

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2024

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from votes on Monday, July 22, 2024 due to a personal tragedy.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 365 and YEA on Roll Call No. 358.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER AND LEGACY OF DR. MOLLY BETH MALCOLM

HON. GREG CASAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2024

Mr. CASAR. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Dr. Molly Beth Malcolm for her many years of dedicated public service to our communities in Austin and Travis County, and across Texas.

Hailing from Arkansas but raised as a Texan in Winnsboro, Dr. Malcolm earned an undergraduate degree from Southern Methodist University before going on to serve as a public-school teacher and counselor, later earning her Master of Science from Texas A&M University-Texarkana.

In 1996, Dr. Malcolm helped elect Max Sandlin to the U.S. House of Representatives, and later served in his district office where she served the constituents of northeast Texas. From 1998 until 2003, Dr. Malcolm led the Texas Democratic Party as its chairwoman, a position she was elected to three times unanimously. To date, she remains the only woman to ever hold the position of Chair of the state party.

In 2011, Dr. Malcolm returned to public education, and earned her Doctor of Education in Educational Administration from the University of Texas, where she is a Professor of Practice. She also joined Austin Community College (ACC), where she currently serves as its Executive Vice Chancellor of Operations and Public Affairs.

In this role, Dr. Malcolm shepherded ACC into a new era by dedicating herself to educating and serving Austin's students. She led multiple departments, secured millions in public and private grants, developed ACC's COVID-19 response, and furthered ACC's footprint in our communities with the expansion of centers like the Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation Campus Center; El Centro, the Latino/Latin American Studies Center; African-American Cultural Center; and the Asian American and Pacific Islander Cultural Center.

Dr. Malcolm's decades of educational and civic dedication have led her to be the recipient of numerous lifetime achievement and

alumni awards, including the Leadership Austin Honorary Alumnus Award and the Chancellor's Leadership Excellence Award. She is a proud Texas Exes Alumni Association Life Member, Texas A&M University—Texarkana Alumni Association Life Member, and Southern Methodist University Alumni Association Life Member.

As the Congressman for the 35th Congressional District of Texas, I am honored to congratulate Dr. Molly Beth Malcolm on her dedication to education and public service for nearly half a century, and on her well-deserved retirement from Austin Community College. I have no doubt that Dr. Malcolm will continue to be a leader in serving her community for many years to come.

CALLING FOR JUSTICE AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR JAPANESE CITIZENS ABDUCTED BY NORTH KOREA

HON. JILL N. TOKUDA

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2024

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, for over forty-six years, Sakie Yokota has waited for the return of her daughter, Megumi Yokota, who, at 13 years old, was kidnapped while coming home from school.

For over forty-three years, Shigeo Iizuka waited for the return of his sister, Yaeko Taguchi, who vanished after dropping off her one- and two-year-old children at daycare. Yaeko's children never had the chance to grow up with her.

These heart-wrenching stories are not isolated cases of the past but are part of a decades-long tragedy that continues to haunt families across Japan.

Today, I rise to address the abductions of Japanese citizens by North Korea in the 1970s and 80s and call for resolution and closure for affected families. The Government of Japan has officially recognized 17 missing people as victims of North Korean abductions. Many of these victims were in their twenties at the time of their disappearance. While North Korea admitted to these abductions and released five victims in the early 2000s, the fates of the remaining 12 abductees remain a mystery. The North Korean regime continues to obscure the truth and deny closure to grieving families.

Since 2002, Japan has engaged in numerous dialogues, negotiations, and diplomatic efforts to uncover the fates of the remaining abductees. North Korea claims that eight victims died while four never entered the territory. The regime has provided purported death certificates for the eight deceased victims, who were in their 20s and 30s, citing causes of death like heart attacks, traffic accidents, gas poisoning, and suicide. However, Japanese investigations have revealed glaring contradictions and errors in North Korea's reports. The

regime's lack of transparency and inability to provide concrete, objective evidence to corroborate such unnatural causes of death have raised questions regarding the fate of these abductees. Even DNA testing on alleged remains has failed to match the identities of the victims. North Korea continues to argue that they have provided all necessary information and that there is nothing further to discuss.

As the decades passed, many relatives of the abductees like Shigeo Iizuka have passed away without ever knowing the fate of their loved ones. The longer this issue remains unresolved, the greater the anguish of the families involved and the risk that the truth will not be uncovered within their lifetime. It is unacceptable that these families have been deprived of justice for so long.

