EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING PASTOR KENNETH SIMMONS' 12TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the remarkable leadership and service of Pastor Kenneth Simmons as we honor his 12th Pastoral Anniversary at Cold Spring Bible Chapel. Pastor Simmons' influence extends far beyond the walls of the church, making a lasting impact on the lives of those in need. Along with First Lady Jamelle Simmons, Pastor Simmons has touched the hearts of countless individuals throughout our community. His work has inspired many to pursue positive change, creating a ripple effect of compassion and support that continues to shape the future of Western New York.

For over two decades, Pastor Simmons has dedicated his life to mentoring youth, aiding returning citizens in their re-entry to society, and supporting local organizations. He has worked tirelessly with little league sports organizations, block clubs, and street outreach programs, bringing hope and opportunity to countless families. One of his most notable contributions has been his work with the Youth Detention Center, where his efforts have transformed the facility, earning recognition from the State Office of Child and Family Services for turning it into a model for the entire state.

Pastor Simmons has also made it a priority to reach out to the less fortunate in our community, providing critical support for those who need it most. For over a decade, he and his congregation have blessed thousands of youth with school supplies and book bags, ensuring they have the resources needed to succeed in their education. His dedication to helping the youth in our community, especially in the 14208 area and along Jefferson Avenue, has changed lives and inspired many to follow in his footsteps.

It is an honor to recognize Pastor Kenneth Simmons for his unwavering commitment to serving our community and exemplifying the power of faith, service, and love. Pastor Simmons' work continues to uplift those around him, and I am proud to stand with him in celebrating this incredible milestone. I thank him for all that he has done, and may God continue to bless him and his ministry.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF PHYLLIS FULTON

HON. DEBORAH K. ROSS
OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2025

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Phyllis B. Fulton, who sadly passed away last week.

A native of Elizabeth City, North Carolina, Phyllis dedicated her life to serving her community through her work as a social worker. After graduating from North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University in 1969, she began her career with the Wayne County Department of Social Services. While accompanying her husband on his assignments as a U.S. Air Force officer, Phyllis continued her work as a social worker around the world, helping foster kids, victims of child abuse, and families with adoption.

After returning to North Carolina, Phyllis first worked at the Wake County Department of Social Services before moving to the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, where she was promoted to Program Coordinator of Community Child Protection Teams across the state. In this role, she traveled to all 100 of our state's counties.

In 2013, North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory awarded Phyllis with The Order of the Long Leaf Pine, North Carolina's highest honor—an accolade acknowledging her exemplary service to our state. She was recognized for her contributions to making North Carolina a better place for all of our people over the course of her more than 50-year career in social work.

Phyllis was a beloved wife, mother, sister, grandmother, and friend. She embodied the true meaning of public service and made a lasting impact on her community and state. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the inspiring life and service of Phyllis Fulton.

TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW BOWER

HON. KEN CALVERT
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2025

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Matthew Bower on the occasion of his retirement from Federal service. Over the past 22 years, Matt has honorably served the United States in both the executive and legislative branches. His service to our Nation culminates in an exemplary and dedicated fashion as a professional staff member for the United States House of Representatives, Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Defense.

Matt's road to Federal service began with completion of his undergraduate degree at St. John Fisher University in Rochester, New York, where he majored in Economics with a minor in Finance. Matt worked for three years as a private sector accountant and financial analyst before joining the Department of Homeland Security in 2003 where, as a section chief and preparedness officer, Matt was charged with interpreting complex program policies and associated congressional language, identifying problem areas, and developing effective solutions. Little did Matt know that one day he would be on the other side of the coin, drafting impactful provisions and making recommendations that directly affect departmental policies. Matt would continue to rise through the ranks at the Department of Homeland Security, achieving the duties of branch chief of risk analysis and strategic initiatives, with impact on over $3 billion dollars in preparedness grant funding.

It was at this point, in 2015, that Matt's career would intersect with the Committee on Appropriations. As a well-respected analyst, Matt earned an opportunity to detail onto the staff of the Subcommittee for Homeland Security, chaired at the time by my good friend Judge Carter. Matt's accounts included the United States Secret Service, the United States Coast Guard, and the Office of Intelligence and Analysis. These are some of the most critical agencies overseen by the Homeland Subcommittee, and it is no surprise that Matt stood out for his ability to perform expert oversight and provide the chairman and clerk with sage advice and recommendations.

