

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING DENTON PUBLIC LIBRARY'S 75 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2012

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Denton Public Library, an esteemed local institution, in celebrating 75 years of service to the whole Denton community. The three-branch library system currently provides a full online catalog and a web-based automation system that houses more than 240,000 items. It has also assisted the community by providing over 1,400,000 quality resources of educational, informational, and cultural value. To achieve this service, took a great deal of commitment.

In 1914, the City Federation of Women's Clubs gave a report stating the clear need for a free public library for the City of Denton. Philanthropist Andrew Carnegie would contribute a building if the city contributed a location and maintenance for the building. When the City Council could not guarantee their support, Carnegie withdrew his offer.

In the Depression Era, the federal government established the Works Progress Administration. One of its services was the sponsorship of school libraries. This program allowed the Denton County Schools Superintendent to employ Mattie Pyrene Wilson as the library supervisor and establish a program of inter-school loans. In order to expedite the loans, a bookmobile service was inaugurated. Wilson opened a small 3,000 volume library on the third floor of the courthouse and the bulk of the material was acquired through a \$10 state teacher allowance and books donated by the Parent Teacher Association of Denton. In 1935, the Junior Shakespeare Club commenced a movement to combine the Denton County School Library with a public library. The club encouraged the county school board and the city and county commissions to join together to support a library that would be free to all citizens of Denton County. The club also conducted a book drive and collected more than 4000 books to initially stock the proposed library; the city commission donated \$600 for the purchase of new books and the county agreed to furnish shelves, equipment and utilities. Finally, Denton's first public library opened on June 6, 1937. Over the years, the library has expanded to meet the needs of a growing population. There are now three locations and over 75,000 square feet of space dedicated to readers and researchers.

The Denton Public Library has positively influenced the community of Denton, serving young and old alike with a foundation of knowledge. With the support of the citizens of Denton, the library will continue to flourish and provide resources to broaden intellectual and creative horizons. It is my pleasure to recog-

nize the Denton Public Library for 75 years of service and this significant milestone in its history. I am privileged to represent the City of Denton in the U.S. House of Representatives.

HONORING THE WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF ST. LOUIS AND THE DONALD DANFORTH PLANT SCIENCE CENTER AS THE 2012 RECIPIENT OF THE COUNCIL'S INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2012

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the World Affairs Council of St. Louis, and to honor the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center as the 2012 recipient of the Council's International Humanitarian of the Year Award.

The World Affairs Council of St. Louis is dedicated to educating, inspiring, and engaging citizens and businesses in international affairs and the critical global issues of our times. It is the oldest such organization in St. Louis.

Each year, the World Affairs Council of St. Louis welcomes more than 300 visitors to the greater metropolitan area, including leading ambassadors and other foreign dignitaries, as well as students from around the world. The Council's mission is to promote understanding, engagement, relationships, and leadership in world affairs, and it connects the citizens of the St. Louis region with the world.

The Council's International Humanitarian of the Year Award, its highest honor, recognizes the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center this year for its mission to improve the human condition through crop research which centers on feeding the hungry, improving human health and preserving the environment. This award specifically recognizes the Center's Institute for International Crop Improvement, which aims to bring improved crops to small farmers in places such as Uganda, Kenya, Nigeria, and Burkina Faso. These crops yield more per acre, are richer in essential nutrients, and resistant to disease, insects and drought, and they can bring tremendous benefit to small farmers.

The Donald Danforth Plant Science Center serves as a seed of hope in the St. Louis region—applying research to better address malnutrition, preserve our environment, and explore novel, sustainable energy solutions. The World Affairs Council honors Danforth Center's leadership as an essential part of fostering this valuable, humanitarian-based research which can impact the lives of farmers and citizens in nations throughout the world.

On June 7, 2012, the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center will receive the International

Humanitarian of the Year Award. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognition of this honor.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF JERRELLE FRANCOIS

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2012

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge to a long-time servant of the community, Mrs. Jerrelle Francois, an accomplished educator and public servant who will leave her post as Vice Chair of the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners on June 30, 2012.

Jerrelle has served the students of Baltimore for more than three decades. Beginning her service as a teacher at Cherry Hill Junior High School, and continuing on to become a Department Head, Assistant Principal, Principal and Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Francois has brought care, mentoring and education to thousands of the city's children. A graduate of Morgan State University, Jerrelle has dedicated her professional life to serving the children of Baltimore and to revitalizing education in the state of Maryland.

Due to her exemplary career, Jerrelle was nominated for the 2011 Richard R. Green Award by her colleagues. When nominating her, they wrote of her service, "Ms. Francois' 30-year career as an educator and administrator at every level of Baltimore City Public Schools exemplifies the highest standards of public service and dedication to the students and families of Baltimore." They went on to say, "Ms. Francois has devoted her life to a passionate commitment to the children of Baltimore and the relentless pursuit of constant improvement in student achievement. As part of this dedication, she is firmly committed to achieving equity in education for all students."

Jerrelle's career may speak for itself but what cannot be stated on a resume is her inspirational leadership and her value to the countless lives of students, parents, teachers and administrations alike that she has touched.

Mr. Speaker, the words of her colleagues speak volumes about the person that she is, but one of the most profound statements I can make about this great American is that Jerrelle exemplifies the dedication to providing education, especially to underserved populations, that we as a nation strive for. She is the personification of what we seek to have our education system be—dedicated, driven and providing for those who truly need it.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this great career.

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