

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING CHARLES STAMEY FOR BEING NAMED TO THE NORTH CAROLINA BAR-B-Q HALL OF FAME

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 15, 2024

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Charles Stamey of Stamey's Barbecue on being inducted into the inaugural class of the North Carolina Bar-B-Q Hall of Fame.

With all the divisiveness and partisanship impacting our Nation today, it is refreshing to see the new North Carolina Bar-B-Q Hall of Fame bringing together all sides of the great divide—Eastern and Lexington style barbecue.

Very few things exemplify North Carolina more than barbecue, and last month the North Carolina Bar-B-Q Hall of Fame inducted its first class. It was completely appropriate that Charles Stamey, former owner of the legendary Stamey's Barbecue, was part of this inaugural class.

Stamey's Barbecue was founded in 1930 by Warner Stamey, Charles' father. Charles took over the business in 1957 and operated it until 1997. Despite the growing popularity of gas and electric cooking methods during the mid-twentieth century, Charles stuck to the traditional method of barbecuing pork over hardwood hickory coals. For this reason, and many others, Stamey's Barbecue has stood the test of time and remained a popular spot for folks from all over the state.

In North Carolina, barbecue is one of our most cherished and almost sacred traditions. It is a labor-intensive art that requires great skill and hard work on the part of the pitmaster. At the same time, it is an art that stresses the importance of family and passing down practices and recipes from one generation to the next. I cannot think of anybody who embodies these attributes better than Charles.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in recognizing Charles Stamey on being named to the North Carolina Bar-B-Q Hall of Fame. Let's eat.

INTRODUCTION OF THE GOLDEN THIRTEEN CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 15, 2024

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Golden Thirteen Congressional Gold Medal Act. This bill would award a posthumous Congressional Gold Medal to the 13 African Americans who became the first African American commissioned and warrant officers in the United States Navy.

In 1944, the Navy began officer training courses for 16 African American men. At the

time, there were no African American officers in the Navy. These 16 men were expected to complete their training in eight weeks, while normal officer training was 16 weeks.

These 16 men supported each other, including by placing blankets over their windows and studying as a group by flashlight at night. Each brought to the group his own expertise to help the others.

When the course was completed, all 16 passed their exams. With some claiming that the group must have cheated, the group was forced to retake certain exams and scored even higher. The average grade for the group was 3.89 out of 4.00, the highest average of any class in Navy history at that time.

Even though all 16 men passed the course, the Navy commissioned only 12 of the men, and a 13th was made a chief warrant officer. Three returned to the enlisted corps, with no reason given by the Navy.

During the men's careers, they oversaw all-Black units or the training of Black recruits. One would go on to make his career in the Navy after World War II, with the rest returning to civilian life. In the 1970s, Captain Edward Secrest, a former instructor, gave the group the name the "Golden Thirteen."

I urge my colleagues to support this bill to honor the first African American officers in the Navy, Jesse Walter Arbor; Phillip G. Barnes; Samuel Edward Barnes; Dalton Louis Baugh, Sr.; George Clinton Cooper; Reginald Ernest Goodwin; James Edward Hair; Charles Byrd Lear; Graham Edward Martin; Dennis Denmark Nelson; John Walter Reagan; Frank Ellis Sublett, Jr.; and William Sylvester White. The three members who passed their exams but were not given a commission were Augustus Alves; J.B. Pinkney; and Lewis "Mummy" Williams.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BARRY HENDERSON

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 15, 2024

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Barry Henderson. A retired Rahway Chief of Police, Barry Henderson passed away on April 2, 2024, at the age of 83.

Barry Henderson embodied the spirit of the city of Rahway, showing tremendous strength and heart in everything he did. Barry's status as a hometown hero started early as a high school star athlete and was solidified as he joined the Rahway Police Department in 1964, heading their Juvenile Community Relations Bureau, and continuously raising through the ranks until his promotion to Chief in 1988. Under his leadership, he made innovations in community policing, technology, training, and recruitment.

Henderson received the New Jersey State Police Chiefs Association Humanitarian Award

in 1997 and the New Jersey State PBA Lifetime Membership Award in 1984 and in 1987. Outside of his career in law enforcement, Henderson served for ten years on the Rahway Board of Education. He was a lifetime member of the Rahway Elks BPOE 1075, a member of the Rahway Yacht Club, and the Deutscher Club of Clark.

