

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING THE 109TH BIRTHDAY OF REVA STARRETT

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 109th birthday of Mrs. Reva Starrett, who lives in my Congressional district in Bellbrook, Ohio. Reva's loved ones recently gathered around her to honor this special occasion to celebrate a life well-lived.

Reva was born on February 11, 1915 in Darke County, Ohio and was the oldest of six children. Longevity runs in her family. She has a brother who is 95 and a sister who is 85. One of her sisters lived to the age of 100, and another sister lived to 93.

Her husband Bill, a World War II veteran, passed away in 1998. They had one son, Bill, Jr. During the war, Reva worked and lived with her sister while her husband served overseas.

Hard work is the key to a long life. Reva grew up working on her family farm and began milking cows at the age of 5. Reva was the head cook at an elementary school in the Bellbrook school system, specializing in baking rolls and bread—and she still bakes bread today.

Reva has lived independently all her life and still lives in her own home. Her indomitable spirit and zest for life has certainly guided her to this day.

I am honored to congratulate Reva Starrett on reaching this remarkable milestone birthday, and I wish her many more joyful years of peace, good health, and happiness.

RECOGNIZING VIRGINIA'S FOURTH DISTRICT WOMEN IN EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. JENNIFER L. McCLELLAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, in celebration of Women's History Month, I rise today to honor 23 women chosen by constituents in Virginia's Fourth Congressional District for my inaugural Women in Excellence Award. These women are recognized for their meaningful contributions and commitment to improving the lives of others and giving back to their communities. I commend these remarkable women who are spearheading progress across the district in the fields of advocacy, environmental justice, economic development, education, government, healthcare, law, public safety, and more.

Chief Lynette Lewis Allston, Southampton
Dr. Monica L. Ball, Richmond
Ms. Sherri Bowman, Charles City
Dr. Shantelle Brown, Richmond

Ms. Chelsea L. Buyalos, Chester
Sheriff Vanessa R. Crawford, Petersburg
Mrs. Dixie Daniel, Brunswick
Detective Lakisha R. Davis, Chesterfield
Dr. Tamara W. Dias, Chester
Ms. Austine Ellis, Emporia
Dr. Shonda Harris-Muhammed, Richmond
Mrs. Evelyn M. Johnson, Chesterfield
Ms. Michelle Johnson, Charles City
Mrs. Rebecca L. Larkin, Henrico
Ms. Tracy Lee, Colonial Heights
Dr. Shantell Lewis, Henrico
Ms. Danielle Milliner, Petersburg
The Honorable Gammie Poindexter, Richmond

Ms. Aileen Rivera, Henrico
Mrs. Vondrenna Smithers, Brunswick
Ms. Kendra Sutton-EL, Richmond
Dr. Phyllis Taylor Tolliver, Prince George
Ms. Kim Walker-Lee, Southampton

HONORING TEXAS RANGER ROBERT "BRANDON" BESS

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of longtime Texas lawman and my good friend, Texas Ranger Robert "Brandon" Bess. On February 29, 2024, he hung up his signature Stetson cowboy hat and un-pinned the legendary Cinco Peso Ranger badge for the last time.

Brandon is a native of Kirbyville, Texas, and graduated from Kirbyville High School in 1990. He earned a degree in criminal justice from Kilgore College before attending the East Texas Police Academy. After he graduated from the academy, he served as a patrolman for the Henderson Police Department and as a deputy in the Rusk County Sheriff's Office.

In 1995, Brandon joined the Texas Department of Public Safety, where he served as a Highway Patrol Trooper from 1995 to 2005 and as a Sergeant and Special Agent in Criminal Intelligence from 2005 to 2013. In July 2013, he joined the prestigious Texas Rangers, the oldest law enforcement organization on the North American continent with statewide jurisdiction. Since April 2021, he has served as the Unsolved Crimes Investigation Program "cold case" Ranger for Texas Ranger Company "A," encompassing thirty-five Southeast Texas counties.

Brandon worked on countless major criminal investigations throughout the Lone Star State for the Ranger Division during his distinguished career. He perfected the use of DNA tracing and other cutting-edge technologies to bring multiple criminals to justice, often many years after the case was considered cold. It has been a privilege to assist him in cutting through the federal bureaucracy for several of these cases.

