

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING CHARLES BLOODWORTH

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life of Charles "Chuck" Bloodworth, a former member of the U.S. Army and law enforcement.

Mr. Bloodworth was known for his outstanding commitment to his military and law enforcement careers. He was a distinguished public servant who dedicated his life to serving the people of Georgia and the United States of America.

He began his career in the U.S. Army and transitioned into different areas within law enforcement. Notably, Mr. Bloodworth worked in the Secret Service where he performed electronic crime investigations and worked to protect an array of individuals, including U.S. Presidents.

Mr. Bloodworth's dignified service was recognized with Senate Resolution 111, signifying an exceptional life of public service. Senator Anavitarte's (An-Uh-Vi-Tart-Ey) tribute to Mr. Bloodworth highlighted his strong influence that was felt deeply throughout the communities that he touched.

Mr. Bloodworth's legacy of great honor and patriotism will forever be cherished by the Georgia community and the United States of America.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF THE CITY OF WILLARD'S SESQUICENTENNIAL

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the City of Willard's Sesquicentennial. The perseverance of pioneers and settlers to overcome the challenges faced during the early years of the city's history has persisted throughout the past 150 years. The hard work and spirit shown by generations of city residents have made Willard an outstanding example of American ingenuity.

In 1874, the City of Willard was established as a community and a junction for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad's line to Sandusky and the branch west to Chicago. The original name of Willard was Chicago, however, passengers would mistake the community for Chicago, Illinois. The city's name was changed to Chicago Junction, but the word "junction" did not fit on name boards at the time. In 1917, the town changed its name to Willard, after the then president of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, Daniel Willard. In 1960, Willard officially became the city's name. The city is an asset to the great State of Ohio through its many contributions in the fields of manufac-

turing and agriculture. It remains to this day a key junction for the rail company CSX Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, by remembering the 150th Anniversary of the City of Willard, community members recognize the outstanding achievements, maintain the pioneer attitude, and strive to better their city through the principles on which it was founded. I thank and congratulate Willard on this significant milestone.

RECOGNIZING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN HERO ANNABELLA PERK

HON. BETH VAN DUYN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Ms. VAN DUYN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Coppell High School student, Annabella Perk. At age four, Annabella Perk already had her sights set on becoming a chef. Last month, after winning district and regional titles, she competed against students from every county in the Lone Star State and secured the statewide title at the 4-H Food Show at Texas A&M.

Annabella took home the overall first place title for her main dish, seared duck breast with couscous, zucchini, and squash, and also helped her team, "2 Cowgirls and a Cajun," win second place in the food challenge category. Despite facing learning disabilities, Annabella has demonstrated immense culinary talent, honing her skills over the years. Beyond her abilities as a masterful chef, she is a member of the National Honor Society and founded Coppell High School's first Culinary Club. In Annabella's own words, glass ceilings are there to be broken.

Congratulations to Annabella on becoming a state cooking champion.

CONGRATULATING TAC INDUSTRIES

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate TAC (The Abilities Connection) Industries, a nonprofit organization located in my Congressional district, that provides job opportunities to people with disabilities through its participation in the AbilityOne Program. AbilityOne is a federal program that provides employment opportunities to approximately 40,000 people who are blind or have significant disabilities, including more than 2,500 veterans.

TAC Industries recently received the 2024 Innovation Award at Source America's annual X-Force conference in Orlando, Florida. This award honors a nonprofit that developed "in-

novative work methods, products or services." TAC Industries partnered with Clark State College in Springfield, Ohio, which is also in my district, to create the Fresh Abilities restaurant, a farm-to-table quick service restaurant on the campus, which functions simultaneously as an employment center and a training program for workers with disabilities.

Through their partnership, TAC developed a curriculum that included over 100 hours of classroom instruction and hands-on skill building. They utilized the college's classroom facilities for their employees' food safety training. In the restaurant, the employees were then trained in how to prepare meals, how to make sales, and develop customer service skills.

Employees at Fresh Abilities gained the unique experience of working in a safe, inclusive environment while getting the training and support they need to do their jobs to the best of their abilities. Clark State students, faculty and employees gained access to healthy food, and the college's administration was able to divert funds previously spent on food service to other student-focused areas.

For individuals with disabilities, the opportunity to pursue a fulfilling, meaningful career of one's own choosing with a path for advancement is important to their quality of life. I appreciate the work TAC Industries undertakes to provide these employment and vocational opportunities, and congratulate them on receiving this prestigious award.

HONORING DR. DON THOMAS

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life of former Georgia Senator Dr. Don Thomas, who sadly passed at the age of 91, after a long battle with Parkinson's disease.

Dr. Don Thomas, a native of Dalton, led a tremendous life both as a physician and public servant. Dr. Don Thomas delivered thousands of babies, treating thousands more patients with a medical career spanning more than half a century.

He got his political start as a member of the Whitfield County School Board in 1972, then served as Chairman of the Board from 1974 to 1984. Notably, he spearheaded a statewide battle that led to Georgia's adoption of equalized funding for local school systems.

Not only did he make his mark in the education system, but also as Georgia state Senator where he pushed major bipartisan legislation such as the prohibition of smoking in restaurants and public places.

Dr. Don Thomas' legacy will forever be remembered through the many positive impacts he made across the state of Georgia and his community.

• 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.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF THE
STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND (SAC)
ELITE GUARD

HON. DON BACON

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of the Strategic Air Command (SAC) Elite Guard, as they celebrate their reunion this August.

Founded in 1956 by the visionary General Curtis Lemay, the Guard wasn't simply a security unit, it was the cornerstone of safeguarding our nation's most critical assets. Following WWII, the security surrounding our strategic air assets were woefully inadequate. Because of this, Lemay sanctioned Detachment "A" of the 3902nd Air Police Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, which later became known as the SAC Elite Guard.

