

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF EDGAR “DOOKY” CHASE

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Congressman SCALISE to honor a true New Orleans legend, Mr. Edgar “Dooky” Chase Jr. Mr. Chase is known in New Orleans not only for the decadent cuisine served at Dooky Chase’s Restaurant, but also for his continued dedication to being a leader in the African-American community. He used food and music to bring people from all walks of life together under one roof. From the age of 16 to the age of 88, Mr. Chase worked tirelessly for the people of New Orleans.

During his teenage years, Mr. Chase was an active member of the Musicians Union and helped increase the pay for local entertainers. He also worked with the Musicians Union to promote the first racially integrated concert performed at the Municipal Auditorium in the historical Tremé neighborhood.

Mr. Chase and his wife Leah, graciously known as the “Queen of Creole Cuisine,” turned his family po-boy restaurant into an eloquent dining experience for the likes of Martin Luther King Sr., Ray Charles, President Barack Obama, and everyday citizens like Rep. SCALISE and I. This restaurant served as a safe place where African-Americans could dine when other establishments did not serve them.

Even in hard times, Mr. Chase’s faith did not waver. After Hurricane Katrina, he and his wife lived in a FEMA trailer across from their restaurant for more than a year until they could reopen their doors in 2007.

Because of Mr. Chase’s relentless dedication and service to the New Orleans community, his legacy will live on through his iconic restaurant, and through his beloved wife.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF COM-
MANDER MICHAEL F. BRINCK ON
HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the service, dedication, and accomplishments of Commander Michael F. Brinck (USN Ret.), Deputy Staff Director of the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, upon the occasion of his retirement from the U.S. House of Representatives.

A native of West Point, Iowa, Commander Brinck received a Bachelor’s degree in Political Science from St. Ambrose University in 1968. Following his graduation, Commander Brinck entered the Officer Candidate School for the United States Navy. In 1969, he received his Navy wings and reported to Helicopter Attack Light Squadron 3 in the Republic of Vietnam in support of Riverine operations in the Mekong Delta. Fleet assignments include carrier deployments to the Gulf of Tonkin and the Mediterranean, flight instructor, three deployments in support of Operation Deep Freeze in Antarctica, the Naval War College,

Washington D.C. and assignments at the Navy Command Center at the Pentagon, the Bureau of Naval Personnel, and the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. After two decades and a distinguished career, he retired from the United States Navy in 1988 with the rank of commander.

Commander Brinck began his career on Capitol Hill in 1995 as the Staff Director for the Subcommittee on Education, Training, Employment, and Housing and continued to serve as a Subcommittee Staff Director for the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs in the 104th, 105th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, and 113th Congresses.

Due to his steadfast commitment to his work and his expertise navigating the plethora of issues facing America’s veterans, Commander Brinck was named the Deputy Staff Director of the full Committee in 2013.

Throughout his tenure on the Committee staff, Commander Brinck faithfully served three different Committee Chairmen—Bob Stump, Steve Buyer, and myself—as well as countless other Members. I know I speak for us all when I say that his wise advice and sage counsel was instrumental in assisting us in honoring the service and sacrifice of America’s servicemembers, veterans, and their families.

Commander Brinck was a key contributor in the drafting and passage of landmark pieces of veterans’ education and training legislation and personally contributed to the creation of policies that continue to improve the daily lives and ongoing well-being of veterans and their families.

During my tenure as Chairman, Commander Brinck was instrumental in creating the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program or VRAP which provided job training for in-demand occupations for nearly 100,000 unemployed veterans. He was also a tireless advocate in drafting and pushing legislation that would ensure that returning veterans received in-state tuition when attending public schools, which became a reality with the passage of the Choice Act in 2014.

Over a long and multifaceted career of distinguished service in the halls of Congress, Commander Brinck has been a dogged advocate for the interests of America’s veterans and taxpayers, embodying excellence and commitment in service to his fellow citizens.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives and the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, it gives me great pride to honor the selfless service of Commander Brinck.

