

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

BEVERLY WINTERS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud Beverly Winters for being recognized by the West Chamber as a 2016 Celebrate Women Honoree. Celebrate Women Honorees are known for their perseverance, accomplishments, generosity, and dedication to their passions and their community.

Beverly is the current Executive Director of Developmental Disabilities Resource Center (DDRC). She began pursuing her dream of building a community that provided responsive support to individuals and families after graduating from the University of Denver with a Master's degree in Social Work. At DDRC, Beverly assists people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and serves in a variety of roles such as Residential Counselor, Medicaid Waiver Coordinator, Case Manager, Director of Resource Coordination and Assistant Executive Director. During her tenure at DDRC she has developed case management services, established the first Family Support Council and the highly successful DDRC behavior health services program, and shaped the self-determination initiative.

Prior to her work at the DDRC, she was the administrator of a residential care facility and a clinical services coordinator for a mental health clinic in Des Moines, Iowa. Beverly has also been a champion for abuse prevention as a member of various county, state and legislative work groups and councils, including the HCPF Mental Health Advisory Committee, Conflict-Free Case-Management task force, Jefferson County Infant/Toddler Interagency Council, CORE Services Commission, Adult Protection Advisory Committee Jefferson County Child and Youth Leadership Commission, and Jeffco Thrives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Beverly Winters for this well-deserved recognition by the West Chamber.

RECOGNIZING THE 21ST CENTURY
WILBERFORCE INITIATIVE

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative for working towards a world of religious freedom.

On October 1, 2014, Dr. Randel Everett founded the 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative. Dr. Everett has a long and distinguished record of service, which includes establishing the John Leland Center for Theological Stud-

ies, serving as the Executive Director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, and over 40 years of pastoring all over the nation including as my own pastor at First Baptist Church in Midland, Texas.

Under Dr. Everett's leadership, the 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative has experienced remarkable growth and has left a lasting impact through their work. The organization has now grown to two offices: one in the Washington, D.C. area that focuses on the United States' engagement in protecting religious liberties and a second office in Dallas, Texas, which serves as a headquarters that mobilizes and engages with churches to help raise public awareness of people who are facing religious oppression around the world.

Since its conception, the 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative has helped thousands of people worldwide by working alongside policymakers. In 2015, members from the organization traveled to Iraq and met with Christians and Yazidis impacted by the Islamic State. Their report, "Edge of Extinction," helped elevate the awareness regarding the atrocities of religious and ethnic minorities in the Nineveh Plain. Through their efforts, the organization was successful in establishing a Special Advisor for Religious Minorities in the Near East and South/Central Asia within the State Department and in passing H. Con. Res. 75, which officially declared ISIL's persecution and mass murder of Christians, Yezidis, and other groups in Iraq and Syria as genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. This bill passed the House on March 14, 2016, by a vote of 393-0—a success I was proud to support.

The 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative has become a leading advocate for religious minorities in other areas, such as northern and central Nigeria. Throughout 2016, the 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative has traveled throughout areas of Nigeria that the UN describes as the world's worst current humanitarian crisis. During these trips, Wilberforce spoke with thousands of pastors and victims throughout the country and listened to their heartbreaking stories. The group's published report "Fractured and Forgotten" has been featured at numerous conferences and has been used to brief Congressional leaders. The group worked extensively with the Nigerian National Assembly to help confirm a new U.S. Ambassador to Nigeria in September of 2016.

In addition to raising awareness, the 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative has trained more than 2,700 religious and government leaders from across the world on the importance of religious freedom, worked to expand religious liberties in Nepal's Constitution, and met with leaders within the Taiwanese government to discuss creating a Religious Freedom Caucus in the Legislative Yuan. These are just some of the many accomplishments the 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative has been able to accomplish in their efforts to advance religious freedom around the world.

As a nation that was built by those who escaped religious persecution in their homelands, we must not forget that thousands of others across the globe are facing the same persecution as our forefathers. The 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative has given these people a voice and hope that one day they can share the same liberties that we all cherish here in this great nation. I applaud the 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative for their hard work and pray that God blesses them and continues to provide them with the strength and courage to continue their mission to help save their fellow man.

CONGRATULATING HASTINGS COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL AND MEN'S SOCCER ON NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Volleyball and Men's Soccer teams from Hastings College in Hastings, Nebraska, on their 2016 national championships.

This is the Bronco Volleyball team's first national title. Despite trailing by two sets in the final match, the Broncos confidently swept their final three sets for the championship. The team ends their season with a record of 33-3. Katie Placke of Grand Island and Logan Druempel of Schuyler were selected as first team All-Americans, with Katie also receiving a CoSIDA College Division Academic All-American and Logan being named the 2016 NAIA Volleyball National Championship MVP. They are joined by first team All-American Jill Bax of Lincoln, who is the 2016 NAIA Libero of the Year. Coach Matt Buttermore was named the 2016 NAIA Volleyball Coach of the Year.

The Bronco Men's Soccer team is celebrating their second national title, having first won a championship in 2010. The team finished with a record of 24-0-1 under head coach Aaron Champenoy in his first season at Hastings College. The team's roster includes players from seven states and nine countries. Daniel Whitehall was named the 2016 NAIA Player of the Year and the tournament's Most Valuable Offensive Player, Joe White was the tournament's Most Valuable Player and a second team All-American, and Marc Tautz is a third team All-American.

On behalf of the people of Nebraska's Third District, I commend these talented men and women on their athletic and academic achievements. They certainly have made our state proud, and it's a great day to be a Bronco.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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