

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SHARON HENSON

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the contributions to Rockwall County by Mrs. Sharon Sparkman Henson. Mrs. Henson currently serves as the County Chair of the Rockwall County Republican Party and the Vice President of Legislature for the Rockwall County Republican Women's (RCRW) club.

Mrs. Henson was born in Longview, Texas. She attended the University of North Texas where she earned a bachelor's degree in journalism and public relations. Shortly after graduation, Mrs. Henson began her career as a Marketing Manager for the John Deere company in Louisiana before moving back to the Lone Star State to serve as the Public Information officer for the City of Farmers Branch, Texas. While working on the marketing team at a medical sales company, she met and married the love of her life, Richard. Together, they have been happily married for over 27 years and raised 2 sons, Jace and Joshua.

During college, Mrs. Henson phone banked for the Ronald Reagan campaign, which sparked her interest in politics. This interest led to her continued involvement in grassroots political campaigns. She would go on to serve as the Publicity Chair for the Rockwall County GOP before becoming County Chair in 2021. Furthermore, Mrs. Henson is a devoted woman of faith, and regularly attends Lakeshore Church with her family. She credits her strong faith to her ultimate triumph over breast cancer, in which she is almost 8 years cancer-free. Without question, her resilience and tireless efforts have greatly strengthened the conservative movement and the Republican Party of Texas. For her prominent work, Mrs. Henson has been recognized as the RCRW Woman of Influence.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our nation's Capitol to recognize Mrs. Henson's lifetime of service to the good people of North Texas. May God bless her.

HONORING DEBORAH DORSETT

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Deborah Dorsett, an outstanding civic leader serving all of Greater Miami.

Ms. Dorsett received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Management from Florida Memorial University and earned a Master of Business Administration from St. Thomas University.

Deborah Dorsett is the Executive Director of the Greater Miami Service Corps (GMSC). She has served the GMSC in several capacities for more than 25 years and has led the program with strength and compassion. She has guided GMSC in creating vital career pathways for young adults and continues to develop meaningful partnerships with the city, local employers, and other supporters. Recognized as a mentor and a champion for today's young adults, Deborah is an advocate for resources needed to support those who face barriers during their career and education journey.

Ms. Dorsett has served in numerous leadership positions, including the former Chair of the Corps Network Board of Directors, and she currently serves as a member. She is the Assistant Treasurer of the Women Involved in Service to Humanity (WISH) Foundation; Vice Chairman of NieCat Foundation of Excellence Inc.; Vice President of the Florida Youthbuild USA Coalition; and Chair of the Risk Management Committee of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated Gamma Zeta Omega Chapter. In 2019, Legacy Miami Magazine named her as one of the year's top 50 influential Black business leaders and public officials.

Ms. Dorsett is the recipient of The Corps Network 2023 Legacy Achievement Award. This distinction is among the highest honors The Corps Network bestows and is awarded to those who have worked for at least 15 years in the Corps world, served in a senior leadership position at a Corps, and made significant contributions to the national movement.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Ms. Dorsett for all she has achieved. She exemplifies the high quality of volunteerism and civic leadership that we aspire to instill across the country.

RECOGNIZING JAMES KINARD'S SERVICE TO THE CITY OF MELVINDALE AND THE NATION

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of James Kinard, the former Mayor of Melvindale, Michigan, and grieve his passing. His dedication to his community and family is worthy of remembrance and commendation.

Jim was born in 1949 in Highland Park, Michigan, to William and Clara Kinard. After graduating from Melvindale High School in 1967, he answered the call and enlisted in the U.S. Navy, where he served valiantly until 1972.

After leaving the Navy, Jim dedicated the next four decades of his life to his father's business, Bill's Cutter Grinding. Outside of his commitment to the family business, Jim proudly served the city of Melvindale in many posi-

tions. Through the 1970s and 1980s, he was the Recreation Commissioner, working to enhance the outdoor experiences and quality of life of Melvindale's residents. That dedication to community was rewarded by being elected Mayor Pro-Tem and eventually Mayor of Melvindale from 1995 to 2003. Recognized as an exceptional leader, Jim was appointed as the chairman of the Downriver Community Council, where he fostered collaboration between the Downriver cities and worked hard to address the challenges that faced the region.

