

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
(USAID)

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, we now know what a \$280 million investment in the presidential campaign will give you—the opportunity to totally destroy one of America's most important soft power institutions, that is the United States Agency for International Development.

What has happened over the last 17 days is an extraordinary display of contempt for the American government. If you think about this in totality, right off the start, all federal funding stopped. What does that mean to the programs that Americans depend upon? Programs that gave people access to health care, education, programs that funded valuable medical research and infrastructure programs. For what purpose was that done? Perhaps to set up the next step, which is the dismantling of extraordinarily important programs.

For me and for my wife, more than almost 58 years ago, we participated in a USAID program which at that time was just four years old. Set up by then-President Kennedy. We volunteered for a vaccination program. An effort created by the United Nations funded by the American government, through USAID, to eradicate smallpox. We spent a month in rural Ethiopia doing vaccinations. Then as our life moved on, we continued working to provide the necessary services so that people could survive.

The Food for Peace program, my wife Patti actually ran that when she was at USDA as an assistant administrator. The famine camps, we were there. We saw the children that were dying of starvation, and we saw when the American grain finally arrived. I remember clearly one evening at the famine camp in Ethiopia in the mid 1980's, a woman literally in rags picking up individual grains of wheat that had spilled from the bags. She was trying to fill a cup so that there would be enough food that she could take back to her children. They died that night of starvation.

The richest man in the world invested over \$250 million in a presidential campaign, and he was given the keys to the American government and the opportunity to destroy things that he didn't like. USAID is not only providing the necessary food to allow people to continue to live, but also to thrive. Programs, agricultural programs, economic development programs around the world. People that didn't have the opportunity were given it and they were given this opportunity by the generosity of the American people.

So, Mr. Speaker, what we have is here is a billionaire Elon Musk, who has the greatest wealth of any individual in the world, who seems to think he has the right to destroy people's lives. Before Musk does this, Mr.

Speaker, before our president gives him the power to do that, I would ask Musk and President Trump to get on their private jets or get on Air Force One. I urge them to go to one of the famine camps in southern Sudan and hold a starving child in their arms. I urge Musk and Trump to look at the extended belly, the vacant stare, look at this child who cannot even to hold up their own head up and know that the American people have developed an emergency supplemental food program that can revive that child. And then and only then can they both come back and decide whether to put USAID into the wood chopper.

If Musk or President Trump have just a modicum of humanity or any sense of compassion, they would never ever have taken USAID and destroyed it. Mr. Speaker if President Trump and Musk had any sense that both of their actions are doing to the thousands, indeed, millions of people around the world they both would decide to reverse what they are both are doing to USAID.

There are other programs that are out there, and we will be talking about those programs. The Department of Education, labor department, giving the richest man in the world the keys to the U.S. Treasury? What is going on here? What information has been gathered? Where did that information go? What will it be used for? Who owns that information now, the U.S. Government or Elon Musk? These are serious questions that my colleagues and I will continue to raise.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN
HERO THOMAS PASKVAN

HON. BETH VAN DUYN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2025

Ms. VAN DUYN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, 17-year-old Thomas Paskvan from Southlake. Thomas achieved remarkable success in the world of fiddling, securing another first-place victory at the 2025 Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo Fiddle Showdown. He began his musical journey at the age of three with the violin, switching to the fiddle 10 years ago and immersing himself in the vibrant world of country tunes. His dedication paid off when he took home a \$2,500 scholarship, a coveted belt buckle, and an invitation to a one-day master class at the Texas Fiddle Clinic.

The competition offers a platform for young fiddlers to showcase their talents while keeping the tradition of Texas fiddling alive. Contestants are required to prepare a mix of fast-paced breakdowns, waltzes, and a tune of their choosing, demonstrating their versatility and musical prowess.

Beyond his accolades, Thomas finds value in the camaraderie and relaxed atmosphere of the competition that allows contestants to connect and enjoy the experience together. This sense of community, alongside his musical

achievements, highlights his talent and appreciation for the people and traditions that shaped his journey in the world of music.

I congratulate Thomas on his victory. I thank him for inspiring young musicians not only across our community, but the entire Lone Star State.

HONORING CORPORAL STEVEN
CROWLEY'S SERVICE AND SAC-
RIFICE

HON. THOMAS R. SUOZZI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2025

Mr. SUOZZI. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the extraordinary sacrifice of Corporal Steven Crowley, a United States Marine who, at the cost of his own life, valiantly safeguarded nearly 100 employees of the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan, on November 21, 1979. His legacy stands as a testament to the highest ideals of duty, courage, and selfless devotion to our Nation.

