

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA CONSERVATION TRUST

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 7, 2024

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust on the occasion of its 30th anniversary. Founded in 1994, NVCT undertook a mission to sustain abundant, thriving and natural places in local neighborhoods and communities. Over the past 30 years, their efforts have led to the protection of over 9,000 acres of land, comprising parks, streams, forests and farms in both rural and urban settings. In a region of over 3 million people and growing, that is an incredible accomplishment that deserves high praise.

NVCT has achieved many significant milestones by demonstrating the energy and willingness to address grassroots environmental concerns and connect with their community. Their mission has been to add and sustain abundant, thriving natural places in out Virginia communities while cultivating inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility in every facet of their work. Regardless of our backgrounds, the land and water surrounding us connect us. NVCT believes that if we are to truly execute our vision of a more equitable Northern Virginia, we must address conservation's systemic injustices and inequities.

As they look towards the next 30 years, NVCT has renewed their commitment to land conservation and the promise of an even more impactful future. Their theme this year is "Rise to the Occasion," which includes the acronym of RISE, "Responsibility to Impacting Sustainable Environments." NVCT believes that rising to the occasion will mean being more strategic in their approach, identifying critical areas of our region that are most at risk of development and essential to protect. In those places, we must be undeterred in safeguarding natural habitats to secure a bright future for Northern Virginia's nature lovers and outdoor enthusiasts.

The existence of organizations like NVCT is a testament to the high level of civic engagement and citizen activism that we are blessed with not only in Fairfax County, but in Northern Virginia as a whole. The actions of governments, while important, will never be sufficient by themselves. Organizations like NVCT provide an invaluable supplement, which ensures that we will continue to prioritize preservation and conservation of our natural resources for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust on three decades of preserving nature. I commend them for their service to our community and our region and ask my colleagues to join me in wishing them great success in all their future endeavors. Cheers to another 30 years.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN HERO MELISSA ICE

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 7, 2024

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Melissa Ice. Melissa saw her first incidence of human trafficking when visiting China as a missional director for a church in Fort Worth. During that time, she also visited women in brothels in China, bringing them baked goods and offering them jobs at the bakery to help them get out and start a new life. After these experiences, Melissa realized how little support there was for homeless women in Fort Worth and the young girls on the streets who were being exploited.

In 2012, Melissa founded The Net, an organization that supports women and children in North Texas who have been victims of sex trafficking. After six years of doing incredible work providing care and recovery for survivors, she went on to found Worthy Co. which gives women employment after they graduate from The Net programs. Women employed at Melissa's organization have the chance to become artisans, learning everything from jewelry making, candle pouring, order fulfillment, and shipping. They're also taught life skills, such as time management and what it means to work in a healthy environment. Melissa's organizations have grown so big that they're opening a secondary location where they'll also educate the community about the issue of human trafficking and exploitation.

I'd like to thank Melissa for her dedication to supporting victims of human trafficking.

HONORING THE CAREER OF DR. CLARK GODSHALL

HON. CLAUDIA TENNEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 7, 2024

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of the outstanding Senior New York State BOCES District Superintendent and Chief Executive Officer of the Orleans/Niagara BOCES, Dr. Clark Godshall.

Dr. Godshall has spent the last 52 years as a New York State educator, 43 of which were spent as a school administrator. He has spent the past 24 years responsible for the educational services for over 30,000 students at the Orleans/Niagara BOCES, which is the 13th largest BOCES out of the 37 that exist in New York State.

Dr. Godshall has demonstrated a great commitment to the success of students across New York State and has been recognized for doing so. He is the six-time recipient of American School and University Management Effectiveness Awards, as well as being named

the 2014 New York State School Superintendent of the Year. Dr. Godshall is also the only administrator to serve as the President of the New York State Council of School Superintendents (NYSCOSS), the New York State Association of School Business Officials (NYASBO), and the International Association of School Business Officials (IASBO).

In addition to his unwavering dedication to the students of New York State, Dr. Godshall also has been a County Chairman for the American Red Cross in Niagara County. During his free time, Dr. Godshall serves his country as an officer (Commodore) with the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary and the United States Power Squadron.