In addition to his decades of public service, Jim will be remembered for the impact he had on the lives of Melvindale's youth. For 12 years, Jim served as the Melvindale Little League Baseball Coach, imparting upon his players the importance of teamwork, sportsmanship, and resilience. He also served on the board of the Melvindale Athletic Booster Association, ensuring support for young athletes no matter what field, court, or track they competed on. Jim was also an advisor for the youth group at Melvindale Methodist Church, where he shaped the futures of many young people looking for guidance.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the life and service of James Kinard. A leader of his community and mentor to many, his leadership will be greatly missed but not forgotten. His memory lives on in his wife, Mary, 2 children, and 6 grandchildren. We offer them prayers of solace in this difficult time, and thank them for sharing their husband, father, and grandfather with us. He made our corner of Michigan a better and more welcoming place for all.

HONORING SERGEANT PAUL R. DAW

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Sergeant Paul R. Daw, a Vietnam War veteran and upstanding constituent of New York's 21st District.

Paul was raised in Long Island, New York. After graduating high school, he joined the United States Army, serving for 2 years in the Vietnam War from July 1969 to May 1971. Sergeant Daw was stationed in Vietnam as an Eleven-Bravo infantryman alongside his fellow men with the 1st Cavalry Division, Ranger Company A.

For his service, Sergeant Daw was highly decorated. Upon his honorable discharge in 1971, Sergeant Daw earned a Bronze Star with oak leaf clusters, a Purple Heart with an oak leaf cluster, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Combat Infantry Badge, the Army Accommodation Medal for Valor, and the Good Conduct Medal.

After returning home to Long Island from Vietnam, Sergeant Daw joined the New York Police Department, where he served for 21½

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years as an officer of the law. Off the force, Sergeant Daw also supported his community as a volunteer firefighter until his retirement from the NYPD in 2003, at which time he moved upstate to the North Country.

In his retirement, Sergeant Daw has taken time to focus on his family life. He and his wife Jean have been happily married for 16 years, in the company of his children Jason and Kelly and stepdaughter Katie.

Sergeant Paul R. Daw's life of service and bravery is truly admirable. On behalf of New York's 21st District, it is my honor to recognize the remarkable life of Sergeant Paul R. Daw.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF SAINT ANNE CHURCH

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of Saint Anne Church.

In 1923, Father Verhalen announced that a location had been chosen for the new church's construction in the City of Santa Ana. The site featured 3 lots in a new tract named Wilshire Square, that faced South Main Street and another 3 lots that faced Sycamore Street.

On April 22, 1923, the first Mass of the new parish was celebrated at 9:00 a.m. on April 22, 1923, in the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Longmire.

In 1939, Reverend Christopher J. Bradley was appointed as the parish's pastor, marking a time when St. Anne Parish began to flourish. Father Bradley started making changes to the parish facilities soon after he arrived, and on November 30, 1941, a solemn Mass was conducted in the stunning new church with 400 seats, 32 stained glass windows, and a beautiful bell tower.

In September of 1945, it was through Father Bradely that the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary were invited to Santa Ana, California to assist parents in the task of educating their children, which resulted in the parish's new grammar school opening its doors to students for the first time.

In May 1949, a new \$80,000 convent was completed at the corner of Sycamore Street and Borchard Avenue. The convent includes a chapel which is a miniature of the church and contains 14 stained glass windows.

In 1950, the church was lengthened, and the church capacity was doubled. The church was enlarged again in 1962. New marble altars were installed, a mortuary chapel was provided in a nave alcove, and a new tabernacle and pipe organ were added. The total seating capacity was increased to 1,000 people.

Today, 100 years later, Saint Anne Church has over 6,000 registered families and has helped the community through many food and toy drives.

I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the exceptional achievements of Saint Anne Church.

HONORING MICHELE GRUPE

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Michele Grupe, for her dedicated service at the Cope Family Center. She served as the executive director since 2017 and as part of the leadership of the organization since 2004.

