

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING NADINE TAYLOR AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR CARIBBEAN HERITAGE MONTH

**HON. DARREN SOTO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 18, 2024*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, entrepreneur and hair care specialist, Nadine Taylor has been a pillar in the Kissimmee community for more than 26 years.

Originally from Manchester, Jamaica, Nadine moved from Boston to Kissimmee to pursue her dreams of owning her own hair care facility "A person's hair is a vital part of their personality," she says. "I love taking care of the needs of all of my clients."

Nadine specializes in a variety of hair textures, is a master colorist, and delights in creating hairstyles for her vast clientele. Nadine is gifted in making each client feel beautiful.

Her philosophy is: When a person looks good, they feel good and can produce good things. Nadine is a wife, mother, and grandmother, and makes everyone feel as if they are family no matter where they come from.

HONORING CAPTAIN JOSÉ E. DÍAZ

**HON. JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN**

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 18, 2024*

Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and thank Captain José E. Díaz, the outgoing commander of the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Sector San Juan, for his exceptional service and unwavering dedication during his military career. As he retires from the USCG, Captain Díaz's career serves as an example of dedication and hard work to all who had the privilege to serve alongside him. Captain Díaz assumed command of Sector San Juan in June 2022, leading Coast Guard missions across the Eastern Caribbean with steadfast commitment and exemplary leadership.

In 1995, Captain Díaz graduated from the Interamerican University of Puerto Rico completing a bachelor's degree in business administration. He also completed a near coastal Master 100-ton U.S. Merchant Mariner credential furthering his maritime expertise. Throughout his career, Captain Díaz has demonstrated dedication and resilience, navigating both the challenges at sea and the strategic demands ashore.

Over the years, Captain Díaz has been assigned to five distinguished cutters. He served as the Commanding Officer of Coast Guard Cutter *Thetis* in Key West, Florida; as the Executive Officer of Coast Guard Cutter Tampa in Portsmouth, Virginia; as the Commanding Officer of Coast Guard Cutter *Adak* in Manama, Bahrain; as the Operations Officer of

Coast Guard Cutter *Mohawk* in Key West; and as Deck Watch Officer of Coast Guard Cutter *Forward* in Portsmouth, Virginia. Each assignment highlighted his unwavering dedication to ensuring maritime safety and security.

Captain Díaz's expertise is not confined to the sea, as his assignments ashore have been equally remarkable. Díaz worked as Law Enforcement and Search and Rescue Command Duty Officer in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and Chief of the Law Enforcement Training Branch in Yorktown, Virginia. His tenure as Coast Guard Attaché to the Republic of Ecuador and his strategic role as Targeting Chief at the Joint Inter Agency Task Force South in Key West, underscore his broad impact on international and interagency operations. Moreover, as the Maritime Enforcement Branch Chief for the Coast Guard Fifth District, Captain Díaz has been instrumental in enhancing maritime enforcement capabilities.

Captain Díaz's career has been bolstered by his wife Gloribel Rivera-Rodríguez, whose support has been essential for his success. As Captain José E. Díaz steps down from his command of Sector San Juan and retires from the U.S. Coast Guard, we express our deepest gratitude for his outstanding service, and wish him success on the next chapter in his journey.

HONORING NATTACHA WYLLIE AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR CARIBBEAN HERITAGE MONTH

**HON. DARREN SOTO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 18, 2024*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Nattacha Wyllie, also known as "Fam Lakay," meaning "Traditional Woman," is a mother of three, a sister, a friend, a humanitarian activist, and a social-cultural-art ambassador/activist. She is the founder/CEO of Haitian American Art Network, Inc., a not-for-profit community-based organization started in Brooklyn, New York, in 1998 with the mission to erase stereotypes and embrace diversity through ART. She currently resides in Orlando, Florida, serving a diverse community, with its main office in Orlando.

Miss Wyllie strongly believes in the traditional ways but is a bit modernized. She currently serves on the Orange County Advisory Arts & Cultural Affairs and chairs the Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee. Her past commitments were to the Greater Haitian American Chamber of Commerce, Orange County Unitary Status Board, Orange County Disability Advisory Board, and Seminole County School Board SAC president.