Born on March 27, 1959, Corporal Crowley was raised in Port Jefferson Station, New York, alongside his four brothers and three sisters. From an early age, his character and integrity were evident to all who knew him. Those in his community recognized in him a rare and noble spirit—one defined by kindness, strength, and an unwavering commitment to others. Eileen Carlson, the mother of his best friend, recalled him as the "neighborhood son," and his older brother Richard described him simply as "an excellent person." A gifted athlete, he excelled in cross-country running at Comsewogue High School, demonstrating the same perseverance that would later define his service in uniform.

In 1977, Corporal Crowley answered the call to serve, enlisting in the United States Marine Corps. He completed Marine Corps Recruit Training, earning the coveted title of Marine, and after two years stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, he was selected for the prestigious Marine Security Guard program, ultimately being assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad.

On November 21, 1979, disinformation regarding U.S. involvement in the siege of the Grand Mosque of Mecca sparked a violent uprising outside the embassy. As the situation escalated into an uncontrollable mob, Corporal Crowley remained at his post, steadfast in his duty. As waves of rioters arrived—hurling stones, scaling walls, and ultimately breaching the compound—he did not waver. The mob, armed and growing in number, launched direct assaults, set fire to embassy buildings, and pressed forward with deadly intent. Yet, in the face of overwhelming chaos, Corporal Crowley stood resolute, holding his post until he was tragically struck by sniper fire.

Because of his unwavering bravery, the embassy employees were able to reach safety. For his valor, Corporal Crowley was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal and

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Purple Heart. He now rests among America's heroes at Arlington National Cemetery.

Though 45 years have passed since that fateful day, his memory endures. His name and sacrifice have been immortalized: in 2006, the Marine Corps Embassy Security Group dedicated a classroom in his honor; in 2009, Steven J. Crowley Memorial Park was unveiled in the Town of Brookhaven, New York; and in 2023, the Marine Corps Embassy Security Group renamed its student barracks in tribute to his legacy.

Today, I urge my colleagues to reflect on the magnitude of his sacrifice. On behalf of a grateful community and a grateful Nation, we offer our deepest respect and gratitude to Corporal Steven Crowley. May his courage and dedication never be forgotten.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN
HERO JOE DEPINTO

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2025

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Joe DePinto. Joe has made a profound impact on North Texas through his leadership in business and community service. A graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, his career has been guided by his early lessons of discipline, strategy, and teamwork.

After serving as an officer in the U.S. Army's Field Artillery branch, Joe transitioned to the corporate world. As the CEO of Irving-based 7-Eleven, he led the company to achieve unprecedented growth and modernization, driving job creation and economic development in North Texas.

Beyond his corporate success, Joe has been a strong and consistent advocate for America's military families, veterans, and education. His leadership talents aren't limited to corporate boardrooms—Joe has held key roles with organizations like the Johnny Mac Soldiers Fund and the Global War on Terrorism Memorial Foundation, working to improve the lives of many. In recognition of his selfless personal sacrifices and unwavering commitment to supporting our military and veterans, Joe recently received the Sam Johnson Defender of Freedom Award.

Joe's contributions reflect the values of service and leadership that make our North Texas community so special. Whether through corporate initiatives or personal advocacy, Joe continues to set an example of how business leaders can drive positive change.

HONORING PHILLIP AUSTIN

HON. GREG STANTON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2025

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life and legacy of Phillip Austin, who passed away on December 20, 2024, at the age of 73 years old. An Arizona trailblazer and a champion for the Latino community, Phil will continue to live on through the countless lives he positively impacted.

A fourth-generation Arizonan, Phil was born in Mesa, Arizona, on February 17, 1951, to Albert "Beto" & Margaret "Maggie" Austin, who devoted their lives to operating Albert's Market. From a young age, Beto and Maggie instilled in him and his six siblings the value of service and hard work.

After graduating from Brophy College Preparatory in 1969, Phil continued his studies at Santa Clara University and the University of California, Berkeley School of Law, where his passion for civil rights was ignited. Phil often reminisced about his days as a student activist, specifically recalling his arrest for joining a "sit-in" protest over the firing of Latino faculty.

His lifelong pursuit of justice continued back in Arizona where Phil served as Assistant Attorney General and Chief Counsel for the Arizona Attorney General Civil Rights Division for sixteen years. His service at the Attorney General's office was instrumental in the passage of Arizona's first fair housing legislation, anti-discrimination laws for the elderly and disabled, and initiatives fostering the development of dispute resolution and mediation programs throughout the state of Arizona.

