

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE HEROIC ACTIONS
OF RICO BRIGGS

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 1, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and recognize the extraordinary bravery and quick thinking of a precious young man, Mr. Rico Briggs of Bluff City, Tennessee.

On the morning of August 20th, at just 4 years old, Rico found himself in a critical situation that would test the limits of his courage and maturity. At approximately 6:15 a.m., a structure fire began at 4988 Bluff City Hwy. When emergency responders arrived at the scene, they found residents of the apartment building outside, clutching their possessions, with smoke rising from the building.

Upon further investigation, it was discovered that it was Rico Briggs who, upon seeing smoke in his own room, promptly alerted his mother, Ms. Moriah Briggs. Despite the overwhelming fear and chaos such a situation would induce, Rico's swift actions ensured that his mother could notify all the tenants in the building's other apartments, allowing them to safely evacuate. Their escape was particularly crucial given the failure of the building's smoke alarm.

It is no exaggeration to state that the actions of Rico Briggs were lifesaving. Without his immediate response, the outcome could have been gravely different. Such valor and presence of mind in a child so young are truly exceptional and worthy of the highest commendation.

Moreover, in acknowledgment of Rico's heroic act, the Town of Bluff City has proclaimed August 26th as "Rico Briggs Day," as a testament to the profound impact of his actions on our community. On this day, every year, we will be reminded not only of the bravery exhibited by this young boy, but also of the importance of looking out for one another and the strength that lies in community bonds. It is sincerely my hope that as we celebrate Rico Briggs Day annually, it will inspire others, young and old alike, to act with the same courage and selflessness in times of crisis.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the courage of Rico Briggs. His actions are a testament to the spirit of our community in Tennessee and the values instilled in our youth. Today, we celebrate Rico, and may we all be inspired by his courage and the profound impact 1 individual can make, regardless of age.

HONORING CHIEF JEFFREY M.
O'DELL

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 1, 2023

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Chief Jeffrey M. O'Dell was born in Jacksonville, North Carolina, and is a second-generation police officer. He served with the Orlando Police Department for 27 years before retiring in 2013. His father retired in 1989 after 25 years of service with the City of Orlando. Chief O'Dell received his Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice Administration from Columbia College. He also completed the University of Louisville Southern Police Institute Command Officers Development Course.

Chief O'Dell graduated from the Police Academy in February 1986. He worked in various assignments throughout his 27-year career in Orlando, including Patrol, the Neighborhood Patrol Unit, the Undercover and Uniform Drug Enforcement Units, the Intelligence Unit, the Bike Patrol Unit, the Field Training and Recruiting Unit, Violent Crimes Investigations, and as commander of the Criminal Investigations, Special Operations, Airport, and Crime Prevention divisions.

On June 1, 2011, Jeffrey M. O'Dell was appointed deputy chief of police by Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer. He served as the Patrol Services Bureau commander and High-Risk Incident commander until his retirement in January 2013.

Chief O'Dell also served as the Emergency Response Team commander for 3 years and on the Orlando Police Department SWAT Team for more than 18 years, holding every position from entry team member to team commander.

Jeff O'Dell was hired by the Kissimmee Police Department on January 2, 2013, and was appointed chief of police on August 10, 2016.

Chief O'Dell is an active member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Florida Police Chief Association, the Central Florida Criminal Justice Association, and the Florida SWAT Association. He also serves on the boards for the Osceola Boys and Girls Club, the Osceola Technical College Criminal Justice Academy, the Park Place Behavioral Healthcare, and Help Now of Osceola.

Chief Jeff O'Dell has been married for 38 years to Kimberly L. O'Dell, president of O'Dell Group Management in Winter Garden, Florida. They have 2 children, Brittney and Tanner.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF RANDY
COATES, SR.

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 1, 2023

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to recognize the late

Randy Coates, Sr. and his accomplishments as a public servant. A graduate of East High School in the early 1970s, he enjoyed tremendous success with the football and track & field teams. Upon graduation, Randy joined the United States Army in 1975 and was stationed at Fort Huachuca, Arizona.

Randy discovered his passion for coaching basketball upon returning to Buffalo. He started coaching in the Randy Smith Summer Basketball League, coaching a team in both the men's and women's divisions. He took pride in his teams, and strived to not only teach basketball, but life lessons, as well. He left youth basketball to become the head women's basketball coach at Daemen College, and later an assistant coach at Hilbert College.