Matt's abilities caught the eye of the Defense Subcommittee chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen, and Matt's return to the Department of Homeland Security was short-lived. In 2016, Matt brought his discerning eye and unflappable demeanor to the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, where he would stay until the end of his service to our Nation. In his decade of service to the Committee, Matt has personally overseen some of the most significant and complex parts of the defense appropriations bill, including: the Department of Defense's military personnel and operation and maintenance accounts, which alone comprised nearly half of the bill, or more during the Global War on Terror years; the Defense Health Program, which provides critical funds to care for servicemembers and their families; and several other accounts where funds are executed for everything from demilitarizing chemical weapons to addressing unexploded ordnance at current and former military sites.

However, Matt's last legacy on the Defense Subcommittee will be his years of oversight of the United States Army procurement and research, development, test and evaluations accounts. As the lead staffer on Army issues, Matt had a direct hand in the Army's transformation from a counterterrorism-focused force, to one fielding capabilities to support the Joint force in a new era of strategic competition with near peer adversaries. This included the development and procurement of systems such as the Lower Tier Air and Missile Defense Sensor, the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle, the Next Generation Squad Weapon, the Long-Range Hypersonic Weapon, and numerous upgrades to existing systems such as the Abrams tank system enhancement packages. I personally appreciated his recommendations on how the Subcommittee should proceed with the development and acquisition of the Integrated Visual Augmentation System or IVAS, an augmented reality headset. Matt's assessment ensured that the Congress retained its power of the purse and held the Army accountable for fielding a capable system.

● 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.

Over the last 10 years, Matt has consistently proved to be a tremendous source of knowledge to the chairs of the Subcommittee on both sides of the aisle, the numerous defense clerks, and his staff colleagues alike. I am grateful for his counsel as the Subcommittee navigated a challenging period for the defense and security of our Nation. On behalf of a grateful Nation, I join my colleagues today in recognizing and commending Matt for his service to our country and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

CELEBRATING OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INCORPORATED'S 77TH SECOND DISTRICT CONFERENCE

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Phi Omega Chapter in Buffalo, which is proudly hosting the District Conference for the Second District of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., in Western New York. Founded in 1911 at Howard University, Omega Psi Phi is a national, not-for-profit civic fraternal organization dedicated to serving communities both locally and globally. With over 700 chapters across the United States and internationally, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. works together to create a lasting impact on society.

The Second District of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. proudly includes 2,700 members across 84 chapters, with 62 graduate chapters and 22 undergraduate chapters. Over 3,000 attendees are expected at the conference, including state and local dignitaries, community leaders, families, friends, and the general public. This gathering provides a valuable opportunity to strengthen connections and further the mission of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.—dedicated to promoting brotherhood, scholarship, and service, while enhancing the mental, social, spiritual, and physical well-being of its members and the communities they serve.

Since its establishment in 1947, the Second District has worked tirelessly to fulfill the mission of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., further enriching the communities it serves. Over the past seven years, the district has awarded scholarships to more than 700 students, totaling over $1 million annually. Additionally, the District continues to implement impactful programs such as mentoring and tutoring, fatherhood initiatives, Stop the Violence campaigns, and Habitat for Humanity. These programs play a vital role in uplifting and supporting our community, creating lasting, positive change in the lives of countless individuals.

The Second District is also dedicated to health initiatives, partnering with organizations such as St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities. Through health symposiums, blood drives, and wellness events, they work to improve the well-being of underserved communities, embodying the true spirit of Omega Psi Phi through these impactful contributions.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize the members of the Phi Omega Chapter and the Second District of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. for their outstanding commitment to service, education, and community enrichment. Their work has touched countless lives, and we are all the better for it.

HONORING CAPT E. ROYCE WILLIAMS' 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DARRELL ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2025

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate my constituent, Escondido resident, the secret soldier of the Korean War, and America's true Top Gun hero. I'm talking about the one and only Captain Royce Williams, who turns 100 tomorrow, on April 4th.