Known by then as "Mr. Mesa," his passionate advocacy for the Latino community prompted him to establish the East Valley Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, equipping innovative Hispanic entrepreneurs with the confidence and resources to achieve their highest aspirations.

In 1994, he opened his own legal practice in downtown Mesa, where he practiced transactional, employment, civil rights, and fair housing law. Phil was a dedicated public servant and a beacon of hope for immigrants. He would donate space in his law firm to strategize and combat harsh and damaging anti-immigrant policies like SB1070—a law that devastated many Latino families in Arizona. Phil also played a key role in establishing the Alston House Center for Peace and Justice, a community hub for services and social justice initiatives. These efforts led him to also establish the Latino PAC del Rio Salado, giving a platform to bright and aspiring Latino elected officials.

Phil devoted his life to forging a stronger path forward for our state, earning him countless awards and recognitions, including the Phoenix Jaycee's Three Outstanding Young Men Award, Valle de Sol's Exemplary Leadership Award, and the NAACP's Roy Wilkins Award. Phil donated his time often, sitting on several state and local advisory boards. He founded the Mesa Association of Hispanic Citizens, the Albert D. Austin, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund, the Albert D. Austin Mariachi Academy to empower young people through music education and cultural enrichment, and the EVHCC's STEAM Scholars program. Arizona owes a debt of gratitude to Phil.

Phil will be remembered for his tender-hearted nature and being a loving friend, brother, father, husband, and Tata. He is survived by his beloved wife, Christy, and his beloved children Lela, Lt. Colonel Phillip A. Austin, Angelo Austin, State Representative Lorena Austin, and his beautiful grandchildren. I thank him. Godspeed.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN
HERO ANIRUDH MAZUMDER

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2025

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Texas Academy of Mathematics and Science senior, Anirudh Mazumder. Anirudh's desire to serve others began in childhood, inspired by summers spent with his grandparents, where he learned the power of community involvement. This early influence motivated him to work toward unlocking the potential of our North Texas community, including through participating in our Congressional Youth Advisory Council.

After witnessing a family member's struggle to find a kidney donor, Anirudh co-founded KidneyChain LLC to address the inefficiencies in organ matching, aiming to save lives by preventing organ waste, and he currently serves on the National Kidney Association's Advisory Committee. Anirudh later participated in the Colleyville Chamber of Commerce's Youth Leadership Program, where he noticed a decline in youth volunteerism, prompting him to launch his "Rise and Serve" initiative that has engaged nearly 100 young North Texans. To help build excitement and interest in public service, Anirudh created a website and podcast series featuring local leaders to showcase service opportunities and highlight success stories.

I thank Anirudh for his dedication to engaging North Texans in public service. Our community's future looks brighter than ever thanks to young leaders like him.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL
EDUCATION

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, the Hernando County School District has long been committed to providing high-quality education that prepares students for success in both academic and career pursuits. The district believes in the power of Career and Technical Education (CTE) to support students in achieving economic independence and contribute meaningfully to the community.

For its more than 23,000 students, the Hernando County School District offers a wide variety of CTE programs across 14 of the 16 career clusters identified by the Florida Department of Education. These programs provide students with a comprehensive education focused on technical, "soft" and industry specific skills in fields ranging from Healthcare, Information Technology, and Agriculture to Skilled Trades and Entrepreneurship. More than 86 percent of Hernando School's graduating seniors have participated in CTE programs, underscoring the district's commitment to introducing and expanding access to these rich and experiential courses that will inform students long after graduation.

A fundamental component of the growth and popularity of CTE in the school district is the

collaboration between the school district, local industries, governing agencies and workforce leaders. This partnership ensures there is alignment between the needs of employers and industry leaders to the school districts CTE program, strengthening the talent pipeline and highlighting employment opportunities within the community. As an example, Hernando Schools was an early adopter of the Space Academy initiative led by Space Florida. As an advocate for this exciting and novel initiative, in 2024, HCSD was one of 22 school districts named a Space Academy District to grow Space Industry momentum in Hernando County.

A significant milestone for the expansion of Career and Technical Education was the opening of the Wilton Simpson Technical College, the first postsecondary site in the county. Wilton Simpson Technical College or "STC" will provide the community with access to advanced technical training and certification programs, expanding postsecondary educational opportunities in needed workforce industries. Through the use of voter approved millage funds, Hernando Schools demonstrates a commitment to ensuring this new facility is outfitted with cutting-edge resources to enhance a variety of programs.

