

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

KELSEY SMITH ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2016

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 4889. While I agree with the underlying goal of this bill, in its current form it does not provide enough privacy protections. The ability to quickly locate potential victims in an emergency is very important but we should also eliminate the potential for abuse. I was disappointed that Congressional Republicans refused to accept common sense proposals that would have allowed us to obtain the benefit of the proposal without opening the door to abuse or violations of Constitutional rights. I hope in the coming months we can pass the bill with adequate provisions.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BIRMINGHAM CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM'S CLASS OF 2016 VALEDICTORIANS

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 27, 2016

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to congratulate Birmingham City School System's Class of 2016 Valedictorians—all of whom are female. As the headline reads in the local paper, "Talk about major girl power." At last count, these young ladies have received more than "\$2.85 million in scholarship offers for 2016." The Birmingham City School System also had two Gates Millennium Scholars this year including Ramsay High School's Valedictorian, Maya Quinn.

The Class of 2016 Valedictorians includes: Parker High School's Alejandrina Bravo; Woodlawn High School's Michelle Thomas; Huffman High School's Kierra Hutchins; Jackson-Olin High School's Alana Bennett; Ramsay High School's Maya Quinn; and Carver High School's Jamerial Gardner and Ariana Robinson. Carver High School was unique in that they had two students tie for valedictorian this year.

Mr. Speaker, while most of the communities in my district are greatly underserved, we continuously see what is possible from our citizens with a little bit of resources and whole bunch of hard work.

We know that when women succeed, America succeeds. And these young women are on the path to bright futures, and to giving back in hopefully meaningful ways to our communities, and should be commended for their outstanding achievements. I am sure they will look back proudly on this accomplishment as they blaze their respective paths in life.

Mr. Speaker, I want my colleagues to join me in congratulating the outstanding women

who serve as 2016 Valedictorians in the Birmingham City School System. Girl Power!

IN HONOR OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WYOMING CONFERENCE OF BUILDING OFFICIALS

HON. CYNTHIA M. LUMMIS

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 27, 2016

Mrs. LUMMIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Wyoming Conference of Building Officials, to recognize the leadership of the Wyoming Chapter of the International Code Council (ICC) that develops and publishes the model building, safety and energy efficiency model codes used in my home state of Wyoming, and each of the other 49 states.

Confidence in building safety is achieved through the devotion of vigilant guardians—building safety and fire prevention officials, architects, engineers, builders, tradespeople, laborers and others in the construction industry who work year-round to ensure the safe construction of the buildings in which we live and work.

Thirty-one people from eighteen cities across the state of Wyoming attended the very first meeting of the newly formed Wyoming Association of Building Officials on January 23, 1976 in Gillette, Wyoming. The following inaugural officers were elected at that first meeting in Gillette: President Ralph Rock, Building Inspector, Gillette, WY; Vice President Joe Keefer, Building Inspector, Douglas, WY; Secretary-Treasurer Thomas W. Chambers, Cody, WY; Director R.G. Patton, Building Inspector, Cody, WY; and J.J. Ireland, Building Inspector, Cheyenne, WY.

Over the past forty years the Wyoming Conference of Building Officials has provided continuing education for design professionals, fire service and the public. It has provided more than \$18,000 in scholarships to Wyoming residents to attend the International Code Council's Annual Conference to learn more on the latest building standards and codes. And, it has published numerous articles in the Building Safety Journal.

The current Board of the Wyoming Conference of Building Officials—President Keith Bowar of Campbell County, WY; Vice President Lyle Murdock of Wright, WY; Treasurer Billy Nunn of Jackson, WY; Director Matt Allred of Guernsey, WY; Director Ken Rogers of Gillette, WY; and Past President Bruce Wilson of Cheyenne, WY, currently represent 90 members across 48 jurisdictions.

