

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KATE DUNCAN SMITH DAR SCHOOL

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 6, 2024

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I offer my congratulations to the Kate Duncan Smith DAR School on the occasion of its 100th anniversary.

The Kate Duncan Smith DAR School had its beginnings at the Eighth State Conference of the Alabama Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution in December of 1906 with the passing of a Resolution to "adopt measures to insure greater Patriotic Education throughout the State."

During the early 20th Century, consistent public education was not widely available in the mountainous region of northeast Alabama.

Following years of dreaming, planning and fundraising, the Alabama Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution opened the Kate Duncan Smith School on February 26, 1924. The picturesque campus of the school is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, through a resolution adopted by its membership in April of 1928, joined the Alabama Daughters in support of the Kate Duncan Smith DAR School.

Members of the Gunter Mountain community and surrounding areas made tremendous sacrifices to secure the school for the children of Gunter Mountain.

The Marshall County Board of Education partners with the Kate Duncan Smith DAR School Board of Trustees to ensure students are receiving quality educational instruction within a safe learning environment.

The mission of the Kate Duncan Smith DAR School is to provide opportunities for educational and personal growth for students, while emphasizing patriotism, responsible citizenship, and the historical legacy of the school.

The Kate Duncan Smith DAR School serves any child living atop Gunter Mountain and surrounding areas, and currently has an enrollment of more than 1,310 children. The school has provided outstanding educational opportunities to its students and support for the community's many and diverse families for 100 years.

The Board of Trustees of the Kate Duncan Smith DAR School believes, as did the school's founders, in maintaining the "same spirit of dedication to achievement, patriotic and moral values, and service to community and country . . . on the campus today as it did in the early years of this unique educational experiment of the Daughters of the American Revolution."

I congratulate the Kate Duncan Smith DAR School on its Centennial Anniversary of providing students with a patriotic learning environment and on all it has accomplished in its

first century. I am pleased to honor and celebrate the school's legacy.

HONORING GOSHEN FIRE CHIEF DAN SINK'S CAREER IN SERVANT LEADERSHIP

HON. RUDY YAKYM III

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 6, 2024

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize and congratulate Fire Chief Dan Sink, who is retiring as Fire Chief of the Goshen Fire Department in Goshen, Indiana, in November of this year.

Fire Chief Sink's career in public safety spans back more than four decades, as he first joined the Goshen Fire Department 43 year ago. Danny's 19 years in his current role means that when he retires in November, he will hold the record for the longest serving Fire Chief in Goshen history.

As Fire Chief, Danny leads a dedicated team of 56 men and women comprised of professional firefighters, paramedics, and emergency medical technicians. Danny's record of leadership has been so exemplary that when the city of Goshen dedicated their new fire training center in March of last year, they did so in Danny's honor by naming it the 'Chief Danny Sink Regional Training Facility.'

Because of his service as Fire Chief, the Goshen community and Hoosiers of Elkhart County are safer thanks to this good man who exemplifies what it means to be a true public servant who sacrifices for others.

Chief Sink's example and leadership are also reminders that first responders are on the frontlines of some of the most difficult situations our communities face. When there is a problem, first responders like Danny answer the call and willingly put themselves in danger's path to keep us safe. For that, all of us are extremely grateful.

I am proud to join so many Hoosiers throughout Indiana's Second District in expressing our appreciation to Chief Sink for his long career spent in the service of others. As he prepares to begin the next chapter of his life, I wish Danny all the very best going forward and a happy and well-deserved retirement. May God bless.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF WICOMICO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPUTY ROBERT T. WILSON

HON. ANDY HARRIS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 6, 2024

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, last week, I was sad to learn about the passing of retired Deputy Sheriff Robert T. Wilson of the Wicomico

County Sheriff's Office. Deputy Wilson dedicated his life serving his community and country. A veteran of the U.S. Air Force, Bob served at the Eastern Correctional Institute before retiring from the Wicomico County Sheriff's Office in June of 2021.

Deputy Wilson dedicated his life to helping others, putting his own life on the line to protect and serve the community he so much loved. A devoted member of the Fraternal Order of Police, Bob believed in service, sacrifice and honor. Robert T. Wilson passed away at the age of 71 years old.

