

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING RUSSELL VOUGHT

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Russell Vought, currently the policy director for the House Republican Conference, who will leave the House after more than twelve years of service. Losing such a committed conservative and long-serving congressional staff member is a bittersweet moment for many House Republican Members, staff, and the conservative cause here on Capitol Hill.

It is written in the Good Book, "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth." Russell Vought embodies these words.

A native of Trumbull, Connecticut, Russell Thurlow Vought is the youngest of seven children and a die-hard Yankees fan. The son of an electrician and a schoolteacher, he graduated from Wheaton College in Illinois in 1998 with a bachelor's degree in history and political science. He came to Capitol Hill soon thereafter.

Mr. Vought began his career in public policy in the United States Senate. He first worked under retiring Senator Dan Coats of Indiana and soon moved to the staff of Senator Phil Gramm of Texas. During that time, he completed a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree at George Washington University Law School.

Mr. Vought later joined the staff of Representative JEB HENSARLING of Texas, where he was instrumental in helping craft the Family Budget Protection Act, a comprehensive piece of legislation to reform the federal budget process and limit government spending.

I became acquainted with Mr. Vought when I was privileged to serve as the chairman of the Republican Study Committee during the 109th Congress. He was the policy director and later served as the executive director of that conservative caucus.

After being elected Republican Conference Chairman last year, I asked Mr. Vought to join the Conference staff at the start of the 111th Congress. As Policy Director, he has superbly led the Conference policy team, which serves as the main hub of legislative information for Republican Members and their staff. His expertise in areas such as the federal budget, appropriations, entitlements and legislative procedure have been invaluable in promoting conservative solutions to the issues that face our nation.

As Members of Congress, we are constantly reminded of the important role played by reliable, like-minded staff members like Russell Vought. While we are sorry to lose one of the strongest advocates for the principles that guide us, Mr. Vought's infectious passion for the principles of life, liberty and limited government will long outlive his tenure here on Capitol Hill. On behalf of the House Republican

Conference, I wish him continued success as he begins a new chapter in his professional life.

TRIBUTE TO AMYRA FAISAL

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Amyra Faisal of Ames, Iowa on the occasion of being named the 2010 Iowa Shrine Bowl Queen.

Amyra enjoys makeup, animals, hula-hooping and figure skating. Despite being an active eight year old, Amyra has a degenerative bone condition called osteogenesis imperfecta, which results in brittle bones. She has been treated by the Shriners Hospital in Montreal, Canada since she was born. Amyra is able live an active life due to the donations of the Za-Ga-Zig Shrine in Altoona, Iowa. The Za-Ga-Zig Shrine pays for around 80 percent of the costs related to travelling and staying near the Montreal hospital. Since Amyra is a longtime Shriner patient, she was chosen to be the 2010 Iowa Shrine Bowl Queen. By being the Shrine Bowl queen, she will be participating in the parade and will be recognized at the football game. I have been informed that Amyra has already been practicing her parade wave and has picked out a white dress to wear.

I congratulate Amyra on being named the 2010 Iowa Shrine Bowl queen. I am honored to represent Amyra and her family in Congress and wish her the best in the future.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 28, 2010

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5822) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes:

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Chair, we have a moral obligation to fully fund our veteran programs. The liberties we enjoy today were earned through the bravery and sacrifice of patriotic Americans. Congress must ensure that these honorable men and women have access to benefits and top-notch healthcare. We can never turn our back on our veterans.

As such, I am pleased to support H.R. 5822, the Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 Military Construction/Department of Veterans Affairs Ap-

propriations bill. This legislation continues the goal set by the Republican majority to prioritize veteran programs. H.R. 5822 provides \$56.8 billion in discretionary funding for the VA and \$64.0 billion for mandatory VA programs. The legislation also makes available \$37.1 billion to improve access to medical services for all veterans, \$2.4 billion above last year's level.

Among some of its most significant provisions, H.R. 5822 provides \$50.6 billion in advance appropriations for VA medical accounts to ensure stable and uninterrupted services. It also provides new family caregiver benefits for disabled veterans as well as additional VA workers to address the continuing claims backlogs and to process new educational benefits. To address the needs of rural veterans, the legislation provides \$250 million for innovative practices to improve access to care for veterans in rural areas. This is particularly important to many Kansas veterans.

In addition to supporting this legislation, I applaud the work of all the Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs) who contributed to the bill. From the Veterans of Foreign Wars to the American Legion, VSOs provide the appropriations committee invaluable information on the needs of the veteran community. They are tremendous advocates for all veterans.

H.R. 5822 is a good bill worthy of strong bipartisan support. I encourage my colleagues to join with me in voting for this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO GERALD WILLIAM BEARD

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Gerald William Beard, a small business pioneer who helped shape the history and economy of San Bernardino County, California.

In 1973, San Bernardino County wasn't much more than tumbleweeds, sleepy farm towns and seemingly endless, desolate highways that connected Los Angeles to the rest of the country. To the casual observer at the time, much of this vast track of arid land could be considered inhospitable and worthless.

But Mr. Beard saw something different when he arrived. He understood the economic potential San Bernardino County had to offer as the gateway to Southern California and the Pacific Ocean. He knew this inexpensive land—nestled along the snow covered caps of the San Bernardino Mountains—was a great opportunity for countless families to realize the American dream of homeownership.

So in 1973, Mr. Beard founded Gerald W. Beard Realty, Incorporated and with it pinned his own hopes and dreams on changing this forgotten, barren land into the economic powerhouse and success it is today.

Because of Mr. Beard's hard work and true American entrepreneurial spirit, thousands of

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