

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THANKING JAMES (TRE) WILLIAMS

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2023

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. James (Tre) Williams, for his work as an intern in my D.C. office. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his hard work and recognize the meaningful contributions he has made to the office this summer.

Tre is from St Louis, Missouri, and is a rising sophomore at Loyola Marymount University where he is studying business marketing. Tre enjoys playing intramural basketball and making music during his free time.

Interns work with staff to serve constituents in North Carolina's 11th congressional district. Tre was chosen from a competitive pool of applicants and exceeded every expectation with his positive attitude and impressive work ethic.

It was a pleasure to work with Tre, and I am so proud to have such an intelligent and ambitious intern representing my office. Tre exemplified the spirit of public service and represents the best that our Nation has to offer. I congratulate Tre on this successful completion of his internship, and on behalf of the people of Western North Carolina, I thank him.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GERARDO MOUET

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2023

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Gerardo Mouet, a dedicated community leader, public servant, and father.

Gerardo passed away on March 7, 2023, after battling cancer for over a decade. He devoted his life to serving Orange County and the people of Santa Ana, inspiring his community members to love nature as much as he did.

Gerardo served as the executive director for Santa Ana's Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Agency for 14 years and the director of Long Beach's Parks, Recreation, and Marine Department until he retired to focus on his health. During his tenures, Gerardo oversaw large-scale restructuring efforts that saved both cities money and increased efficiency to better protect parks and wildlife.

His wife Jenny and children, Andrew and Monica, will remember him as a husband and father who loved his family, loved his community, and loved nature.

I thank Gerardo for his dedication to Orange County.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DANIEL "DAN" CARR JOHNSTON BOWLING II

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2023

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Delegate Daniel "Dan" Carr Johnston Bowling II, of North Tazewell, Virginia, who passed away at home on July 19, 2023. Delegate Bowling was a longtime public servant of Tazewell County and the state of Virginia.

He was a former member of the Virginia General Assembly in the Virginia House of Delegates, and previously served on the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors, the Public Service Authority Board of Tazewell County, and the Tazewell County Soil and Water Conservation Board of Directors. Recently, he was elevated to Director Emeritus Honorarium status by the Tazewell Soil & Water Conservation District Board.

Delegate Bowling was a lifelong resident of Tazewell County. He was a member and former pastor of Bradshaw Memorial Church in Cedar Bluff, VA. He was a graduate of Virginia Tech and was a professor at Southwest Virginia Community College for 36 years. After a gratifying career, Delegate Bowling retired in 2010 to the family farm, raising registered Angus cattle.

Delegate Bowling was an active community member. He was a member of the Tazewell Lions Club for 5 years, and a member of the North Tazewell Lions Club for 30 years, serving in all offices and as District Governor from 1997 to 1998. He was a former president of both the Lions of Virginia Foundation and the Lions of Virginia Hearing Foundation. Delegate Bowling was also a member of the Gideons of Virginia.

Delegate Bowling is survived by his wife of 30 years, Janice "Jan" Bowling, as well as his children, Daniel Bowling III and wife Beth of Beaver, WV, William Chris Matney of Cedar Bluff, VA, Louetta Esponisa of Richlands, VA, and Danita Bowling of Tazewell, VA; his brother, Othel Donald Bowling of Onley, VA; and 4 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren, along with many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Delegate Bowling was involved and important in the Tazewell community, offering public service in so many areas. He touched the lives of many, including fellow members of his community, worshippers of his church, and students he taught. I have no doubt that he will be greatly missed.

RECOGNIZING THE ANNIVERSARY OF MEDICAID AND MEDICARE

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2023

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on July 30, 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed a bill into law that would guarantee all Americans access to quality medical care. Since that day, Medicaid and Medicare have evolved to better meet Americans' needs. These essential programs provide affordable healthcare to well over 100 million Americans, including our aging and most medically-vulnerable populations.

