

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING GREG PRESTEMON,
PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CEN-
TER OF ST. CHARLES COUNTY,
MISSOURI

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor America's entrepreneurs, those distinguished individuals who support our communities, drive innovation, and keep our nation strong. Small businesses bring fresh ideas to the table, develop the resources to meet the demands of an ever-changing world, and make a meaningful impact on our neighborhoods. Entrepreneurs are responsible for providing 60 to 80 percent of all new jobs, giving them the potential to propel rapid economic growth and expand ever-developing fields. Some of the country's largest companies began as start-ups in small offices, homes and garages exploring these new fields. Limited only by their imagination, these firms performed cutting-edge work in emerging industries that have become the very foundation of our society.

As our nation and the world face the most difficult economic conditions in decades, entrepreneurs have the potential to lead us back to prosperity. The resiliency and adaptability shown by small businesses in past recessions demonstrate their capability to meet the challenges standing in their way and emerge stronger than ever. America's small businesses will drive the economic recovery from this downturn and our economy will emerge stronger than ever. Times may be tough, but America's entrepreneurial spirit is tougher.

To recognize the monumental achievements of our nation's small firms, the Small Business Administration (SBA) has declared May 17–23 as the 46th Annual National Small Business Week. The House Small Business Committee is celebrating all our country's hard-working entrepreneurial by saluting the Heroes of Small Business, those men and women who have shown the strength, leadership, and resourcefulness that keeps our economy moving forward.

I ask that you, Madam Speaker, and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in recognizing and thanking Mr. Greg Prestemon for his tremendous accomplishments on behalf of small businesses. Mr. Prestemon has led the St. Charles Economic Development Center (EDC) for 15 years, helping spur the county's rapid population and economic growth during his tenure. Since he assumed the top post at the EDC, St. Charles County has grown by almost 120,000 residents and total valuation assessment has risen from less than \$2 billion to \$7.2 billion in 2007. For his efforts, Mr. Prestemon was named as the 2008 Non-Profit Executive of the Year by St. Charles Business Magazine.

This month, the SBA named the St. Charles EDC as its 504 Lender of the Year after the

organization disbursed more than \$22.5 million to 37 businesses throughout the region in 2008, valuable assistance that helped create or retain over 1,000 jobs. He holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Iowa State University and a master's degree in economic development from the University of Iowa.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Prestemon has exemplified the remarkable accomplishments of which America's entrepreneurs are capable. This week, he will testify before the House Small Business Committee to share his story. I ask that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join with me in honoring him for the extraordinary work he has done for the small business economy. His efforts demonstrate that if given the right resources, America's small businesses can be the catalysts that lift our economic from the current downturn and put us on the road to recovery.

IN HONOR OF TED HENRY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Ted Henry upon the occasion of his retirement from WEWS-TV. Ted is retiring after 38 years of service to the Greater Cleveland Community.

Ted Henry, a household name in the Greater Cleveland Area, began his successful career in broadcasting in 1964 at a local radio station in his hometown of Canton, Ohio. He then became a news reporter at WAKR-TV23 in Akron and later at WKBN-TV in Youngstown, Ohio. He joined WEWS-TV in 1972, where he began as a news producer and later as a weekend anchor. In 1975, Ted was named weekday anchor of the 6:00 pm and 11:00 pm news, a position he has held until his retirement on May 20, 2009. Since his first year as weekday anchor, he has covered nearly every political convention and has traveled all over the world to cover a multitude of historical events, including John Demjanjuk's war crimes trial in Israel, the fall of Berlin Wall and the death of Pope John Paul II in Rome. Additionally, his riveting news coverage on political turmoil in Peru was the first time a live international feed was broadcast in Cleveland.