Brandon married his wife, Mary Beth, on March 13, 1999. Together, they share children

Marshall, Walker, and Mattie. The Bess family are active members of Anahuac Methodist Church, where Brandon has served as a Sunday School teacher, on multiple committees, and currently chairs the church's Board of Stewards. Additionally, he is a cancer survivor and veteran of the United States Army Reserve and National Guard.

Mr. Speaker, in its two-hundred-year history, only the finest law enforcement officers have had the honor of calling themselves Texas Rangers. I am proud that Ranger Brandon Bess is among them. I wish him, Mary Beth, and their family all the best in the next chapter of their lives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK T. McHENRY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Speaker, due to an unforeseen circumstance, I was unable to cast my vote for H. Res. 1065. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 85.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF HARRIS COUNTY JUSTICE OF THE PEACE JUDGE ARMANDO V. RODRIGUEZ

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise. I rise to honor the memory of a noble public servant Harris County Justice of the Peace Judge Armando V. Rodriguez. Elected to Harris County's Precinct 6, Place 2 in 1973, Judge Armando V. Rodriguez became the first Hispanic to hold the title of Harris County Justice of the Peace. He served our county admirably for more than four decades and was known as the longest-tenured judge in Harris County.

The Honorable Judge V. Rodriguez was not just a holder of public trust but a justice seeker, community leader, and coalition builder. Judge Rodriguez exercised compassion and experience to boldly advocate for and protect his community. Judge Rodriguez went above and beyond the call of duty when he founded Fiestas Patrias, an organization that celebrates the diversity and cultures of Latin America and culminated into an annual parade that is still being held today. Judge Rodriguez's efforts also included the creation of the Black and Brown Coalition, which we co-founded together.

Mr. Speaker, I am fortunate enough to say that I knew and worked alongside The Honorable Judge Armando V. Rodriguez for many years. I believe that when history records the legacy of Judge Rodriguez, he will be forever

• 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.

remembered for his caring and candid demeanor as he worked to serve local communities, his county, as well as his country.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR.
WILLIAM ANTHONY ANDERSON

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the remarkable life and legacy of Mr. William Anthony Anderson, Sr., whose sudden passing on March 9, 2024, has deeply saddened our community. Mr. Anderson's journey, characterized by dedication, service, and compassion, has left an indelible mark on all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Born on July 12, 1962, in Blue Springs, Mr. Anderson's commitment to public service was evident from the outset. He served at the Union County Sheriff's Office for over a decade before assuming the role of chief of police for the city of Verona, where his leadership and dedication earned him the respect of his colleagues and the community. Anderson was appointed as the assistant police chief at Northeast Mississippi Community College in late 2014. His commitment to the safety and well-being of the students led to his subsequent appointment as police chief on July 1, 2021, succeeding Chief Randy Baxter.

Mr. Anderson was a pillar of support for the students, embodying the values of service and protection. His passion for ensuring the well-being of the students was evident in his actions, from organizing car inspections to late-night safety walks.

A man of faith, Mr. Anderson was a dedicated member of Ecru Second Baptist Church, where he served as a deacon, embodying his commitment to serving others both within and beyond the law enforcement community.

Mr. Anderson's legacy of service, dedication, and compassion will forever be cherished by those whose lives he touched. He leaves behind a community grateful for his unwavering commitment to duty and his enduring impact on the lives of many.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Mr. Anderson was a loving husband to his wife, Connie Smith Anderson, and a devoted father to their three children, Anna, Ebony, and William Jr., who followed in his father's footsteps in law enforcement. He also cherished his role as a grandfather to Kydwn and Fallyn.

May Chief Anthony Anderson rest in peace. His service and sacrifice will never be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING CARSON ROSS ON
HIS RETIREMENT AS BLUE
SPRING'S MAYOR

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, it is with a deep sense of gratitude that I rise today to honor the lifelong public service career of Mr.

Carson Ross, who has served as the mayor of the city of Blue Springs since 2008. Mr. Ross will be retiring as the first African American Mayor of Blue Springs, Missouri. Mr. Ross's dedication to public service is truly exemplary.