The vision of the Hernando School District is to "grow our own" by providing educational pathways that lead to stable, rewarding, and local careers. We embrace our role and are honored to serve as a driving force for creating a healthy community through quality workforce education, strong partnerships with local leaders and as a proponent of forward-thinking industry initiatives that will position Hernando County as a lifelong home for residents. Hernando County is well positioned to be a place where education, industry, and community work hand-in-hand to create lasting success.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN
HERO DR. RAMESH SHARMA

HON. BETH VAN DUYN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2025

Ms. VAN DUYN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Dr. Ramesh Sharma of Fort Worth. At 85 years old, Dr. Sharma is a shining example that age is merely a number. Raised in India, he earned his degree in mechanical engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology before joining the civilian Indian naval forces. He completed several years of service before immigrating to the U.S. and settling in Fort Worth in 1986. Working as a stress engineer at various nuclear power plants, Dr. Sharma was driven by a desire to provide his children with the best educational opportunities.

Upon retirement, he set his sights on his next goal: continuing his education. In 2014, he completed his master's degree in mechanical engineering at the University of Texas at Arlington. Taking classes one by one over the next decade, he earned his Ph.D. in Mathematics, an incredible feat he attributes to the unwavering support of his family and professors. At his graduation, a touching moment unfolded as his son, who also earned his doctorate, assisted him in donning his graduation

robes. Dr. Sharma aims to mentor students and give back to our community.

Dr. Sharma's determination in the pursuit of knowledge is an inspiration to North Texans and I congratulate him on his incredible achievement.

TRIBUTE TO A BALTIMORE TV
ICON: THE LATE REVEREND DR.
TIMOTHY LAMAR TOOTEN, SR.

HON. KWEISI MFUME

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2025

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a dear friend, a loving family man, an inspiring educator, a devout pastor, an accomplished writer, an award-winning journalist, and a person of the highest caliber—the late Reverend Dr. Timothy Lamar Tooten, Sr.

Dr. Tim Tooten was not a native son of Baltimore, but we embraced him as one of our own. He gravitated towards journalism as a child, interviewing his middle school classmates using a pencil as a microphone. Tim's course in life was set in high school, when a teacher asked him to record a Public Service Announcement for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), urging voter registration—and he fell in love with the sound of his voice on the air.

He continued broadcasting as a student at Florida State University. His career began in earnest when he was chosen for a competitive internship with the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, spending a year in Washington, D.C. learning his trade.

His next stop was Huntington, West Virginia, where he spent five years working for WSAZ-TV. In Huntington, he met the love of his life, Charleen Dawson Tooten, and they would spend the next 40 years together in blissful matrimony.

After his time in Huntington was done, Tim moved his family to Baltimore, working as a reporter at WMAR-2 for just over a year. Following this chapter at WMAR-2, he began selling insurance to support his family while continuing to do freelance journalism. This freelance work led to his hiring at WBAL-TV, the station that he called home for 35 years.

At WBAL-TV, Dr. Tooten was the station's only education reporter, and he gradually became one of Baltimore's most recognized faces and most trusted voices. He was especially beloved by the children of the Baltimore area, who knew that the snow day wasn't official until they heard it from Tim.

Dr. Tooten's voice was respected not only by the people of Baltimore, but also by his journalistic colleagues. He was immensely proud of his work on the documentary *Africa's Maryland*, wherein he traveled to Liberia to explore that country's historical connections to our state. This documentary was lauded by the press, earning a regional Emmy as well as the National Headliner Award Best of Show and the National Edward R. Murrow Award. His documentary *East is East*, chronicling life growing up as a Black man on Maryland's Eastern Shore, earned him another National Headliner Award, and in 2024, Dr. Tooten was inducted into the Emmy Silver Circle Hall of Fame, recognizing his 25 years of significant contributions to the broadcasting industry.

Dr. Tim Tooten was a man who wore many hats. He was passionate about education, providing mentorship to young Black men at Perry Hall High School and dispensing wisdom in his broadcasting classes at Loyola University Maryland. He furthered his own education, earning degrees in theology and ministry while working full time and raising a family.

Rev. Dr. Tooten organized his own church, Harvest Christian Ministries, and devoted himself to spreading the good word in his retirement. He served on the board of the Maryland Bible Society, and in 2017, he penned a book, *Leading by Example: A Parental Guide to Teaching and Modeling Christian Faith at Home*, which married his twin joys of teaching and preaching.

