

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING THE VILLAGE OF CHAMPLAIN'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 150th anniversary of the Village of Champlain in Clinton County, New York.

Champlain Township was one of the first municipalities in Clinton County when the county was created by the New York State Legislature on March 7, 1788. The Town's earliest settlers were veterans of the Revolutionary War who had been granted tracts of land for their service to New York and the fledgling United States, a majority of them French-Canadian families who had been denationalized for joining the War on the side of the colonists.

The Village of Champlain was officially incorporated on September 23, 1873, followed by an additional election reaffirming the incorporation in 1875. Early industries in the Village included a paper mill, brickyards, woodworking and manufacturing, and multiple iron foundries, establishing the Village as a commercial center. Restaurants, parks, and fairgrounds created an early sense of community and local spirit, as did circulars such as *The Herald of Freedom*, an abolitionist publication and the first independent newspaper in the area.

Sitting on the banks of the Great Chazy River, the scenic beauty of this historic Village makes it a fixture of Upstate New York. It continues to be a destination within the North Country hosting many small businesses and a growing commercial sector. Visitors to the region will find the Champlain History Center, located on Elm Street, a valuable resource for understanding the unique history and culture of the Village and the surrounding area.

On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I am honored to recognize and celebrate the 150-year legacy of the Village of Champlain, New York.

HONORING THE CENTENNIAL OF ST. MARY'S SYRIAC ORTHODOX CHURCH IN SHREWSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Centennial of St. Mary's Syriac Orthodox Church in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts. The Church will celebrate its 100th Anniversary on Saturday, October 7, 2023.

The community's roots date to 1895 when the first members emigrated from greater Syria to the East Coast, settling around Worcester, Massachusetts where many

worked in the burgeoning textile mills of that time. The early faithful of the church worshipped in their homes in their native Syriac language, and eventually gathered enough resources to build their first, modest St. Mary's Church on Hawley Street in Worcester, MA. More recently, they built a new church and social hall in Shrewsbury, MA.

Mr. Speaker, we must reflect next weekend on the challenges that first brought the Syriac immigrants to the United States. Fleeing persecution, Syriac Christians found refuge across the U.S. to practice their religion freely, while still today their sisters and brothers fight for this right in their homeland. We must continue to fight for religious freedom domestically and abroad, so that all may feel the power of community through our faith.

Mr. Speaker, the Syrian community thrives today in the greater Worcester area, in part thanks to the community-building efforts of St. Mary's Syriac Orthodox Church. Thank you to Reverend Father Tony Kasih who continues to lead through festival, worship, and service. I am proud to celebrate the beautiful displays of faith and community hosted by this historic institution.

The parish of St. Mary's Orthodox Church will celebrate its remarkable milestone next weekend with prayer, reflection, a choral concert of Aramaic hymns, and a gala dinner. Please join me in recognizing the Centennial of St. Mary's Syriac Orthodox Church next weekend.

RECOGNIZING DR. MICHELE HANEY

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Michele Haney's contribution to the students of Colorado during her service as President of Red Rocks Community College in Lakewood, Colorado.

Dr. Haney has been the President of Red Rocks Community College (RRCC) since January 2008 and has demonstrated dedicated leadership and a deep commitment to her students during the last 15 years. Her accomplishments include pioneering several academic programs, such as launching the first community college master's degree program in the country and expanding degree options within the Bachelor of Applied Science. She also collaborated with Northrop Grumman to create a cybersecurity apprenticeship and launched Mines Academy, a program to guarantee RRCC students admission to the Colorado School of Mines.

Dr. Haney has received numerous accolades during her career, including the Shirley B. Gordon Award, the Women in Business Award, Outstanding Women in Jefferson County, and Woman of the Year for the City of Westminster. Dr. Haney is also an accom-

plished author and previously served on the Westminster City Council. Although her departure from RRCC will be felt deeply by her students and colleagues, her service to the school has proven an invaluable contribution to our community.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, I thank Dr. Michele Haney for her exemplary work and her commitment to higher education in Colorado.

CONGRATULATING MR. BRUCE GROTEWIEL ON RECEIVING THE MISSOURI EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION'S LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Bruce Grotewiel on receiving the Missouri Emergency Medical Services Association's Lifetime Achievement Award.

