

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING CHIEF DEPUTY BILLY
G. BARBER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Chief Billy G. Barber. Chief Barber has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication, and a desire to achieve.

Barber is a native of Leland, MS. Barber graduated from the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers Training Academy in Pearl, MS, and became a sworn officer in 1990. He began his career as a police officer with the Leland Police Department in January 1990 until February 1998.

Next, he began his career at the Washington County Sheriffs Department in August 1998 when a position became available. From August 1998 to September 2013, he served as a Patrol Deputy, Sergeant, Investigator, Lieutenant, and Assistant Chief. During this time, he also became an ordained Minister in 2004.

Steadily climbing the ladder, in September 2013, Barber returned to his hometown and served as Chief of Police for Leland Police Department until August 2017. Also, from 2016 to 2017, Barber served as the Chaplain for the Mississippi Association of Chief of Police.

In all these years, Barber has accumulated vast knowledge and trainings to get him where he is today, as the Chief Deputy of Washington County Sheriff's Department. He has held this position since August 2017. Barber has over 33 years of law enforcement experience in community policing.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Chief Deputy Billy Barber for his longevity and dedication to serving the community.

RECOGNIZING THE SMITH FAMILY'S EXCEPTIONAL MILITARY SERVICE

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2023

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the Smith family of Johannesburg, Michigan, for an exceptional history of military service and for their dedication to serving our nation for decades. Tracing their military lineage back to 1812, the Smith family has been involved in our Armed Forces for over 150 years and deserve to be recognized for their generational sacrifices for the preservation of our liberty.

The Smith family, many of whom are now deceased, consisted of 10 sons and 4 daughters, with all of the men serving in our military

in varying capacities. In both the Navy and Army, Frank Dutton Smith's 10 sons began their selfless careers during World War II or shortly thereafter. Their family has exemplified a shared sense of duty and sacrifice for our country, and they have continued to dedicate themselves to this higher calling throughout their lives. I am thankful for extraordinary citizens like this family and extend my appreciation to the Smiths for all they have done to protect our freedom.

Generational service, as seen in the Smith family, is a rare and commendable ethic that not many families can boast of. We must offer well-deserved praise and acknowledgment of their actions while celebrating their legacy for years to come. This level of devotion and commitment to our nation is inspiring to all and I am pleased to acknowledge them for it.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the Smith family of Johannesburg, Michigan, for their exceptional service to the United States Armed Forces. On behalf of Michigan's First District, I wish Marlene, David, and all other family members the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
CHANCELLOR JIM YEONOPOLUS

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I'm honored to celebrate and recognize the extraordinary work of Chancellor Jim Yeonopolus as he enters his richly deserved retirement. His decades of dedication to Central Texas College reflect the hard work and commitment of an admirable public servant.

Jim has made substantial contributions to CTC since he launched his career at the college 50 years ago. He began as a counselor for student services, and through hard work, tenacity, and business acumen, he advanced into leadership roles as dean, assistant deputy chancellor, deputy chancellor, and interim chancellor. As a proud veteran, he has been an integral part of the success of CTC's military education operations. His efforts have resulted in CTC being regarded as one of Texas' great institutions of higher learning.

Jim's commitment to community doesn't stop when his workday ends. He contributes his energies to trade and civic organizations that help make Central Texas a great place to call home. Whether it's the Boy Scouts, the United Way, or the Killeen Rodeo Association, Jim goes the extra mile to be of service to his fellow Texans.

While Jim isn't tired of the privilege of service, he knows that everything has its season, and the time has come to allow the next generation of leaders to take the stage. Stepping away from work won't give him much idle time as he remains a vital part of the Central Texas community and will spend more time with his beloved wife Nancy.

Retirement is meant to be celebrated and enjoyed. It is not the end of a career, but the beginning of a new adventure. It is my honor to recognize the selfless service of Jim Yeonopolus as he starts this new chapter of his life. On behalf of Central Texas, I thank him for his superb work and wish him the very best.

HONORING LINDA F. DAVIS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and self-motivated leader, Linda F. Davis. She has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication, and a desire to achieve.

Day of Caring is a community event that allows various groups and organizations to come together for a day and help different local organizations. Davis volunteered at United Way of West Central Mississippi's Day of Caring this past April. She is also the Vicksburg Post Volunteer of the week.

Davis is a 39-year employee at Grand Gulf Nuclear Station supporting the Engineering Department. She has a daughter named Johnalynn, and in her free time, she enjoys volunteering, traveling, watching television and family time.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Linda F. Davis for her passion and dedication to the Vicksburg Warren Community.

HONORING AND COMMENDING
ROLAND TRAYNOR

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2023

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Roland Traynor, Riverfront Stage Dedication.

Roland Traynor served as the architect of Camden County's free summer concert series where he began as a laborer for the Camden County Parks Department in 1972. As the architect, Mr. Traynor has provided Camden County with decades of access to world-class artists across all genres of music.

For the last 35 years, music has played a huge role in Roland's life. Although he retired in 2011, he is brought back each year as a consultant to help the county successfully carry-out the summer concert series. The series has been held at Cooper River Park in Pennsauken, New Jersey and at Haddon Lake Park in Haddon Heights, New Jersey.

The Camden County Board of Commissioners dedicates the River Stage at Wiggins Waterfront Park in Camden, New Jersey in his

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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.

name to honor Mr. Traynor's commitment to making entertainment accessible to all residents of Camden County. His efforts as the architect of the summer concert series are fueled by his beliefs that music and entertainment should be the means to drive people to visit Camden, New Jersey; keeping him both active and work focused even in his time of retirement.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring and commending Mr. Roland Traynor of Winslow Township, New Jersey, a resident dedicated to his community and who has thoroughly served them to the best of his ability.