Though Tim was taken from us far too soon, I find comfort in knowing that the Lord has called him home for a purpose greater than we can understand. I take heart in the knowledge that he awaits his loved ones in the Kingdom of Heaven, basking in the glory of the Almighty.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN
HERO ST. ANN MAGI MINISTRY

HON. BETH VAN DUYN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2025

Ms. VAN DUYN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, St. Ann Magi Ministry in Coppell. More than 30 years ago, St. Ann Catholic Parish began its Magi Ministry, giving 100 gifts to those who would have otherwise gone without. Over the years, the ministry has grown to be one of the most important parts of the parish's Christmas season. More than 3,400 children, seniors, seminarians, and families received Christmas gifts this year thanks to the generosity of parishioners.

Beginning the weekend before Thanksgiving, parish members can choose an ornament from a tree around the church. Each ornament contains a gift request from a child in the St. Ann community, residents of Hillcrest and Ewing Houses, as well as children from Blessed Sacrament. The volunteers at Magi Ministry collect, sort, and wrap the gifts before individually delivering them to their recipients.

My heartfelt thanks go out to St. Ann volunteers for spreading Christmas love and cheer throughout our community. They are a shining example of what makes North Texas great.

HONORING AFRICAN AMERICANS
IN LABOR DURING BLACK HIS-
TORY MONTH

HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2025

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and sincere admiration that I rise to celebrate Black History Month and its 2025 theme—African Americans and Labor. This year's theme reflects on the struggles and triumphs of the African American community in the workforce who have fought and continue

to fight for equal and fair labor opportunities, practices, and legislation.

Throughout the history of the United States, African Americans have endured extremely disparaging and harsh labor conditions including slavery, economic inequality, and discrimination. In the fight to create change in the labor system, many courageous people have worked tirelessly to protect, advance, and empower the African American workforce through activism, community building, and labor unions. Due to these efforts, America has seen significant positive change to its values and belief systems, and the effort continues today. The foundation of our great nation is reliant upon the advancement of a strong workforce, one that provides opportunities and economic stability for all people.

I would like to take this time to honor a couple of the many dedicated leaders in Northwest Indiana who work diligently to support economic equality and labor opportunity for the African American community and for all people throughout the region and beyond. Arvella Greenlaw is a member of the United Steelworkers Local Union 6787 and the Women of Steel District 7 Coordinator. Throughout her career, Arvella has organized and developed community service projects and led volunteer efforts with the Women of Steel and numerous other organizations. For her dedication to union members in the fight for employment opportunity and equality, Arvella Greenlaw is to be highly commended. Joree Richards is an IBEW International Representative for the Sixth District. Throughout his career, Joree has held many noteworthy positions and leadership roles. Through his work with the Indiana Plan, a pre-apprenticeship program endorsed by the Indiana State Building Trades, he leads efforts to support workers by providing them the skills and knowledge needed to prosper in the construction and building trades. Among the many great initiatives of the Indiana Plan, the organization works to promote the recruitment of women and minorities to the trades and to place candidates in construction jobs at a training rate. For his outstanding leadership and unwavering commitment to providing workers with pathways to stable and rewarding careers, he is worthy of the highest praise.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in celebrating Black History Month and recognizing the dedication and contributions of Arvella Greenlaw, Joree Richards, and so many other extraordinary members of the African American community who continue to fight for safe working conditions, living wages, and growth opportunities in the workforce.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN
HERO COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS
DALLAS REGION

HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2025

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Communities in Schools Dallas Region. A local nonprofit founded in 1985, Communities in Schools supports North Texas children on the Texas Education Agency's "at-risk" list

through academic and mental health intervention as well as social services. The organization is working to improve outcomes for K-12 children in school and at home by removing barriers to success.

As the winter weather moved into North Texas, CIS Dallas began their annual Holiday Drive to keep students warm, healthy, and ready to learn. With the help of community members, the organization collected coats, gloves, blankets, hygiene products, and other essentials to deliver directly to students in need. In 2024, the nonprofit was able to assist 10,000 North Texas students.

I thank Communities in Schools of the Dallas Region for going above and beyond to support at-risk students in our community.

RECOGNIZING DAVID GUINDON'S 27
YEARS OF SERVICE TO SANDY'S
BEEF & ALE

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2025

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding constituent from my district, David Guindon of Levittown, who is retiring after 27 years of quality customer service to our community at Sandy's Beef & Ale in Langhorne, PA.