Ms. Wyllie's educational background is in human services, early childhood education, and radio-television production. Ms. Wyllie hosted a TV talk show that she started on the radio in Brooklyn. When she moved to Florida, she signed up with Spectrum TV, formerly

known as Brighthouse. Then, she landed on Tele Anacaona Television Broadcasting Studios, where she spent 12 years hosting a talk show, producing and organizing cultural events informing, educating, and feeding the community through a collaboration with Second Harvest and Farmshare. Haitian American Art Network, Inc., is "A Cultural Mix; A Diverse Bunch" "Erasing stereotypes, and embracing diversity through Art."

From 2009 to 2024, Ms. Wyllie has produced the "I AM" movement, a women empowerment event of women celebrating women, honoring, recognizing, and celebrating women's achievements in different categories. Over 100 women in leadership have been honored and celebrated from the Sanford and Orlando areas, including international women from Haiti, Jamaica, Paris, and French Guyanne.

Her calling started while working as a community health educator for a community-based organization that targeted the Caribbean community, specifically the Haitian community. She found her true purpose after her first trip to Haiti in February 2000 for a Haitian carnival. There, she discovered the desire to assist the less fortunate and fell in love with her Haitian culture all over again. Her motto is, "While going up the ladder, I will pick up one person at a time."

RECOGNIZING THE FOREST PARK CAROUSEL AND THE SEUFFERT BANDSHELL

**HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 18, 2024*

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Forest Park Carousel and the Seuffert Bandshell in Woodhaven, Queens. For generations, these landmarks have served as treasured symbols of nostalgia, community spirit, and historical importance. They each hold a special place in New York's history and in our hearts. It is with immense pride that we celebrate their centennial anniversary.

The Forest Park Carousel, with its rich history dating back to 1903, represents a bygone era of unparalleled craftsmanship. Designed by German immigrant Daniel Carl Muller, the carousel stands as a masterpiece of artistry and has been a beloved attraction since it first opened in 1924. The carousel's 52 masterfully carved figures and timeless music have captivated visitors young and old, serving as a cherished backdrop for countless family gatherings and childhood memories. Its enduring presence is a testament to the resilience of tradition and the importance of preservation.

Similarly, the Seuffert Bandshell has been a cornerstone of cultural life in Forest Park. Named after the esteemed conductor and composer Dr. George Seuffert, Sr., for one hundred years the bandshell has hosted

● 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.

countless music performances, and community events. It has echoed the sounds of music, laughter, and celebration, bringing together the community.

As the Forest Park Community celebrates this remarkable milestone, I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to the Forest Park Trust, NYC Department of Parks and Recreation, Woodhaven Historical Society, elected officials and many more who have worked tirelessly to preserve these landmarks. Throughout its lifespan, the Woodhaven community has continually advocated for restoration efforts and ongoing conservation, underscoring their commitment to preserving historical treasures for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Forest Park Carousel and the Seuffert Bandshell. May these iconic landmarks continue to inspire and bring joy to our community for many years to come.

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HONORING OLIVE GRAY AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR CARIBBEAN HERITAGE MONTH

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**HON. DARREN SOTO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 18, 2024*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Olive Gray's dedication to serving her community stems from her upbringing in Jamaica, where she learned the importance of sharing from her mother. This passion for helping others became her legacy when she began running food pantries in Central Florida over 30 years ago.

Today, Gray leads one of the largest food pantries out of Apopka, Florida, serving 1,500–1,800 families every two weeks in Orange County. Her leadership at the Mt. Olive SDA Worship and Education Center food pantry is bolstered by the co-leadership of her husband, Elder Lenworth Gray. Their tireless work has been recognized by the Second Harvest Food Bank's 2017 Feed Award and featured in the DailyMail and local news stations such as WESH 2.

Gray's commitment goes beyond her role at the pantry. A Jamaican immigrant, she embodies the spirit of the Caribbean community. After immigrating to the United States in the late 1980s, she balanced entrepreneurship with social work, supporting people with special needs. Since moving to Florida in the mid-1990s, she has consistently dedicated herself to serving her community through her church. Motivated by her desire to see people happy and well-fed, particularly children, Gray has always volunteered her time in food service, she has never received a salary. She firmly believes that no one should go hungry, and as long as she has the ability to share, she will follow the example of her mother, who did the very same for her Jamaican community.

