

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CURRICULUM VITAE FOR TECHNICAL SERGEANT MICHAEL BETTIS

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 2023

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Tech Sergeant Michael A. Bettis.

Sergeant Bettis is retiring upon 20 years of tireless service to our Nation. His service in the U.S. Air Force as a Firefighter spanned from 2000 through 2004, during which he was twice deployed. During his deployment in the UAE, he was selected for Senior Airman below zone, and also earned the Air Force Achievement Medal. He then deployed to Qatar in 2004, before a brief return to civilian life.

Tech Sergeant Bettis was called back to our Nation's service in the West Virginia Air National Guard, wherein he cross-trained into the Security Forces in 2008, and deployed a third time in 2010 to Saudi Arabia. He reenlisted in the Pennsylvania Air National Guard, where he finished his storied and successful career.

Mr. Speaker. I'm privileged to commend Tech Sergeant Michael Bettis on his tireless, selfless and loyal service to the United States, and I wish him Godspeed in his future.

HONORING THE DALLAS AREA RAPID TRANSIT (DART) 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 2023

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, today I stand to commemorate a momentous milestone in the history of North Texas. It is with great excitement that we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) system, a creation that has continued to link our communities together over the years.

Four decades ago, in 1983, a vision was born to transform the Dallas Regional Transport system—a limited municipal bus system—into a well-developed transportation network that would connect our neighborhoods, bridge distances, and bring people closer together. Today, we stand with great appreciation for that dream as the DART has served not only as a system of trains but also to unify the metropolitan area.

Throughout its history, the transport system started as a small rail line of just 65 miles that connected Denison to Downtown Dallas. Moving forward, the rail line served a greater purpose than just transporting people, but also worked to transport the workers and materials that have helped advance the development of our beloved North Texas communities. Today, this system boasts over 90 miles of track, making it one of the longest light rails in the

United States. DART not only has connected people across the community but has also continued to serve as a means of promoting economic growth by providing greater access to local businesses.

I stand here today to celebrate the accomplishments we have seen over the past 40 years; it is important to continue to look forward. As the greater Dallas area continues to grow and evolve, DART will continue to serve not just as a train but as a means to connect our community. Congratulations on 40 years.

HONORING THE LIFE OF WARREN ZAHNER

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 2023

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the loss of a quiet force for good in Eastern Connecticut, Dr. Warren Zahner of Ellington. Aged 72, Mr. Zahner passed away sadly but peacefully on June 30, 2023.

Born April, 1951 to Emanuel and Clara Zahner in Hartford, Connecticut, Warren was raised with a strong work ethic and a caring heart. Upon graduating high school, he chose the healing profession of dentistry as his career path, which is a demanding course that required both hard work and empathy for others. A diligent student at the University of Connecticut, he graduated in 1976 and completed a residency at the prestigious Hartford Hospital the following year.

Dentistry was not just his life bread and butter, but his passion as a medium to serve the broader community. For 43 years, until 2019, the quality of his work was admired and appreciated by thousands of his patients, and all of his peers in health care in Ellington and northeast Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, The Town of Ellington is situated midway between the University of Connecticut and his hometown of Hartford, the perfect spot for Warren to settle in and grow his practice and his family. Over time, he decided to give back to his profession that provided him so much in life by joining the faculty at UConn as a clinical instructor.

Throughout his years, Warren always prioritized the relationships he met along the way—between his family, his clientele and staff, in his volunteer capacities and as a leader within his community of faith. He was also known to export his caring skills abroad by regularly volunteering in a Haitian dental clinic. After his retirement, Warren continued serving his community by joining the ranks of the Midwest Food Bank, working as a coordinator for the organization.

Mr. Speaker, often it is those who don't seek the limelight who are the most willing to really dedicate their time toward helping others. Doctor Zahner was one of those good people. Speaking personally, it was an honor to know Warren as a neighbor and patient. We mourn his loss but have faith that the

large family which both he and his wife Bonnie have raised, including their four children Michael Shawn Jonathan and Elisa and 14 grandchildren, will greatly extend the length of his memory. Now that he has left this world, we can also find solace in that he has been met by one of his greatest longings, to reunion with his young, late son David Aaron Zahner.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring Warren Zahner.