I would like to thank the thousands of men and women who work every day to make sure our country's buildings comply with the most updated building and fire safety codes. And I would like to especially thank those hard working members of the Wyoming Conference of Building Officials, celebrating their 40th anni-

versary of service to the citizens of the great state of Wyoming.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 27, 2016

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, last night, as I celebrated the passage of Representative SEAN PATRICK MALONEY's amendment to prohibit the federal government from doing business with contractors who discriminate against LGBT individuals, I was dismayed to realize that, as the vote was closing, I had failed to press the button to vote to support the amendment, which would have made the margin of victory even larger. I voted for the amendment last week, and I continue to strongly support efforts to ensure equality for the LGBT community. The anti-LGBT amendments offered to the same bill, which I staunchly oppose, demonstrate the all too real, continued discrimination that the LGBT community faces, even after historic achievement of marriage equality and the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE LIFE OF SARID CHAIM SHAHDAIAH AND QUINCY GEMAL WILLIAMS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 27, 2016

"What is a fear of living? It's being pre-eminently afraid of dying. It is not doing what you came here to do, out of timidity and spinelessness. The antidote is to take full responsibility for yourself—for the time you take up and the space you occupy. If you don't know what you're here to do, then just do some good."—Maya Angelou

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance and recognition of the life of Sarid Chaim Shahdaiah, and Quincy Gemal Williams two very accomplished young men who tragically lost their lives in a car accident on December 3, 2014.

Many parents, teachers, neighbors and young people hope to find the kindness and dedication that these two young men exhibited regularly as sons, students, friends and incredibly well-rounded, commendable young men.

The accomplishment these young men earned far exceed the highest expectations of any proud parent or community member in awe of exceptional young leaders in today's America.

I understand as well, that in recognition and honor of his pursuit of excellence, several highly esteemed universities expressed interest in Mr. Shahdaiah, hoping that he would join their respected student bodies.

• 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.

I was thoroughly impressed to learn that, through his dedication to his studies; Mr. Shahdaiah earned a grade point average of 3.6 and was inducted into the National Society of High School Scholars.

As a highly accomplished student-athlete, he served the U.S.A. International Football Team as Captain, Team Ambassador and starting linebacker, in addition to exalting fervent school pride, during his junior year as a highly valued teammate of the Dekaney Wildcats, his high school varsity track and football teams.

Expanding the bounds of his requisite studies, he explored his curiosities for the world of science becoming a member of the Texas High School Engineering Career and Technology Council.

I join his family and many admirers in genuinely celebrating Mr. Shahdaiah's life and outstanding contributions.

Quincy was one of the world's best comedians; he had the ability to make anyone who came into contact with him laugh.

All who knew Mr. Williams admired his prowess for presentation. Deemed one of the "Sharpest" brothers you'd meet.

Mr. Williams was affectionately called by his parents a "Junior"; and was one of the most outgoing, lovable kids that a parent could ever want.

Although young in body Mr. Williams was old in song; he was a profound lover of any and all Motown Performers and would listen to them regularly.

While at Andy Dekaney High school Quincy became branded as the "Soul Brother" of the football team.

These two young men cultivated their efforts, positioning themselves to successfully matriculate in May of 2016; and, but for their ill-fated passing, would by all accounts have celebrated their well-deserved accomplishments with their families as a milestone achievement in their young lives.

While I have no doubt they would have realized countless ambitions, we are left to accept that their dreams of immeasurable magnitude now rest with them.

These young men worked hard.

I cannot think of a more solemn manner of celebrating their life than to honor their efforts by bestowing upon their families recognition of the achievement for which they so ardently strode.

In the words of Booker T. Washington "Character is power".

Character truly is power and that power was present in the lives of these prolific young men.

Yes, their lives were cut short, but with what time they did have they effectively made the best of it.

Heaven has truly gained a dynamic pair of angels, while young Mr. Shahdaiah's and Mr. Williams families lost their most promising stars.

Please join me in a moment of silence for the life of Sarid Chaim Shahdaiah and Quincy Gemal Williams.

TRIBUTE TO SANDRA
THORSTENSON

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 27, 2016

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the lifelong service and success of Sandra Thorstenson, the Superintendent of Whittier Union School District, in my Congressional District in California.