After a successful college coaching career, Randy focused back on developing and mentoring children in the community. In 1990, Randy began his career at the Boys & Girls Clubs Bailey-Doat. At the Boys & Girls Club, Randy formed great relationships with local youth and created a basketball team that won several Randy Smith Summer Basketball League Championships. Following years of success, Mr. Coates went to work at the Masten Boys and Girls Club, where he would eventually become director. There, Randy continued to coach basketball, but also introduced both in house football leagues and video games, which he would often bring from home for the children to play.

Randy encouraged these young men and women to achieve and sustain success. He would often note that the work they put into their craft is what they are going to get out of it. On this, the official Randy Coates Sr. Day in the City of Buffalo, I am delighted to honor his memory. His legacy is celebrated by his wife, Ronnell, his children, grandchildren, and countless grateful community members who have been inspired by Randy's unwavering dedication to the betterment of Buffalo.

HONORING SCOTT MACLEOD

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 1, 2023

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Scott MacLeod upon his retirement as an English and Journalism teacher from San Marin High School. Scott dedicated more than 2 decades to educating and mentoring students.

Earning his bachelor's degree in philosophy from Harvard, Scott MacLeod spent 20 years working in marketing and advertising, including as Senior Vice President at J. Walter Thompson and DDB Worldwide. After a cancer diagnosis and recovery, Scott shifted career paths and entered public service, where he discovered his passion for education. He worked with at-risk youth in the Tenderloin neighborhood of San Francisco, California before becoming the Director of Development for Breakthrough Collaborative, a National nonprofit

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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.

supporting low-income students on the path to college. Motivated by the transformative work he witnessed through this nonprofit work, Scott enrolled in night school at the University of San Francisco to earn his master's degree and teaching credential.

Over the past 17 years, Scott has taught Advanced Placement and Honors English courses and built an award-winning journalism program at San Marin High School in Novato, California. Drawing from his background in philosophy, Scott developed a philosophical inquiry approach to writing and critical thinking. He also coached the National High School Ethics Bowl team, created the school's first sophomore speech competition, and received a plethora of accolades, including most recently, the 2023 Teacher of the Year Award. Scott is beloved by his students, who, years after graduation, still recount how impactful his guidance and unwavering faith were to their education journey.

Outside the classroom, Scott is an active snowboarder and mountain biker, and he plays guitar and bass for his rock band, The Role Models. He is married to Linda Kislingsbury, a Drama teacher at San Marin High School.

Scott MacLeod exemplifies what it means to be a public servant. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you join me in expressing gratitude to Scott for his enduring commitment to teaching, and extending heartfelt congratulations on his retirement and best wishes for years to come.

CELEBRATING REVEREND DOCTOR
CHARLES EDWARD MCCOLLUM

HON. DONALD G. DAVIS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 1, 2023

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a visionary, dynamic, and God-fearing Pastor who has served Halifax County, North Carolina, for 50 years.

Since 1973, when he was licensed to preach, Rev. Dr. Charles Edward McCollum has immersed himself in teaching and preaching the powerful word of God to countless individuals.

For nearly 50 years, Rev. Dr. McCollum has been the Senior Pastor of Oak Grove PromiseLand Ministries in Littleton and Piney Grove Baptist Church in Halifax. During his pastorate, these churches have grown spiritually and numerically.

Beyond church leadership, Rev. Dr. McCollum's impact on the greater community has been significant. He served as Executive Director of the Halifax County Black Caucus. Under his guidance, the Caucus achieved substantial milestones in education and civic engagement.

In addition, his dedication to education has been exemplary, evidenced by his unselfish service on the Halifax County Board of Education, 2 earned doctorate degrees, and the establishment in 1991 of Eastern Carolina Christian College in Roanoke Rapids, NC.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Rev. Dr. McCollum's decades of service in adult corrections. He made a lasting difference as an educator in the Virginia Department of Corrections, helping inmates improve their literacy skills and

prepare for re-entry into society. While serving as a transition specialist for the Department, he wrote many project plans that are now part of the correctional program, notably the Straight Project.

