

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING TAMPA BAY'S
TRAILBLAZER RUTH DUNCAN
BELL, IN HONOR OF BLACK HIS-
TORY MONTH

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during Black History Month to celebrate the life of service of a true public servant and philanthropist in the Tampa Bay area, Mrs. Ruth Duncan Bell.

Mrs. Bell was born in Lansing, Michigan and received her bachelor's degree in mass communications from Arizona State University and after moving to the Tampa Bay area she obtained a master's in public administration from the University of South Florida. She has worked at the federal, state and local levels of government and served as an advocate for the public employment agencies associations in Washington, D.C.

After 27 years of service as senior vice president of public affairs, Mrs. Bell retired from the LifeLink Foundation, which is a non-profit that facilitates the recovery of life-saving organs and tissue for transplantation. She has also participated on national professional organization boards, related to organ and tissue donation, and she is committed to increasing awareness and donor registration for those in need of life-saving transplants.

Mrs. Bell's work in the organ donation and transplantation community is nationally recognized. In 2018, in Madrid, Spain before the 27th International Congress of the Transplantation Society, she presented "Success of a Multicultural Donation Education Program to Increase African American Organ Donation in a Donor Service Area with a High African American Population," which is a work showcasing best practices that led to successful organ donation education and registration programs inclusive of the African American community.

Education is also an important part of Mrs. Bell's life and she and her husband have worked to improve the lives of African American students. During her time at Arizona State University, she and her now husband Jerry noticed friends or acquaintances leave on school break and not return due to financial reasons. It was at this time that they both agreed that if they were ever in a position to help, they would prevent this from happening.

At their alma mater Arizona State University, they established the Jerry and Ruth Bell W.P. Carey Black Student Success Scholarship for any students engaged with the Black Business Student Association or a similar association that supports Black students at ASU. They were also the first Black couple to endow a scholarship for Black students at the University of South Florida, and to date it has had a significant impact in the lives of more than 100

young people who have obtained their college degree through this fund. Mrs. Bell is also an active member of Tampa Alumni Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., the Tampa Chapter of The Links, Inc., the Athena Society and numerous other professional organizations.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Tampa Bay community, I am proud to recognize Mrs. Ruth Duncan Bell for her undeniable impact on our community and her unwavering commitment to supporting young African Americans through their college journey.

HONORING STAMPS BURGERS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of many great restaurants in Jackson, Mississippi, Stamps Burgers.

Stamps Burgers, often known as Stamps or Stamps Super Burgers, is a popular, family-friendly, well-known burger restaurant located in Jackson, Mississippi, and this week, it has made national news: Along with 46 other restaurants, Stamps Super Burgers was included in the 2024 USA TODAY Restaurants of the Year list.

A Black-owned family business, Stamps has legions of loyal fans and a casual walk-in atmosphere. Stamps serves all with a juicy burger, potato fries and a vibe you just can't help but love to feel. Co-owned by Phil Stamps Sr., who gives everyone a greeting when they walk into Stamps, the restaurant has been operating in the Washington Addition neighborhood in West Jackson since 1986.

The kitchen is an open area at the center of the restaurant with a Stamps employee who will more than likely be working behind the counter hand-making their famous beef patties or slicing potatoes for fries as a side right in front of your eye.

"We just want to continue to build relationships with people so that we can continue to grow our media platforms and take advantage of opportunities like this of such an amazing recognition and of course growing the business and having conversations with economic developers not only in the city of Jackson but other cities to grow our business and provide incentives for smaller businesses like ours to come to their city," Stamps Jr. said.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Stamps Burgers for their dedication to serving the best burgers in the state of Mississippi.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
COMMANDER DAVID T. ST. AUBIN

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Commander David T. St. Aubin for his 25 years of dedicated service to the United States Navy and our Nation. I'd also like to congratulate him on his retirement as Commander of Navy Patrol Squadron Four Zero.