Ted's ability to humanize the people he covered all over the world has earned him national recognition. He has won five local TV Emmy Awards during his tenure at WEWS and won numerous national awards for a documentary he produced and reported in, "Finding Aliza;" a documentary about two holocaust survivors from Auschwitz who were reunited by the International Red Cross. Ted's 38 year career as the weekday anchor for WEWS-TV was the fulfillment of his childhood dream and has undoubtedly inspired Cleveland's next great reporters.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of Ted Henry as he retires from

a 38 year career at WEWS-TV, and in recognition of his talent, innovation and tireless service to the Greater Cleveland Community.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ANGELIA MARIE
ROBERTS-WATKINS, ED.D OF CHI-
CAGO, ILLINOIS

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to and recognize Dr. Angelia Marie Roberts-Watkins on the occasion of being awarded the Doctorate in Education from the Chicago State University. This degree is particularly noteworthy in that the Educational Leadership Doctoral program at Chicago State is a newly created program and as such Dr. Roberts-Watkins holds the distinction of being the first recipient of a Doctoral degree in the 142-year-old history of this academic institution.

An authority in middle school philosophy, Dr. Roberts-Watkins' dissertation was entitled "Crossroads to the Middle School Movement: Are Teachers In Step with the Tenets and Practices of the National Middle School Association?" She is a former middle school teacher and served as Middle School Manager for the Chicago Public School system. Dr. Roberts-Watkins has also worked as a Teacher-In-Residence on an U.S. Department of Education Middle School Teacher Quality Enhancement (MSTQE) grant program and has presented at national conferences on middle level education.

A 1981 graduate of Mundelein College, Dr. Roberts-Watkins also holds an M.Ed in Educational Administration and a M.S. in Criminal Justice and Corrections from Chicago State University. She is a Visiting Lecturer at Northwestern Illinois University and an Administrator at Illinois State University.

Madam Speaker, I am grateful to have known this outstanding Educator for nearly two decades and I want to encourage Dr. Angelia Marie Roberts-Watkins to continue demonstrating the passion, perception and power necessary to allow this nation's citizens, both young and old, to meet the demanding needs of a global society.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
CHARLES WILLIAM HARBEN

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Saraland, Alabama, and all of southwest Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor Charles William Harben and pay tribute to his memory.

• 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.

Known to his many friends as Charlie, he was a native of Leeds and was raised in Chickasaw, Alabama. He served the city of Saraland in public office for almost three decades, 12 years as mayor and 17 as city councilman. In 2008, he ran unopposed in the municipal election.

Mayor Harben was known as a fiscal conservative. Economic development was one of his top priorities, and he was instrumental in attracting business to Saraland, including the city's largest, Wal-Mart.

Mayor Harben also worked for the Illinois Central Gulf Railroad as a secretary, accountant, and an internal auditor, before retiring after 48 years of service.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a beloved friend to many throughout southwest Alabama. Charles William Harben will be dearly missed by his family—his wife of 57 years, Pauline; their son, Charles William Jr.; their grandchildren, Christian, Candice, and Jon; his great-granddaughter, Hayzlynn; and his brother, Johnny—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

HELPING FAMILIES SAVE THEIR HOMES ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in reluctant support of S. 986, the Helping Families Save Their Homes Act. Although I supported H.R. 1106 earlier in this Congress, and I will vote for this bill, I remain concerned about many aspects that attempt to fix the problem without addressing the fundamental issues.

S. 896 makes additional changes to the HOPE for Homeowners program despite evidence that it is a seriously flawed model that has failed to effect the type of large-scale mortgage modification that our economy needs if it is going to recover. Despite the changes made, success of the HOPE for Homeowners program continues to be contingent on the active participation of the mortgage lender or mortgage servicer. Once again, we throw money at Wall Street—at the bankers and lenders—and leave individuals and families with nothing.

The bill also reauthorizes programs under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. I am grateful that the plight of the homeless and the growing homeless population has finally merited the attention of Congress; however I am dismayed by some of the provisions in the final bill as well as the process used to arrive at the terms of the relevant language. The problem of homelessness in this country deserves more attention in the House of Representatives than a mere fraction of debate time on a suspension bill. If we had more time and different circumstances, we might have had the opportunity to correct some of the privacy concerns as well as the provisions that limit eligible uses of funds.

Despite the shortcomings in this bill, it represents a small step in the right direction on

the whole. I remain hopeful that Congress will continue to improve the HOPE for Homeowners programs as well as the plight of the growing numbers of homeless citizens. In the end, we must adopt a default posture that accommodates communities, families, and individuals, rather than a default posture that accommodates bankers and financial institutions. Only then will we be able to repair our economy and put our country back on a path of prosperity and growth.

