

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF HOUSE RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE CHICANO/CHICANA HERITAGE MONTH

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 15, 2023

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a resolution I proudly introduced earlier this month to recognize Chicano/Chicana Heritage Month.

Although the term “Chicano” was previously used as a derogatory term for Mexican Americans, today the Mexican American community has reclaimed “Chicano” and “Chicana” to empower and uplift the Mexican American identity.

Chicanos and Chicanas from all over—my district in Orange County, the State of California, and the United States as a whole—have significantly contributed to the advancement of our society. Chicanos have aided in scientific advancement, such as the co-invention of the X-ray reflection microscope by Albert Vinicio Báez. Chicanos have pushed the limits of space exploration, like Ellen Ochoa did as the first Hispanic female astronaut. And Chicanos, like Emigido Vasquez and Selena Quintanilla Pérez, have added color through our lives through art, music, and fashion.

Chicanos and Chicanas have also served proudly in our Nation’s military. These brave patriots fought and sacrificed for our Nation’s freedoms. Almost 20 percent of American casualties in the Vietnam War were Chicano and Chicana.

As of 2021, over 37,000,000 Chicanos and Chicanas reside in the United States and make up about 60 percent of America’s Latino population. The Chicano population alone makes up almost 12 percent of this country, making Chicano culture an important part of the fabric of our Nation.

In my district, Chicanos and Chicanas make up over 70 percent of the city of Santa Ana—the first major city to recognize August as Chicano Heritage Month last year. This year, I am proud that Anaheim will join the celebrations and commemorate Chicano Heritage all month long.

Mexican Americans in the United States deserve recognition for their achievements and contributions to our country. In that spirit, I was honored to have introduced the Chicano/Chicana Heritage Month Resolution. This resolution would recognize August as Chicano/Chicana Heritage Month and acknowledge the role Chicanos and Chicanas have played in our Nation’s biggest triumphs.

RECOGNIZING JAUQUA WILKINS

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 15, 2023

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jauqua Wilkins for her induction

into the Black Achievers Society of Greater Kansas City. Jauqua is passionate about empowering the underrepresented, improving access to quality education, and strengthening diversity and inclusion efforts. She understands how systemic inequality disproportionately affects minority families by providing fewer opportunities for economic mobility. Consequently, she has devoted her time and energy to building a more just equitable world.

As a child, Jauqua and her mother attended events that celebrated Black culture in the United States. These events gave Jauqua a strong sense of belonging and a positive self-image. After earning a bachelor’s degree in biology at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff and a master’s degree in education at American International University, Jauqua began teaching biology and algebra in special education classrooms. She believes that educating her local community is a way to close wealth gaps, and her teaching experience includes work at Southwest Charter, Hickman Mills C–1 school district, the Economic Opportunity Foundation, and the Full Employment Council. While teaching at the Economic Opportunity Foundation, she was awarded the mentor of the year award for 2009–2010.

In 2013, Jauqua became a career development specialist at MINACT, Inc., where she assisted students in developing the skills needed to find meaningful job opportunities. Jauqua later served as the Vice President of Programs and Operations at the Urban League of Greater Kansas City from 2016 to 2021. She crafted policies and programs, set strategic goal-setting initiatives, and conducted evaluations within the Urban League. In 2021, Jauqua became the Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Program Manager II at Cerner Corporation in Kansas City, Missouri. In this position, she helped implement new programs and policies that highlighted disparities of accessibility and outcomes. Jauqua was promoted as the Global Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer at the Oracle Cerner Corporation. In addition to creating cultural and diversity programs, she now develops and implements procedures with an inclusive decision making process. Jauqua’s experience as a Diversity and Inclusion officer will serve as a powerful asset not only to the Black Achievers Society of Greater Kansas City, but also to the greater Kansas City community.

Moreover, Jauqua has been a very active member within her community. Her service experience includes being a part of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.—Mu Omega Chapter. She currently serves on the University of Missouri Extension and Engagement Advisory Committee. In this role, she serves as a catalyst by building connections between people, communicating the value of the committee’s work, and receiving feedback from others on how to improve Missourians’ lives. She was also a part of the KC Chamber Centurions Leadership Program and Steering Committee of the Apex Class of 2022. Jauqua served as a council member of the YMCA People Service Council and as a secretary of

the Kansas City International School Board. In addition, Jauqua has been recognized by the Greater Kansas City Chapter of Societas Docta for her advocacy in Civil Rights. Jauqua has served in numerous leadership roles within the Kansas City metropolitan area.

