

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### CELEBRATION OF THE 60TH BIRTHDAY OF DAVID ALLEN

#### HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2007

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today in honor of my dear friend David Allen, who will celebrate his 60th birthday on November 15, 2007. Born in Pittsburgh, PA, and raised in the Collinwood/Glenville neighborhood of Cleveland, David is a proud 1965 graduate of Glenville High School. He went on to receive an associate's degree from Cuyahoga Community College, bachelor's degree from Cleveland State University and a master's degree from Boston University. Additionally, David served honorably in the United States Army obtaining the rank of captain.

David began his career as a research economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, where he researched the impact of reserve requirements on commercial bank profitability in Federal Reserve District I.

In 1975, he came to the hill as a majority staff consultant for the House Budget Committee. There he served as staff liaison to my predecessor Congressman Louis Stokes and Congressman Parren Mitchell. Some of the highlights of his tenure include: heading task forces on health, labor and education, and housing and community development; helping develop first Congressional Black Caucus Alternative Budget; and authoring the first 10 percent minority business set-aside included as an amendment in the Local Public Works Act of 1976. He would later serve as senior economist for the Joint Economic Committee where he advised Congressman Stokes on business and economic development issues in the Cleveland district.

After years of public and private service, David and his wife Sandra founded The KEVRIC Company, Inc. in 1981, which was named in honor of their two sons, Kevin and Eric. The company provided management, technical, and scientific support services to private and public sector clients. He sold the KEVRIC Company in 2003 and would later found another consulting firm, Stepco, named as a tribute to his daughter.

Though we grew up in close proximity to each other, I did not meet David until he began dating my dear friend Sandra when we were students at Case Western Reserve University. Since that time our friendship has continued to grow. David's stellar accomplishments and success reflect his tremendous hard work and determination. He is a shining example for people of color and all people of the realization of the "American Dream" and I am extremely proud to call him my friend.

On behalf of the people of the 11th Congressional District, I am extremely pleased to join with his wife Sandra; children Kevin, Eric and Stephanie, my goddaughter and namesake; his two daughters-in-law, three grand-

children, family and friends in wishing David Allen a very happy and blessed 60th birthday! And I wish you many, many, more.

### HONORING "DIGGER" O'DELL, 2007 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNER

#### HON. TIMOTHY WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2007

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Donald "Digger" O'Dell upon receiving the 2007 Lifetime Achievement Award. It is with great admiration I congratulate Donald "Digger" O'Dell on behalf of all those who have benefited from his hard work and dedication.

Digger O'Dell is a lifelong resident of Chelsea, Michigan. He served his country in the Korean War from 1952 to 1955, and continues to serve his country and his community through his continuous acts of kindness. Whether it is helping to roof a home, cleaning the snow off a sidewalk, or taking someone to the airport or hospital, he never seeks acknowledgement in the things that he does, because in his own words, "it's what human beings should do."

Mr. O'Dell is retired from Chelsea Proving Grounds and has been a part-time employee of Staffan-Mitchell Funeral Home for the past 25 years. He is a member of the Washtenaw County Veterans Honor Guard and performs on average 100 military funerals per year. Digger has been a member of the American Legion Post 31 and the VFW Post 4076 for well over 50 years.

The most thoughtful act of kindness occurred this past year when Digger and his wife Margaret placed over 1,200 flags on graves of veterans in the Chelsea area. They have done this meaningful job for many years, but this year they had no assistance. As he continues to serve his country and his community, it is realized that Donald "Digger" O'Dell is one of the unsung heroes of Chelsea.

I personally thank Donald "Digger" O'Dell for his continued service to his country and the Chelsea community. May others know of my high regard for his selfless contributions and service to others, as well as my best wishes for him in the future.

### HONORING EDWARD (ED) ST. JOHN

#### HON. C. A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2007

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Edward, Ed, St. John, founder, president, and CEO of St. John Properties, Inc. After graduating from the University of Maryland in College Park in 1961,

Ed St. John founded St. John Properties, Inc. Since 1971, St. John Properties has developed, constructed, and maintained ownership of over 13 million square feet of office, industrial, and retail space. The company serves business space requirements of over 1,600 tenants in Maryland, Colorado, Wisconsin, Virginia, and Louisiana.

Ed is a leader and active member of the community. He serves on the boards of several organizations, including the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, the Economic Alliance for Greater Baltimore, Anne Arundel County Economic Development Corporation, the Johns Hopkins University Real Estate Institute, and the Maryland Science Center. He was inducted into the Baltimore County Chamber of Commerce Hall of Fame in 2001, and named Maryland Entrepreneur of the Year for Real Estate in 1997.

Ed St. John created the Edward A. St. John Foundation in 1998 with a philanthropic focus on educational enrichment for children based on the belief that education has the power to transform lives and strengthen communities. To date, more than \$40 million has been pledged and donated through outright contributions and gifts-in-kind to over 300 educational, medical, philanthropic, and other non-profit organizations throughout the Baltimore/Washington region.

Many colleges and universities have benefited enormously from Ed's philanthropic endeavors. The Edward St. John Endowed Scholarship at Bowie State University provides scholarships based on merit and financial need to full-time students who are majoring in either business administration or mathematics. In addition, he has made a \$5.85 million commitment to the Johns Hopkins University School of Professional Studies in Business and Education. His donation will launch a full-time master's degree program to complement the university's part-time real estate curriculum.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Edward, Ed, St. John. His legacy as a leader in real estate will be matched only by his devotion to philanthropic projects. It is with great pride that I congratulate Ed St. John on his exemplary career in the real estate business.

### CONGRATULATING RALEIGH WILKERSON ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

#### HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor the long and distinguished career of Raleigh Wilkerson, on the occasion of his retirement from the Alabama Farmers Federation.

With a career spanning over 33 years, Raleigh served in almost every capacity at the

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