But this tragedy extends beyond Japan. International abductions are a serious human rights violation. The United Nations has documented cases where North Korea abducted citizens from various countries including South Korea, China, Thailand, Romania, and more.

The United States must stand with its ally Japan and demand justice and accountability from North Korea. Nearly 50 years of uncertainty and grief needs to come to an end. We cannot allow these violations of Japan's sovereignty and international human rights to go unaddressed. We must continue to pressure North Korea to disclose the truth about these abductees and to immediately release all who are still held captive.

The families of the victims deserve closure and the truth. It is our moral obligation to hold North Korea's brutal regime accountable for these abductions, bring these abductees home, and ensure every family affected finds peace at long last.

RECOGNIZING FRED CLIFTON STINSON, JR. AS MICHIGAN'S JULY VETERAN OF THE MONTH

HON. LISA C. MCCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2024

Mrs. MCCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding service and dedication of Mr. Fred Clifton Stinson, Jr., our esteemed Veteran of the Month from Riley Township. Mr. Stinson's life story is one of extraordinary courage, selflessness, and unwavering commitment to duty, both in the United States Marine Corps and as a distinguished Law enforcement officer.

Born on November 4, 1948, in Bluefield, West Virginia, Fred Stinson Jr. moved to Detroit, Michigan in his childhood in 1954. Mr. Stinson volunteered to enlist in the Marine Corps on April 12, 1967, at the young age of 18. His military career began with bootcamp in San Diego, California. Mr. Stinson then underwent training at Camp Pendleton, excelling in his Infantry Training and later specializing as a radio operator, preparing him for the challenges ahead.

• 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.

Deployed to Vietnam with the First Shore Party Battalion in Da Nang, Mr. Stinson's bravery was made apparent. As part of the helicopter support team, he played a critical role in coordinating medivacs, essential supplies, and munitions under constant threat from enemy fire. His selfless actions, ensuring the care and dignity of wounded and deceased comrades amid perilous conditions, exemplify the finest traditions of the Marine Corps and the spirit of service that defines our Nation's heroes.

After his service in Vietnam, Mr. Stinson continued to embody the values of honor and duty. In 1991, during Operation Desert Storm, he was called to active duty and stationed in Yuma, Arizona, awaiting deployment to Saudi Arabia. Though the conflict ended swiftly due to the air campaign, Mr. Stinson's readiness, and commitment to serve was unwavering, reflecting his dedication to his country. Mr. Stinson retired from the Marine Corps in 1994 at the rank of Master Sergeant.

After returning to civilian life, Mr. Stinson continued his exemplary service by joining law enforcement. His 25-year tenure with the Detroit Police Department, followed by his invaluable contributions as a tribal police officer with the Saginaw-Chippewa tribe and later as a bailiff with the Clare County Sheriff's Department, underscores his unwavering commitment to public safety and justice.

Mr. Speaker, Fred Clifton Stinson Jr.'s life of service exemplifies the highest ideals of patriotism and sacrifice. His valor under fire, his steadfast leadership, and his enduring commitment to his fellow Marines and citizens of Michigan serve as a testament to his character and dedication. On behalf of a grateful Nation, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our deepest gratitude and admiration for Mr. Stinson's service to our country and community.

Mr. Stinson's legacy of courage and service will forever inspire future generations of Americans. We salute you, and we thank you for your selfless dedication to defending our freedoms and upholding the values that make our Nation great.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2024

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I missed the following Roll Call votes due to testing positive for COVID-19. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

AYE on Roll Call No. 358, H.R. 8812;

NAY on Roll Call Nos. 359 through 379, Amendments to H.R. 8997;

NAY on Roll Call Nos. 381 through 383, 385 through 392, and 394 through 398, Amendments to H.R. 8998;

AYE on Roll Call No. 393, H. Res. 1367;

NAY on Roll Call No. 399, H.R. 8998; and

NAY on Roll Call No. 400, H. Res. 1371.

RECOGNIZING JAYLA ATKINSON FOR BEING NAMED OHIO'S 13TH DISTRICT CHAMPION OF THE WEEK

HON. EMILIA STRONG SYKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2024

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Jayla Atkinson as Ohio's 13th District Champion of the Week.