Before he began his distinguished career, Mr. Ross was a graduate of Bradley County High School, attended the University of Arkansas—Pine Bluff, and later received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Rockhurst University in 1977. He began his career as a public servant in 1981, when he was elected to the Blue Springs Board of Aldermen where he served Districts 2 and 3 for eight consecutive years as Alderman and one year as Mayor Pro Tem. To further grow his expertise and leadership skills, he went on to serve on the Legislative Branch of the State of Missouri and was elected to the Missouri House of Representatives to represent the 55th District. Under this capacity, Mr. Ross served for a total of 14 years in Missouri's House of Representatives and as a testament of his abilities as a leader, served as the Republican Whip in 1991 through 1992.

As a result of his work ethic and dedication to serving his community, Mr. Ross was recognized as one of Kansas City's most influential African Americans by the Kansas City Globe in 1995 and 1996. Furthermore, his influence and impact did not go unnoticed when he received the Outstanding Legislator Award in 1996 by the Missouri Federation Grand Order of Pachyderms and the 1997 state award by the Kansas City Globe as the Most Influential African American.

Beyond his role as a legislator, Mr. Ross worked with Hallmark Cards after having an illustrious career of 39 years with the company, where he held various positions. Additionally, he has served the city of Blue Springs in various capacities outside of Mayor through his participation on various boards including as Chairman of the Blue Springs Personnel Board, President of St. Mary's Medical Center Board of Associates, a founding member of Summit Bank of Kansas City Board of Trustees, among many more.

As Mayor of Blue Springs for sixteen years, Mr. Ross focused on ways that he could better his community and his selfless spirit of service is displayed throughout his career. His historical achievement of becoming the city's first Black Mayor serves as an image of resiliency and determination to break through barriers and lay the groundwork for future leaders. As children look towards future careers and occupations, they will know that they too are capable of being Mayor and a public servant, even if that means being the first to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Mr. Ross for his tremendous accomplishments, his commitment, and tireless community service. His immense impact will continue through the multitude of lives he has impacted. On behalf of Missouri's Fifth Congressional District, I wish Mr. Ross great joy and relaxation in retirement as Mayor.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JUDGE
ONZLEE WARE

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Judge Onzlee Ware, who passed away on February 10, 2024, at the age of 70.

He was born in North Carolina on January 4, 1954, to the late Onzlee McCrimmon and Edna Taylor.

While attending North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, Onzlee was charged with possession of heroin and marijuana, but later had those charges dropped when he agreed to become a police informant. A year later, it was revealed in court that he was an informant. Because of that revelation, he was subsequently shot and critically wounded, eventually losing his left leg. This harrowing experience would shape the rest of his life and reinforce his belief in second chances.

He would later come to Roanoke to work with Boy Scouts of America, which is where we met. He eventually became a lawyer, and we became friends. Our friendship was first cemented while spending hours photocopying form files in my office.

We then served in the Virginia House of Delegates together, where I knew him as someone who would often reach across party lines to get things accomplished for his fellow Virginians.

In 2013, Onzlee helped then-Republican Governor Bob McDonnell pass his transportation plan.

After leaving the House of Delegates, Onzlee was appointed as a judge, serving in juvenile and domestic relations court. It was there that he used what he learned earlier in life to reach out to juveniles, telling them they could turn their lives around and be successful, just as he had become.

He later rose in the ranks to become a circuit court judge.

Onzlee Ware was a trailblazer. He served as the first Black legislator from the western part of Virginia and later the first Black judge in Roanoke Circuit Court. He made an impact on so many throughout his life, his legacy will live on for years to come. He was my friend. I will miss him.

UTILIZING SPACE EFFICIENTLY
AND IMPROVING TECHNOLOGIES
ACT OF 2023

SPEECH OF

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong opposition to this bill. Certainly, we can agree that federal agencies, like many large employers, need to reevaluate their office space requirements in response to more hybrid work options post-COVID.

But this is not a new endeavor for the federal government. This is something the federal government was doing for more than a decade before the pandemic.