

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING BUILDING SAFETY MONTH

HON. SHARICE DAVIDS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 24, 2019

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Madam Speaker, today, during Building Safety Month, I am pleased to recognize the importance of safety in the built environment and the dedication of the members of the International Code Council (ICC) for their roles in protecting our communities.

With natural disasters only expected to increase in frequency and severity, building codes include important safeguards to protect the public from tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, snowstorms, wildland fires, and earthquakes. In January 2019, the congressionally-established National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) released a study finding that adopting modern model building codes save \$11 for every \$1 invested through earthquake, flood, and wind mitigation benefits, with a \$4 to \$1 wildfire mitigation benefit. These benefits represent avoided casualties, property damage, business interruptions, and insurance costs, and are enjoyed by all building stakeholders—from developers, titleholders, and lenders, to tenants and communities.

Vulnerable and underserved populations are most effected by increases in utility costs. And they often have the most to lose in the event of a disaster or health emergency. Building codes establish minimum requirements that ensure safe, resilient, and energy efficient schools, childcare and healthcare facilities, housing, and places of employment, regardless of the income or background of the facility's ownership and occupants. These protections are required by law for public safety, and enforced by code officials to ensure everyone enjoys the same protections and plays by the same rules.

Year round, building safety and fire prevention officials, architects, engineers, builders, tradespeople, laborers, and others in the construction industry work to ensure the safe construction of buildings through the use of model building codes. The dedicated members of the International Code Council, a national standards developing organization, come together with local, state and federal officials to develop voluntary consensus codes that protect Americans in the buildings where we worship, live, work, learn, and play. The International Codes, the most widely adopted building safety and fire prevention codes in the nation, are used by most U.S. cities and counties and in all 50 states, including the State of Kansas. I commend the city of Lenexa in my district for adopting the 2018 International Codes and the other cities in my district that are undertaking efforts to update their building codes.

Building Safety Month is sponsored by the International Code Council to remind the public about the critical role of our communities' code officials in assuring us safe, efficient, and

livable buildings. "No Code. No Confidence," the theme for Building Safety Month 2019, encourages all Americans to raise awareness of the importance of safe and resilient construction, fire prevention, disaster mitigation, and new technologies in the construction industry.

I am honored to recognize International Code Council Board President William R. Bryant, ICC's Chief Executive Officer Dominic Sims, the International Code Council leadership, and ICC's Members and staff as they celebrate Building Safety Month.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF JAMES ERVIN

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 24, 2019

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. James Ervin, a Foot Soldier in the American Voting Rights Movement, Vietnam Veteran, and Son of Selma, Alabama.

An advocate for social justice in every sense of the word, Mr. Ervin was only sixteen years old when he dared to participate in Selma's voting rights movement. He marched in many demonstrations and was arrested with schoolmates in the name of equality and justice. Mr. Ervin also participated in the infamous march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma on Bloody Sunday, coverage of which helped contribute to the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Upon graduation from high school, Mr. Ervin continued his record of public service and sacrifice by enlisting in the United States Army and serving our country honorably in the Vietnam War.

Mr. James "Ebo" Ervin was born in Selma, Alabama, on October 27, 1948, and he departed this life on Monday, May 13, 2019, in Mobile, Alabama. He was preceded in death by his father Willie Ervin; his mother, Willie Lee Ervin (née: Goodwin); and his brother Albert "Joe" Ervin.

Mr. Ervin was in high school during the civil rights movement in the Selma-Montgomery area. He actively participated in the events of the time with the hopes of changing the area and the nation. He has been recognized as an original Foot Soldier of the movement. Mr. Ervin went on to graduate from R.B. Hudson High School in May 1967. He faithfully attended class reunions and maintained lifelong friendships with his classmates. Shortly after graduation, Mr. Ervin joined the U.S. Army and served our nation during the Vietnam War.

After returning home to Selma, he attended and graduated from Wallace Community College where he received an Associate Degree in Industrial Electricity in October 1974. After graduation, he relocated to Mobile, Alabama, where he began working in various shipyards around the Gulf Coast area. He was employed with Bender Shipbuilding for 10 years then

went on to work for Ingalls Shipbuilding, where he worked for 27 years until his retirement.

Mr. Ervin accepted Christ as his Savior at an early age. His personal relationship with the Lord was very important to him and he was always encouraging others to work on their own personal relationship with God. He joined Mt. Zion Primitive Baptist Church in Selma and considered it to be his home church, but he was also an active member of New Faith Baptist Church in Mobile, Alabama, where he was in regular attendance and served the church as needed.

Mr. Ervin was the youngest of Willie and Willie Lee's seven children. He is survived by his siblings: Willie (Gloria) Ervin, Jr., Maggie Harris, Charles Ervin, Mary Lee, and Solomon (Joan) Ervin.

After the passing of his mother Willie Lee Ervin, James was blessed to be welcomed into the family of Lula Marie Edwards. She embraced him as her son and he loved her as his mother.

Along with Lula, Mr. Ervin is mourned by his siblings: Brenda (Steven) Brazzelle, Anthony Edwards, Amy (Roosevelt) Marzette, Stephanie (Ricky) Menifee, Lewis (Lisa) Edwards, Bonita (Calvin) Andrews, and Derrick Edwards, and half siblings, Solomon "TC" Ervin, Gloria Walker, and Raymond Walker.

Mr. Ervin shared unique and special relationships with each of his 16 siblings and his relationships with his children and grandchildren were no different. He leaves seven children to cherish his memories: Grace (Tommy) Johnson, Glenda Reaves, Barry Lowe, Elecia Scott, Ericka Priestner, James Levan (La'Shell) Peasant, and Christopher Charles Peasant; twelve grandchildren: Tomequa (Norris, Jr.) Lewis, Tierra Robinson, Christopher Reaves, Brandon Bennett, Jailynn Peasant, Zyla Peasant, Janeá Scott, Tobiasz Johnson, Tommasz Johnson, Jaichelle Peasant, Elisha Brayden Scott, and Jaceyon Alexander Long; two great grandchildren, Madisyn Lewis and Tamari Jacob Smith; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends, including one devoted sister Maggie Harris, a devoted niece, Franchy Harris Coleman; and special friends, Joseph Smitherman, Calvin Thomas, and Robert Hatcher.

On behalf of Alabama's 7th Congressional District and a grateful nation, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Mr. Ervin's contributions to bettering the Selma and Mobile communities and our nation.

RECOGNIZING CU BOULDER'S GREEN SPORTS INITIATIVE

HON. JOE NEGUSE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 24, 2019

Mr. NEGUSE. Madam Speaker, today I want to recognize my alma mater, the University of Colorado-Boulder. Last week CU became the first university in the nation to sign

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