Be it known to all, that I hereby honor Roland Traynor, and extend great appreciation for outstanding service to our community.

RECOGNIZING UNITED STATES
ARMY CAPTAIN EDWARD DOWNING
FOR A LIFE OF SERVICE TO
NORTHERN MICHIGAN

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2023

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize and celebrate the life of retired United States Army Captain Edward Downing. Passing away on February 10, 2023, at the age of 87, Captain Downing has lived a life of unparalleled service and dedication to his community. Throughout his life, Capt. Downing has served in our Nation's military, as the President of Interlochen Center for the Arts, and President of Traverse City Rotary. I commend him for his leadership and steadfast commitment to help those around him.

Captain Downing began his professional life in music and arts in the early 1970s, acting as the director of the Interlochen Center for the Arts and being named Michigan's 'Music Teacher of the Year' in 1974. Edward Downing continued his career in music for another 46 years in various capacities across the state of Michigan, and his genuine love for the arts made him an exemplary instructor, mentor, and friend to those who knew him.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Captain Edward Downing for his life of service to Interlochen, our nation, and the arts across the state of Michigan. Captain Downing's passing has saddened many in the community, but I am certain his legacy will continue for generations to come. On behalf of Michigan's First District, I wish Captain Edward Downing's family, friends, and colleagues the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING WHITNEY S. FRENCH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and self-motivated leader, Whitney S. French. She has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication, and a desire to achieve.

Whitney S. French was born on January 6, 1986, to Willie and Shirley French. Except for a few childhood years in Jackson, MS, and

her college years at Alcorn State University, Whitney is a proud lifelong resident of Marks, Quitman County, Mississippi.

Whitney is a 2004 graduate of Madison Shannon Palmer High School (MSPHS). In 2010, she received her Bachelor of Social Work from Alcorn State University. To give back to her alma maters, she actively serves on the QCHS-MSPHS Scholarship Gala Committee, is the Chaplain and Recruitment Committee Chair for the North Delta-Clarksdale Alcorn Alumni Chapter and is a member of the Advisory Board for the Alcorn State University Department of Social Work.

Whitney has a long history of serving her community through church. As a child, she used to accompany her grandmother, Cora Burrell Walker, to Valley Queen M.B. Church to help prepare boxes for their food pantry and would assist with other Kitchen Committee and Missionary Society duties. Whitney was baptized at College Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Jackson, MS, where she participated in the youth choir and holiday programs. Once Whitney returned to Valley Queen, she remained active in the choir and served as a welcome and announcing clerk. She is currently a member of Brown Missionary Baptist Church, where she serves on the Brown Everywhere Virtual Community Core Team, in the Single's Ministry, and as Virtual Greeter Team.

Whitney has always been known for being a talker. This has led her to several leadership positions throughout life. In high school, she served as class president from freshman to senior year. During her high school years, she represented Quitman County in a statewide Sankofa knowledge bowl, at a Congressional Black Caucus conference, through the youth credit union board, and as a member of the QC Performing Arts Choir.

Whitney makes sure to advocate on behalf of her community in meetings revolved around community resources and planning. She serves as a board member for the Quitman County Arts Council and on the Board of Directors for Quitman County Economic Development and Tourism, Inc. Whitney is currently honing her leadership skills as a 2023 fellow of Delta Regional Authority's Delta Leadership Institute. She also works to increase access to education and resources needed for young people to have healthier outcomes.

Even before she could vote, Whitney was passionate about her community exercising their rights to vote and being fully represented. As a youth, Whitney worked as a poll watcher and canvassed the community during election and census terms. After returning to the community from college, Whitney was active with the local Democratic Executive Committee and Voters' League. She currently uses her voice on social media to encourage her friends and followers to be aware active in the political process.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Miss Whitney S. French for her contributions and service to her community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2023

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, due to a family obligation, I was unable to attend session on July 11, 2023.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 290, and YEA on Roll Call No. 291.

RECOGNIZING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE VILLAGE OF HARRISON

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2023

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Village of Harrison on the celebration of its 10-year anniversary.

The residents of the Village of Harrison are celebrating 10 years since their incorporation as a Village. Harrison covers nearly 32 square miles throughout in Northeast Wisconsin, stretching into parts of both Calumet County and Outagamie County. The Village is home to around 14,000 great Wisconsinites, and it is truly a great place to call home.

Harrison is located on the beautiful north-east shores of Lake Winnebago and is a combination of both rural and urban areas. The location was originally chartered as the Town of Lima in 1853 and later became the Town of Harrison in 1858. In 2013, a referendum passed to incorporate the entire area into a Village.

Throughout the last ten years, the Village of Harrison has taken many actions to improve the community, especially when it comes to the improvement of local parks. The Village recently installed new volleyball and tennis courts and created new pickleball courts for community members and families to enjoy. The Village is constantly working to improve trails and update playground equipment—all these actions make the Village of Harrison a great place to live and raise a family.

Each year since 2019, the Village of Harrison hosts the Fox Cities Festival of Lights located at Darboy Community Park. The festival is a free family event that works to create a holiday light display and each year it raises tens of thousands of dollars for area nonprofits.

The Village celebrated their 10-year incorporation by holding a community event on July 19th that featured a parade, a brat fry, food trucks, sports & games, live music, fireworks, and more. The whole community has come together in celebration of this outstanding accomplishment.

I would like to acknowledge this noteworthy milestone in the Village's history, and I wish the Village prosperity and success in its future.