REMEMBERING AND HONORING THE LIFE OF THE LIEUTENANT MICHAEL WOOD

HON. JEFF DUNCAN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 2023

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and career of Lieutenant Michael Wood who served the Newberry, South Carolina community for over 20 years as an officer at the Newberry Police Department and passed away while in the line of duty on July 26, 2023. Lieutenant Wood, a resident of Prosperity, South Carolina, is survived by his wife, Jennifer, and two sons, Brandon and Alexander.

In 2003, Lieutenant Wood began serving the Newberry Police Department as an officer. In 2006, his dedication and commitment earned him a promotion to Corporal and subsequently Sergeant and Lieutenant.

While on duty on July 26, Lieutenant Wood responded to a call for service and was involved in a motor vehicle accident—succumbing to his injuries later. Newberry Police Chief Goodman praised Lieutenant Wood's service, work ethic, and creative community policing. For example, the "walk-and-talk" program was created by Lieutenant Wood to allow law enforcement and citizens to build a relationship founded on trust. Together, police officers and community members would walk the streets of Newberry while talking about life, sports, family or anything—just no talking about work. It was not about explaining law enforcement efforts, but rather helping to show communities that law enforcement officers are human and have the same passions, struggles, joys and dreams as their community.

Lieutenant Wood was a 1998 graduate of Newberry College where he also played football. Active in his community, he taught life lessons as both a baseball coach and Boy Scout leader, was a member of Wightman United Methodist Church and served on the Board of Directors for the Soil and Water Conservation District.

Mr. Speaker, it's an honor to recognize the life and selfless service of Lieutenant Michael Wood. I know Jennifer, Brandon and Alexander will remember him as a great husband and father, but Newberry will remember him as a friend, protector and inspiration. As the Apostle John said in the 15th chapter and 13th verse, "Greater love hath no man than

• 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.

this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." Lieutenant Wood answered the call to be a police officer and answered the call again on July 26, 2023. My thoughts and prayers are with the Wood family, the Newberry Police Department and the entire community who mourns this tragic loss of life.

HONORING THE LIFE OF POLICE
CHIEF KEN BURK

HON. ZACHARY NUNN

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 2023

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Winterset, Iowa's Chief of Police, Ken Burk, who passed away on July 21, 2023, at the age of 59. Chief Burk spent the last 20 years dedicated to serving his community as Police Chief, and he leaves behind a lasting legacy of exceptional service.

To the people of Winterset, Ken Burk was more than just a Police Chief—he was a true pillar in his community. In a town of just over 5,300, almost everyone knew Chief Burk. Widely respected and always ready to chat about classic cars or the Kansas City Chiefs, he is remembered as a man who truly cared about his fellow neighbors and worked valiantly to keep his town safe.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues join me in remembering Chief Ken Burk as not only a tremendous public servant and protector, but as an even better person.

APPLICABILITY OF THE AIRLINE
DEREGULATION ACT TO STATE
WORKERS' COMPENSATION PRO-
GRAMS

HON. LANCE GOODEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 2023

Mr. GOODEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss an important issue to both our nation's employers and their employees; and that is regarding the applicability of the Airline Deregulation Act (ADA) to State Workers' Compensation programs. When Congress enacted the ADA in 1978, one of the main goals was to place maximum reliance on competitive market forces to help lower prices and improve efficiency, innovation, variety, and competition in the delivery of air transportation services.

But the ADA was never intended to prohibit states from regulating workers' compensation systems.

In my home state of Texas, there has been litigation on this issue for over a decade, and there is no end in sight. That is why Congress needs to step in and why I filed Amendment 300 to H.R. 3935, the Securing Growth and Robust Leadership in American Aviation Act.

My amendment, which unfortunately was not able to be made in order as part of the House's consideration of H.R. 3935, would have amended the Airline Deregulation Act to clarify that the original intent of the ADA was not to preempt state workers' compensation laws with respect to billing and payments for air ambulance services.

The foundation of the state workers' compensation system is individual state regulation of reimbursement amounts under their workers' compensation medical fee schedules, thereby creating cost transparency. In most states, this is accomplished by setting workers' compensation medical fee services at a percentage above what providers receive under Medicare.

As a result, workers' compensation coverage is widely available to employers of every size across all industries; and ensures employees are protected from the economic impact of workplace injuries.