Dr. Godshall has dedicated his life to the academic advancement of the students in New York State and the 24th Congressional District of New York extends its heartfelt appreciation for Dr. Godshall's role in enhancing the educational experience and contributing to the overall prosperity of the region.

I am pleased to extend my best wishes to Dr. Clark Godshall for a fulfilling and well-deserved retirement, filled with joy, accomplishments, and continued success in all his future endeavors.

HONORING BRUNETTE WASHINGTON'S 110TH BIRTHDAY

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 7, 2024

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the 110th birthday of an exceptional woman, Brunette Washington.

Born in Forkland, Alabama in 1914, Brunette migrated to Lackawanna, New York in 1937. She shared 70 years of marriage with her husband James until his passing in 2001. Together, they raised four children in a household where the values of love, faith, education, and hard work were instilled and practiced. Her family has grown to include nine grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, ten great-great-grandchildren, and one great-great-great grandchild.

Brunette is respectfully known as "Mother Washington" to the congregation at Macedonia Baptist Church of Buffalo, where she has served as a Sunday school teacher, in the Nurses Guild, in the church choir, and as the President of the Mission Society. Her tenure is specifically noted for her fundraising with the American Heart Association, the Easter Seals Foundation, and the United Way, as well as for ministering to neighborhood children, the vulnerable, and people who needed an empathetic and supportive ear. A faithful voter since 1937, Brunette contributes to her community charitably and civically.

A believer that it is "never too late to achieve your dreams", Brunette obtained her driver's license at 50 years old. Growing up in the segregated south, her access to an education beyond the 7th grade was limited. In

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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.

her 60's, she enrolled in the 8th grade at a neighborhood school and continued until she graduated with her diploma from Bennett High School, achieving a lifelong dream.

On Thursday, June 6th, Brunette reached 110 years of age. When asked what she attributes to her long life, she says, "I don't know why He does it, but He keeps me alive and I thank Him, I thank Him, I thank Him!"

I join the people of Western New York in admiration of Brunette's commendable achievements, realized over the course of an exceptional lifetime.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MR. HUGHES VAN ELLIS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 7, 2024

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate, cherish, and honor the extraordinary life of Hughes Van Ellis, who was born in 1921 in the Greenwood District of Tulsa, Oklahoma—one of the flashpoints of the modern Civil Rights Movement.

He, alongside his sister Viola Fletcher, was one of the last surviving witnesses of the Tulsa Race Massacre.

At the time of his birth, the Greenwood District of Tulsa was a thriving community built up by its Black residents into a nationally renowned entrepreneurial center known as "Black Wall Street."

In 1921, white supremacy and racist violence were common throughout the United States and went largely unchecked by the justice system.

On the morning of May 30, 1921, Mr. Van Ellis and the other residents of Greenwood District had their world shattered when reports of an alleged and disputed incident between a young Black man and a young white woman gave the white community of Tulsa a pretext for violently attacking the prosperous Black community.

The Tulsa Tribune called for a lynching amidst a climate of white racial hostility and white resentment over Black economic success.

On May 31, 1921, a mob of armed white men descended upon Tulsa's Greenwood District and initiated the unchecked violence known today as the "Tulsa Race Massacre."

Tulsa municipal and county authorities failed to take action to protect the Black community, nor did they attempt to calm or contain the violence.

Law enforcement officials deputized many white men who were participants in the violence as their agents.

In just 24 hours, the white mob's violence led to the death of an estimated 300 Black residents, as well as over 800 injuries.

The white mob looted, damaged, burned, or otherwise destroyed approximately 40 square blocks of Black Wall Street in Greenwood District of Tulsa Oklahoma, which included an estimated 1256 homes of Black residents and virtually every other structure, including churches, schools, businesses, a hospital and a library.

Nearly 9,000 Black Tulsans were left homeless and suffered over \$200 million dollars in losses.

In the wake of the Tulsa Race Massacre, the Governor of Oklahoma declared martial law and units of the Oklahoma National Guard participated in the mass arrests of nearly all of Greenwood's surviving men, women, and children, removing them from Greenwood and unlawfully detaining them in holding centers.