Ms. Grupe received a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Maryland and is a certified fund-raising executive. Inspired to give children their best possible start in life, Ms. Grupe served as a leader and fundamental member of the organization Cope, where she has worked to empower parents, nurture children, and strengthen communities.

Cope Family Center is a Napa Valley nonprofit dedicated to preventing child abuse and support families by providing parents with the education and resources they need to raise thriving children. Throughout her time at Cope, Ms. Grupe has built coalitions between social service agencies, nonprofit organizations, and community members. Her work has created systemic change and a more resilient community for Napa Valley's children and families.

Ms. Grupe's commitment to service and her strong work ethic goes beyond her time at Cope. Her efforts to strengthen Napa County families and build a more equitable family-support system requires hard work in the face of adversity. She has served as the co-chair for the Child Abuse Prevention Council of Napa County, commissioner of the First 5 Napa County Commission, chair of the Greater Bay Area Child Abuse Prevention Council, Steering Committee Member for the Community Leaders Coalition, and member of the California Family Resource Center Policy Committee. She has also demonstrated her commitment to social justice by volunteering for campaigns and initiatives.

Ms. Grupe has been a force for good in our community. Her commitment to the well-being of her staff, her collaborative partners, and our community has been unflinching.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF ROBERT GARZA

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life and service of Mr. Robert "Bob" Garza of Plano, Texas, who passed away on April 10, 2023.

Mr. Garza was born on July 5, 1940, in San Marcos, Texas, to Antonio and Hortencia Garza. After graduating from high school, he briefly attended Southwest Texas State University before joining the United States Marine Corps. During his time in the Marines, Mr. Garza trained as an electrician and served overseas in Japan. He was an expert marksman and was honorably discharged as a Lance Corporal. Mr. Garza later returned to the U.S. and completed his degree in Mathematics.

Mr. Garza later worked as a teacher and a computer programmer for the United Services

Automobile Association. He eventually settled in Plano, Texas, where he served as the Vice President and Database Administrator for Bank of America. He married his wife Sherri, and together, they have 5 children and many more grandchildren. Mr. Garza retired in 2012 after 33 years working with the bank.

Those who knew Mr. Garza can tell you that he truly enjoyed spending time with his family and friends, who loved him dearly. He was very passionate about sports, traveling, music, and restoring classic cars. Moreover, Mr. Garza was a devoted man of faith and frequently attended the Memorial Presbyterian Church.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our Nation's Capital to recognize Mr. Garza's life and service to our Nation. He will be dearly missed by his friends, family, and all who knew him.

HONORING JANICE SPANN-GIVENS

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Janice Spann-Givens, an outstanding leader in higher education as she retires with 34 years of service to Florida International University (FIU).

Janice Spann-Givens better known to most students as "Mama G" is a native of Miami. She received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Marketing from the University of Florida (UF) in Gainesville, Florida. She was a member of the first cohort of students in FIU's Master of Science in Education Leadership/Student Affairs Administration program and received her degree in 2005. Upon graduation from UF, she worked for Southern Bell/AT&T Information Systems for nine years before beginning her career at FIU in 1989 in the Office of Financial Aid as the Assistant Director for Scholarships. In 1994, she accepted the Assistant Director position in the Office of Multicultural Programs and Services (MPAS). In 2005, Janice was promoted to Associate Director. In 2021, the Office of Multicultural Programs and Services was renamed the Office of Social Justice and Inclusion (OSJI). She worked part time as an Adjunct Lecturer in the FIU College of Arts and Sciences teaching the Freshmen First Year course for 14 years (1995 through 2009).

She has served on many university-wide committees including the MLK Commemorative Celebration, DEI—Attraction, Retention, Engagement subcommittee, Diversity Week, University Wide Access and Success, Student Conduct & Conflict resolution, Judicial, University Scholarship and Holiday Celebration for Children committees.

Ms. Spann-Givens served as Faculty Advisor for several FIU student clubs and organizations during her 34 years including SPEAK, Black Student Union Council (BSU), Black Female Development Circle, National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC), Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated-Sigma Pi Chapter and NAACP to name a few. As a faculty member, she received the 2021 Fraternity and Sorority Life Advisor of the Year award. She is also a member of the 2005 1st Place winning team