Unfortunately, the protections and certainty this system affords both employers and workers alike started to be undermined in 2010 when numerous air ambulance service providers began asserting the ADA preempts state workers' compensation medical fee schedules, creating a pathway for air ambulance fees to unreasonably skyrocket.

The preemption of state workers' compensation laws within the ADA is a pure accident. When Congress passed the ADA in 1978 to deregulate the airline industry, it certainly did not intend to deregulate workers' compensation insurance payments to air ambulance companies.

As part of the 2018 FAA Reauthorization Act, Congress established the Air Ambulance and Patient Billing Advisory Committee at the Department of Transportation to address several issues involving air ambulance companies, including medical fees, consumer choice, and protecting consumers from balance billing. In March 2022, the Advisory Committee submitted its report to Congress, which included a recommendation to amend the ADA to clarify that it does not preempt state laws relating to state regulation of workers' compensation insurance programs.

My proposed amendment to H.R. 3935 embodies the Advisory Committee's recommendation and will address the accidental preemption of state workers' compensation laws and the inadvertent federalization of a part of state workers' compensation systems. This simple clarification that the ADA preemption provision does not apply to state workers' compensation payments for air ambulance services will return the issue to the states where it belongs, and air ambulance companies will have every opportunity to make their arguments on the appropriate payment amounts for their services within each state's workers' compensation system.

Unfortunately, my amendment was not included in the bill that was considered by the House, but I will continue to work with other members on legislation to address this important issue.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS
OF MISS JESSICA THOMPSON OF
MARYLAND

HON. DAVID J. TRONE

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 2023

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the achievements of Miss Jessica Thompson, a resident of Middletown, Maryland and member of the Frederick County Knucklers marble shooting team. On June 22,

2023, Miss Thompson won the 100th Annual National Marbles Tournament. In addition to winning the top title in the girls' division, she won the honor of Good Sportsmanship. These titles earned her a college scholarship.

As this year marks the 100th annual tournament, it is regarded as the oldest children's competitive sport in the United States, having started in 1922. During the week of June 22nd, young girls and boys from all across the nation gathered to participate in tournaments, engaging in over 1,200 games of Ringer. Throughout the intense three-day event, Jessica displayed her exceptional skills by competing in more than 100 games. With determination and skill, she clinched the championship.

It is with great pride that Maryland's sixth district welcomes the Queen of Marbles home to Middletown, and we wish her continued success in all of her endeavors.

HONORING THOMAS (TOMMY)
CHRISTOPHER CHATMON, JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 2023

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize, a dedicated servant leader, seasoned business executive, faithful civil rights activist, great strategic thinker, loving husband, committed father, and friend of long-standing, Thomas (Tommy) Christopher Chatmon, Jr. Sadly, Tommy transitioned this life from labor to reward on July 22, 2023. A homegoing service celebrating his remarkable life will be held on Saturday, August 5, 2023, at The Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Albany, Georgia.

Thomas (Tommy) Christopher Chatmon, Jr was born in Albany, Georgia, on December 19, 1954, the third of 5 children to the late Thomas C. Chatmon, Sr., and Alma Chatmon. Raised in a God-fearing family, he became a member of Bethel AME Church, where he was a lifelong member and sang in the choir. His first fruits of education came as a student at the Hazard Laboratory School for Primary Education and St. Teresa's Catholic School in Albany. Tommy was also a product of the Dougherty County School System, graduating from Albany High School in 1972. Tommy made history while at Albany High School, becoming the marching band's first African American drum major. His love of music continued, and he delayed college after graduating with honors to travel with a band called Eden from 1968 to 1974.

In 1974, Tommy followed in his father's footsteps by attending our Alma Mater, Morehouse College. He graduated from Morehouse in 1979 with a bachelor's degree in political science. One of Tommy's proudest moments at Morehouse was when he was selected to serve as a U.S. Congressional Intern, in the office of United States Congresswoman Cardiss Hortense Collins.

After graduating from Morehouse, Tommy returned to his hometown roots in Albany to operate a family-owned business, Chatmon's Beauty Supply, Inc. He was a great strategic entrepreneur and as Chief Operating Officer for 17 years, he helped grow the family business to 10 retail locations in 4 different states.