Before becoming a co-owner, David was a regular patron at Sandy's Beef & Ale. It came as no surprise when in 1997, Dave Guindon and his former business partner, Bill Clark, purchased the establishment. In 2002, just five years later, David's wife Jane bought Bill's shares and together they worked tirelessly to maintain the legacy of Sandy's Beef & Ale while continuing to build on its reputation as a beloved community establishment. Under their leadership, Sandy's Beef & Ale quickly became a cornerstone of the Langhorne community.

David's dedication to our community was a driving force of the restaurant. He ensured that Sandy's Beef & Ale was a gathering place to support charitable organizations such as the Lower Bucks Family YMCA, the Middletown Athletics Association, and the American Cancer Society. Sandy's became more than just a place to get food and drinks; it became a place for neighbors to come together and make a difference in our community.

As David enters this new chapter of life, I want to take a moment to thank him for his years of hard work and his unwavering dedication to our community. On behalf of the residents of Pennsylvania's 1st Congressional District, I extend my warmest congratulations to David on his retirement.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN
HERO MEALS ON WHEELS OF
TARRANT COUNTY

HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2025

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Meals on Wheels of Tarrant County. Since 1973, the

organization has been helping some of North Texas' most vulnerable citizens. By providing home-delivered meals, professional case management, and other necessary services or items, the organization helps homebound, elderly, and disabled individuals to remain living independently. In addition to delivering over 1 million meals each year, the organization holds an annual Silver Santa Campaign to help spread holiday cheer.

The holiday initiative involves collecting and distributing gifts to the citizens they serve daily. Committed case managers compile wish lists from Tarrant County's most vulnerable and isolated residents. With the help of community donations and volunteers, they strive to fulfill these wishes, personally delivering gifts to recipients' homes. This year, 800 homebound individuals were "adopted" and received special surprises to brighten their holiday season.

I'm grateful to Wheels on Meals of Tarrant County for their year-round work and going the extra mile during the holiday season to bring cheer and comfort to members of our community.

HONORING MAYOR SCOTT LUND

HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2025

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of Scott Lund, the former Mayor of Fridley. He recently retired after nearly five decades of dedicated service to his community. Throughout his tenure, Mayor Lund has been a devoted leader, guiding the city to become a safe, vibrant, and welcoming place to live. His leadership has been instrumental in advancing numerous projects that have contributed to the city's growth and development.

Mayor Lund moved to Fridley in 1979 and became involved in the community out of a commitment to giving back to others. He married his wife, Cindy, in 1976, and they have three children and four grandchildren. Mayor Lund has owned his own manufactured home sales and service business for 48 years. Elected to office in 2000, and continuously re-elected by the residents of Fridley, he has worked tirelessly as an advocate for residents.

Those who worked closely with Mayor Lund admired his commitment to public service and his unwavering dedication to all of his fellow neighbors in Fridley. He has always been active in the community, engaging with residents, listening to their concerns, and advocating for their needs. Mayor Lund's hands-on approach to leadership has truly set him apart as a public servant.

Under his leadership, Fridley has experienced transformative change. One of Mayor Lund's most significant contributions was his emphasis on environmental stewardship. He championed the redevelopment of the Northern Stacks industrial campus, a project that revitalized a vital city area, cleaned up soil contamination, and reduced pollution. Additionally, Mayor Lund spearheaded a \$30 million initiative to improve the city's park system, ensuring Fridley remains a beautiful and livable community for generations.

Mayor Scott Lund embodies excellence, integrity, and leadership. His long and impactful

career is a testament to the difference that dedicated public service can make. It is an honor to thank him for his remarkable service and to celebrate his well-deserved retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN HERO
BLAKE LINDSAY

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2025

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Blake

Lindsay who worked for Envision Dallas. Blake was an inspiration to all who knew him, embracing his visual impairment and using it to advocate for others. An Envision Employee of the Year, National Industries for the Blind Public Policy Ambassador, and friend to everyone, Blake impacted thousands of people with his incredible energy, passion, and positivity. His zest for life was unmatched.

For 15 years, he served North Texans in managerial roles at Envision Dallas, an organization providing opportunities and assistance to visually impaired individuals. His colleagues appreciated his love for people, ability to light up any room, and deep commitment to helping others. Among Blake's remarkable achieve-

ments, he has DJed at top 40 stations for 22 years, known as Blazin' Blake Lindsay, and authored three books to promote awareness and education about the visually impaired community.

Blake led a life of integrity, inspiring others to achieve their dreams. His passion and joy leave a lasting legacy in every life he touched.