

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MICHAEL SHORT

**HON. J. LUIS CORREA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 2023*

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedication and passion of Michael Short.

Michael Short has been involved in the Orange Unified School District (OUSD) since the mid-1970s. He taught elementary choirs at Cambridge, West Orange, and Prospect and some of the infamous musicals that they have produced were "Let George Do It" and "It's All About Music".

He obtained his bachelor's degree from Chapman College in Orange, California in 1979 and his master's degree in choral conducting from California State University, Fullerton in 1988.

In August of 1979, he was hired as a full-time music teacher at Portola Junior High and in 1982, he created the Chamber Singers at Orange High School (OHS) while still running a full-time program at Portola. He was offered a full-time position by Orange High School in August of 1982. In April of 1982, the Chamber Singers sang at the wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Short.

In 1988, he became the Director of Music at the First United Methodist Church of Orange, down the block from his home. From 1990 to 1993, he was one of the Chairmen of the American Choral Directors Association High School Honor Choirs and continues to work with the American Choral Directors Association in many capacities over the last three decades.

In February of 2002, he received the "Bravo Award" from the Los Angeles Music Center for his excellence in music education and was named "Teacher of the Year 2004" by OUSD.

In October of 2005, he was named "Chapman University's Alumnus of the Year 2004" and in 2006 he was named the City of Orange's "Citizen of the Year for 2005" by the Orange Chamber of Commerce.

He continues to be involved in the arts in the Orange, California community. In 1995, he created and still conducts the "City of Orange Tree Lighting and Candlelight Procession" in downtown Orange every holiday season and the patriotic program "Third of July" every summer.

The latest project to be a recipient to his enthusiasm and leadership is the Greater Orange Community Arts Theater (GOCAT) which is a venue to feature creative artists of the community. Even though he is retiring from Orange High School, he continues to be involved in the community and the arts.

Currently, Michael is the President of the Western Division, American Choral Directors Association and he oversees the Western Region ACDA Conference to be held in Pasadena, California in March of 2024.

Michael has been married to Vicki since 1982 and has two children, Katherine Hicks

and Matthew Short. He and his wife are proud grandparents to three grandchildren as of August 2020.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and commemorating the outstanding career and accomplishments of Michael Short.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RO KHANNA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 2023*

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, on May 17, 2023, I inadvertently cast a "yea" vote for H. Amdt. 176 to H.R. 3091. I intended to vote "nay."

## HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MR. THOMAS DIXON

**HON. DEREK KILMER**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 2023*

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Thomas Dixon, a civil rights icon and the founding President and CEO of the Tacoma Urban League, whose impactful leadership in our region will be felt for generations to come.

Mr. Dixon was born in 1931 in Sparta, Georgia, and recalled the incredible influence of his family, including his father, who was a doctor, and his grandfather, who was formerly enslaved, and became one of the largest Black landowners in the county. Encouraged by his family to pursue higher education, Mr. Dixon came to Tacoma, Washington after enlisting in the United States Air Force. He received his bachelor's degree at Sophia University in Tokyo while serving in Japan and earned his master's degree from the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington.

Mr. Dixon belonged to a remarkable generation, who bravely carried the weight of responsibility in leading Tacoma through the Civil Rights Era. In 1966, he continued his life of service as the first Director of the Hilltop Multi-service Center, where he dedicated his time and energies to improving the lives of people in Tacoma through housing, job training, and educational opportunities. Just two years later, Mr. Dixon began his tenure as Executive Director of the Tacoma affiliate of the National Urban League. Throughout the 34 years he served in this role, and through his pioneering involvement with the Tacoma Pierce County Black Collective, Mr. Dixon was a tenacious and visionary leader, pushing for racial, social, and economic justice in our region. In recognition of his extraordinary contributions to our community, he was honored with the Laureate of the Greater Tacoma Peace Prize in 2015.

