

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE OF OTHA DILL "O.D." JACKSON

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2024

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Otha Dill "O.D." Jackson. O.D. Jackson passed away on October 26, 2024, in Kosciusko, Mississippi, at 99 years old. He left behind a legacy filled with sacrifice and service to his country, state, and community, a legacy that all Americans should strive to leave behind.

O.D. was a devout Christian and member of First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, Mississippi. He served as a ruling elder for many years and was a longtime member of the choir. The members of First Presbyterian Church were well served and blessed under O.D.'s leadership.

At eighteen years old, O.D. answered the call and volunteered to enlist in the army on June 29, 1943. O.D. with 10,000 soldiers and 1,000 nurses arrived in New Guinea where he was sent to the Admiralty Islands as a rifleman and truck driver. While there, O.D. participated in the invasion of Leyte and Luzon. Later in the Battle of Manila, O.D. was injured by a Japanese sniper and discharged later that year.

O.D.'s service to his country and community continued when he returned to Mississippi. O.D. graduated from the School of Animal Husbandry at Mississippi State University despite lacking a high school diploma. O.D. taught at various schools making a difference in many students' lives.

O.D. held many community leadership positions. He helped form the Neshoba County Republican Party and sat as its chairman for four years. He was as a member of the Mississippi Republican Party State Executive Committee and served as a delegate to four Mississippi Republican State Conventions.

Mr. Speaker. I am thankful for the opportunity to memorialize the life and legacy of Otha Dill Jackson. O.D. made an impact on the lives of his community, state, and country. His impact will have a lasting effect on generations to come. His passing will be felt by many.

HONORING THE OSCAR SMITH HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM ON THEIR STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2024

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Oscar Smith High School Football Team from Chesapeake, Virginia on becoming the Virginia High School League's Class 6 State Champions.

On Saturday, December 14, 2024, the Oscar Smith Tigers won the championship game with a score of 21–20 against the James Madison Warhawks. Including their most recent win in 2021 against James Madison High School, Oscar Smith has now won five state championships since 2008. Led by Coach Chris Scott for the third season, the Tigers won this state title following an accomplished year. Oscar Smith ended the season undefeated, with a record of 15 wins and 0 losses.

Throughout the game, the Tigers and Warhawks fought tooth and nail to gain an advantage over the other team. The fourth quarter had the Oscar Smith Tigers down 14–7, with little time left in the game. Following two consecutive touchdowns by the Tigers, the Warhawks scored a touchdown and were trailing at 21–20. After opting to go for the 2-point conversion, James Madison's pass fell incomplete, crowning the Oscar Smith Tigers as the state champions. The determination from the young athletes of Oscar Smith High School is an inspiration to every athlete in our community and a testament to their hard work throughout the season.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to congratulate the Oscar Smith High School Football Team. I would also like to thank Coach Scott, the parents, and the entire Oscar Smith High School community for the support they have shown these athletes throughout an incredible season. I wish them the best in their future pursuits, and I wish their football program continued success.

CELEBRATING ABIGAIL SHEPHERD

HON. ZACHARY NUNN

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2024

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible service of Abigail Shepherd to the people of the Iowa Third District.

Abby's service to the people of Iowa is reflected in every family she welcomed to Washington, D.C., every constituent concern she helped address through her casework collaboration, every veteran who received the medals they earned, and the smiles on the face of every Iowan she hosted on her late-night Capitol tours.

Her incredible mother, a small Iowa business owner and childcare provider, and her father, the sheriff of Union County, should be proud to know that her work in D.C. makes a real difference. Her service to Iowans made lives better, and her teamwork in our office was critical to our success. I thank Abby, and watch the lead foot when driving the Kia downtown.

RECOGNIZING GEORGE LELAND'S SERVICE TO HIS FAMILY AND TO THE NATION

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2024

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate George Leland on the occasion of his 100th birthday. His dedication to his family, community and Nation is worthy of commendation.