Having had the privilege of serving as a SAC intel briefer, I can attest to the elite men and women that served in the Guard. They were hand-picked, rigorously trained, and became guardians not just of installations and resources, but those who shielded our nuclear arsenal, and served as our planet's greatest deterrence.

The Guard's mission was threefold: securing SAC Headquarters, protecting the Commander and Vice Commander, and as SAC ambassadors at official dignitary functions representing SAC with honor. Serving during the Cold War had its many complications, and the weight of responsibility all service men and women carried was immense, yet the Guard never faltered. The Guard pushed themselves to the limit, both physically and mentally, and the weight of these responsibilities forged an unbreakable bond between them, because they knew even the smallest mistake could have devastating consequences.

In 2004 the SAC Elite Guard Association was formed by former SAC Elite Guardsmen Sgt Mike Paventi and Sgt Herbert "Bill" Marshall. The association's mission was to maintain a social connection to those men and women that served and protected SAC Headquarters. The Guard's reunion each year is a chance to honor the legacy they built together. A chance to remember all our fallen comrades, whose sacrifices will never be forgotten, and a chance to reconnect with the brothers and sisters in arms who shared the Guard's extraordinary experience.

CONGRATULATING CHIEF MATT
SHEPPARD OF THE FOUNTAIN
VALLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT
FOR HIS RETIREMENT AND
YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. MICHELLE STEEL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Mrs. STEEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish a heartfelt congratulations to Chief Matt Sheppard of the Fountain Valley Police Department.

I would like to personally thank him for a remarkable 24 year tenure marked by service, selflessness, and commitment. I applaud Chief

Sheppard and am grateful for his dedication to our community in Fountain Valley. In occupying nearly every role within the department—from police officer, senior officer, sergeant, detective, lieutenant, captain and police chief—his experience and understanding are unmatched and is a direct reflection of his commitment to safety, security, integrity, and perseverance.

I know the Sheppard family is incredibly proud. My hope and prayer for our generation and the next is that they believe in the American Dream. This is the greatest country in the world, and as a first-generation American, I know firsthand that with hard work, anything is possible no matter who you are or where you are from.

While Chief Sheppard's leadership within the department will be missed greatly, the legacy he is leaving behind will not be easily forgotten. I am confident that I am joined by countless others—family, friends, and community leaders—in expressing our gratitude for his leadership in making the City of Fountain Valley "A Nice Place to Live".

I thank Chief Sheppard. I wish him the greatest of success in his new chapter.

CELEBRATING THE RESTORATION
OF THE LAKE HOPATCONG FOUNTAIN

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the successful reconstruction of the Lake Hopatcong Fountain. Covering 2,500 acres and stretching a total of nine miles, Lake Hopatcong State Park is frequented by all with a love for the natural beauty New Jersey has to offer. Whether visiting to enjoy the water, take in the scenery, or spend valuable time with family and friends, visitors are now greeted with a beacon of community, camaraderie, and friendship upon entering. First opened to the public on July 16, 1925, the fountain served as a popular cooling spot and photo opportunity for all visitors until its closure in the 1990s due to a clogging issue. For years, the fountain thousands of people once knew and loved stood dry. With the help of the Historic Preservation Fund of Morris County, its full restoration was completed, and honored with a plaque. Providing much needed aeration for the Musconetcong River, a beloved asset for New Jersey citizens and visitors, and a tribute to the rich history of New Jersey, I am proud to honor its restoration.

HONORING COL. SIDNEY MILES

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of Colonel Sidney "Sid" Miles. Sid was the Colonel and Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Public Safety.

Recognized for his commitment to public education and enforcement of the Georgia

safety belt use law, Mr. Miles was presented with a public service award from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in 1998.

Prior to his appointment at the Department of Public Safety, Mr. Miles spent several decades serving at the Georgia State Patrol. He retired from his career in law enforcement in 1999. Mr. Miles was a dedicated public servant to the state of Georgia and will be greatly missed by those he served with.

I send my deepest condolences to Sid's wife and two children. My thoughts and prayers are with all of his family and friends at this moment.

CONGRATULATING KEVIN LYONS

HON. JAMES COMER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the achievements of Kevin Lyons and his work with the Monroe County Agriculture Extension Agency for Natural Resources.

Kevin has been an advocate in the agricultural industry for the past thirty-seven years across the Commonwealth of Kentucky. He is with the Kentucky Farm Bureau and the Cattlemen's Association where he served on the state board of directors for both organizations.

Kevin has devoted his time to improving agricultural productivity in Monroe County and the surrounding areas. Kevin helps people in the area start their own farms when he served as Financial Services officer for Farm Credit Mid America.

I am proud to recognize Kevin and all that he has done for agriculture in the 1st Congressional District.

CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MR. ED DWIGHT

HON. SHARICE DAVIDS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the accomplishments of Mr. Ed Dwight.

In 1961, Mr. Dwight was a U.S. Air Force pilot when President John F. Kennedy selected him as a candidate for NASA's early astronaut corps. In the face of great pressure and prejudice, Mr. Dwight became the first Black astronaut candidate and advanced to the second phase of the training course. Despite his stellar accomplishments, qualifications, and graduation in the top half of a test pilot school, Mr. Dwight was not selected to be a part of the final astronaut group.

But, on May 20, 2024, at 90 years old, Mr. Dwight finally achieved spaceflight.

This story is perhaps a perfect representation of Mr. Dwight's drive and tenacity. He was born and raised in racially segregated Kansas City, Kansas. Mr. Dwight was the first Black male to graduate from Bishop Ward High School in Kansas City, a feat that did not come without experiencing hate and injustice. He earned his Associate of Arts in engineering