Oklahoma local and state governments dismissed and distorted claims surrounding the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre for decades and the event was effectively erased from collective memory and history.

The final injury to Black residents was that insurance companies refused to pay claims for the losses they suffered to the homes and businesses that had been looted or destroyed.

Mr. Van Ellis dedicated his life to ensuring that this atrocity would not be forgotten and to the pursuit of justice for survivors.

Through it all, his love of country shown through his service as a World War II veteran, fighting for our Nation's freedom.

When he returned home, he continued to serve as a soldier in the fight for civil rights, truth, and justice.

He started a family with his wife, raising their seven children, while working as a sharecropper, mechanic, janitor, gardener, and a gas station attendant.

In 2021, Mr. Van Ellis bravely sat before the United States House Judiciary Committee and testified to the dangers of structural racism and inequality.

He drew attention to the abdication of responsibility by government and city officials to rebuild and repair the Greenwood community and testified to the government on the active blocking of recovery efforts by city officials.

Alongside fellow survivors, he demanded that the government not forget about what happened in Tulsa and that the survivors should receive reparations for the trauma they endured.

He was a vocal and staunch advocate for the enactment of H.R. 40, the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans Act, to address injury caused to the descendants of the formerly enslaved.

He encouraged all people in the United States to reflect upon the history of the United States as an imperfect but committed journey to establish a more perfect union and to cherish and exercise the rights, privileges, and responsibilities guaranteed by the Constitution.

Above all, Hughes Van Ellis refused to sit by quietly as a piece of his life was wiped from public memory as well as the history books.

His staunch advocacy for justice and civil rights won over the hearts and minds of millions to his cause, passing on his determination to redress for the wrongs of the past.

Hughes Van Ellis is survived by his daughters Malee V. Craft and Muriel Ellis Watson, as well as his sister and fellow survivor Viola Ford Fletcher.

On behalf of the constituents of the 18th Congressional District of Texas, I take great pride in recognizing Hughes Van Ellis on a meaningful and prosperous life.

CONGRATULATING UL ON 130TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 7, 2024

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize UL Solutions on the occasion of the 130th Anniversary of their founding.

Throughout its history, UL Solutions has been an integral part of our Illinois community, consistently working for a "safer, more secure and sustainable world." This remarkable anniversary is a testament to a proud tradition of ingenuity and innovation, and a wonderful moment of celebration for the entire UL Solutions community. I wish all UL employees and their families well as they mark this auspicious occasion.

UL Solutions was founded in 1894 by electrical engineer William Henry Merrill, Jr. Since its founding, UL Solutions has dedicated itself to enhancing product safety and construction safety in America and around the world, becoming a trusted global leader in applied safety science.

Starting from humble origins with a three-person staff, UL today is a powerhouse in championing safer and more reliable standards for consumer products, construction materials, and workplace safety. UL remains a pioneer in American industry, ensuring safety standards in diversified fields ranging from automotive to energy, health care to electronics. UL has improved safety in building construction, and even set the stage for the establishment of the Federal Aviation Administration by becoming the first national organization globally to certify airplanes for use.

For decades UL has influenced American inventions, from kitchen appliances to electronics to automobiles, ensuring that consumers can safely use their toys, tools, devices and vehicles. Today, UL continues to expand safety initiatives while researching cutting-edge innovations, such as next-generation batteries, autonomous vehicles, and 3D printing technologies.

UL Solutions is proudly headquartered in Northbrook, Illinois. It continues to serve as a major tech hub in the 10th District and employs thousands of Illinoisans in building a safer and more sustainable world.

In honor of UL Solution's outstanding contributions to the state of Illinois and its 130th anniversary, the Governor of the State of Illinois, J.B. Pritzker, has proclaimed June 3, 2024 as UL Solutions Day in Illinois.

I congratulate UL Solutions on this anniversary and look forward to working with them as they continue to maintain the safety and integrity of our appliances and materials.

RECOGNIZING RANDY KELLER

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 7, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Randy Keller of Cañon City, Colorado for his outstanding performance of duties as the Fremont County Coroner during the extraordinary circumstances during the funeral home tragedy in Penrose, Colorado.