

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING LLOYD RICHARDS

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in this esteemed body to honor the late Lloyd Richards, who left an indelible mark on our society through his groundbreaking career as a director, producer, performer, and educator.

A giant of the American Theatre, Richards was a groundbreaking talent who smashed the color barrier on Broadway for African American directors and became the first Black director to direct a Broadway play.

Before becoming one of the most important figures in American theater during the 20th century, he survived poverty and hardship during the depths of the Great Depression. At the age of only 13, he worked in a barbershop to help put food on the table for his blind mother and his four siblings.

During World War II, Richards halted his studies at Wayne University to serve his country in the U.S. Army Air Corps' division of fighter pilots known as the Tuskegee Airmen. He then moved to New York City in 1947, and despite roles for African American actors being incredibly hard to come by, he landed roles on Broadway and on the radio. It was during this time that Richards started his illustrious career as an educator and developed what would become a lifelong friendship with one of his early acting students, the great Sidney Poitier.

Richards would go on to direct Poitier in the landmark original production *A Raisin in the Sun*, which opened at Broadway's Ethel Barrymore Theater on March 11, 1959. The production became an artistic and commercial success on Broadway, and Richards became the first African American to be nominated for the Tony Award for Best Direction.

Richards went on to become one of the most respected and innovative directors in the industry. He helped to bring the works of playwrights such as August Wilson, Lorraine Hansberry, and Athol Fugard to the stage, shaping the landscape of American theater in the process.

Beyond his contributions to the world of theater, Lloyd Richards was a dedicated and passionate educator. As the dean of the Yale School of Drama, he nurtured and inspired generations of talented artists, instilling in them the values of integrity, hard work, and dedication.

I am grateful that thanks to the incredible advocacy of the Committee to Celebrate Lloyd Richards, the corner of 47th Street and Broadway in Manhattan will be co-named "Lloyd Richards Way" on June 29, 2024. This is a fitting tribute to a man who dedicated his life to the art of theater and left behind a legacy that continues to inspire and influence artists worldwide.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of Lloyd Richards and in cele-

brating his contributions to American theater. May his name and his legacy continue to inspire future generations of artists and educators for years to come.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF
THE WARWICK MIDDLE SCHOOL
FUTURE CITY TEAM

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Warwick Middle School Future City Team on their recent success at the Future City Competition in Washington, D.C.

The Future City Competition invites students from across the country to showcase their innovative research and design. Students have the opportunity to develop engineering projects that address the critical, complex, and real world needs of communities across the globe.

This year's Warwick Middle School team placed third in the national competition with their model of Sydney, Australia. Additionally, the team won the special award for "Most Sustainable Food Production System." A fitting recognition considering their familiarity with the rich agricultural heritage of Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District.

It fills me with great hope when I see the innovation and creativity displayed by the next generation. These Warwick Middle School students demonstrate the hard work and determination needed to become the leaders of tomorrow.

They have made all of us in the 11th District extraordinarily proud. Congratulations to the Warwick Middle School Future City Team on their success, and I wish them all the best in the future.

NATIVE AMERICAN ENTREPRE-
NEURIAL OPPORTUNITY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7102 the "Native American Entrepreneurial Opportunity Act."

H.R. 7102 creates an Office of Native American Affairs (ONAA) within the Small Business Administration.

I am a long-time member of the Congressional Native American Caucus as well as the Congressional Small Business Caucus.

I understand the need for Native Americans to have an advocate within the Small Business Administration.

The Native American business community as well as families would be positively impacted by the passage of H.R. 7102.

This bill would draw attention to the resources that are available to tribal business owners through the (SBA) and oversee economic and entrepreneurial relationships with the Small Business Administration.

The goal is to produce economic development within tribal communities by educating Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian Organizations about programs administered by other Federal agencies.

The passing of H.R. 7102 would allow the Office of Native American Affairs to:

Work with Indian tribes, Alaska Native corporations, Native Hawaiian Organizations, and small businesses owned by individuals who are members of those entities on entrepreneurial development, contracting and capital access programs to establish or expand their small business concerns and promote economic development in Indian Country.

Formulating and promoting policies, and enhancing existing programs, so they better address the entrepreneurial, capital access, business development and contracting needs of tribes and Native businesses, including by collaborating with high-level officials of SBA and other federal agencies.

In addition, the (ONAA) will be able to provide financial and other assistance directly to deploy training, counseling and other educational outreach, workshops, supplier events.

