

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE HONORABLE
MAYOR MARY ANNE WARDLOW

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Borough of Lawnside resident Mayor Mary Ann Wardlow.

Mayor Mary Ann Wardlow is the first woman to be elected Mayor in the Borough of Lawnside and has served the people of the Borough of Lawnside for more than 25 years. She was taught to protect and care for her community as if they were family. A virtue passed down through generations of her family that planted the seeds of service within her life at a young age. Some of her earliest forms of service began during her time in the Girl Scouts where she volunteered as a child.

Over the span of the last 46 years, Mayor Wardlow has resided in the Borough of Lawnside with her husband Earl Wardlow where they raised a family. During her 27 years of service to the Borough of Lawnside as a member of the Borough Council, Mayor Wardlow sat on several council committees as well as the board of the Mount Peace Cemetery.

Mayor Wardlow's history is written with examples of collaboration with her fellow council members and the integral role she played in securing funding for community projects such as the borough's Wayne R. Bryant Senior Citizens Recreational building and public works. Under her leadership, the Borough of Lawnside has successfully enlarged their Department of Public Works, built-upon their Police Department and obtained voter support of the community's children. In the face of food insecurity, Mayor Mary Anne Wardlow was able to court ShopRite following the closing of supermarket company Pathmark's location in the borough.

Today, Mayor Mary Ann Wardlow tries diligently to live up to the image that her mother had planted into her heart as a child. Throughout her career, she has played an integral role in registration of thousands of voters and continues to serve those around her in a way she herself would wish to be represented. Her strong advocacy and work to promote the access and right for people to vote will surely be acknowledged and referenced for the future generations of public servants in Camden County.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring and commending Mayor Mary Anne Wardlow of the Borough of Lawnside, New Jersey, a resident dedicated to her community and who has thoroughly served them to the best of her ability.

HONORING ANTHONY LOWE, JR., A
LIFE OF JOY GONE TOO SOON

HON. SYDNEY KAMLAGER-DOVE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life of Anthony Lowe, Jr., a doting father, uncle, brother, son, and friend, who was tragically killed earlier this year at the hands of the Huntington Park Police. Today, I stand here to honor Mr. Lowe's life and the joy he brought to his loved ones and to the South Los Angeles community.

The center of Mr. Lowe's life was family. He was a loving, caring father to his children and never hesitated to crack a joke to cheer them up. Mr. Lowe was committed to keeping his family strong. Whether he was helping his nieces and nephews with their schoolwork or taking his children to the park, Mr. Lowe was always there to support his family and friends. He spread his infectious joy easily, always laughing, dancing, and bringing positive energy to those around him.

Mr. Lowe was close with his mother and sisters. He looked out for others and jumped at the chance to help loved ones. His laughter and kindness are what I hope he will be remembered by.

We should be celebrating Mr. Lowe's sincere love for his family and friends and his devotion to his children. Instead, we must confront the tragedy of his death at the hands of our police.

Mr. Speaker, I am saddened to recognize the life of Anthony Lowe ended under these circumstances. Today, I rise to honor the memory of Mr. Lowe and to reaffirm my commitment to working to eliminate police brutality and injustice.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VOTE AT
HOME ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, Oregon has led the nation in defending the right to vote, which is the very cornerstone of our democracy. Vote at home laws have been extremely successful at increasing voter turnout all while upholding strong security standards. That is why today I introduced the Vote at Home Act.

This legislation will bring Oregon's model nationwide and strengthen the fundamental right to vote that is so central to our democratic process. Nearly 50 percent of voters used a vote-at-home ballot in the November 2020 election, an all-time high in federal races. It is time to build on the innovative electoral reforms expanding access to the right to vote.

The Vote at Home Act updates the Vote by Mail Act, which I first introduced with Senator Wyden in 2017, to promote the ability of voters to vote by mail, expand options for casting ballots, fund the U.S. Postal Service by covering the costs associated with mailing ballots both to and from voters in federal elections, and enact automatic voter registration. Under this legislation, all registered voters would receive ballots in the mail weeks before Election Day, allowing them to carefully research candidates and issues ahead of Election Day to inform their vote. States would be required to ensure that each citizen who provides identifying information to the state motor vehicle authority is automatically registered to vote. Voters are given 21 days to opt out if they do not wish to be registered to vote.

This crucial legislation is a nation-wide effort and is endorsed by voting rights groups including Common Cause, Fair Fight Action, Demand Progress, End Citizens United, Sojourners, Stand Up America, and People for the American Way.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in Congress to enact this legislation and finally establish access to voting at home nationwide.

HONORING SPELLING BEE
CHAMPION ROBERTO ORTIZ

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the winner of the 35th annual Rio Grande Valley Regional Spelling Bee, Roberto "Robbie" Ortiz from Brownsville's Incarnate Word Academy.

In a contest that determines who would represent the Rio Grande Valley in the Scripps National Spelling Bee right here in Washington, D.C. this May, Robbie Ortiz outlasted 41 other spellers to bring home the regional championship and trophy.

While the Ortiz family is no stranger to the Rio Grande Valley Regional Spelling Bee, as his sister had previously finished in 2nd place, it was the correct spelling of "bastion" and "crustaceans" that confirmed his win. I want to take this time to thank all the other contestants, parents, and educators that made this event possible, as well as the second-place finisher, Diego Reyna Oviedo, from IDEA College Preparatory-McAllen, and third place finisher, Luke Holt, of Port Isabel Junior High.

It takes tremendous dedication, preparation, and training to win a competition like this, and I am thrilled that his hard work paid off and came to fruition with this victory. I cannot wait to see everything that Robbie accomplishes next.

I look forward to welcoming Robbie to Washington in May, and I can say with certainty that I, along with the entire Rio Grande Valley, will be behind him.

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