CELEBRATING MENDHAM TOWNSHIP'S 275TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 18, 2024*

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and congratulate Mendham Township on their 275th anniversary. I am extremely grateful to be able to be here today and celebrate this incredible milestone with the Mendham Township community. Over the past 275 years, Mendham Township has been forward-thinking in preserving the environment, creating a strong sense of community, and supporting excellence in education. For almost three centuries, the township has become home to families and retirees alike who enjoy parks, streams and playgrounds, annual events that date back decades, and award-winning schools. As we reflect on its history, we can use the past centuries as a reminder of Mendham Township's dedication to fostering a community loved by all. I am honored to have such an amazing township in the 7th Congressional District, and I look forward to what is to come.

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CONGRATULATING THE RUSSELLVILLE HIGH SCHOOL QUIZ BOWL TEAM

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**HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 18, 2024*

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I use today to recognize and congratulate the Russellville High School Quiz Bowl Team for their outstanding achievement in winning their first national title at the National Academic Championship tournament. On Sunday afternoon, these bright young students brought home a victory that will be remembered as a milestone in the history of Russellville High School.

The Cyclones demonstrated their exceptional intellect and teamwork by going undefeated, 6–0, in their regional tournament held in May in New Orleans, Louisiana. Their journey to the national title was marked by impressive victories over formidable opponents, including teams from Corpus Christi, Texas; Little Rock Central; an international team from Dubai, India; and Parkland High School in Pennsylvania.

The members of this championship team, Will Stump, Keegan Fuller, Ian Warnick, Matthew Fox, Gidian Fuller, and Alyx Dunaway, have showcased remarkable dedication and academic excellence. Their success is a testament to their hard work and commitment. I would also like to commend their head coach, Mr. Steven Quoss, and assistant coaches, Ms. Rebecca Quoss and Mr. Andrew Taylor, whose leadership and guidance were instrumental in this achievement.

This victory not only brings great pride to Russellville High School and will also inspire students throughout our community and state. The achievements of the Russellville High School Quiz Bowl Team highlight the impor-

tance of academic competitions in fostering a spirit of inquiry and distinction among our youth.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Russellville High School Quiz Bowl Team on their national championship. We celebrate their success and look forward to their future accomplishments.

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HONORING PASTOR ROSEMARIE G. ROTH AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR CARIBBEAN HERITAGE MONTH

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**HON. DARREN SOTO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 18, 2024*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Pastor Rosemarie G. Roth is the mother of Richard John, Rachel Melissa, and Rebecca Anne and the grandmother of three. She volunteers at OurLegacy with Advent Health, which is dedicated to raising awareness about organ donation within Caribbean and Latino communities. She was the president of the Organ Donation Foundation in 1991 when the organ donor designation was placed on Florida driver's licenses.

In June of 1994, along with her grandmother, Lydell C. Dawkins, she founded Alpha Point, Inc., as a Christian Center. It now functions as a resource connector, where she and other community advocates offer resources to the community. They distribute free groceries and hot meals, and develop relationships with local churches, schools, and small businesses to organize outreach events to keep the community engaged. She offers free pre-marital counseling for the state of Florida and officiates weddings and funerals at no cost.

Additionally, she serves as an end-of-life doula, providing meals, housing referrals, and supplies to patients with unfavorable prognoses. Her wealth of information has allowed her to author 17 non-fiction books. She writes with passion about cultural and life experiences for the Caribbean American Passport News Magazine monthly.

Her legacy will be her love for people and the joy it brings her to bring hope through information. Her presence is welcomed by Chambers Park in the City of Kissimmee, where she coordinates a sewing class and a book club, thus fostering a nurturing and educational environment for children. Her community involvement includes being the former president of Jamaican Cultural Connection, Inc., secretary of the Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce, Inc., co-host of "Life: Raw & Real" on CRRFM Radio Network, outreach director for the Global Jamaica Diaspora, covering 13 southern states, and president of Citrus Ridge Merchant Association, Inc.

Pastor Rosemarie G. Roth's commitment to serving her community exemplifies the true spirit of being a community builder through advocacy.