he applied for and received about \$15 million annually from state, federal, and private grants.

Dr. Epps assumed leadership of the East St. Louis Campus in 1994, retiring in 2001. During his administration he presided over tremendous growth, including the creation of SIUE East St. Louis Charter School, and securing \$27 million for a new facility. Dr. Epps served as vice president of the Greater East St. Louis Community Fund, vice chair of the Logan College of Chiropractic Board of Trust-

ees, and a member of the Education Commission of the States' Policy and Priorities Committee. He was a member of West Side Missionary Baptist Church, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., and Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge.

He received numerous awards and honors, including Region V Outstanding Head Start Director of the Year from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Outstanding Leader of St. Louis from the Center for Leadership of St. Louis, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award from SIUE, and an Illinois State Senate Recognition on his retirement.

Prior to struggling with poor health, Dr. Epps founded Southern Research Associates and became an educational consultant to historically Black colleges and universities. He was a dynamic public speaker, traveling throughout the United States to speak at educational conferences and traveling abroad to consult with educational leaders in South Africa and China.

He also visited the Netherlands, Belgium, and France, among others. He was an avid fisherman and hunter. He loved playing the slot machines on the riverboats. Watching sports on television with family and friends was a favorite pastime.

Surviving are his wife of 55 years, Dr. Barbara Bacon Epps, who retired from SIUE in 2001; a son, Hon. Willie J. Epps, Jr., a federal judge who married Mischa Buford Epps; a daughter, Beatryx Epps Washington, General Counsel of O.C. Tanner based in Salt Lake City, Utah, who married Vincent D. Washington; three grandchildren, Gabriela Washington, Cambridge Epps, and Solomon Washington; two sisters, Dr. Fannye Epps Love and Dorothy Epps; and a brother, Sam Epps. His parents, Jonas and Nancy Ellis Epps, and siblings George Ellis and Alice Mae Epps Watson, predeceased him.

CONGRATULATING WILLIE O'REE,
NHL TRAILBLAZER

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 20, 2023

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Willie O'Ree, who today celebrates the 65th anniversary of his first game in the National Hockey League. On January 18, 1958, Willie O'Ree became the first Black player in NHL history when he stepped on the ice as a winger for the Boston Bruins.

Willie went on to play more than 24 seasons in the NHL and minor leagues, overcoming bigotry and prejudice from fellow players and fans alike. On and off the ice, Willie became a champion for diversity in the sport. Following his retirement from the game, he became the NHL's Diversity Ambassador. In that role, he established the Hockey is for Everyone initiative to offer disadvantaged and marginalized children the chance to play hockey, create community, and develop important life skills.

In the 117th Congress, we joined Representatives MIKE QUIGLEY, BRIAN HIGGINS, John Katko, and AYANNA PRESSLEY as co-leads of the Willie O'Ree Congressional Gold Medal Act. We are proud to say that last year, the bill passed, and Willie was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal.

I congratulate Willie on this amazing milestone and thank him for everything he has done for the sport.