Additional important assistance would include access to the SBA's entrepreneur and contracting programs to facilitate Native contractors' participation in SBA's various small business contracting programs, facilitating and improving access to SBA's various loan programs, loan guarantees, disaster assistance, and other capital access programs.

Finally, ensuring tribal consultations are conducted to solicit input and facilitate discussion of potential modifications to SBA programs and procedures.

It is imperative that H.R. 7102 is passed because Native Americans will have an advocate and the economic and entrepreneurial tools it needs to meet the needs of the communities they serve.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DEREK
JOSHUA ABBOTT

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with deep respect and heartfelt remembrance for one of Mississippi's courageous National Guardsmen, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Derek Joshua Abbott, who tragically lost his life when Apache Helicopter, Tail Number 52630, went down near Booneville, Mississippi Friday afternoon of February 23, 2024.

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Derek Joshua Abbott, a 42-year-old Maintenance Test Pilot served in Delta Company, 2nd Battalion, 151st

• 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.

Lakota Medical Evacuation unit. Derek was no ordinary soldier; he was a seasoned veteran of 21 years, marked by acts of bravery, an expert aviator, and above all, a devoted family man. With over 3,000 flying hours under his belt, Derek's mastery of Army aircraft was unmatched. His accolades, including the Air Medal for valor and the Combat Action Badge, spoke volumes of his courage and skill in the face of adversity. Outside of his military service, Derek pursued his love for flying by working as an Emergency Medical Services pilot. With expertise in navigating the skies, he played a crucial role in delivering swift medical assistance to those in need. Derek's commitment to service and skill in the air left a lasting impact on the lives he touched.

Beyond his military prowess, Derek was a man of faith, a loving husband to Brandi, and a doting father to Chandler, Breanna, and Greyson. His family extended beyond blood, embracing exchange students Sarah Mirshahidi and Pauline Schult as their own.

Hailing from Itawamba County, Derek cherished his roots in Fulton, Mississippi, and held a deep love for his state and country. His unwavering dedication to duty and his ultimate sacrifice make him a true American hero and a source of pride for Mississippians everywhere. In these trying times, let us hold dear the memory of our fallen comrade and stand in solidarity with his grieving family. May Derek's legacy of honor and service endure eternally in our hearts and minds.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING
LIFE AND LOSS OF A GREAT
COMMUNITY LEADER EDGAR
LAWRENCE "DOOKY" CHASE III

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate an outstanding gentleman and New Orleans icon, Edgar Lawrence "Dooky" Chase III. He was born in New Orleans on May 10, 1949, to Edgar L. "Dooky" Chase Jr. and Leyah "Leah" Lange Chase. Mr. Chase was known for his role as an educator and a leader in our community. After years of mentoring, guiding, and serving others, Dooky passed away on February 21, 2024.

Mr. Chase grew up in the Tremé neighborhood, alongside his three sisters, Emily, Stella, and Leah. As owners of the renowned establishment Dooky Chase's Restaurant, Dooky's family has stood as a symbol of tradition and responsibility in our community. It was his family that instilled in him deep-rooted values and faith, which pushed him to become a force for all good in our society.

Chase's dedication to social progress was evident from a young age, through his efforts to promote voter registration with the NAACP's Youth committee in the 1960s. In 1967, he graduated from Jesuit High School, where he formed part of the first integrated class. He continued his path as a pioneer for social justice at Loyola University New Orleans, where he served as the first African American Class President. He then pursued a master's in business administration at Columbia University, followed by a law degree at Loyola University New Orleans.

After serving as Captain in the Marine Corps and working at Price Waterhouse Coopers, Dooky served as a faculty member and administrator at Dillard University in New Orleans. His commitment to serving others was evident throughout his 20 years at this institution, which culminated in a role as the Dean of the Business School. After years of mentoring students through this role, he decided to retire. However, this retirement did not last long, as Dooky graciously accepted a request by Dillard University to return as Vice President of Facilities to manage the school's rebuilding following Hurricane Katrina.

