

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING OFFICER RALPH BROWN'S CAREER OF SERVICE

HON. MIKE GARCIA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Officer Ralph Brown on the occasion of his retirement from a distinguished career with the Los Angeles Police Department. For more than 25 years, Officer Brown faithfully executed his duty as a sworn defender of his fellow officers and of the people of Los Angeles with grit, courage, and professional exceptionalism.

Officer Brown joined the Los Angeles Police Department at the peak of the 1990s crime wave, when police officers were frequently put in harm's way while protecting their community with rampant gang activity and violent crime. Despite the considerable risks, Officer Brown decided to join the department in 1998 as a way to serve his community. Upon his graduation from the academy, he quickly ascended the ranks of the LAPD and began focusing on cracking down gang related criminal activity. After several years of law enforcement excellence, so valued was his expertise that he was promoted to Police Officer III and selected to become a Field Training Officer. In this new role, Officer Brown was responsible for training police officers on how to go after gangsters that threatened public safety.

Officer Brown rounded out his career assigned to Van Nuys patrol as a Field Training Officer, retiring on June 28, 2023. He ended his career as a highly respected police officer who time and time again demonstrated his commitment to the core tenet of the Los Angeles Police Department: "To Protect and Serve."

Once again, I want to extend my sincerest congratulations and well wishes to Officer Brown on his well-deserved retirement. We are grateful as a community for his more than 25 years of public service and wish him all the best.

COMMENDING THE LEADERSHIP OF EL PASO COUNTY SHERIFF RICHARD D. WILES

HON. VERONICA ESCOBAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the 43 years of public service of Richard D. Wiles, Sheriff of El Paso County, and a distinguished law enforcement leader in our community.

Richard Wiles was raised in El Paso and is an Andress High School alum. After graduating, he joined the El Paso Police Department in 1982 and worked his way up the ranks from a Patrol Officer to Chief of Police.

Wiles was elected Sheriff to the El Paso County Sheriff's Office in 2009 where he has made important improvements to the safety of our community.

As Sheriff, Wiles has significantly improved the technology and training that officers receive. Sheriff Wiles implemented the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) that works with Emergency Health Network (EHN) to respond to calls and aid high-risk situations that may involve a person suffering a behavioral or mental health crisis. Under this program, officers are learning how to respond to mental health cases and help divert people from our criminal justice system when appropriate.

Sheriff Wiles was also an outspoken leader following the deadly domestic terrorist shooting that happened on August 3, 2019. He stood up and called out the blatant racism that motivated an individual to drive hundreds of miles with the intention to kill immigrants and Hispanics. Sheriff Wiles understands the strength and significance of our diversity and has embraced it within the El Paso County Sheriff's Office.

He has robust knowledge of the criminal justice system both in theory and practice. He received his bachelor's degree in criminal justice from the University of El Paso (UTEP) and earned his master's degree in criminal justice from Sul Ross State University. He also attended the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) National Academy and the Bill Blackwell Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas. Sheriff Wiles has always sought to be the best leader by continuously learning.

Today, it is my privilege to honor Sheriff Richard D. Wiles, thank him for his dedication, and wish him and his family the best upon his upcoming retirement.

CELEBRATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF CORAL SPRINGS

HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 60th Anniversary of the City of Coral Springs.

Coral Springs is one of Florida's first truly planned cities. It was first incorporated on July 10, 1963, as "the last piece of gold on the gold coast" and has since become home to more than 134,000 residents. Now a thriving city with "Everything Under the Sun," the Coral Springs community is proudly celebrating the city's past, present, and future during this Diamond Anniversary year with memorable family events, limited-edition merchandise production, and yearlong initiatives that aim to promote a sense of community pride and historical appreciation.

Comprising 24 square miles and nestled in the northwest corner of Broward County, Coral Springs is known for its family atmosphere,

thriving business community, a vast array of parks and recreational facilities, and top-rated schools. As one of the fastest growing cities, and now considered fully "built-out," it is hard to believe the same land was merely a green bean farm on the edge of the Florida Everglades just over 60 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in recognizing the 60th Anniversary of the City of Coral Springs and a special thanks to the residents, past and present, for making it the thriving community it is today.