The Tacoma community has joined in mourning Mr. Dixon's passing on April 26,

2023, at the age of 92. Our hearts are with his wife, Sylvia, his family, and the countless individuals who held him dearly, as we express our deepest gratitude for the legacy he built. When reflecting on his career and life lived, Mr. Dixon was quoted as saying, "Everything I have done, I would try to do it again." May we all continue to do our part in keeping his spirit of service alive into the future.

## HONORING JAZMIN SANCHEZ TORREZ WITH FIRST PLACE IN THE NEW HAMPSHIRE FIRST DISTRICT CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION

**HON. CHRIS PAPPAS**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 2023*

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Jazmin Sanchez Torrez for being honored as the Winner of New Hampshire's First District Congressional Art Competition. As we celebrate the competition's 42nd year, we continue to uplift young talent while recognizing and celebrating how important arts education is to our young people. This year we received outstanding submissions from talented young artists from across the First District. Jazmin's artwork titled In Full Bloom was chosen by our Advisory Board as an excellent piece of art with an impactful meaning.

Jazmin's intent with her artwork was to capture the presence of insecurities. The flowers in the image mark where the person is least confident in their appearance. While taking the reference photos for this project, she simply handed her subject a bouquet of flowers and asked, "What would you cover up?" Jazmin wanted to highlight that what may be insecurities to some, can be seen as beautiful by others. Her work exemplified creativity and thoughtfulness, and it will be an honor to display this piece in the United States Capitol for all to see.

New Hampshire is filled with talented student-artists with bright futures ahead, and Jazmin proudly represents the best of the best here in the Granite State. On behalf of the constituents of New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I commend Jazmin for embodying all the creativity that our state has to offer, and I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

## RECOGNIZING JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

**HON. ANDY KIM**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 2023*

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the celebration of Jewish

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

American Heritage Month, as well as the 75th Anniversary of the establishment of the State of Israel.

Throughout a multitude of sectors in fields like government and military service, science and innovation, business, medicine, and the arts and humanities, Jewish Americans have made a mark on the course of history and have created a strong foundation for future generations to come. On this occasion, we have the unique opportunity to recognize the impact that Jewish American people, organizations, businesses, and more have made, all while connecting people to their heritage.

During Jewish American Heritage Month, we are also reminded that the vibrant culture of the Jewish people has not always been embraced, but it has certainly been a part of enriching our communities' history, values, and culture. In a country where diversity should be cherished and protected, Jewish communities continue to endure hostility, hatred, and narrow-mindedness. Anti-Semitism in any form, by anyone, is simply unacceptable, and it is our job to ensure Jewish Americans can proudly and safely express their faith and identity. Despite experiencing discrimination and adversity, this community has undoubtedly played a central role in the growth and prosperity of our country.

We are proud to celebrate Jewish Americans' legacies and accomplishments during this Jewish American Heritage Month. I look forward to celebrating more notable milestones with Jewish American communities for decades to come.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 58TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HEAD START PROGRAM

##### HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 2023*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 58th anniversary of the Head Start program and the invaluable services it makes available to children and families in need. The Head Start Project was launched in 1965 as a comprehensive child development program. President Lyndon Johnson commissioned Sargent Shriver with the establishment of a comprehensive program that would assist underserved communities in meeting the needs of preschool aged children. With the help of education, psychology, and child experts, the U.S. government initially launched "Project Head Start" as an eight-week summer program that reached 561,000 children. Finding early success, the program was expanded in the fall of 1965 to provide services throughout the entire school year. In the subsequent decades, Head Start has further grown to include bilingual and bicultural programs, as well as services for disadvantaged infants, toddlers, and pregnant women through Early Head Start grants.

Over the last six decades, the Head Start Program has provided a window of opportunity to more than 37 million vulnerable children and their families. Now serving nearly 1 million children and their families annually in all fifty states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. territories. Head Start's exceptional dedication to our children is truly re-

markable, and this year, as it celebrates its 58th anniversary, we express our appreciation for the impact that Head Start has had on communities across the country and especially in Bucks and Montgomery counties.

