

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE OF EDNA VERNETTE O. CARRANZA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2025

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Edna Vernetta Odell Carranza, a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, educator, and health care leader whose steadfast service strengthened the Laredo community for more than half a century.

Born on October 17, 1944, in Austin, Texas, Vernetta dedicated her life to caring for others. She served as a school nurse at Nye Elementary, later becoming the Director of Nursing at Laredo Community College, where she helped guide and mentor a generation of future medical professionals.

She went on to serve as President of Texas Health Staffing, providing compassionate home-health care to families across South Texas.

Vernetta's greatest joy was her family. She was a devoted wife to Dr. Henry Santos Carranza, and together they built a life of faith, service, and commitment to their community.

She was a loving mother, grandmother, and matriarch whose kindness, patience, and steady presence left an enduring imprint on all who knew her.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Vernetta was known for her humility, warmth, and willingness to help anyone in need.

She lived her life guided by compassion and integrity, touching countless lives through both her vocation and her example.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Vernetta O. Carranza, a woman whose legacy of service, love, and leadership will continue to inspire the Laredo community for generations to come.

CONGRATULATING MIKE OLTMAN ON HIS RETIREMENT WITH THE WOODFORD COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2025

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Mike Oltman for more than 40 years of public service with the Woodford County Emergency Management Agency. Throughout his career, Mike has demonstrated unwavering commitment, technical expertise, and a deep devotion to protecting and serving his community.

Mr. Oltman began his service as a senior at Roanoke Benson High School when the agency was known as the Emergency Services and Disaster Agency. Throughout his career, he has held key roles in emergency preparedness and response, including serving as Dep-

uty Director, chief storm spotter, and a member of the damage assessment team. In these pivotal positions, he worked closely with the IEMA and FEMA to map disaster areas and support response operations that benefited the county, first responders, and residents.

His extensive experience in emergency operations uniquely equipped him to guide the county through major crises, including his leadership during the activation of the Emergency Operations Center in the COVID pandemic. This expertise made him an essential leader at the county and state levels, where he successfully coordinated emergency procedures and supported critical public safety decisions during one of Woodford County's most challenging periods.

Throughout his service, Mr. Oltman has dedicated himself to strengthening emergency response capabilities and supporting those around him. As a driver and Emergency Medical Responder with the Roanoke ambulance service and as a staff member with the Salvation Army, he has extended his commitment far beyond EMA. His dedication and leadership were further recognized in 2017 when he received the Volunteer of the Year Award from the Illinois Emergency Services Management Association, leaving a lasting impact on the agency and the community he has faithfully served.

Woodford County is fortunate to have a volunteer whose service, professionalism, and passion for public safety have spanned more than four decades. Mike's commitment to his community is truly inspiring, and his retirement marks the conclusion of a remarkable career devoted to serving others. I am honored to recognize him for his extraordinary service and congratulate him on his well-earned retirement. I wish Mike and his loved ones the very best in the years ahead.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA SPECIAL ELEC- TIONS HOME RULE ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2025

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Special Elections Home Rule Act. This bill would give the District of Columbia complete authority to set the date of special elections for local offices, like other jurisdictions. This bill would remove a limitation on D.C. that is not only inconsistent with the purpose of the D.C. Home Rule Act, which is to grant D.C. self-government, but is also harmful.

In 2012, I got legislation enacted that gave the D.C. Board of Elections (Board) more flexibility to set the date of special elections for local offices. Although I sought complete authority for D.C. to set the date of special elections, the 2012 law did not include this home-rule principle.

The Home Rule Act originally required the Board to hold special elections on the first Tuesday occurring more than 114 days after a vacancy and allowed the Board to schedule special elections on the same day as the next general election if that election occurred within 60 days from when a special election would otherwise have been held. This inflexibility led to special elections being held on religious holidays and forced D.C. to hold a special election separate from an upcoming general election, costing D.C. hundreds of thousands of dollars. The 2012 law requires the Board to hold a special election on a Tuesday occurring between 70 and 174 days after a vacancy. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING MAYOR GEOFFREY THOMAS FOR NEARLY TWO DEC- ADES OF DEDICATION TO THE CITY OF MONROE

HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2025

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mayor Geoffrey Thomas for the eighteen years he has devoted to the City of Monroe. Mayor Thomas began his public service on the city council in 2004 and has served as mayor since 2014. Over the years, he has guided Monroe with steady leadership and a clear commitment to the community's vision through Imagine Monroe, a plan focused on safety, inclusion, and opportunity for every resident.