Jauqua has shown time after time that she is a mission-driven and visionary leader who does exceptionally well while in leadership roles. There’s no doubt in my mind that Jauqua is a great addition to the Black Achievers Society of Greater Kansas City. Mr. Speaker, please join me in applauding Jauqua Wilkins for all her contributions to our community and the great work that she will continue to do.

RECOGNIZING GEORGE PEDERSEN

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 15, 2023

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the life and memory of George J. Pedersen, who passed away on May 22, 2023, at age 87. My prayers are with his family and loved ones, especially his wife, Marilyn.

George was a caring individual and dedicated entrepreneur who lived his life serving others. He co-founded and led ManTech for more than 50 years. With a fierce love for his country and visionary genius, George evolved and grew ManTech as the government expanded its need for high-end engineering and innovative technology for national security missions. George’s leadership in instilling expectations of excellence and success has made ManTech to be a successful partner with the government during threats of war, the space race, and 9/11. I am personally grateful for his leadership in Virginia, and I know that our communities are safer because of George’s dedication and service to innovate ManTech’s technology and solutions.

Not only did George dedicate his life to building and expanding ManTech, but he also was an amazing mentor and friend to all. He focused on helping people within the ManTech community and the community beyond. He prioritized successful outcomes for his customers and held himself to the highest standard in everything he did. George took a personal interest in the well-being of those around him and lived a life of service and dedication to others.

George will be remembered for his legacy of service, sacrifice, and care. I pray that his family and loved ones may be comforted as they mourn his loss. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in honoring the life and legacy of George Pedersen.

• 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.

HONORING THE SMALL BUSINESS
ADMINISTRATION**HON. MICHAEL GUEST**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 15, 2023

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, on July 30, 1953, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed into law an act of Congress establishing the Small Business Administration (SBA) with the purpose of promoting and supporting small businesses across the United States of America. Since its founding, the SBA has stood as a pillar of support for America's entrepreneurs. Today, we recognize the SBA's invaluable contributions to empowering entrepreneurs; fostering economic opportunity and innovation; and building a vibrant and resilient economy for all Americans.

Over the past seven decades, the SBA has implemented groundbreaking programs and innovative lending initiatives that have helped entrepreneurs transform the economic landscape of our nation. By recognizing these achievements, we honor the SBA's commitment to fostering economic opportunity and supporting the indomitable spirit of our small business owners.

America is a Nation of progress, and small businesses are vital to spurring the competition and the innovations that drive our economy. The SBA plays a vital role in fostering entrepreneurship.

The SBA has been instrumental in providing access to capital for entrepreneurs who faced obstacles in securing traditional financing. SBA launched the 8(a) Business Development Program which provides support, mentorship, and access to government contracts for socially and economically disadvantaged small business owners. This program opened the doors of opportunity for minority-owned businesses, creating a more inclusive economic landscape.

Recognizing the extraordinary contributions that American women make to our economy, the SBA established the Office of Women's Business Ownership, empowering women entrepreneurs and women-owned small businesses to thrive.

In times of crisis, the SBA plays a crucial role in disaster recovery, providing low-interest disaster loans to businesses and homeowners impacted by natural disasters.

During the unprecedented challenges brought forth by the COVID-19 pandemic, the SBA played a pivotal role in keeping our economy afloat with its administration of critical relief programs. The Paycheck Protection Program, COVID Economic Injury Disaster Loan program, the Restaurant Revitalization Fund, and the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant helped small businesses keep the lights on, safeguarded millions of jobs, preserved livelihoods, and ensured the survival of American enterprise.

Please join me in honoring the Small Business Administration's legacy by continuing to support and uplift our Nation's small businesses.

HONORING SPC CHARLIE SIMPSON,
JR.**HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 15, 2023

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and heroism of U.S. Army Specialist Charlie Simpson, Jr. Mr. Simpson was drafted into the United States Army in 1968 and went to Basic Training in Fort Ord, California. After Basic Training, he successfully completed Advanced Infantry Training and later, Jump Training School. He then received orders to join our brave soldiers in Vietnam.