My wife, Vicki, joins me in honoring him for his many years of exemplary service to our Nation, thanking him for his unyielding dedication to America’s veterans, and wishing him and his wife, Marla, all of the best in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING MRS. ANN DRAWDY

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Mrs. Ann Drawdy on her tremendous service to the people of Florida. This month, Mrs. Drawdy will retire after serv-

ing more than a quarter century as a constituent service representative. It gives me great pleasure to recognize her service to Floridians and the Central Florida community.

The lives of hundreds of citizens have been changed for the better thanks to Ann’s knowledge and persistence in providing assistance with issues involving state and federal agencies. During her six years of service to the constituents in Florida Congressional Districts eight and ten, Ann assisted and closed over 200 constituent cases. Countless other constituent cases at the state level were the beneficiaries of her assistance during her time of service in the Florida Senate to Senators Dick Langley, Carey Baker and myself.

From asking for information or a status report on a pending case, or requesting clarification, to serving as a direct point of contact to liaisons in federal agencies, Ann was instrumental in our office successfully intervening on a person’s behalf to answer questions, find solutions, or simply attempt to cut through the red tape.

It was a personal honor to have Ann Drawdy on my team serving Central Floridians. Her attitude of service and dedication to quietly assisting Floridians navigate state and federal agencies are a testimony to her kindness and humility. Ann’s character, life, and efforts will surely inspire others to follow her example of serving.

I am truly grateful for Ann’s faithful service to our state and her dedication to finding solutions on behalf of Floridians. Our community, our state and our country are better due to her service.

ANDREA BURCH

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud Andrea Burch 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.

Andrea is currently a Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer at Lutheran Medical Center and has transcended expectations through her work both in the medical field and in leadership. During her nearly 25 years of nursing, Andrea has served in many roles, from certified nursing assistant to a critical care specialty nurse in neurosciences. She has also fulfilled several leadership positions, managing a variety of departments, initiatives, and committees.

Today, Andrea provides strategic direction for nursing professional excellence, quality and safety at Lutheran and serves as an advocate for staff and patients. She believes in collaborative, authentic leadership that helps nurses reach their highest professional potential. Andrea is a registered nurse with a Master’s Degree in Leadership of Healthcare Systems from Regis University, and she is currently pursuing a Distinguished Leader Executive Certificate from the University of Michigan’s Ross School of Business.

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

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
THE HONORABLE JOE PITTS

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, as members of Congress, we all know that our time in this chamber is limited. Each election brings new faces, while history records the names of members as they leave the chamber for the last time. Some members, however, will be remembered long after they have left for the work they do on behalf of the American people. JOE PITTS is one of those members. During his time in Congress, he became known for his dedication to helping his constituents. He was always someone who could be counted on to help create real solutions and to uphold the best traditions of this chamber. He took the lead on helping craft legislative solutions to some of the most difficult problems of our time, including fixes to Medicare and research for deadly diseases. He was also a dedicated fighter on behalf of the pro-life cause, and used the pulpit of elected office to give a voice to the unborn. But perhaps most of all, JOE will be remembered as a man who cared deeply about helping others, and his legacy will be one of working to improve the lives of the American people. Oh behalf of myself and all Pennsylvanians, thank you JOE for your years of dedicated service. I am honored to call you a friend, and wish you all the best in the years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF WELDON
BURGOON AND WELDON'S SADDLE
SHOP & WESTERN WEAR

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a long-time Denton business, Weldon's Saddle Shop & Western Wear. The community and I are saddened that the store will close its doors after nearly 60 years of business on January 14, 2017. Weldon's presence on the downtown Denton square will be long remembered.

Weldon Burgoon opened his shop in 1957, where he sold handmade leather saddles and accessories. In the '60s and '70s Weldon's was surrounded by many feed shops and farming centers, and when ranchers and cowboys came into town, many made sure to stop by Weldon's before they left. Over the years, Mr. Burgoon worked with his daughter, Kippie, and grandson, Clint, to make Weldon's a staple in downtown Denton.