Beyond his professional experience in local government and the private sector, Mayor Thomas has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to service. He has contributed as a planning commissioner in Olympia and Monroe, a scout leader, firefighter, lacrosse coach, homeowners' association president, and church director. Mayor Thomas and his wife of 32 years, Laura, have lived in Monroe since 2000 and raised their two sons in the community he has worked tirelessly to strengthen.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing gratitude to Mayor Thomas for his remarkable service. His dedication has strengthened Monroe, and his legacy of leadership and community engagement will continue to inspire for years to come. I wish him the very best as he begins the next chapter of his life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHARICE DAVIDS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2025

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in regret that I was unable to vote on Friday, November 21, 2025. Had I been able

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

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

to vote, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 305, H. Con. Res. 58.

RECOGNIZING JACKSON TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CHAIR-
MAN JONATHAN D. HOLMES

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2025

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Jonathan D. Holmes, Chairman of the Jackson Township Board of Supervisors, for his many years of service to Jackson Township, York County, Pennsylvania.

Jon has dedicated his life to serving the great People of Jackson Township. He began in 1990 after being appointed as an alternate to the Township Zoning Hearing Board, where he served for almost two years. In 1992, he became a full member of the Zoning Hearing Board. In April 2003, he was appointed to the Township Board of Supervisors to fulfill another member's term, and became Chairman of the Board in 2005, where he has served for nearly 21 years.

Jon's career as a Civil Engineer has benefited the Township greatly. As a graduate of Penn State's Engineering program, he always understood the Township's infrastructure needs and made efforts to improve the quality of life for all residents. Under his leadership, he took the Township's Public Works Department to the next level. The Township implemented a roadway improvement program that funded proper paving versus tar and chip, thus improving the safety and durability of town roads. He also improved the equipment in the Department, giving town employees the necessary tools to keep things running.

Jon led the Board during the purchase of land titled for Little Creek Community Park, the Township's first park. Today, the park includes a nine-hole golf course, walking trails, playground equipment, and a pavilion; it's a heavily used community center and loved by residents and non-residents alike, yet another tangible example of how Jon's leadership impacted the communities in and outside of Jackson Township.

Jon's leadership was recognized not only by residents, but by other leaders in Pennsylvania. He was honored by the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors and inducted into its Hall of Fame in 2025, which speaks broadly to his leadership abilities and legacy.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored and privileged to recognize Chairman Jonathan Holmes for his selfless, tireless, and dedicated service to the Citizens of Jackson Township, York County, Pennsylvania. His leadership, professionalism, and fidelity will be greatly missed, and his service sets the standard for all to be judged.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR.
SCHLEY LOUIS "BIG LOUIE"
PERRY, JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2025

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and remarkable service of a lov-

ing husband, dedicated father, doting grandfather, ingenious advocate for agriculture, and my longtime friend and steadfast supporter, Schley Louis "Big Louie" Perry, Jr., who passed away on November 26, 2025, at the age of 86. A memorial service to celebrate his remarkable life will be held on Monday, December 1, 2025, at the Baker Funeral Home in Moultrie, Georgia.

Born on March 10, 1939, on Pineywoods Farms in Colquitt County, to the union of Schley Louis Perry, Jr. and Lois Perry, Big Louie was the fifth generation to steward the family land. Pineywoods Farms, established in 1830, is a Centennial Farm and the oldest continually owned business in the county—a legacy Louie treasured, protected and preserved. Except for his college years, Louie lived and worked on the farm his entire life, and today his children and grandchildren continue that tradition as the sixth and seventh generations.

Louie's devotion to agriculture began early. He joined the Georgia Farm Bureau at 13, was an active FFA member, and earned an associate's degree in agriculture from ABAC in 1959 before studying Agribusiness at the University of Georgia. Returning to Pineywoods Farms in 1962, he modernized operations, expanded production, and partnered with UGA Extension on on-farm research. An early adopter of center-pivot and variable-rate irrigation, Louie transitioned to a nationally recognized Limousin seedstock operation and marketed cattle nationwide. His commitment to innovation and stewardship made him a leader among Georgia producers.

Big Louie believed deeply in service. To him, farming was more than a business—he considered it a duty to the land and the next generation, a sentiment that guided his life. His advocacy advanced producer-driven programs, policy, and markets; he counseled elected officials to include me, Former President Jimmy Carter, Former United States Senator Saxby Chambliss, Former United States Senator Johnny Isakson, and former Governors Roy Barnes and Sonny Perdue, hosted farm tours, and mentored emerging leaders. As I have often observed, "Service is the rent that we pay for the space that we occupy here on this earth" and Louie embodied that truth in every role he held.