This December, Mr. Grotewiel will mark 50 years of service to the greater Jefferson City and Columbia area. His dedication has not gone unnoticed, and his service could not be more deserving of this recognition. Throughout his career as a first responder, Mr. Grotewiel has been on the front lines helping those who need it most, and for that we cannot thank him enough. The great courage and moral judgment he exhibited over the course of his professional and volunteer career should forever be appreciated.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending Mr. Grotewiel's five decades of service to the people of Missouri.

HONORING DR. CONSTANCE E. CLAYTON

HON. DWIGHT EVANS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dr. Constance E. Clayton, a remarkable woman who made an indelible impact on the Philadelphia school system and the lives of countless students as the first African American and first woman to lead the School District of Philadelphia (1982 through 1993).

During her tenure as superintendent, Dr. Clayton achieved remarkable feats. In an era where few Black women held positions of power, Dr. Clayton fearlessly took on the challenges of a school district plagued by patronage, labor strife, and division. Dr. Clayton brought a sense of stability to a system that had often been engulfed in turmoil. Prior to

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her tenure, the relationship between the district and the teachers' union was toxic, with strikes occurring almost yearly. However, under Clayton's leadership, strikes became a thing of the past, as she worked tirelessly to foster a more productive relationship between the two parties.

Dr. Clayton is credited with stabilizing the district's budget and spearheading a standardized curriculum that aimed to benefit the many students who frequently moved from one school to another within the city.

Dr. Clayton was a true trailblazer, a dedicated education advocate, a humanitarian, and a mentor to many. Her career and achievements served as an inspiration, especially to women and African-American women who aspired to break barriers and make their mark in the world.

Dr. Clayton's impact extended far beyond the School District of Philadelphia. As an advocate for people of color and women in leadership, she paved the way for future generations, inspiring young girls everywhere.

Her unwavering commitment to improving the lives of students through education is a testament to her remarkable leadership style described as regal and no-nonsense. Dr. Clayton demanded excellence and did not tolerate mediocrity. There was never any doubt that her primary concern was for the well-being and future of Philadelphia's children. She was the embodiment of the School District of Philadelphia.

Dr. Clayton was the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including 19 honorary doctorate degrees. In 1992, the Constance E. Clayton Professorship in Urban Education was established at the University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School of Education, making her the first African-American woman to have a chair named for her at an ivy League institution.

Not only was Dr. Clayton a visionary in education, but she was also a patron of the arts, with affiliations to art museums throughout Philadelphia. Her passion for both education and the arts exemplified her dedication to creating a well-rounded educational experience for students.

Dr. Clayton passed away on September 18, 2023. We mourn the loss of a remarkable individual who made significant contributions to our community. Dr. Clayton's legacy will continue to inspire and guide us as we strive for equity, diversity, and excellence in education. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family, friends, and all those who were fortunate enough to know her.

HONORING THE COURAGEOUS
MILITARY SERVICE OF SPE-
CIALIST 4 MARCUS RAY
OSBORNE

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor SP4 Marcus Ray Osborne from Kingsport in Sullivan County, Tennessee for his courageous service in the United States Army during the Vietnam War. After receiving his draft notice, SPC Osborne reported for duty on July 14, 1969, and completed basic and advance infantry training as an infantryman at Fort Gordon with MOS 11B.

By January of 1970, SPC Osborne was assigned to the Americal Division in Chu Lai, Vietnam. For eleven months, he served with Company C 4/31st 196LIB in the surrounding areas of Hiep Duc. SPC Osborne remembers that most of his days were spent "surviving and making it back home alive." SPC Osborne returned home in December 1970 and was honorably discharged from the Army on July 13, 1971.

SPC Osborne remains grateful that he was able to return to his position at Eastman after his military service. SPC Osborne quickly resumed his career and remained with Eastman for almost 40 years until his retirement in 2007. Following his career at Eastman, he worked for a local golf course for 15 years. SPC Osborne's sacrifice to our country continued long after his service as a result of his exposure to Agent Orange in Vietnam. SPC Osborne is blessed and deeply devoted to his loving wife Rita of 48 years, with whom he had one son, Matthew. Matthew and his wife Kelsey have given them "super loved" granddaughters, Margaret and Marion.