George's service in the war began when he hitchhiked from his home in Detroit to Selfridge Air National Guard Base on his 18th birthday and enlisted. Having lost an uncle in the First World War, he was well aware of the danger of serving in the armed forces. He was placed with the U.S. Army Air Force, 12th Air Force, 460th Bomb Group who were stationed in Spinazzola, Italy from 1943 to 1945. George was the nose gunner in a B–24 bomber named "The Yugo Kid" because they would almost always fly over Yugoslavia on their bombing runs. As the nose gunner, George was responsible for spotting the enemy fighters and shooting them down before they shot you. George was quite good at his job, and his team flew 28 missions over Europe without being shot down. The constant stress and lack of consistent rations wore on him, as he enlisted at 168 pounds and was discharged at 128 pounds.

After the war, George married his wife, Delores, in 1947 and took a job at The Detroit News. They moved to Garden City in 1953 "when everyone on the block was a WWII veteran" and he still lives in the same home. Together they had 5 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. Delores sadly passed in 2019 after 72 years of marriage. George has stayed well involved with the veteran's community as a part of his local VFW, American Legion, and the Disabled American Veterans. In retirement, George is a champion maker of homemade pickles. Every year he grows his own cucumbers and makes his own pickles using "Mrs. Wages" spices.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the incredible life of George Leland, a man who served our country during its darkest hours and who has continued to bring joy to others. A dedicated husband, father, and grandfather, he faithfully served his family and Nation with a sense of duty, respect, and integrity. We thank him for his service and wish him the happiest of birthdays. I thank George.

RECOGNIZING MAJOR ERIC HAPNER

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2024

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Major Eric Hapner. He has

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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.

dutifully served this Nation with exemplary dedication as an Army Congressional Fellow and Congressional Budget Liaison for the Assistant Secretary of the Army in the office of Financial Management and Comptroller.

Major Hapner recently left Capitol Hill to continue his service to our Nation and America's Army National Guard as the Legislative Liaison for the Adjutant General of Nevada.

After growing up in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and Hillsboro, Ohio, Major Hapner attended Miami University in Ohio where he earned his bachelor's degree in business and a minor in political science.

Initially enlisting in the Army National Guard as an infantryman, Major Hapner's first deployment was in support of Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts. In 2008, Major Hapner was commissioned as an aviation officer, attended flight school at Fort Novosel in Alabama to pilot the UH-60 Blackhawk, and distinguished himself as the Honor Graduate.

Major Hapner has served in a broad range of assignments during his Army career. He was the Assistant Operations officer and a Platoon leader in Alpha Company during his first Middle East deployment.

In 2015, he deployed with the Ohio and Colorado National Guards to Iraq as the Air Mission Officer in Command. In 2016, he was assigned as the Aviation Task Force Executive Officer in Illesheim, Germany.

Recently, Major Hapner served as the Deputy Executive Officer to the Director of the Air National Guard, National Guard Bureau at the Pentagon. Eric's last flying position was as a UH-60 pilot in command where he led multinational aviation missions with Middle Eastern and European allies.

In addition to his Army assignments, Eric graduated from the University of Colorado Law School in 2017. During law school, Eric pursued his passion of public service through multiple law clinics and internships ranging from county prosecutors to the Army JAG Corps and the Colorado Supreme Court. Additionally, Eric worked for Colorado State Senator Owen Hill, ultimately becoming his Chief of Staff.

In 2022, I had the privilege of working with Major Hapner in my office for the people of Alabama's Fourth Congressional District, where he served as an Army Congressional Fellow.

We continued working together during his subsequent assignment as a Congressional Budget Liaison for the U.S. Army. Major Hapner worked tirelessly with Members of Congress and their staff to accurately articulate the Army's budget priorities.

His professionalism, his integrity, and his commitment to the mission are unmatched, and his work ethic enabled him to successfully represent the U.S. Army and the Department of Defense in Congress.

Those lucky enough to travel with Eric to visit Army installations came to appreciate his profound insight, meticulous planning, and sage advice. Whatever journey you embark upon, there are few more reassuring sights than Eric sitting next to you.

No one knows this better than his family. Eric is a devoted husband to his wife, Hakela, who is currently attending law school at the McGeorge Law School in Sacramento, California. Eric met Hakela here on Capitol Hill and married in 2022.

Major Hapner's commitment to service and care for others permeates every organization

and activity he participates in. Moreover, he exemplifies servant leadership for individuals in the Army and their communities to emulate.

Throughout his career, Major Hapner has positively impacted Soldiers, peers, and superiors. Our country has benefited tremendously from his extraordinary leadership, judgment, and passion.