It is difficult to describe what Royce did for more than 30 harrowing minutes more than 70 years ago in the skies over the North Pacific and the coast of North Korea.

On that day in 1952, Capt. Williams faced seven Soviet MiG-15s. Alone. Royce shot down four. Alone.

He survived dozens of bullet holes to his plane, and a 37–millimeter round to his fuselage. Six inches to the right or left would have meant certain death.

This was indomitable courage and the demonstration of the highest skill under incalculable duress. And it was kept secret for 40 years.

We won't stop until Royce Williams receives the recognition he doesn't seek but richly deserves.

I wish a Happy Birthday to Royce. Next stop: The Congressional Medal of Honor.

CELEBRATING THE 160TH ANNIVERSARY OF BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2025

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a terrific institution that I am proud to represent in Maryland's Fifth District: Bowie State University. On January 9, 2025. the school marked its 160th anniversary. The school will celebrate that historic milestone with a gala later this month.

The oldest historically Black university in Maryland, Bowie State University (BSU) has been a beacon of opportunity, innovation, and academic excellence in our state and country ever since it was founded as the Baltimore Normal School for Colored Teachers in 1865. Many of its first students were recently emancipated Marylanders. The school offered Black Americans a pathway to educational—and economic—advancement at a time when they were largely barred from such opportunities.

Back in 1865, the school had only a few small rooms and a handful of students. Today, BSU boasts a 339–acre campus and over 6,350 undergraduate and graduate students. It offers more than 65 bachelor's, master's, doctoral, and certificate programs. From quantum computing and artificial intelligence to biotech and pharmaceutical development, BSU students are producing cutting-edge research in the fields that will define the global 21st-century economy. Indeed, just this year, BSU received the distinguished 2025 Carnegie Research Activity Classification in recognition of its trailblazing research.

Mr. Speaker, I've worked with many BSU students, faculty, and staff over the decades, and I can personally attest to how impressive they are. They are leaders not only in their fields but also in our community.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating them on this milestone. I have no doubt that BSU's next 160 years will be just as successful as its first 160 years.

REMEMBERING MR. DARRELL ROWSER

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Darrell Rowser, a man whose strength, dedication, and unwavering love for his family left a lasting impact on everyone who had the privilege of knowing him. Mr. Rowser's commitment to his work, faith, and most importantly, his family, defined the essence of his character.

Born on September 14, 1958, in Buffalo, New York, to his late father Bertin Rowser, and his mother, Marlene Rowser, Mr. Rowser was the third of five children. He received his formal education through the Buffalo Public School system and graduated from Kensington High School in 1976. He then went on to receive his Associate's Degree at Medaille College.

Mr. Rowser was a dedicated athlete, excelling in basketball, track, and Taekwondo. He won All-High championships in the 400-meter and 800-meter races at Kensington High School and later continued playing basketball, winning championships with the North Buffalo Community Center league. After 30 years of training, he earned a Black Belt 2nd Dan in Taekwondo. Mr. Rowser also had a love for music, playing bass guitar with his brothers in a band, and filling his home with his favorite songs.

After college, Mr. Rowser began his career at General Motors for 10 years, later working at Ford Motor Company Stamping Plant where he retired in 2024 after 33 years. While at Ford, Mr. Rowser rose to the role of Team Leader, earning him a Six Sigma Lean Belt certification which represented his commitment to knowledge, efficiency, and excellence. Mr. Rowser was known to be fair but firm at work, and with his recognizable voice that commanded attention, he was greatly respected by his team.

What truly defined Mr. Rowser was his deep love for his family. His greatest joy was spending time with his wife Jacqueline and their children Brandon and Brianna. Mr. and Mrs. Rowser shared a 37-year marriage built on love, faith, and cherished memories. He is survived by his wife and children, his mother Marlene Rowser, mother-in-law Violet Lewis, brother-in-law Darryl Prude, and many other loving family members and friends.

Mr. Darrell Rowser lived a life devoted to his family, his work, and his faith. His unwavering