

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### TRIBUTE TO MIKE BESSLER

#### HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 22, 2004*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mike Bessler, the Chief Publications Clerk with the Office of Official Reporters under the Clerk of the House.

Mike will be retiring on July 30 after 23 years of service to the House making sure our committee transcripts are accurate, properly bound and delivered on time. I am pleased to have this opportunity to commend one of my constituents for his outstanding service to this institution.

Originally from the Bronx, New York, Mike served a 4-year tour in the Air Force, stationed at Wright Patterson in Ohio and Shemya in the Aleutian Islands.

He was finally discharged from Andrews Air Force Base, and with his wife, Peggy decided to stay in the Washington, D. C. area, where he spent over a decade in the private sector before being hired by the Office of Official Reporters in January 1981. He has served in that office with distinction ever since.

Mike has spent his years working closely with the House committees to ensure their satisfaction with the transcripts. Through his dedicated supervision of the Publications Office, he has been the quintessential dedicated public servant.

Those who worked with him are privileged to have worked with an individual of Mike's level of professionalism.

Mike and Peggy are the proud parents of two daughters, Michelle and Kelly, and doting grandparents of Erica, Ezra and Zoe.

Mike looks forward to spending time with them and enjoying gardening, home projects, and devoting more time to a lifelong fascination with film and movies.

Thank you, Mike, for your many years of dedicated, professional service to the House and the country. Best wishes to you and Peggy in your retirement.

### HONORING REV. DAVID JOHNSON AND MRS. TAWANA JOHNSON FOR THEIR WORK WITH THE STUDENTS OF THE BRONX, NEW YORK AND THE TRIP TO THE UNITED NATIONS

#### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 22, 2004*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Reverend David M. Johnson and Mrs. Tawana Johnson for their strong community activism and commitment to today's youth. They have not only instilled pride into each and every child they have worked with, they have destroyed the notion that they are just

residents of America's inner-cities, but a valued citizen of the world.

On May 14, 2004, Mrs. Johnson, Founder of Virtuous Women Empower and God's Glory Interfaith Ministries where Rev. Johnson presides, organized and sponsored a trip to the United Nations for 100 of the most outstanding students from I.S. 117 Joseph H. Wade and C.E.S. 70 Max Schoenfeld School in the Bronx, New York. This meeting encouraged minority students that their representation in the international community is needed. This trip has engraved in the minds of these students a new understanding of diversity.

The students left a lasting impact on the United Nations with the intellect of their questions, and sincere concern for their community. After their visit the students were encouraged to return and many students were offered internships with the United Nations. Some of the students left striving to become diplomats, ambassadors, and Members of Congress.

Rev. and Mrs. Johnson have instilled a standard of excellence that all students should strive to follow. I share in our young people's dreams of democracy, equal opportunity and success. One day these students will assist in assuring these dreams come true for every citizen. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating them for their superior academic achievements, and their desire for social change.

The following Honor Roll students met with United Nations Ambassador Patrick Kennedy on May 14, 2004: Yariza Pimentel, Karina Hernandez, Narda Lopez, Zena Ahmed, Carol Prashad, Patricia Holman, Gisselle Francisco, Jatna Medina, Jadderin Torres, Yereny Rodriguez, Gisell Acevedo, Jonathan Ruiz, Kamani Gujjar, Donnie Santana, Maite Amador, Eric Mayfield, Pilar Cruz, Eduardo Guerrero, Luiraldy Castillo, Kevin Delarosa, Jose Camacho, Ramon Cabral, Michelle Camarena, Lerubi Lopez, Luis Adames, Eduard Garcia, Betzaida Rodriguez, Denise Garcia, Albania Gonzalez, Edwin Albino, Marla Dominguez, Leonela Paula, Jessica Pena, Myrtle Richards, Kayla Williams, Yennifer Hernandez, Caroline Antigua, Devon Ferrer, Roshawn Ullah, Tasnim Majumder, Elias Rosario, Stephanie Pena, Tataria Burns, Paloma Carty, Erika Rosa, Verence Gomez, Tatiana Santiago, Angel Cardenas, Jose Aguilar, Omar Liriano, Leandro Pena, Richard Anim, Lisa Maldonado, Steven Diaz, Adalis Martinez, Gaby Perez, Stephany Veras, Claudia Avila, Evelyn Liriano, Marilyn Fernandez, Valeria Salazar, Omaira Tejada, Sebastian Gutierrez, Florangel Monegro, Sylvin Little, and HRU Rameses Amon Ra.

### CONGRATULATING THE WRIGHTWOOD NEIGHBORS ASSOCIATION OF CHICAGO

#### HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 22, 2004*

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Wrightwood Neighbors Association (WNA), and its President Michael Lufrano, on their ongoing commitment to enriching the lives of members of the Wrightwood community, on the occasion of the 21st annual "Taste of Lincoln Avenue."

The Wrightwood neighborhood—part of the Lincoln Park community—is located on Chicago's North side, bounded by Diversey Parkway on the north, Halsted Street on the east, Fullerton Avenue on the south, and Lakewood Avenue on the west.

Since 1962, the work of the WNA has been essential to the ongoing success of the Wrightwood community. The WNA strives to maintain a vibrant urban community for people to live, shop, play, and raise families. The Association has helped Wrightwood preserve its historic and cultural treasures, while also encouraging architectural development to add beauty and rejuvenation to the neighborhood. With this combination, lifelong Wrightwood residents are able to remain, as new generations bring their own flavor to the area.

The vision of the WNA has given Wrightwood the ability to continuously emerge as an area with a strong sense of community, diversity, and heritage. The WNA's committees have enhanced the schools, maintained and improved local parks, and reviewed land development to guarantee the character of the community.

Known as the "Granddaddy of Chicago street festivals," the "Taste of Lincoln Avenue" provides Wrightwood neighbors the opportunity to enjoy the summer and spend time with friends. With food, craft vendors, live music, and other entertainment, it is an occasion for Chicagoans to sample the diversity of this great neighborhood.

Since its beginnings in 1984, the "The Taste of Lincoln Avenue" has raised over \$1 million, and last year alone, over \$135,000, in order to improve schools and parks, aid non-profit organizations, and increase the beauty of the community. The WNA's "Taste of Lincoln Avenue" celebrates the history of Wrightwood and ensures the community's continuous improvement in the future.

It goes without saying that the enthusiasm, hard work, and leadership of Michael Lufrano, organization officers Jeff Kwiat, Stacey Hawk, Anne Durkin, and Chris Connors, and the other members of the WNA have brought a secure and lasting vision to Chicago's North side. I thank them for the enthusiasm in making the Wrightwood neighborhood one of the jewels of Chicago.

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