Today, 18 percent of Illinoisians are enrolled in Medicare, and nearly 25 percent of Illinoisians are enrolled in Medicaid. Medicaid is especially significant for mothers' and children in Illinois and in my Congressional District. Medicaid finances 38.9 percent of all births and insures 36.9 percent of children in Illinois. In my District, 24 percent of families and 30 percent of all children under 18 live below the poverty line. Thus, these programs serve an integral role in ensuring that my constituents receive medical care regardless of financial status.

Although we have made great strides in bringing healthcare to our citizens young and old, disparities still remain. It is shameful that the most vulnerable often have the most difficult time obtaining excellent care, with recent studies indicating that individuals who are dually-eligible for both Medicaid and Medicare suffer from the highest rates of disparities in quality of care. In Chicago, residents in the Loop have a life expectancy of 85 years, on par with the longest living people in the world. However, in the Garfield Park neighborhood, just 7 stops away on the CTA Blue Line, life expectancy plummets to under 69 years. To put that figure into perspective, the average American life expectancy has not been below 69 years since 1950. It pains me to know that, in my own district, a mere 7-stops correlates to a 16-year difference in the length of one's life. This statistic demonstrates that much work remains to ensure equal access to high-caliber health care.

Further, I am proud that, during my time in Congress, I helped enact the Affordable Care Act as well as multiple improvements to Medicare and Medicaid, including the recently-enacted policies to help make prescription medications more affordable. Americans pay up to four times more for medications than patients in other countries, and more than one third of Americans cite unaffordability as the reason they do not fill their prescriptions. The Inflation Reduction Act already helps millions of Americans by capping out-of-pocket insulin costs at \$35 per month and removes cost sharing on the most essential vaccines, including the shingles vaccine for seniors. When the \$2,000 out-of-pocket cost cap takes effect in 2025, nearly 600,000 Illinoisians will save an average of \$432.71 per year on medications. By

● 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.

2030, the Inflation Reduction Act will allow the federal government to negotiate prices for 80 of the most crucial medications on the market. The true cost of the price gouging schemes by Big Pharma is American lives, and I am proud that my colleagues and I have successfully strengthened the ability of Medicaid and Medicare to provide affordable medication to Americans.

Healthcare is a right. As we celebrate the 58th anniversary of Medicaid and Medicare, I recognize the critical rolls that these laws play in and reassert my dedication to ensuring the right of all Americans to affordable, quality healthcare.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2023

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 369.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHARLES
L. "CHUCK" HAYES

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2023

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Charles L. "Chuck" Hayes, of Radford, Virginia, who passed away at home on July 6, 2023. Mr. Hayes was described by his loved ones as a "beloved husband, father, teacher, and friend."

Mr. Hayes earned his undergraduate degree from Troy State College and his master's degree from Indiana University. He went on to teach acting, directing, theatre history, and literature and cinema at Radford University for 40 years. He also directed for theatre, opera, film, radio, and television, directing over 40 productions at Radford.

The University's Department of Theatre and Cinema, its alumni, friends, and family recently honored Mr. Hayes' career by naming the Pridemore Playhouse stage for him, in recognition of his many contributions to Radford University, the theatre program, and its students.

Additionally, he worked with the Virginia Governor's School for the Arts for four years and served as its director in 1987 and 1988.

Mr. Hayes met his beloved wife, Betsy L. Robinson while doing summer theatre in her hometown of Danville, Kentucky, and married in 1962 and had three children together.

Mr. Hayes is survived by his wife, daughter Dr. Paige Horst (Randall), son Hunt Hayes, son Anthony Hayes (Korena) Hayes, grandson Tallis Horst (Kimberly) and their four children, granddaughter Carlie-Rose Zepp (Ben), and grandson Jed Horst. I wish them condolences on the loss of their loved one.

Mr. Hayes was hugely influential in the Radford community, touching the lives of countless students during his 40 years at the school, nurturing life-long friendships. I know he will be greatly missed.

CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF JAMARI MCIVORY

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the accomplishments of Savannah Christian's own, Jamari McIvory.

Jamari is a rising senior at Savannah Christian, playing three sports: track, football, and basketball.

In May, he won the 2023 Georgia Highschool Associations Class 3A State Title in both the 200 and 400-meter races, running a lightning-fast 21.65 and 48.1 seconds, respectively.

After winning these championships, Jamari was named the Coastal Empire Boy's Track and Field Athlete of the Year by the Savannah Morning News.

Just last week, he won his second AAU Nationals 400-meter run in Las Vegas, besting the competition by over two seconds.

At the end of the month, Jamari will travel to the 2023 AAU Track and Field Junior Olympics at Drake University in Indiana.

Bringing the title home to the Coastal Empire.

RECOGNIZING OFFICER KEITH
MORTENSEN

HON. BRAD FINSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2023

Mr. FINSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Officer Keith Mortensen, who is retiring on July 31st after 30 years serving as an officer with Mankato Public Safety.

A proud son of southern Minnesota, Officer Mortensen earned his degree in law enforcement from Mankato State University and went on to serve in the Mankato Department of Public Safety, first as road patrol and eventually as a school liaison officer.

Last year, Officer Mortensen was awarded the Minnesota Juvenile Officer of the Year award for his work as a school resource officer, specifically for his work fostering relationships with area youth.

He created "Cops and Bobbers," a summer program that connects local kids with law enforcement officers through the fun of fishing. Because of the leadership and dedication of Officer Mortensen, the program has now helped more than 400 young adults and will serve future generations of students for years to come.

I want to thank Officer Mortensen for his years of service and the example he has set for all of us in southern Minnesota. I congratulate him on his retirement, and I wish him the best of luck in this next chapter.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUBEN GALLEG0

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2023

Mr. GALLEG0. Mr. Speaker, today I missed a vote on final passage of H.R. 4366—Military

Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act 2024, because of the birth of my child. Had I been present on the House Floor, I would have voted NO. As a combat veteran myself, I believe it is our duty and responsibility to ensure all veterans are provided the care and resources they have earned. This year, however, I would not have been able to vote for this bill in good faith.

Speaker McCarthy allowed the most radical members of his party to hijack a bill meant to support our veterans. House Republicans passed amendments that do the opposite, including provisions that restrict access to medically necessary gender-affirming care, discriminate against the LGBTQ+ community, and eliminate efforts to combat climate change.

Although there were dozens of amendments that I would have opposed, I want to highlight 5 where I would have cast the following individual votes:

1. NO on Ogles Amendment No. 2, which would transfer \$3 million from NATO's Security Investment Program to the Spending Reduction Account at the end of the bill.

2. NO on Greene Amendment No. 3, which would cut the \$73 million increase in funding for the NATO Security Investment Program.

3. NO on Greene Amendment No. 34, which strikes funding for the Office of Resolution Management, Diversity, and Inclusion.

4. NO on Bost Amendment No. 35, which prohibits the VA from using funds to submit a beneficiary's name to the NCIS list based on VA's appointment of a fiduciary.

5. NO on Roy Amendment No. 40, which prohibits funds in this act from being used to carry out President Biden's climate change executive order.

Instead of passing bipartisan legislation that treats ALL veterans with respect and honor, House Republicans chose to discriminate against those who have sacrificed so much for our country. This is a major step backwards, and I cannot support this bill.

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE STATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2023

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as the Senior member of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness I am grateful to recognize the historic significance of the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Department of Defense State Partnership Program.

The Department of Defense State Partnership Program was established in 1993 and has evolved from a program designed to assist countries emerging from behind the Iron Curtain to one that now involves 88 partnerships with 100 nations, and the National Guard of every state and territory of the United States. Every year, members of the National Guard typically engage in more than 1,000 events during which they work with partner militaries to bolster capabilities, improve interoperability, and enhance principles of responsible governance.