He is survived by his son Edward and his wife Jennifer, his grandsons Shane and Brody, grandson Nicholas, granddaughter Ann Marie O'Grady (née Hardoby), great grandson Jack, great granddaughter Elizabeth and great granddaughter Elks O'Grady, brother Robert, and many nieces and nephews. Our community mourns the loss of Barry Henderson, may he rest in peace.

CELEBRATING THE CITY OF VICTORIA'S BICENTENNIAL

HON. MICHAEL CLOUD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 15, 2024

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the remarkable bicentennial of the City of Victoria, Texas—the city I am proud to call my home. What a wonderful occasion it is.

Two hundred years is an incredible achievement, and Victoria's many years are filled with rich history and tradition. Our history begins back in 1824, when Martín de León and his wife, Patricia de la Garza, set out on a journey to establish a city then known as Guadalupe, Victoria. The city was initially incorporated into the Republic of Mexico on April 13th, 1824, under the name Nuestra Señora Guadalupe de Jesús Victoria, and quickly became an integral part of the surrounding community.

Then, in 1839, Victoria made its true mark on Texas history—when it was officially chartered as one of the original 23 founding counties in the Republic of Texas. The first Mayor of Victoria, John J. Linn, was elected in 1839, and subsequently handpicked five aldermen to advocate for the citizens of Victoria, marking the official birth of what is now Victoria in the state of Texas. Since that time, Victoria has continued to grow and thrive from a humble one-square-mile townsite into a sprawling 21st-century city, which covers around 37 square miles and provides a home for over 65,000 proud Texas residents—including myself.

Of all the key original hallmarks of Victoria, perhaps the best of them is its sense of friendly community. The original founders wanted to make sure Victoria brought people together—seeking to build their city around the idea of helping residents build relationships with one another—and today, the city embodies that same spirit, providing a thriving environment for small businesses, ranchers, the agriculture community, churches, and many others.

This is a truly significant milestone in not just the City of Victoria, but in the great state of Texas. As we reflect on the city's past, let

• 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.

us commit to honoring that history by continuing to work together for a prosperous future for south Texas.

I give congratulations to everyone in Victoria on this historic day, and may God continue to bless and keep us in the days and years ahead.

HONORING SCOTT GRAY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 15, 2024

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mr. Scott Gray as he is awarded the Airport Professional of the Year Award by the Texas Department of Transportation. This prestigious accolade is a testament to Mr. Gray's exemplary leadership, dedication, and contributions to the aviation industry.

During his tenure as the airport manager of Denton Enterprise Airport from 2017 to 2023, Mr. Gray demonstrated exceptional proficiency in managing the day-to-day operations, planning, and development of one of Texas' busiest airports. Under his guidance, Denton Enterprise Airport grew significantly, rising from 7th busiest airport in Texas as he arrived, to become the 5th busiest airport in Texas and among the top 60 nationwide, with over 212,000 operations in 2023.

Mr. Gray's strategic vision and strong analytical skills have been instrumental in the airport's growth and success. He oversaw significant milestones, including the delivery of the airport's second runway in 2019 and the expansion of the main runway in 2021. These achievements not only enhanced the airport's operational capacity, but also contributed to its standing as a vital regional transportation hub and ensured its place as an economic generator into the future.

Furthermore, Mr. Gray's leadership extended beyond Denton Enterprise Airport. As the President of the Texas Airports Council, he tirelessly advocated for the betterment and benefit of general aviation airports across Texas. His commitment to advancing the interests of the aviation community has left a lasting impact and has been widely recognized and appreciated.

Despite his departure from Denton and return to Arizona as the Aviation Director at the Buckeye Municipal Airport, Mr. Gray has remained an invaluable resource and mentor to others in the aviation profession. His willingness to share his extensive knowledge and expertise reflects his genuine passion for the industry and his dedication to supporting his colleagues.

