

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING SHERIFF JAMES
HAYWOOD

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Sheriff James Haywood. Sheriff Haywood has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication, and a desire to achieve.

Sheriff Haywood is a native of Laurel, MS. He graduated from RH Watkins High School in 1973 and then attended the University of Southern Mississippi, graduating in 1977. In 1979, he graduated from the Mississippi Highway Patrol School and served as a Mississippi State Trooper from 1996 to 2003.

Following his tenure as a state trooper, he began his career as the Sheriff of Sunflower County, MS. His hard work and dedication have led to his reelection every four years since 2003.

Sheriff Haywood has been married to Deloris for 42 years, and they have four sons. He is currently a member of O'Neal AME Church, Indianola Men of Standards, the NAACP, and the Board of Sunflower Humphreys County Progress. Throughout his personal and professional life, he has shown unwavering dedication and commitment to his beliefs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Sheriff Haywood for his longevity and dedication to serving the community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NEAL P. DUNN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. DUNN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am not recorded for Roll Call No. 336, on Monday, July 8, 2024. Since my first day in office, I have been squarely focused on what I was sent here to do: Represent Floridians of the 2nd Congressional District of Florida. The Alabama Underwater Forest National Marine Sanctuary and Protection Act is long overdue and must be passed into law. This bill will support our coastal waters by designating the ancient cypress forest in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Alabama as the "Alabama Underwater Forest National Marine Sanctuary," and, prohibits the following activities within the sanctuary: cutting, removing, or any kind of subsurface salvage of the cypress trees; lowering certain devices (e.g. dredging) below the surface of the water; detonating explosives below the surface of the water; drilling or coring the seabed; and lowering, laying, positioning, or raising any type of seabed cable or cable-laying device.

I am wholeheartedly supportive of H.R. 897, the Alabama Underwater Forest National Marine Sanctuary and Protection Act—as a Representative of a coastal district myself, protecting the forest (between 50,000 to 70,000 years old) is important to preserving the remains of this ancient riverbed. I appreciate the bipartisan effort to protect the forest under the 1972 Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act which would not only federally protect the forest, but also provide more resources for research and ways to sustainably increase eco-tourism opportunities. I also support that the bill provides specific exemptions to allow certain activities, including for: fishing, diving, mooring, or similar recreational or commercial activities; necessary operations of public vessels; construction or placement of artificial reef structures for the purpose of enhancing fishery resources, fishing opportunities, or recreational diving opportunities; and exploration, development, or production of oil or gas projects authorized before this bill's enactment.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 897 (Roll Call No. 336).

HONORING THE LIFE OF EDDIE
ELSWICK

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Eddie Elswick, who passed away on March 18th, at the age of 83.

Mr. Elswick was born on January 30, 1941, in Pike County, Kentucky. He was one of the first in his family to attend college, studying industrial arts at Berea College, before attending Ball State University, where he received his master's degree in education.

Mr. Elswick enjoyed a lengthy career with General Electric as a financial executive. He served as financial manager at several General Electric locations, and also negotiated government contracts. In 1980, his job brought his family to the Roanoke Valley.

He took his financial experience with him to public office. As a member of the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors representing the Windsor Hills District, Mr. Elswick worked to review County contracts and examine local government expenses. He took pride in advocating for the County's rural areas like Catawba and Bent Mountain. He also championed securing funding for Glenvar Public Library.

Mr. Elswick's passions included bluegrass music, Corvettes, and the mountains. He served in the national guard, where he earned recognition as a sharpshooter. He was known to tinker with several cars and hunt for deer and bear.

Mr. Elswick is survived by his daughters, Jill Elswick and Wendy Huffine; son-in-law, David Huffine; and brother Fred Elswick.

I had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Elswick over the years. He cared deeply for Roanoke County.

HONORING THELMA'S KITCHEN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a family restaurant in Yazoo City, MS, recognized for their culinary delights of one of the Deep South's most basic staples, Fried Chicken.

To say Thelma's Kitchen is a family restaurant is an understatement. Owner, Thelma Burks opened the doors of Thelma's Kitchen in 2017, after she ran a nearby chemical plant's kitchen and a small snack bar in town that sold burgers, veggies and fried chicken lunches for local farmers. She now works with her son, three daughters, sister and a family blend to make the restaurant one to remember.

It has been noted that Thelma Burks came up with her fried chicken recipe while experimenting in her kitchen. A sack of flour, salt, pepper, plus two other seasonings she will not disclose, has customers coming back for more.

In her words, "It's just old-fashioned fried chicken," in the actions of customers, it is a trip worth taking to dine. Ms. Burks will not leave you with a sweet tooth, because she is also known for her pecan pie.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Thelma's Kitchen, home of some of Mississippi's best fried chicken in the 2nd Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL KENNY
CUSHING

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Colonel Kenny Cushing's honorable service to this Nation.

Colonel Kenny Cushing retired from our United States Air Force on June 1, 2024, after graduating from the United States Air Force Academy in 1996 and serving over 20 years on active duty, the Reserves, and in the Air National Guard. During his career, Colonel Cushing achieved many accolades and impacted our Nation in many ways. Kenny was a distinguished graduate from many of his Air Force programs to include being the Top Graduate from his intelligence officer school class and a distinguished graduate from the USAF Weapons School, the Air Force's "Top Gun".