Commander St. Aubin, a Negaunee native, enlisted in the United States Navy in 1999 and completed Nuclear Power School and prototype in 2001. Commander St. Aubin later graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 2005, receiving his Wings of Gold in 2007 upon his graduation from flight training. He would later receive his first assignment with Patrol Squadron Four Five in Jacksonville, Florida.

Before joining Patrol Squadron Four Zero, Commander St. Aubin served in multiple duty stations all over the globe. He has deployed with the Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Fleets as well as the J3 Directorate at the Pentagon and the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Finally, in 2021 he was selected for command of Patrol Squadron Four Zero.

Commander St. Aubin has diligently served as the Commanding Officer of Patrol Squadron Four Zero for the past two years. Standing by the squadron mantra, "Laging Handa,—Always Ready", Commander St. Aubin proudly served as the 73rd Commander of Squadron VP-40. From his time in service, Commander St. Aubin's personal awards include: the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, and various unit and campaign awards.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to thank Commander David T. St. Aubin for his 25 years of service and for his retirement. I wish the Commander a well-deserved retirement and all the best in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, on March 5, 2024, I was attending to matters in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted YES on H.R. 3391 (Roll Call No. 60), and YES on H.R. 3838 (Roll Call No. 61).

• 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.

HONORING THE IMPACT OF JESSY LAKIN AND TIANA FREEMAN ON ALASKA'S VETERANS

HON. MARY SATTLER PELTOLA

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

Mrs. PELTOLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two exemplary Alaskans. They have been inspirational to others, as well as a gift to the communities they serve across our great state.

Jessy Lakin of Wasilla has served as the Program Lead for the Alaska Warrior Partnership since December 2022. As a combat veteran, co-founder of Battle Dawgs 501(c)(3) and veteran advocate, Jessy's skillset in collaboration, problem solving, marketing, and community relations has helped AKWP grow exponentially. Jessy's ability and collaboration skills have helped find solutions to generate momentum within the state to address difficult issues that veterans face. Jessy has spearheaded and organized monthly meetings that host up to 85 various agencies. This collaboration and partnership have been instrumental in the ability to assist veterans and their needs. Jessy also volunteers as a Co-Chair for the Veteran Community Partnership (VCP) with the Department of Veterans Affairs Alaska Health Care System. This group works with VA programs and community partners to address gaps in service, access to care, and provide outreach opportunities to connect veterans to the VA system.

Tiana Freeman of Eagle River serves as a case coordinator for the Alaska Warrior Partnership. Tiana works to engage veterans and stakeholders who are seeking resources for the warriors in our community needing assistance. Her duties include intake of warriors, determination of needs, and screening for Suicidal Ideation and Risk before then connecting the warriors with resources in the community. Tiana has worked and closed 147 cases so far this year. Tiana goes above and beyond for each warrior; she establishes a trusting and lasting relationship with everyone she encounters. She has outstanding reviews from veterans, community partners and state and federal level agencies.

Together, Tiana and Jessy work to identify gaps in services. They also work to obtain grants and funding. Their efforts to engage and recruit community agencies, businesses, and other non-profits have resulted in over 85 partnerships across Alaska. These partnerships have worked and closed 730 cases resulting in a successful closure rate of 97.5 percent since December 2022.

Jessy's and Tiana's dedication, selflessness, and empathy have positively impacted the veterans they assist as well as the community partners they engage.

RECOGNIZING TAMPA BAY'S TRAILBLAZER MARCUS BROOKS, IN HONOR OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during Black History Month to celebrate

a change agent and one of Tampa Bay's most distinguished torch bearers, Marcus Brooks.

Mr. Brooks is a fourth-generation resident of St. Petersburg, Florida, where he currently lives with his wife and children. He received his bachelor's degree in political science with a minor in communications from Florida State University. Brooks credits his upbringing of racial contrast in Clearwater, Florida and South St. Petersburg, which afforded him different perspectives to shape him into the leader he is today. He is also a recipient of the St. Petersburg NAACP's Next-Gen Trailblazer award and currently serves on the boards of the St. Petersburg Downtown Partnership and Alleghany Franciscan Ministries.