Mr. Gray possesses the wide range of knowledge and competence that exemplifies a top-notch general aviation airport manager. His remarkable achievements and unwavering commitment to excellence make him truly deserving of the Airport Professional of the Year Award. I am honored to commend Mr. Gray for his outstanding contributions to the aviation community and extend my warmest congratulations on this well-deserved recognition.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 15, 2024

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 119, H.R. 7888; YEA on Roll Call No. 114, Biggs Amendment No. 1 to H.R. 7888; and YEA on Roll Call No. 115, Roy Amendment No. 2 to H.R. 7888.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION CHURCH

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 15, 2024

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Community Transformation Church on its centennial, which fell on April 14, 2024. Community Transformation Church is based in Houston, Texas, and has eight satellite campuses located across Texas and Arkansas.

The Community Transformation Church that exists today started with two different churches: Magnolia Park Assembly of God and Oaklawn Assembly of God. Magnolia Park Assembly of God was founded around 1924 by Rev. Jimmy McClellan. Two years later, in 1926, Rev. E.M. Yeats became the pastor and served until his retirement in 1976.

In addition to Magnolia Park, Rev. McClellan also organized the Oaklawn Assembly of God. During the years leading up to the 1976 merger, Revs. Worth Williams, Hardie Weathers, Cleddy Keith, and O.C. Bates all served as church pastors of Oaklawn.

After the two churches came together, they took on the name Christian Temple Assembly of God and met at the old Magnolia Park location. Thanks to the significant growth, a 10-acre plot was eventually purchased on Alameda Genoa Road, and the church began a million-dollar building campaign for a new sanctuary that opened on Easter Sunday 1983. Rev. Bates was the first pastor of Christian Temple, where he served for 25 years.

In June 2023, the church once again took on a new name: the Community Transformation Church. Pastors Don and Susan Nordin have led the church since November 4, 2001. Throughout the last 23 years, Community Transformation Church has started five campuses that were gifted away, given millions of dollars to mission efforts across the world, and much more to show the love of Christ across the region they serve. Community Transformation Church has also started eight residential drug and alcohol treatment centers and created a 38-acre ranch for rescued girls who have been trafficked.

Over the past century, it is evident the Lord has used this historic church to demonstrate the love, kindness, and generosity of Jesus Christ in the surrounding community and worldwide. May God continue to bless Community Transformation Church and its members for many years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. GREGORY ARMENIAN CHURCH

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 15, 2024

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to commemorate a milestone of profound significance—the 90th anniversary of St. Gregory Armenian Church in Indian Orchard, Massachusetts.

For nearly a century, St. Gregory has stood as a beacon of faith, unity, and community, enriching the lives of its members and serving as a cherished cornerstone of Armenian heritage throughout the Greater Springfield community. As the crossroads of New England, Springfield is home to a unique diaspora of different cultures and ethnicities, including a strong Armenian community with roots going back to the early 20th century.

As a great number of Armenian populations immigrated and settled in the Springfield area during the early 1900s, the need for a church and community center was quickly realized. Since its founding in 1934, St. Gregory has been a pillar of hope and support throughout our region, giving back not only to the community in western Massachusetts, but also providing humanitarian assistance to Armenians throughout the world. Their commitment to improving the lives of others is inspiring and has left an indelible mark on countless individuals and families.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to congratulate the members of the St. Gregory Armenian Church as they mark 90 years of upholding the sacred traditions, values, and teachings of the Armenian Apostolic Church. As we reflect on the countless blessings bestowed upon St. Gregory, and the blessings bestowed upon the community they serve, we look to the future with great optimism and renewed vigor. I wish them much growth, spiritual enlightenment, and enduring unity for the next 90 years and beyond. Congratulations from the United States of America.

HONORING RICHARD A. DUERR, SR.

HON. BRANDON WILLIAMS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 15, 2024

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize Richard A. Duerr, Sr., a Naval veteran and firefighter, for his many years of service to our community.

Richard began his career in the United States Navy, serving our country as a Communications Yeoman 2nd Class from 1965 to 1969. Following his military service, Richard embarked on careers in the private sector, working for more than 16 years at Revere Copper and Brass in Rome, NY, and also at Sanford Fire Equipment and Turning Stone Resort Casino.

Beyond his professional endeavors, Richard has engaged in many years of service to his community. For 51 years, he has been an integral member of the Camden Volunteer Fire Department, holding vital roles such as Assistant Chief and Fire Police Captain, a position