During his time as store owner, Mr. Burgoon crafted over 150 custom saddles and provided thousands of customers with quality Western wear, but he also offered more than just merchandise. Weldon's attracted many high school and college students who were members of the Future Farmers of America organization. These students would work at Burgoon's shop and on his ranch to get school credit and to gain valuable work experience. Mr. Burgoon also served as the rodeo chairman for the North Texas Fair and Rodeo for

14 years. Noted for his reputation for excellence, demonstrated work ethic and dedication to cowboy culture, he was inducted into the Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame in 2010. Last year, his store was named a Denton County Heritage Business for being in existence for over 50 years.

Mr. Burgoon, now 86, has decided to close the shop after the 2016 holiday season. He looks forward to spending more time with his wife, Joy, and seeing his grandson's new luxury leather store open in Weldon's original location. It is an honor to represent Mr. Burgoon, a local business icon, in the U.S. House of Representatives.

THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF
KAZAKHSTAN'S INDEPENDENCE

HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 25th anniversary of Kazakhstan's independence and the establishment of diplomatic relations between Kazakhstan and the United States of America. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the people of Kazakhstan on the tremendous progress achieved by their country during the past quarter century.

The U.S. is the first country to have recognized Kazakhstan's independence and since then we have significantly increased our areas of cooperation. However, the cornerstone of the U.S.—Kazakhstan relations has always been cooperation in nuclear non-proliferation and security.

After the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Kazakhstan inherited the fourth largest nuclear arsenal in the world and the world's largest nuclear test site at Semipalatinsk. In the first years of Kazakhstan's independence, President Nazarbayev renounced nuclear weapons and closed the Semipalatinsk Test Site. The United States provided Kazakhstan with comprehensive assistance in the removal of nuclear warheads, weapons-grade materials, and their supporting infrastructure.

Five years after gaining its independence, Kazakhstan signed the Comprehensive-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and ratified it in May of 2002. The CTBT bans any nuclear weapon test explosion above or below ground or any other contained environment. Ratifying the CTBT was a milestone toward creating a safer world. This is why Kazakhstan and its neighbors—Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan & Uzbekistan—created the Central Asian Nuclear Weapons-Free Zone.

We should acknowledge that Kazakhstan has continued to show its commitment expanding its cooperation with the United States on matters of nuclear non-proliferation. As an important example, our two countries are collaborating in building the Nuclear Security Training Center (NSTC). The NSTC will provide training of personnel on security and safeguards essential for safe operation of nuclear facilities in Kazakhstan.

Twenty-five years of close cooperation between Kazakhstan and the United States are

the foundation of an important strategic partnership focused on creating a world without nuclear weapons and ultimately a more stable peace around the globe. It is important that we recognize Kazakhstan's leadership in nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation. Kazakhstan continues to serve as an example to the international community, and the United States must remain committed to supporting Kazakhstan's efforts to further prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and materials toward a goal of global security.

Mr. Speaker, it is a true pleasure to celebrate the quarter century of Kazakhstan's independence. I would like to extend my warm wishes to the people of Kazakhstan and President Nazarbayev.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I missed a series of recorded votes on December 5, 2016. Had I been present, I would have voted "YES" on roll call vote No. 601, No. 602, and No. 603.

HONORING MR. DANIEL S.
CONDRON

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Daniel S. Condron upon his retirement after serving for 11 years as the Vice President of University Affairs at Sonoma State University. Mr. Condron has led an impressive career over 44 years and has been a leader in the areas of education, economic development and transportation.

A native of North Tonawonda, New York, Mr. Condron completed his B.S. and M.S. Degrees in Electrical Engineering at Stanford University. Mr. Condron worked with Hewlett-Packard for 33 years in management positions across a number of business areas including research and development, production, and public affairs.

Mr. Condron has focused his career in education on increasing opportunities for all students from preschool through employment. In his role as Vice President, Mr. Condron's priorities have included community and governmental relations, marketing and communication, creative services and special events for Sonoma State. He currently serves as the Chairman of the Sonoma County Cradle to Career Operations Team. Mr. Condron has also served as President of the Santa Rosa City Schools Board of Education, Vice President for the Santa Rosa Junior College Foundation, and Chairman of the Vice Presidents for Advancement for the California State University System. Mr. Condron has demonstrated a unique ability to bring people together to accomplish goals to improve the future for countless individuals in our community.

Mr. Condron is a proven community leader. He has served many community organizations