DAVIS FAMILY OF TELlico PLAINS, TENNESSEE

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, there is perhaps no greater sacrifice an American can make than serving their Country during a time of war, and no one can say the Davis family of Tellico Plains, Tennessee has not answered this call. It is a tradition which spans over ninety years.

Private Hedrick Davis enlisted in the Army's Black Cat Division during World War I. After returning home, he bought a farm, married, and had five sons, who would all go on to answer that same call to service.

Four of the Davis sons—Leonard, Dillard, Clarence, and Guy—joined the Armed Forces as soon as World War II began. All the brothers would fight for their Country and despite the tremendous loss of life in this great campaign, all would remarkably live to tell their tales.

Dillard's story is one that took over fifty years to confirm. While on board the Belgian Troop ship the Leopoldville crossing the English Channel on Christmas Eve, a German Submarine attacked, sinking the boat with a torpedo. In a series of calamities following the strike and a botched rescue, 763 American soldiers died. Dillard managed to survive and tell the tale that the United States and Great Britain did not admit until the 1990s.

The fifth Davis brother—Rex—was only sixteen-years-old when World War II ended. But he would not be spared from his family's calling. When the Korean conflict escalated into a full-blown war, Rex Davis answered the call. His tale was one of Hollywood legend—literally.

While training at Fort Benning, GA, movie stars Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis filmed the movie "Jumping Jack" on base, using Rex and his fellow soldiers as extras. Later, while serving in Korea, another movie star—Patricia Neal—came to entertain the troops. She asked on stage if anyone was from Knoxville and Rex jumped right up, getting his photo taken on stage with Ms. Neal. It is a cherished photograph that in 2003 brought Ms. Neal to tears in Knoxville when she was unexpectedly reunited with Rex.

In his Knoxville home, Rex Davis has files of records documenting the service of his father and four brothers, who together fought and survived three wars. Rex went on to serve on the Knoxville City Council, and he is known to tell a great story. I hope this story is told many times.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to call the remarkable service of Private Hedrick

Davis, Master Sgt. Leonard Davis, Staff Sgt. Dillard Davis, Cpl. Clarence Davis, Pfc. Guy Davis, and Cpl. Rex Davis to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. JAMES R. RECKNER

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this time to recognize Dr. James R. Reckner for his dedication to the Vietnam Center and Archive at Texas Tech University. Dr. Reckner retired from Texas Tech University at the end of 2008 after 20 years of service as a professor of history, founding director of the Vietnam Center and Archive, and Executive Director of Texas Tech's new Institute for Modern Conflict, Diplomacy and Reconciliation, which now oversees the Vietnam Center and Archive.

A retired Naval officer and a veteran of the Vietnam War, Dr. Reckner received his Ph.D. from the University of Auckland in New Zealand. He joined the faculty at Texas Tech in September of 1988 and shortly after founded the Vietnam Center and Archive. From 1991 to 1992, Dr. Reckner held the Secretary of the Navy's Research Chair in Naval History and has served as a member of the Secretary's Advisory Subcommittee on Naval History since 1998.

As founder and director of the Vietnam Center and Archive, Dr. Reckner oversaw 20 years of development and growth including the acquisition of many unique and historic collections that have helped us better understand the experience and course of the Vietnam War. As a result of his leadership, the Center has become the foremost Vietnam-related research, archival and reconciliation institution in the United States.

During his years in the United States Navy, Dr. Reckner received the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V", the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V", the Meritorious Service Medal and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry.

For his work in academia, Dr. Reckner also received the Gold Key National Honor Society Teaching Award in 1991, the President's Outstanding Leadership Award in 1996 and the Faculty Distinguished Leadership Award in 2004, among others. Not only is he an inspiring educator and skilled researcher, but he is an accomplished author as well with several published writings on naval and military history. In 1989, he received the Theodore & Franklin D. Roosevelt Annual Naval History Award for his historical biography entitled *Teddy Roosevelt's Great White Fleet*.

I am enormously appreciative to Dr. Reckner for his contributions to the Texas Tech community, veterans of the Vietnam War and their families, and for his efforts to foster reconciliation between Vietnam and the United States. Those in District 19, including me, thank him for a job well-done and extend to him our best wishes for his future endeavors.