Colonel Cushing served in increasing assignments of responsibility, to include multiple

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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.

deployments, throughout his career. He concluded his career as the senior military officer assigned to the new Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) at the Department of Homeland Security. Handpicked by the Department of Defense during the initial creation of CISA by President Trump, Colonel Cushing led critical interagency coordination of national cybersecurity plans. During COVID, he led collaboration efforts between agencies, ensuring smooth flow of information, and informed vaccine distribution decisions. Colonel Cushing was the Commander of the Cyber Coordination Element for the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security for historic President of the United States elections in 2020, laying the groundwork for successful elections protection. His talent and impact moved us years ahead in mission assurance, intelligence exchange, and cyber teaming.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing Colonel Cushing's outstanding service. May God bless Kenny in all his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BIG OAK BOYS' RANCH

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the 50th anniversary of Big Oak Boys' Ranch in Gadsden, Alabama.

John Croyle founded Big Oak Boys' Ranch after working at a summer camp and meeting a little boy from New Orleans, Louisiana. The child's mother was a prostitute, and he was the banker and timekeeper for his mother. John ministered to this child about Christianity, and the following summer, the child shared with John how Jesus had changed his life. John knew his calling was to help children.

The Big Oak Boys' Ranch is known as a Christian home for children needing a chance, and it has certainly fulfilled its mission since opening in 1974. The Ranch has met the needs of over 2,000 children—giving them a Christian home and a chance to fulfill God's plan for their lives.

The Ranch started off as a single farmhouse serving five boys to seven ministry teams advancing the mission nation-wide. The Ranch follows these four promises: We love you, we will never lie to you, we will stick with you until you are grown and there are boundaries. The children find love, support, security and discipline within the promises.

A celebration will be held on Sunday, July 28th at the Big Oak Boys' Ranch to mark the 50th anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing this milestone for the Big Oak Boys' Ranch and thanking John for his tireless dedication to these children.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF MR. ALVIN IVY

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the retirement of Mr. Alvin Ivy of Trebloc, Mississippi. Ivy graduated from Houston High School in 1991. He attended Mississippi State University in 1995, where he enrolled in "Introduction to Broadcast."

For over two decades, Alvin Ivy has been an integral part of WTVA, skillfully capturing the essence of local life through his camera lens. From documenting school events and community festivals, to bravely facing severe weather, his commitment to visual storytelling is unparalleled.

Mr. Ivy has received many awards, including three Emmys, two of which he won this year for weather-related coverage. The first Emmy Ivy won was for the weathercast category in 2022 for the coverage of a 2021 tornado in Tupelo. The latest honors came during the 2024 Southeast Emmy Awards in the weathercast category, for the EF-3 tornado that hit Wren, Amory and Smithville in March 2023, and another for Weather News, for an interview series titled "Out of the Darkness," featuring interviews with a Wren woman who survived the tornado, but lost her husband and youngest daughter.

Beyond his professional achievements, Alvin Ivy remains deeply connected to his roots in Houston and Chickasaw County, using his platform to spotlight local events and issues that might otherwise go unnoticed.

In recognition of his exceptional career and steadfast dedication to our community, let us celebrate Alvin Ivy's achievements and contributions to the state of Mississippi.

HONORING TAMLA HUGHES

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable servant, Tamla Hughes.

On April 20th Tamla was chosen as a state finalist for the 2024 Teacher of the Year award.

Tamla Hughes teaches 10th through 12th grade English. She is the president of the Zeta Delta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Sorority and is a very active teacher and parent of the Natchez Adams School District.

With hard work and dedication, her philosophy is "As a teacher, I may not be able to change the world but if I can reach one child, perhaps that child can."

Natchez High has never had a Teacher of the Year from Natchez Adams School District advance to the next level.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Tamla Hughes for her actions and achievements in the Natchez, MS community.

HONORING MR. RAY W. WRIGHT

HON. BLAKE D. MOORE

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for the opportunity to honor the exceptional life and service of my constituent, Mr. Ray W. Wright, as he celebrates his 100th birthday. Mr. Wright has not only witnessed a century of history but has actively shaped it through his dedicated service to our nation during World War II and his continued contributions to our community.

While America was embroiled in the middle of war on multiple continents, Mr. Wright took the opportunity to serve his country and joined the Army Air Corps in June of 1943. A month later, his basic training was cut short when he and his fellow soldiers embarked from New York Harbor in July of 1943, evading German U-boats as they crossed the Atlantic to arrive in Scotland.

After being assigned to Burtonwood Air Base Depot No. 3 near Warrington, England, Mr. Wright began operations repairing incoming B-17 and B-25 bomber aircraft.

Specializing in engine repair, Mr. Wright and the repair teams kept allied aircraft running even as the enemy forces fired CV-2 Rockets and ran Buzz Bomb Raids throughout the United Kingdom. Thanks to their efforts the war ended, and Mr. Wright was reassigned to the 325th Troop Carrier Squadron and rebased to Ansbach, Germany to maintain C-47 aircraft.

Following his service, Mr. Wright returned to civilian life but remained committed to his fellow veterans and his community. He became actively involved in the American Legion, where he dedicated his time and energy to advocating for veterans' rights and supporting initiatives to improve the lives of those who served.

Today, as we celebrate Ray W. Wright's 100th birthday, we reflect not only on his remarkable achievements but also on the profound impact he has had on our Nation and the world. His life is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit and the enduring power of service to others. As we honor Mr. Wright, let us also reaffirm our commitment to upholding the values for which he and his fellow veterans protected for us all.

HONORING REV. JAMES D. TINDALL AND HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pride and respect to honor Bishop James Dennis Tindall, Sr. for his decades of service and advocacy to the Fifth Congressional District of Missouri. On July 16th, Bishop Tindall will be honored for his dedication to the community at the 99th Convention of the Metropolitan Spiritual Churches of Christ, Incorporated. As we celebrate Bishop Tindall, let us be continuously inspired by his incredible devotion to his work and his fellow humans.