

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF WILL WOODWORTH TO THE PEOPLE OF MAINE

HON. JARED F. GOLDEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 15, 2022

Mr. GOLDEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a member of my staff, Will Woodworth, as he prepares to depart Capitol Hill after nearly ten years of service to take a position at the Department of Homeland Security.

Will hails from Yarmouth, Maine and has been working on behalf of the people of our state for the better part of the last decade. He first entered Maine politics after graduating from college, joining the staff of then-Governor Angus King in his run for the U.S. Senate in 2012. He then joined Senator King's staff in Washington, handling constituent correspondence and advising the senator on issues like broadband and technology.

In 2019, my office was lucky enough to convince Will to abandon the comforts of the Senate for the more rough-and-tumble nature of the House. In joining my team, Will took on a senior policy role, advising me on a wide range of issues, from my work on the House Small Business Committee to healthcare and economic policy. Despite the often insurmountable volume of work, Will has been a steady, dedicated, and thoughtful staffer who has helped me execute on key legislative priorities while also doing the time-intensive work of directly helping constituents across Maine's Second District understand my positions on policy issues and helping solve the problems they have faced with federal agencies.

People like Will are what make this place run, and he represents the best of public service—quietly and steadily keeping the wheels of government working and never seeking attention or accolades for his efforts. Mainers have been fortunate to have had Will Woodworth on their side in Washington, as have I. We all wish him the very best on this next professional adventure and give him our profound thanks for his service to Maine and the country.

RECOGNIZING BILL HALE'S SERVICE TO TxDOT

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 15, 2022

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Bill Hale as he retires from public service. Throughout his nearly four decades with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), he has been highly regarded for his leadership and innovation on concession and design-build projects within the State of Texas. He oversaw many crucial

initiatives, including the LBJ Express project and the Clear Lanes program.

After graduating from Samuel High School in south Dallas, Hale entered the University of Texas at Arlington. He earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering on that same campus. Hale began at TxDOT in the Ellis County Area Office in 1983. He went on to become the Ellis County assistant area engineer and was appointed the Southeast Dallas County Area Engineer (AE) in 1992. One of Hale's most significant milestones as the county's AE was the building of TxDOT's first movable barrier high-occupancy vehicle lane on Interstate 30. In 1999, Hale's work earned him the title of Abilene District Engineer (DE), and in late 2003, he was promoted to the post of Dallas DE. In late 2014, he was appointed Chief Engineer.

During his tenure as TxDOT's Chief Engineer, Hale has been responsible for the management and control of the Bridge, Construction, Design, Maintenance, Traffic Opps and Right of Way divisions as well as the Local Government Projects office. He has managed the construction of the Margaret Hunt Hill and Margaret McDermott bridges, two cable-stay structures that define the Dallas skyline. He also oversaw the building of Texas' first deck park and led TxDOT's evaluation of a private-sector proposal to expand State Highway 121. Hale's work on both the LBJ Express project and the Clear Lanes program led to significant congestion relief in North Texas' five largest neighborhoods. In addition to his construction efforts, Hale launched the TxDOT Connect web-based project information program, which became incredibly vital to the department's operation.

Hale is a "civil engineer's engineer": a hard-working professional. Those colleagues who worked with him on the projects he spearheaded both respect and admire him. He's been instrumental in how every major transportation project in the metropolitan areas in the State of Texas have taken shape. Hale's effective leadership and networking capabilities have been critical in bringing together public and private sectors and affected communities to move necessary transportation projects forward.

My office has been privileged to have a congenial working relationship with Hale over the past two decades, and his experienced input and support of our joint annual Transportation Summits contributed highly to our success in educating local elected officials on upcoming transportation projects affecting Denton, Tarrant and other North Texas counties. I am thankful for Bill Hale's 39-year career in public service, and I wish him all the best in his retirement.

RECOGNIZING JON JAY FOR HIS IMPECCABLE 12-YEAR MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL CAREER

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 15, 2022

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jon Jay, who recently retired after an impeccable 12-year Major League Baseball career. Jon's hard work and dedication led him to win a World Series Championship in 2011 with the St. Louis Cardinals.

Born in Miami, and a true product of the baseball fields of South Florida, Jon helped lead Christopher Columbus High School to its first baseball state title in 2003. He then went on to have a Hall of Fame career at the University of Miami. Jon finished his Major League Baseball career with an impressive .283 batting average, and—remarkably—with the highest fielding percentage among all outfielders in baseball history.

Jon has never lost sight of his roots as a proud Cuban-American, whose family history is engrained in public service and patriotism. His great-grandfather, Justo Salas, was the first Afro-Cuban mayor of Santiago de Cuba, and the first Afro-Cuban governor of Oriente Province. Jon's grandfather, Enrique Tulio Jay, was a political prisoner in Fidel Castro's dungeons for 19 long years.

After 12 years in Major League Baseball, Jon credits his loving family and their tireless support for all his success. I also want to congratulate Jon's wife, Nikki, and their beautiful children: Brooklyn, Berkley, and Jaxon, for this remarkable achievement. The life of a Major League wife and family is not always easy, and I applaud their steadfast devotion to Jon and his career.

Madam Speaker, it is a privilege to congratulate Jon Jay on an amazing baseball career and for his continuous dedication to representing his community—not just in South Florida, but across the country. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this outstanding individual.

EXCHANGE CLUB OF JONESBORO 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 15, 2022

Mr. CRAWFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor The Exchange Club of Jonesboro, Arkansas. The Exchange Club of Jonesboro was founded on August 28, 1947. This year they will be celebrating their 75th anniversary.

The 70-member club is active with programs such as: honoring a Law Enforcement Office of the Year, handing out flags on Veterans

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