I applaud Major Hapner for the job well done, and I hope that my colleagues in the House of Representatives will join me in wishing him and his family the very best in their future Army assignments and beyond.

HONORING DALE ANDERSON

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2024

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the leadership, service, and dedication of Dale Anderson to the 5th Congressional District of Colorado. For eighteen years, Dale Anderson has served on my Congressional staff in many roles, each marked by a distinguished pursuit of excellence and service to the Pikes Peak region with personal integrity, sacrifice, and loyalty.

Dale was born in Independence, Missouri where he was raised by devout Christian parents. After graduating from high school, Dale served in the United States Army for nine years where he developed his passion for the care of veterans. Following his time in the Army, Dale graduated from University of Colorado, Colorado Springs. Almost immediately after my election, Dale joined my staff as a Military and Veterans Affairs Liaison. In that role, he advocated on behalf of countless veterans, active-duty military members, and their families, to numerous federal agencies. His work also included helping establish the PFC Floyd K. Lindstrom Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic in Colorado Springs. Dale went on to serve as the District Director where he was responsible for coordinating all events, outreach, and constituent services strategy for 5th Congressional District.

Dale was particularly adept at connecting with community leaders, mentoring the staffers under his command, building a team that reflected my values, effectively and compassionately serving our constituents, and faithfully representing me in the district. Keeping his finger on the pulse of the district and being proactive to meet the district's needs are some of Dale's many strong points, and one that he excellently performed throughout his time as District Director. In 2018, Dale became my Chief of Staff, bringing to D.C. his extensive experience and knowledge of the district to accurately and purposefully lead my combined staff in service of our constituents.

One of my early campaign promises was to establish a National Cemetery to provide a final resting place for our Nation's bravest heroes. The 10-year journey that culminated in establishing the Pikes Peak National Cemetery was at times arduous and difficult. Throughout the process, Dale was instrumental in building momentum, keeping morale high, and strategically crafting the plan which ultimately insured that the Pikes Peak region was able to honor our Nation's finest—including Dale's father, Mr. Gary Anderson.

Perhaps the most pivotal moment in recent memory for the 5th Congressional District came in 2023 when it was announced that U.S. Space Command was to be permanently based in Colorado Springs. This basing decision was the culmination of years of work, much of it led by Dale Anderson. Dale was vital in organizing a combined and unified advocacy campaign which reinforced the principle that any basing decision should be made only with national security in mind. In addition, Dale ensured that my office was proactive in speaking out about the importance of U.S. Space Command being based in Colorado Springs, as well as utilizing media outlets, legislative measures and processes, and high-profile meetings. These steps ensured that national security and the 5th Congressional District were kept at the forefront of every piece of the decision-making process.

The Black Forest fire in 2013 was one of the most devastating natural disasters in the Pikes Peak region. The fire killed 2 people, burned over 500 homes, and destroyed over 14,000 acres of land. While the destruction was immense, without the determination and persistence of Dale Anderson, I fear that the damage to life and property could have been worse. I directed Dale to call the National Inter-Agency Fire Center to coordinate getting the nearest firefighting planes in the air to help fight the fire. Dale immediately jumped into action, staying up through the night to ensure that our community was taken care of, and every resource was deployed to save as many lives as possible. Dale's actions that day and in the crucial days following proved that his connections, know-how, and persistence were invaluable assets in a time of crisis.

Many of these same qualities of his were also evident in how our office provided help in the wake of the destructive Waldo Canyon Fire of 2012.

Dale and his wife Jennie live in Colorado Springs and continue to put the 5th Congressional District before themselves in everything that they do. I would also like to thank Jennie, who gave her unwavering support for her husband, without which he could not have been as effective in his service to the district. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating, honoring, and celebrating the eighteen years of dedicated service by My Chief of Staff, Dale Anderson, to the 5th Congressional District of Colorado and to the Nation.

HONORING CHERI WILLIAMS FOR HER SERVICE TO WASHINGTON'S SIXTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2024

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary career of Cheri Williams—and to give my sincere thanks to her for serving as Director of Constituent Services on my team.

For over three decades, Cheri has devoted her life to helping Washingtonians. In fact, thousands of folks back in my neck of the woods have had their problems with the federal government solved by Cheri and her dedicated team. Cheri has worked to ensure that