HONORING GRACIELA GARCIA CANDIA'S RETIREMENT

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Graciela Garcia Candia.

Graciela Garcia Candia is an esteemed educator and leader who has dedicated 41 years of her life to Jobs for Arizona's Graduates, a program that empowers youth to achieve academic, personal, and professional success in Arizona. Raised in Arizona after her family immigrated from Mexico when she was only three years old, Graciela's personal journey fuels her passion for championing the educational needs of the state's youth.

Graciela's connection with Jobs for Arizona's Graduates began in 1982 when she joined as the Program Coordinator at Tolleson Union High School. Her exceptional performance garnered numerous local and national awards, highlighting her commitment and effectiveness in helping students succeed. In 1999, Graciela took on the role of Program Manager, where she played a pivotal role in enhancing program management and services for the organization.

In 2003, Graciela's unwavering dedication and desire to make a lasting impact led her to assume the position of president of Jobs for Arizona's Graduates. It was under her leadership the program flourished. Graciela has been instrumental in securing millions of dollars in financial support, establishing valuable partnerships, expanding program sites, and forging strong relationships with key stakeholders such as businesses, government entities, educational institutions, and community leaders.

Graciela's genuine "students come first" attitude has been a guiding principle throughout her career. Her unwavering commitment to serving and providing quality services to underrepresented students in Arizona has been the driving force behind Jobs for Arizona's Graduates' success. Her leadership has propelled Jobs for Arizona's Graduates to receive the highest honor awarded by Jobs for America's Graduates for the past 21 years.

As Graciela Garcia Candia enters a well-deserved retirement, her profound impact on the lives of countless young individuals in Arizona

● 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.

will forever be remembered. Her legacy as an educator and leader will serve as an inspiration for future generations, and her dedication to empowering underserved youth will continue to shape the future of education in Arizona.

HONORING THE LIFE OF COLONEL
TERRY WAYNE PARTIN

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the accomplishments of Terry Wayne Partin, retiring as Colonel, having served as a Chaplain with over two decades of military service. A decorated Officer, he worked as a dual-status military technician, climbing to the State Chaplain of Mississippi National Guard.

Colonel Partin is an Officer for both the Mississippi National Guard and the U.S. Army. Chaplain Partin graduated from all professional military education courses for chaplains and religious support leaders. He is decorated with the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, the Combat Action Badge, and many other awards and decorations. He served in many tactical, operational, and strategic assignments, including two overseas combat tours to Iraq in 2005 and again in 2010, where I personally served alongside him. Chaplain Partin's career culminated with his promotion to the grade of Colonel and his selection as the Mississippi Army National state chaplain, where he donned the stole for three years. He has worked at and served the service members of Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center for many years in the areas of religious support, mental health, resiliency, and counseling.

He is a true American hero and a proud Mississippian who always made his family, friends, and fellow soldiers proud; we are immensely grateful for his dedication to our country and the great state of Mississippi.

CELEBRATING NEW HAMPSHIRE'S
235TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish a very happy birthday to the greatest state in our union: New Hampshire.

For 235 years, New Hampshire has been a pillar of freedom and democracy. From our beautiful streams and scenic lakes to the stunning peaks of Mount Washington, the 'Live Free or Die' state has so much to offer.

And in 235 years, New Hampshire has been home to some incredible people and places: trailblazing explorers, including Alan Shepard and Christa McAuliffe; innovative artists and inventors like Ken Burns, Dan Brown, and Dean Kamen; and impressive centers for education and research like the University of New Hampshire, Plymouth State University, Keene State College, and my alma mater, Dartmouth College.

Happy 235th birthday, New Hampshire. Here's to many more.

COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE CITY OF EL
PASO

HON. VERONICA ESCOBAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the rich history, culture, and community that the City of El Paso has built over the last 150 years.