Jayla, a senior at Stow-Munroe Falls High School, ended her high school track career as the back-to-back Division I State Champion in the 800 meters.

This is actually the second time I have had the honor of recognizing Jayla on the House floor for her athletic accomplishments, as I had the pleasure of congratulating her after she secured her first state title last year.

In this year's dramatic finish, returning state champion Jayla put in a huge push in the last 100 meters to secure her second state title.

In defending her state title, Jayla set a new school and personal record time of 2 minutes and 9.51 seconds.

This impressive win capped off a very successful high school track career for Jayla, during which she garnered numerous accolades including her two state titles, one state runner-up title, one third place state title finish, and several regional and district awards.

Her dedication, determination, and passion for her sport is outstanding and shows just what hard work can accomplish.

Congratulations once again to Jayla Atkinson for defending her state title, and for an illustrious high school career.

She has made her school, family, and community very proud, and I wish her the best in her future endeavors.

HONORING STACEY BUCKNER FOR RECEIVING THE TOM MILLER ADVOCACY AWARD

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2024

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I use today to recognize and congratulate Ms. Stacey Buckner on receiving the Tom Miller Advocacy Award. This prestigious award is a testament to Stacey's unwavering dedication to improving the lives of folks in our region, especially those of homeless veterans.

This award is not Stacey's only achievement. Stacey also founded her own non-profit, Off-Road Outreach, which provides mobile showers, food, clothing, and housing assistance to homeless veterans across Fayetteville. She also was deemed one of the Top Ten CNN Heroes of 2023 and is a recipient of the North Carolina Governor's Medallion Award. We, in North Carolina, could not be more proud of Stacey and all the work she has done for our communities.

I look forward to celebrating Stacey's continued success and thank her for all she has done to ensure that our veterans are not forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in congratulating Stacey Buckner on receiving the Tom Miller Advocacy Award.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER AND RETIREMENT OF BEAUMONT POLICE CHIEF JAMES SINGLETARY

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2024

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my good friend, Beaumont Police Chief James "Jimmy" Singletary, who is retiring after a long, distinguished career in law enforcement.

Chief Singletary was born on January 27, 1948, to parents John and Melba Singletary in Beaumont, Texas. A lifelong resident of Beaumont, he attended Beaumont High School, where he secured a scholarship to Lamar University. He earned many accolades during his years on the Lamar University men's golf team, including four straight Southland Conference Championships, a Southland Conference Individual Championship in 1969, and back-to-back NCAA Division II National Championships in 1967 and 1968.

After graduating from Lamar University in 1971, Chief Singletary began his 53-year law enforcement career by joining the Beaumont Police Department, where he moved through the ranks from patrol officer to lieutenant. As a lieutenant, he oversaw seven different divisions, including Patrol, Criminal Investigations, Narcotics and Vice, Training and Personnel, Drug Enforcement Task Force, Special Weapons and Tactics, and Internal Affairs.

Chief Singletary retired for the first time from the Beaumont Police Department after 30 years and accepted a position with the Department of Justice as the Law Enforcement Coordinator for the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Eastern District of Texas. In 2002, he joined the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department as a major and was a member of the Narcotics Task Force and commander of the SWAT team. In 2009, he was assigned to the FBI's Safe Streets Task Force, where he worked with local agencies on violent crimes and major federal cases.

In 2011, Chief Singletary was sworn in as the Chief of Police for the Beaumont Police Department. His mission was to increase the department's local outreach, educate the public, and build trust between citizens and law enforcement to create a safer community for all residents. Under his leadership, community programs like the Police Community Advisory Committee, Citizen's Police Academy, Cops & Kids, Clergy and Police Partnership, Police Explorers, Youth Academy for Law Enforcement, and Practicum in Policing flourished.

Chief Singletary is also an avid family man. He met his late wife, Tammy, when they both played in a coed softball league. They welcomed their only child, Hallie, in 1988, and I am confident that he is looking forward to spending much time in his retirement with his daughter and grandson, Wyatt Justice, who is the apple of his eye. He has always been best known amongst his family and friends for his selflessness and for always taking the time to help those in need.

I have known Chief Singletary for many years. Even as a young man, he displayed an incredible depth of character that undoubtedly played a vital role in his journey to becoming such an upstanding public servant. It is my sincere honor to congratulate Chief Singletary