His leadership spanned commodity boards and associations—including three decades on the Georgia Cotton Commission (Chair, 2000 to 2012), Cotton, Inc. (Chair, 2006), the National Cotton Council, Georgia and regional Limousin organizations, and more. He served 19 years on the Colquitt County Commission under the slogan "Young, Able and Willing to Serve," and contributed to health care, education, and civic life through the Colquitt Regional Medical Center Foundation, the Pine-land School Board, the Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis Club and his church.

Honors reflecting his lifetime of service include the Georgia Cotton Commission Inaugural Trustees Award (2023), ABAC Family Legacy Award (2022), Centennial Family Farm Award (2020), and the J. Lamar Branch Leadership in Agriculture Award (2020).

Louie created the Pineywoods Farms Scholarship at UGA in 2007 and endowed scholarships at ABAC and UGA to support future agricultural leaders. He leaves a legacy of mentorship, innovation, and civic responsibility.

On a personal note, Big Louie was my friend and one of my biggest supporters. His support and loyalty were unquestioned, and he was always brutally honest in his advice and counsel to me. I will be forever grateful for the fidelity of his friendship. The great agricultural chemist George Washington Carver once said that "How far you go in life depends on your being tender with young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with striving and tolerant of the weak and the strong, because some day in your life you will have been all of these." Big Louie went far in life because he treated all people with dignity and respect, and he followed God's purpose for his life.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Rebecca Clark Perry; children Laura Perry Johnson (Scott), Schley Louis Perry, III (Lisa), and Jonathan Johnson Perry (Jackie); and grandchildren Bill and Libba Johnson, Jack and Alex Perry, and Zach and Alli Perry.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian, and I, along with the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's 2nd Congressional District in honoring the life and legacy of Schley Louis "Big Louie" Perry, Jr. He lived a life defined by duty to family, land, and community. His work fed our tables, his leadership strengthened the agriculture industry, and his service lifted our people. Moreover, we extend our deepest sympathies to his family, friends, loved ones and all those who grieve during this difficult time of bereavement. We pray that they will all be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

HONORING MR. BRUCE HARTMANN

**HON. CHARLES J. "CHUCK"
FLEISCHMANN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2025

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate and recognize Mr. Bruce Hartmann on his retirement.

Mr. Hartmann began his career with the Baltimore Sun in Maryland, where he spent his first six years in the newspaper business. He also held management positions at the Lowell Sun in Massachusetts and the Nashua Telegraph in New Hampshire. Bruce spent 26 years with the E.W. Scripps Company in several roles. He would become the youngest President and Publisher in Scripps history at the age of 36. While in this role, he oversaw the construction of the news headquarters for the Knoxville News Sentinel, founded the KNS Media Group, and launched numerous community-focused initiatives.

For the past eight years, Bruce has served as Senior Vice President and Chief Community Relations Officer for the University of Tennessee Medical Center. He has secured more than \$60 million in various grants to expand the facilities and services that the UT Medical Center offers to our community. Bruce played a key role in establishing the Fentress County Emergency Department in 2023 and the Orthopedic Institute at Cherokee Farm in Jamestown, Tennessee, allowing UT Medical Center to expand into communities with health care needs.

It was in his role with E.W. Scripps that I met and became friends with Bruce. Bruce

has been an outstanding citizen and philanthropist. His infinite kindness and professionalism have been an inspiration to me as a member of Congress.

Bruce has been an active volunteer in our community as well. He has served as the Past Chair of the Tennessee Theatre Foundation and has been part of many great organizations, including the East Tennessee Foundation, the United Way Campaign, In Leadership Knoxville, the Knoxville Chamber Partnership, the Board of South College, and Tenn Path. Additionally, he has also served on the boards of Friends of the Smokies and the Bijou Theatre, and currently serves on the boards for South College, the UT School of Nursing, the East Tennessee Foundation, Cherokee Country Club, and Leadership Tennessee. He has left a legacy throughout East Tennessee, and his service to this community will be greatly missed.

Bruce has been married to his wife, Tami, for 44 years and has three children and eight grandchildren. Another testament to them both, their entire family remains close-knit, and all live within the same community.

I am honored to recognize Bruce for his many years of service and congratulate him on his retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE GARDEN CLUB OF ALEXANDRIA'S CENTENNIAL

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2025

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of The Garden Club of Alexandria, which was founded in 1925 and distinguished by a century of hands-on service, civic leadership, and lasting contributions to our community.