#### RECOGNIZING CHIEF GARY SPARKS' 40 YEARS OF SERVICE AS A FIREFIGHTER FOR OXFORD, ALABAMA

##### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 2023*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize Chief Gary Sparks' 40 years of service as a firefighter for the City of Oxford, Alabama.

Chief Sparks began his work with the City of Oxford when he was just 15 years old washing trucks and cleaning the station. On May 12, 1983, He became an official member of the Oxford Volunteer Fire Department.

He later became a full-time member of the Anniston Fire Department on February 13, 1987, rising through the ranks to eventually become Assistant Fire Chief in 2003.

After 20 years of service with the Anniston Fire Department, he retired on February 13, 2007. Chief Sparks became full time Fire Chief for the City of Oxford on March 3, 2007.

Chief Sparks is involved in several civic organizations in his community. He is currently serving on the Alabama Joint Fire Council. He has served Alabama's fire service for eight years with dedication and insight as a member of the Personnel Standards & Education Commission with the Alabama Fire College. He is a Past President of the Alabama Fire Chiefs Association and was voted the 2015 Alabama Fire Chief of the Year.

In addition to being a dedicated firefighter, Chief Sparks is also a dedicated husband, father, and grandfather.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Chief Sparks and his 40 years of service as a firefighter for the citizens of the City of Oxford.

#### CELEBRATING THE 98TH BIRTHDAY OF TRINI GOMEZ

##### HON. PETE AGUILAR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 2023*

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize Ms. Trini Gomez, a constituent and friend, as she celebrates her 98th birthday. We celebrate the remarkable life she has led.

Her dedication to serving the Hispanic community through managing the Inland Empire Hispanic News has made a lasting impact on our community. She and her late husband, Graciano Gomez, provided a platform for voices that needed to be heard, shedding light on important issues, celebrating achievements and fostering a sense of unity among the Inland Empire.

Her life journey is an inspiration to all of us. On this special day we honor her incredible achievements and the inspirational person she is. I hope her birthday is filled with joy, surrounded by loved ones who cherish and admire her.

Today, I thank her for being an extraordinary role model and for inspiring us all with her unwavering dedication and love for our community. May the coming year bring her good health, happiness and many more cherished memories.

#### HONORING THE 55TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE USS SCORPION'S DISAPPEARANCE

##### HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 2023*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 55th anniversary of the tragic loss of the USS *Scorpion* and its crew of 99. On this solemn occasion, we remember the valiant submariners who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving our great Nation.

The USS *Scorpion*, a distinguished vessel within the Skipjack-class of nuclear-powered submarines, disappeared on May 22, 1968, during a deployment in the Atlantic Ocean. It took several months to locate its remains, and despite multiple investigations from the Department of Defense, we may never know what truly resulted in this steep loss to our Nation's fighting force. This somber event serves as a stark reminder of the inherent risks and sacrifices associated with submarine operations, and the bravery of Americans who step up to serve underseas in the Silent Service.

The USS *Scorpion* was a vessel that symbolized American strength, technological prowess, and the courageous spirit of our servicemen. It was manned by a highly skilled and dedicated crew who embarked on perilous missions in defense of our Nation. As we honor the 55th anniversary of the USS *Scorpion's* disappearance, let us reaffirm our commitment to the safety, readiness, and well-being of our submariners. We must ensure that those who choose to serve are equipped with the resources, training, and support necessary to carry out their vital missions.

Mr. Speaker, the USS *Scorpion* crew's unwavering dedication to duty and defending our Nation overseas deserves our eternal gratitude. We must continue to remember their legacy. To that end, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring the 55th anniversary of the loss of the USS *Scorpion* and etching the sacrifice of its 99 servicemembers into our collective memory.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA TRANSPORTATION FUNDING EQUALITY ACT

##### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 2023*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the District of Columbia Transportation Funding Equality Act. The bill would make the District of Columbia eligible for three federal programs that support the development and revitalization of public transportation systems in the same manner that states are currently eligible for these programs. It would also make D.C. eligible for a transportation program that