Please join me in recognizing Specialist 4 Marcus Ray Osborne for his distinguished military service to our great Nation.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CREDO COMMUNITY CENTER FOR THE TREATMENT OF ADDICTIONS

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Credo Community Center for Treatment and Addictions and to honor their integral service to the health and wellbeing of New York residents.

Started in 1973 by Reverend Raymond J. Wertman and Ms. Edith Marsala, a member of his church, Credo Community Services was formed to approach and mitigate drug use in northern New York. Credo was founded with a simple, singular philosophy: anyone faced with a substance abuse problem that wanted assistance deserved to receive it. Credo's initial services included peer-to-peer treatment, coupling current and recovering drug users with mentors for strength and stability during the recovery and rehabilitation process.

In the early stages, Credo was not a breakthrough success, inhibited by social stigmas and adversity to treatment programs and worsened by a dearth of funding. Until New York State began supplying Credo with funding in 1978, staff hosted public fundraisers such as bake sales and telethons to maintain operations. In the decades since, Executive Directors James P. Scordo (1988–2019) and John Wilson (2019–) have overcome these obstacles and grown the Credo treatment network substantially.

Today, Credo operates outpatient centers in Watertown and Lowville, residence homes for men and women in Watertown, and a renowned rehabilitation program in Pamela known as The Farm, a diversion site for youths faced with juvenile detention to recover. Their range of services includes individual and group counseling, Medication-Assisted Treatment, life-saving Narcan kits, and

connecting patients with detox programs and residential sites outside of their network.

On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I am honored to recognize the lifechanging services that the Credo Community Center has provided to the people of New York State for 50 years, and I applaud their continued efforts to expand these critical treatment practices.

HONORING THE LIFE OF W.K. WEBB

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of W.K. Webb, who passed away on August 13, 2023. Born in Saltillo on January 26, 1941, to the late Elzy Carr Webb and Myrtle Parker Webb, W.K. graduated from Saltillo High School and remained a devoted, dedicated and engaged citizen of the town he dearly loved all his life. He was married on August 25, 1961, to Jewell Franks, his life partner for over 60 years, and they were blessed with 3 children and 6 grandchildren.

W.K. served 20 years as Saltillo's mayor in a time of unprecedented growth and development for this north Lee County town. A "people's mayor," he was beloved by the citizens and his family. Prior to serving as mayor, he served 12 years on the Board of Aldermen. W.K. won numerous awards and served as president of the Mississippi Municipal League, was on its Board of Directors for 18 years and was inducted in the Mississippi Municipal League Hall of Fame. Under his leadership, the town was selected as one of the top 100 best places to live and one of the fastest growing towns in Mississippi.

A longtime member of the Saltillo Baptist Church, where he served as a Deacon, W.K. was also president of the Saltillo Men's Club. He and his wife, Jewell, were members of the Saltillo Methodist Church at the time of his passing. Locally, he served as chairman of the Lee County Council of Governments and for 16 years, was chairman of the Lee County 911 Board. He was active in the Mississippi Municipal Association and won many awards for his stellar leadership. One of W.K.'s proudest commitments to civic leadership and youth engagement was forming the first Park and Recreation Department, which resulted in Saltillo City Park, Wesson Park, and the W.K. Webb Sportsplex, which was named after him.

W.K. was a devoted public servant and trusted friend. It was an honor to know this distinguished and extraordinary Mississippian. He is survived by his wife, Jewell Franks Webb of Saltillo; his children, Randy Webb (Renie) of New Albany, Mike Webb (Amy) of Oxford, and Kristi Montgomery (Mark) of Saltillo; his grandchildren, Isabella and Amelia, Victoria and Brayden, and McKinley and Ramsey; siblings, Hazel Raines of Guntown, Ann Taylor of Saltillo, and Larry "Tody" Webb of Saltillo. He was preceded in death by his parents, Elzy Carr Webb and Myrtle Parker Webb, and his brother, Miles "Spud" Webb.