I would like to express my sincere condolences to his wife Esther, the Wilson family and the entire Wicomico County Sheriff's Office. The Eastern Shore is forever grateful for DFC Robert T. Wilson.

RECOGNIZING THE JOINT EFFORT BETWEEN THE U.S. COAST GUARD AIR STATION CORPUS CHRISTI AND SECTOR CORPUS CHRISTI COMMAND CENTER

HON. MICHAEL CLOUD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 6, 2024

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend the exceptional bravery, skill, and determination of the United States Coast Guard units stationed along the Gulf Coast. These dedicated men and women came together in a large-scale Search and Rescue operation, resulting in the safe recovery of two scuba divers who had been separated from their dive vessel and lost at sea for nearly two days.

On the morning of July 24th, the Sector Corpus Christi Command Center received a distress call reporting two divers missing more than 30 miles offshore from Matagorda Texas and the Coast Guard immediately mobilized multiple assets.

Leading this Search and Rescue effort was Lieutenant Commander Nina McDonald whose knowledge and experience helped coordinate the safe return of the divers. During the search, the Coast Guard faced severe weather and a vast search area. After hours without any luck, the aircrew of Coast Guard 2306 took over the search efforts. Despite daunting conditions, including reduced visibility, overcast skies, and hazardous flying through numerous cloud layers, this crew pressed on.

After hours in the air, Petty Officer Nathan Cyrus, serving as a visual observer, spotted a faint flash of light on the water and the aircrew quickly maneuvered to the location where Petty Officer James Welzig, the dropmaster, prepared the aircraft for an aerial delivery of rescue equipment. Under the command of Lieutenant Brian Holcombe and Lieutenant Junior Grade Jake Pritchett, the aircrew helped guide the Coast Guard Cutter to the scene where the crew successfully located and rescued the two divers, who had endured 38 harrowing hours at sea.

• 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.

This remarkable rescue operation is a testament to the unparalleled excellence of our Coast Guard personnel. Their efforts in saving these lives reflect the highest standards of service and sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring these courageous men and women of the United States Coast Guard. Their actions over those intense 38 hours exemplify the very best of our Nation's values, and we owe them our deepest gratitude.

COMMISSIONING OF UNITED STATES SHIP (USS) RICHARD M. MCCOOL JR. (LPD-29)

HON. MATT GAETZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 6, 2024

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the occasion of the commissioning of United States Ship (USS) *Richard M. McCool Jr.* (LPD-29) at Allegheny Pier, Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola in Pensacola, Florida, on Saturday, September 7, 2024.

The USS *Richard M. McCool Jr.* is a 680-foot San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock produced by Ingalls Shipbuilding of Pascagoula, Mississippi, and assigned the identification of LPD-29. The vessel was laid down on April 12, 2019, launched on January 5, 2022, and christened on June 11, 2022. The vessel was sponsored by Shana McCool and Kate Oja, the granddaughters of the vessel's namesake.

The USS *Richard M. McCool Jr.* is named in honor of Captain Richard Miles McCool Jr., United States Navy, who received the Congressional Medal of Honor for gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as commanding officer of the USS *Landing Craft Support* (Large)-122 during operations from June 10–11, 1945, against enemy Japanese forces in the Ryukyu chain during the Battle of Okinawa.

The commissioning will be attended by the 78th Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Carlos Del Toro; local, state, and federal elected officials; community and military leaders; the vessel's commanding officer, Captain Jeffrey Baker; and the devoted officers and crew of the USS *Richard M. McCool Jr.*

The commissioning of the USS *Richard M. McCool Jr.* is the seventh such ceremony to be planned by the Greater Pensacola Commissioning Committee and the Navy League of Pensacola, led by Rear Admiral Donald P. Quinn, United States Navy (Retired), and it is the fifth to be held at NAS Pensacola. The City of Pensacola and Northwest Florida enjoy a strong Naval heritage and are honored to host this event.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize the momentous occasion of the commissioning of the final USS *Richard M. McCool Jr.* at NAS Pensacola in Pensacola, Florida, the Cradle of Naval Aviation.

CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF TEMPLE EMANUEL

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 6, 2024

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Temple Emanuel. Temple Emanuel is a place of sanctuary and belonging, a place deeply intertwined with the history and culture of Denver, and a spiritual home for countless individuals for many generations. As we mark this milestone, it is important to remember the journey that has brought Temple Emanuel to this occasion. First established in 1866 and officially incorporated in 1874, this congregation predates Colorado's statehood. While the city has changed a great deal over these last 150 years and indeed the location of Temple Emanuel has changed more than once, the heart of the temple—a living connection to millennia of Jewish traditions for congregants—is the same.

Today, the temple is the largest Jewish congregation between Kansas City and the West Coast. For the Jewish community in Denver, Temple Emanuel is a place for life's milestones large and small. From weekly Shabbat Services to the High Holy Days, from celebrations to mourning, this temple hosts countless special memories, moments of deep personal meaning and community healing, and serves as a community gathering place for people from all walks of life.

I have seen firsthand the commitment Temple Emanuel has to bringing our community together through service work and social justice, a role that is particularly impactful during times of uncertainty as the congregation sustains and restores community. They host courageous conversations on social issues and have served as a meeting place for interfaith dialogues. In an era marked by division and discord, Temple Emanuel has emerged as a beacon of hope and resilience, embracing our entire community and providing a sanctuary for those in need of solace and support.

The 150th anniversary of Temple Emanuel helps us reaffirm our commitment to the values of unity, compassion, and understanding that have guided this institution for a century and a half. May Temple Emanuel continue to serve as a shining example of the transformative power of faith and community for generations to come.

I congratulate my friend Rabbi Joseph R. Black and the entire congregation on this incredible milestone of 150 years in service to Denver.

RECOGNIZING ASSEMBLYMAN DEVON MATHIS

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 6, 2024

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Assemblyman Devon Mathis for his dedicated service to the Central Valley and to congratulate him on his retirement from the California State Assembly representing the 33rd District. Mr. Mathis has devoted his entire

career to public service, beginning with 12 years of honorable military service. He completed two combat tours in Iraq. During his deployment, Mr. Mathis was seriously injured in a roadside bomb, for which he received two medals and a Purple Heart in recognition of his bravery and sacrifice.

After returning home, Mr. Mathis received an associate's degree in social sciences from Porterville College and then a Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration from Fresno State University. In 2014, Mr. Mathis was elected to the California State Assembly, representing the 26th District. Over the course of his legislative career, Assemblyman Mathis has built a reputation as a representative with deep roots in the community. He has been a steadfast advocate for the issues that matter most to his constituents, working to address critical issues such as reliable water access and supporting the agricultural sector. His belief in bipartisan cooperation has been at the service of all Californians.

Throughout his time in the State Assembly, Assemblyman Mathis has continually demonstrated his commitment to the success and well-being of all his constituents. Assemblyman Mathis' years of public service serves as a true testament to his character and leadership abilities. I am confident the impact he has left on the Central Valley will be felt by generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in thanking Assemblyman Mathis for his many years of service to the Central Valley and wishing him the best in his future endeavors.

REMEMBERING SHIRLEY COOKS

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 6, 2024

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my first Congressional Chief of Staff, an early activist in the Civil Rights Movement, a life-long public servant, and my friend, Shirley Cooks, who passed on January 19, 2024. A celebration of life will be held for Shirley on Capitol Hill on September 12 with her family, friends and former co-workers gathering to honor a woman of substance, skill and humor who they considered a mentor and hero. Shirley ran my D.C. office with outstanding skill and loyalty, helping me, a first-term congressman, navigate a world she had known and managed relationships in for years. Her sage advice, deep knowledge, and constant grace were invaluable to me. A dedicated public servant all her life, Shirley was an ardent advocate of civil rights and had the achievements and life history to advance them. Shirley was born on August 27, 1944, to Melvina and William Wright in New York City. Her early education was divided between New York and Aboukir, St. Ann, Jamaica. Shirley graduated from St. Paul's School in Los Angeles in 1958. She became acquainted with leaders and staff members of both the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) when she moved from Los Angeles to New York to live with her brother and sister-in-law, entertainer and political activist Harry and his wife Julie Belafonte, and