"Whatever gifts you are believed to have are not yours. They were gifted to you for a finite amount of time to be passed on and used in service of others." These are words Mr. Brooks uses to govern his work and daily life. After graduating from Florida State University, he began his journey in public service of more than 15 years. Mr. Brooks has served as the youth coordinator for Coordinated Childcare of Pinellas, development officer at St. Petersburg College, regional director of Junior Achievement of Tampa Bay, director of development for Eckerd Youth Alternatives, to name a few. While serving in these roles, his goal was to cultivate, plan and execute developmental efforts that would change and touch the lives of our youth through education.

Mr. Brooks is an advocate for diversity, equity and inclusion, and believes unequivocally that if we advance racial equity and improve the overall health of the community, we will see the growth of more sustainable communities. Mr. Brooks is the executive director of the Center for Health Equity, whose mission is to inspire and empower people, share ideas, exchange information, organize and build relationships to end differences in health due to institutional racism. Under his leadership, the Center for Health Equity has pushed new bounds with the creation of Courageous Conversations, which is an award-winning protocol for effectively engaging, sustaining and deepening interracial dialogue. This conversation examines the impact of race in our lives and fosters the development of essential literacy and competency through which to experience our personal, professional and organizational journeys. Mr. Brooks believes that if we are able to strip away past beliefs, experiences and actions to truly get to know our neighbor, we can begin to have a better understanding of one another.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Tampa Bay community, I am honored to recognize the outstanding accomplishments, leadership and service of Mr. Marcus Brooks, who stands as a shining example of the tremendous impact of hard work, nurturing others and service to the community to encourage others to reach their highest potential.

HONORING TRISTAN CROCKETT

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable servant, Tristan Crockett.

Mr. Crockett was born and reared in Grenada, Mississippi, to the parents, Mr. Chris Crockett and Mrs. Earline Crockett. Mr. Crockett attended and graduated from Grenada High School the year of 2015, graduating with high honors.

After graduating from high school, Mr. Crockett embarked on his career journey by enrolling at Delta State University (DSU), where he pursued a major in Commercial Aviation in Flight Operations. Through diligent effort and dedication, Mr. Crockett successfully completed his studies at DSU, earning his Bachelor of Commercial Aviation in Flight Operations degree.

After obtaining his degree, Mr. Crockett diligently advanced in his career path. Presently, he holds the position of Current First Officer at Delta Air Lines.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Tristan Crockett for his dedication and tenacity to serving his community and desire to be an example for all.

HONORING DR. VANESSA ALLEN-MCCLLOUD DURING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I rise to celebrate National Women's History Month and its 2024 theme, Women Who Advocate for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. Each year, the National Women's History Alliance selects a unifying theme in honor of Women's History Month. This year's theme recognizes the numerous brave women throughout history who have fought and continue to fight for justice and equality for women in all aspects of American society.

As we celebrate the relentless efforts of women who have devoted their lives to this cause, I would like to take the time to honor a true leader in Northwest Indiana, Dr. Vanessa Allen-McCloud. Her passion for civil service and education serves as an inspiration for women throughout the region and beyond. Dr. Allen-McCloud holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Organizational Leadership from Calumet College of St. Joseph and a Master of Education degree from Purdue University Northwest. In 2013, she earned her Doctorate in Educational Leadership. Dr. Allen-McCloud's impressive career includes various professional positions in the field of education at Purdue University Calumet, South Suburban College, and the Gary Community School Corporation. In 2010, Dr. Allen-McCloud became President and CEO of the Urban League of Northwest Indiana, an organization that works to "promote, encourage, and enhance services to improve social, educational, and economic conditions of African Americans and other minority groups in Lake, Porter, and LaPorte counties." Under her leadership, the Urban League continues to grow and succeed and has become an outstanding source of support for many individuals and organizations. Throughout the years, the Urban League has hosted numerous programs and seminars highlighting opportunities for women. In addition, Dr. Allen-McCloud is a certified civility trainer in Civility in the Workplace and