In 1984, Rev. Dr. McCollum's advocacy led to changes in employment practices at courthouse offices in Halifax County, where the offices employed a more diverse workforce. That same year, he and 18 other plaintiffs prevailed in a lawsuit that changed the method of electing county commissioners from an at-large voting system to a district system, thus enabling African Americans to elect commissioners of their choice.

In 2016, Rev. Dr. McCollum led the effort to get the supplemental tax on the ballot in Halifax County, which later passed, and the revenue reinvested into the community. The additional funding from it bridged the gap between state funding and what was needed for the Halifax County Schools to operate efficiently. Some outcomes included hiring teachers and support staff and purchasing new curriculum materials, activity buses, athletic uniforms and supplies, playground equipment, and technology upgrades. His advocacy also led to the recognition of Sarah Keys Evans as a civil rights trailblazer and the creation of the Sarah Keys Evans Plaza in Roanoke Rapids, NC.

Rev. Dr. McCollum has aired a weekly radio show called Real Talk on WMCY in Roanoke Rapids. The show exposed police brutality, the drug epidemic, environmental justice, and the existence of coal ash in Halifax County.

Rev. Dr. Charles Edward McCollum's life has been 1 of selflessness, leadership, and profound impact. I join the chorus of others in celebrating him for his outstanding contributions to the citizens of Halifax County, the First Congressional District of North Carolina, and the Nation. I eagerly anticipate his continued positive influence in the years ahead.

RECOGNIZING LEONA YOST

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 1, 2023

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th birthday of Leona Yost, an incredible mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and Wisconsinite from Oconto.

Leona Yost was born on July 28, 1923. She was the daughter of Herbert and Mary Whiting, and she grew up on their family farm. Leona graduated from Lena High School in the year 1941 and after her graduation, she worked at the egg factory in Oconto and later the Grant Store in Green Bay.

In 1943, Leona married George Yost and they proceeded to work together on the George's family farm in Lena. Leona and George welcomed five beautiful children who went on to bless them with seven grandchildren, and 17 great grandchildren. Leona is noted for having an amazing memory and a deep interest in coin collecting and coin history—she loves to share these passions with her grandchildren and great grandchildren. Potentially of most importance, she is known throughout Oconto for her delicious potato salad.

Leona has always been an active member of the community. She was an Oconto County

4-H leader for 37 years working for the Meadow Brook 4-H club. She also worked for several years for the town of Stiles as an election poll worker. Leona is a truly selfless woman who has worked hard her entire life to give back to others. She has lived an incredible life and has now reached a very rare milestone.

I would like to ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing Leona Yost happy 100th birthday.

CURRICULUM VITAE FOR RICHARD
T. FREISTAK

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 1, 2023

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I'm honored to recognize Mr. Richard T. Freistak on the amazing occasion of his 100th Birthday on September 6, 2023.

Mr. Freistak graduated from Middletown High School in 1942, and enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1943. While selflessly serving our Nation from 1943 through 1946, he was deployed to the South Pacific theater in World War II.

After his discharge from the Navy, Mr. Freistak studied architecture at the Pennsylvania State University, graduating in 1951 with an Engineering Curriculum Architecture degree. While at Penn State, Mr. Freistak was a member of the Theta Kappa Phi fraternity, as well as the Nittany Lion Club that focused on providing scholarship and support to Penn State student athletes. Throughout his life, he attended Penn State football games as often as possible.

Mr. Freistak's family owned and operated the iconic West Shore Theatre and Drive-in Theatre, the venture he also worked at and supported. Most importantly, he stayed close with his Mother, who blessed her family with her presence for 103 years.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 10th Congressional District of Pennsylvania, I'm privileged and humbled to honor and commemorate Mr. Richard T. Freistak on the blessed occasion of his 100th Birthday, as well as his tireless service to our Nation and communities. As a true member of "The Greatest Generation," he has set the standard by which we all should be judged. I wish him great health, prosperity, love, and Godspeed in his future adventures.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF BATTALION CHIEF TERRYSON
JACKSON

HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 1, 2023

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of a local hero, Broward Sheriff Fire Rescue Battalion Chief Terryson Jackson, who sadly passed away on August 28, 2023, in the line of duty.

Battalion Chief Jackson proudly served the people of Broward County for 19 years. He began his fire rescue career in March 2004 in Deerfield Beach and joined the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO) in October 2011. Chief Jackson joined the Air Rescue 85 team as a flight