You could say that the Whittier Union School District is part of Sandra's DNA. After moving to Whittier at the age of five, Sandy went on to graduate from Whittier High School, attended Whittier College, and from there, launched a 39-year career as a teacher, principal, and Superintendent of the district.

While I think Sandy's lifelong dedication to educating young people is reason enough to celebrate, I would be remiss not to mention the success that has made her a leader in improving education for low-income students. Under her leadership, Whittier Union's motto has been "demographics do not determine destiny." The results of this attitude are clear. In a district with nearly 70 percent economically-disadvantaged students, Whittier Union sports a 97 percent graduation rate and sends 95 percent of its students on for a higher education.

Ms. Thorstenson embodies the kind of public servant and leader we need more of in education, someone who is unwilling to settle for anything less than success for every student in her district. It is in that spirit that, on behalf of all the families who've benefitted from her service, I wish Sandra a happy retirement and thank her for inspiring generations of students in the Whittier Union School District.

TRIBUTE TO BRUCE PEARSON

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 27, 2016

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the retirement of Bruce Pearson, who has been City Manager of Pleasanton, Texas since 2012.

Mr. Pearson was born and raised in Waco, Texas where he attended Richfield High School. He later graduated Summa Cum Laude from Texas State University-San Marcos and received a Master's Degree from the University of Texas at San Antonio in Public Administration where he was a Recognized Scholar. Mr. Pearson also holds a Certified Public Manager's Certification from the William P Hobby Center for Public Service at Texas State University.

In 2000, Mr. Pearson began working for the San Antonio Water System, where he was involved in the implementation of a revolutionary water recycling system that provides over 35,000 acre feet of water for non-potable uses throughout San Antonio. The water recycling program remains the largest in the country to date. The Water Reuse Foundation recognized Mr. Pearson for his contributions to water conservation efforts in 2005. Addition-

ally, Mr. Pearson advised on the design of a customer service and site certification manual for the Water Reuse Foundation, and worked on the Cibolo Canyons Professional Golfers' Association Project for the San Antonio Water System.

Mr. Pearson began his career in public service in 2008 when he was named Assistant City Manager for the City of Cibolo. As Assistant City Manager, he oversaw the implementation of a capital improvement project that allowed the city to build a new police and fire Station, a public park, and to reconstruct the city's Main Street. In 2012, Mr. Pearson was named City Manager for the City of Pleasanton; a position through which he contributed to the city's growth, development, and prosperity. He oversaw the development and implementation of a multifaceted city master plan, a parks master plan, and contributed to the design and construction of a civic center, library, and the Freedom Center Project. Mr. Pearson has done an extraordinary job of bringing a vision of long term progress in every community he has worked in.

In addition to his impressive career in public service and municipal development, Mr. Pearson is a devoted father and grandfather.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Bruce Pearson for his extensive achievements and important contributions to the communities of Cibolo and Pleasanton, Texas.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 27, 2016

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, my vote was not recorded this week. I was absent because I was traveling with President Barack Obama to Vietnam. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: Roll Call No. 235: Aye; Roll Call No. 237: Nay; Roll Call No. 238: Aye; Roll Call No. 248: Nay; Roll Call No. 250: Nay; Roll Call No. 266: Nay; and Roll Call No. 268: Nay.

HONORING MS. FIONA BULLOCK

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 27, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Fiona Bullock, who will retire after 26 years of service as an educator and institutional leader at Pacific Union College.

Ms. Bullock completed her Bachelor of Arts in Social Work at Pacific Union College in 1983, before going on to earn her Masters of Social Welfare at the University of California, Berkeley in 1990.

After completing her degree, Ms. Bullock spent 26 years in the Social Work Program at her alma mater, Pacific Union College. During her time at Pacific Union College she has held positions, including Associate Professor, Field Supervisor, Forum Sponsor, and Program Director. Ms. Bullock has also contributed to the field of social work through her research and the numerous books and articles she has authored. Throughout her career, Ms. Bullock