Mr. Simpson was injured on November 1, 1969, while serving the United States of America, and he was hospitalized in Japan for 30 days. He returned home to the U.S. in December 1969, and recuperated at the Fitzsimons General Hospital in Denver, Colorado, for 1 year. As a result of his combat service-connected injuries, Mr. Simpson lost both of his legs. He received an honorable discharge in 1970, and he was recognized for his tremendous service with the awarding of a Purple Heart and other prestigious medals. With such serious injuries, some would have given up, but that's not Charlie Simpson's way. After his discharge from the Army, Mr. Simpson returned home to Malvern, Arkansas, where he met his wife, Brenda, and where they made a tremendously full life together. The Simpsons have 5 children: Aaronda McNair and her husband, Tony, Veronica Rose and her husband, Cletis, Charlie Simpson, III and his wife, Nikya, Leticia Franklin and her husband, Kevin, and their dearly beloved, deceased son, Aaron Simpson. They have also been blessed with 11 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren to carry-on the legacy of their brave grandfather and great-grandfather.

Mr. Speaker, we often mention the sacrifices our men and women in uniform and their families make for our country, and rightly so. But today, along with our thanks, let us also celebrate the good work and contributions these soldiers, airmen, and marines have made in their communities. I would like to thank Specialist Simpson for his tremendous sacrifice for our nation and wish him well as he continues working for the people of Malvern, Arkansas. All Arkansans are eternally grateful for his service.

HONORING THE LIFELONG COMMUNITY
SERVICE OF FLO BELLAMY**HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 15, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a truly remarkable individual, Ms. Flo Bellamy, whose dedication, passion, and selfless service to the citizens of Johnson County, Tennessee, have left an indelible mark on our community.

I have personally witnessed Flo's unwavering commitment to the youth of our community. One of Flo's most outstanding attributes is the genuine love she extends to each child, and it is on display every day at the Commu-

nity Center. This is a woman who, for three years, worked without a salary, driven by a vision to establish an afterschool and summer program for our youth. Her sacrifices, from collecting essentials for the disadvantaged to ensuring that many children receive their only meal outside of the school system, showcase her unprecedented dedication.

In addition to her work with the youth, Flo has been a beacon of hope for cancer patients, assisting them in navigating their journey, from finding care to arranging transportation to medical appointments. Her connection to this cause is personal and sincere. Having witnessed the devastating effects of cancer in her own family, Flo took the reins of the American Cancer Society's county-wide walk for cancer. Even as the names and structures of these efforts evolved, Flo's leadership remained constant, her shift from fundraising for research to directly benefiting local cancer patients made a significant difference in the lives of many.

Furthermore, Flo's teachings have sowed the seeds of understanding, tolerance, and unity. She taught respect for all, regardless of race, religion, or disability. Due to her influence, I firmly believe that the younger generation in our community now embraces differences more openly and warmly than ever before.

However, the testament to Flo's legacy isn't just in the programs she led or the funds she raised. It's in the heartfelt stories of grown adults, once children under her wing, who approach her in public to express their gratitude and love. It's in the newfound perspectives and attitudes she fostered in a community that has historically faced its own set of challenges.

As I stand here, my heart swells with gratitude for Flo Bellamy. Her decades-long service, from leading the Johnson County—Mountain City Community Center to being an unwavering advocate for the most vulnerable, has left a mark that will echo across generations. We all owe her an immense debt of gratitude.

I invite my colleagues and the citizens of Johnson County to join me in saluting our precious Flo. Her work and her spirit embody the very best of our community. We love and cherish her, and I am honored to have this opportunity to recognize her monumental contributions.

TRIBUTE TO YOUNG STAFF MEMBERS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF THE 18TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS AND THE UNITED STATES

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 15, 2023

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to extend my deepest appreciation and profound gratitude to the extraordinary legislative fellows who have graced my office with their unwavering dedication and unyielding commitment.

Members of Congress know well, perhaps better than most, how blessed our Nation is to have in reserve such exceptional young men