The City of El Paso was officially incorporated in May 1873 by the Texas Legislature. Since the inception of the city, we have been inextricably linked with Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua and communities in Southern New Mexico. We are home to the Ysleta del Sur Tigua tribe, the University of Texas at El Paso, the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center, and Fort Bliss, our nation's second largest military installation. We are a dynamic region, a vibrant metroplex where cultures and traditions blend.

El Paso is known as the 'Sun City,' where people can enjoy a Chihuahuas or Locomotives game, go on a hike or bike ride on a scenic trail in Franklin Mountains State Park, walk through our historic downtown, or enjoy the poppies in the spring at the Castner Range National Monument. The beauty of our Chihuahuan desert is unmatched. And at night, the Star on the Franklin Mountain always shines bright.

The City of El Paso is one of a kind. Our people are known to be warm, friendly, and hardworking. Our city comes together for unifying events, as we did for the Chamizal Treaty of 1963 when the United States and Mexico came into a peaceful settlement of a century-long dispute. We are a community of kindness and good will, one that always welcomes the stranger. But we also come together to love and help each other during times of great challenge, as we did after the domestic terrorist shooting on August 3, 2019 that took 23 souls. El Pasoans are resilient, and we have never lost touch with our humanity.

I am proud to call the City of El Paso my home and it is my privilege to honor the 150th anniversary of our beautiful city. The future is bright for our community.

HONORING THE AFIYA CENTER OF
DALLAS, TEXAS

HON. JASMINE CROCKETT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the Afiya Center, a Dallas-based reproductive health organization that has been at the forefront of providing refuge, education, and resources to address the unique needs of Black women and gender-expansive individuals. Established in response to the disproportionate impact of the HIV-AIDS epidemic on Black women and girls in Texas, the Afiya Center stands as the only Black women-led, Black women-centered, and Black

women-inclusive reproductive justice organization in the state.

Through their life-enriching programs, the Afiya Center has worked tirelessly to address socioeconomic disparities among Black women at risk, or living with, HIV-AIDS. The organization has also been instrumental in promoting birth justice and improving Black maternal health outcomes in Dallas and throughout Texas. As a safety network, collaborator, resource center, and info-hub, the Afiya Center has played a pivotal role in mobilizing grassroots organizing and advocating for policy changes throughout the state.

The Afiya Center's "Get Tested, Grab a Bite" community HIV testing day event, celebrating its 10th year, demonstrates the organization's commitment towards decreasing HIV, destigmatizing HIV-AIDS within the community, and addressing the social determinants of health that disproportionately affect Black women in Texas by providing free HIV testing. Moreover, this year's event goes beyond HIV testing by providing additional resources such as COVID-19 vaccines and boosters, Medicaid enrollment, and other services. Given that an estimated one-in-seven people living with HIV unaware of their status, testing events like the Afiya Center's are vital to not only raise awareness and promote responsible relations but also to encourage individuals to prioritize their health and destigmatize this preventable disease.

Texas, and particularly Dallas County, continues to face significant challenges regarding HIV prevalence. Over 18,000 people in the Dallas area are living with HIV, and despite advances in testing and medicine, the United States still experiences high rates of new infections. Black women and girls bear a disproportionate burden, with more than half of Black Texans living with HIV being women. The Afiya Center's unwavering dedication to addressing these disparities and providing support to those affected is commendable.

I urge my colleagues and the public to recognize the crucial work that organizations like the Afiya Center provide and support their ongoing efforts. Together, we can promote HIV awareness, eliminate stigma, and ensure that all individuals have access to the necessary resources and care they need to lead healthy and fulfilling lives.

I commend the Afiya Center for their tireless advocacy, their commitment to reproductive justice, and their transformative influence on the countless lives they have touched. Their remarkable achievements and the impactful work they do each and every day is a testament to their mission of empowering individuals, eliminating stigma, and striving for a healthier and more equitable future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, due to a family obligation, I was unable to attend session on June 20, 2023. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA Roll Call No. 272, and YEA on Roll Call No. 273.