In addition to his achievements in his education and career, he served on numerous boards, commissions and councils throughout his life, some of which include the Chase Family Foundation, the Anti-Defamation League, New Orleans Public Radio (WNOE), Touro Hospital, The New Orleans Culinary and Hospitality Institute (NOCHI), Metropolitan Crime Commission, Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Louisiana, Inc., The New Orleans Opera Association, City of New Orleans Municipal Employees Retirement System, New Orleans Botanical Gardens, the Bureau of Governmental Research, Loyola University Board of Trustees, City Park Improvement Association, Inc., New Orleans Public Belt Railroad, Board of Trustees of Our Lady of Holy Cross College, Board of Commissioners of the Port of New Orleans, New Orleans Museum of Art, Millennium Port Authority of Louisiana, State Board of Economic Development, and State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

An avid reader, Dooky was enthralled with historical research, and storytelling. He was also a deeply spiritual, devout Catholic; often reflecting on the role his faith played in his philosophical commitments, and perspective on all aspects of life, if you were one of the lucky ones, you were able to get a glimpse of the book he was working on—"Running on Raindrops", a trilogy of historical fiction. His other works in progress included event planning for the Chase Family Foundations' annual Juneteenth celebration and fundraising events, and project management of the restaurant's Historic Upper Room renovations of the Dooky Chase Restaurant, where many Civil Rights Leaders met to discuss many of the country's segregation issues.

Mr. Chase had much to be proud of, yet his greatest source of pride was that which he felt for his family. On December 23, 1973, Dooky married the love of his life, Alva Jean, and in 1975, they welcomed twins Travis and Trevor into their lives. Seven years later, in 1982, they welcomed their third son, Edgar "Dooky" IV. The three boys went on to have their own children, who gave their grandfather the nickname "Big Daddy."

Edgar was preceded in death by his parents, Edgar "Dooky" L. Chase, Jr. and Leyah "Leah" Lange Chase, his sister Emily Chase Haydel, brothers-in-law Wayne Reese Sr. and Gary Darensbourg. He is survived by his loving wife, Alva Jean Darensbourg Chase. His sons Travis Chase and Trevor Chase, Edgar "Dooky" Chase IV. Grandchildren: Caitlin and Zoe Chase; Ava and Trevor Chase, Jr.; and Sidney Chase and Edgar "Vito" L. Chase V. Daughter-in-law, Gretchen Fauria Chase, as well as former daughters-in-law, Chastity Haydel Chase and Minaxi Desai Chase. His sisters Stella Chase Reese and Leah Chase

Kamata. Brother-in-law James V. Haydel, Jr., Brother and Sister-in-law Glenda and James "Jimmy" Llorens, and Sister-in-law Phyllis Darensbourg and a host of nieces and nephews from the Haydel, Reese, Kamata, Darensbourg and Llorens families.

Edgar "Dooky" Chase, III was an inspiring and compassionate man. He mentored thousands of young people in Louisiana's Second Congressional District and was at his mother's side running the World Famous Dooky Chase Restaurant. My prayers are with the Chase Family as they continue to carry on the Chase Family Legacy. May he rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING 25-YEAR ARMY
VETERAN SHELLIE WILLIS

HON. MARILYN STRICKLAND

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Ms. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize 25-year Army veteran Shellie Willis, a Pierce County-based leader in the veterans' advocacy space who empowers veterans to put the skills and knowledge they gained serving our nation to work in the civilian workforce.

As Founder and CEO of the Redefining You Foundation, Shellie shepherds a team of skilled life coaches and workforce development professionals to help transitioning servicemembers and their spouses reenter civilian life. With special attention to supporting female veterans, Shellie's organization provides professional and personal development training, connects retired servicewomen to job resources, and builds bespoke programs to help reorient and redefine the lifestyles of those seeking direction after their military careers. Shellie's spirit of service extends to her role as Senior Director of Collective Impact at WorkForce Central matching jobseekers with employment opportunities throughout Pierce County.

With the South Sound's significant active duty and veteran population, Shellie's work plays a critical role in putting transitioning servicemembers on pathways to post-service success. I commend Shellie's service to our country and our community and am proud to have her as my Constituent of the Month.

CONGRATULATING SUSAN SUBER,
WINNER OF DISTRICT 1 YOUNG
MARINE OF THE YEAR

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of an outstanding young woman from my district, Susan Suber, who was recently named the District 1 Young Marine of the Year for a second year in a row. Young Marines District 1 is a region that encompasses 9 Northeastern U.S. states. Susan is a member of the Spartan Young Marines located in Willow Grove, Pennsylvania, is a resident of Pipersville, Pennsylvania, and is currently a junior at Central Bucks East High School. Suber will proudly represent Division 1