For one hundred years, The Garden Club of Alexandria has been a cornerstone of our community, dedicated to inspiring a love of gardening, advancing civic beautification and championing environmental stewardship.

Its members have transformed public spaces—such as the gardens at the Ramsay House Visitor Center and Gadsby's Tavern in Alexandria—into vibrant, welcoming places for all to enjoy. They have educated generations on the importance of protecting our natural environment and worked diligently to preserve historic gardens across Virginia, including Mount Vernon and Green Spring in my district.

This centennial marks more than longevity; it also celebrates the enduring impact of The Garden Club of Alexandria. Through their tireless efforts and shared love of gardening, members have enriched our community in countless ways. Their legacy of service exemplifies the very best of civic involvement.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all past and present members of The Garden Club of Alexandria and look forward to their continued impact throughout our community.

HONORING MR. JAMES ANDERSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and legacy of Mr. James Anderson of Goodman, Mississippi, a centenarian whose story is a testament to faith, humility, and resilience across generations.

Mr. Anderson was born on September 18, 1923, in rural Sallis, Mississippi, in Attala County, the seventh of eight children in a family of sharecroppers. His early life was rooted in the soil, working the fields with his family and attending school part-time when farming allowed. Like many of his generation, he grew up during a time of deep racial and economic adversity but endured with quiet strength and an abiding belief in community.

He later worked on farms, in factories, and as a bus driver, eventually retiring after decades of service. His career included driving for Dick's Drive-In and the local school system, and he served as a custodian and bus driver at Goodman-Pickens Elementary School, where he left a lasting impact on countless children. He retired from the school in 2005, continuing a life of labor, love, and service.

Mr. Anderson was drafted and completed both basic and combat training in the U.S. military during World War II. Although he was never deployed into combat and was discharged without explanation, he has always maintained a deep respect for those who serve, and he continues to honor veterans with dignity and gratitude.

A pillar in both his family and his faith, Mr. Anderson was ordained a deacon in 1947 and remained steadfast in that calling. He was married to the late Annie Lou Anderson for 73 years, until her passing in 1993. Today, at the remarkable age of 102, he still tends his yard, grows vegetables, and lives beside one of his daughters, Mrs. Dorothy Falls, who lovingly cares for him in Goodman, Mississippi.

Mr. Anderson's philosophy is simple yet profound: "All I know is love one another and be good to each other." In those words, and in the quiet witness of his life, lies the essence of what it means to be a good neighbor, a faithful servant, and a great American.

Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. James Anderson, a living bridge between our Nation's past and future and a reminder that love, work, and faith remain the pillars of a meaningful life.

THE TRIUMPH OF LIFE

HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2025

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD remarks submitted at the request of a Virginia Beach constituent, Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman of Temple Lev Tikvah, and are a reflection of his views:

THE JEWISH HIGH HOLY DAYS 5786

The Jewish High Holy Days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, an ancient people's peak spiritual drama of courageous con-

templation and heartfelt contrition, are captured in the life and work of Rabbi Irving Greenberg, acclaimed modern Orthodox rabbi and author. His latest book, *The Triumph of Life (A Narrative Theology of Judaism)*, is Greenberg's own triumphant accomplishment offering Jews and non-Jews alike an encompassing scholarly yet accessible work of theological art, bound to rank high as a pioneering beacon of light, learning and enlightenment in our postmodern new age with revolutionary promise as well as colossal dark threats to human life, the painstakingly garnered civilization and the very survival of all life on our planet Earth. Greenberg attributes the impetus to writing this inspirational guide—which aims to reassure readers from all persuasions that covenantal life of the spirit is worth laboring and fighting for—to his shaking 1961 experience in Israel while attending Tel Aviv University as a Fulbright scholar and encountering the enormity of the Holocaust for the first time.

Referring to the famous Adolf Eichmann trial of the notorious SS officer in Jerusalem, with profound impact on an entire mesmerized nation. I vividly recall as a teenager living then in Israel and myself son of Polish Holocaust survivors, the shock of the horrific events described by shaken witnesses. The author offers us a touching confessional of a crisis of faith of an Orthodox raised Jew, challenging his basic assumptions about God, covenant and life's meaning. "My loving wife (Blu is a distinguished feminist Orthodox Jew and author) and family saved me from nihilism and despair by showing me the incredible tenacity and unspent power of embracing life. The emergent State of Israel suggested to me that the Divine was still operating in the world, and testified to the human capacity to take power for reestablishing life and reasserting its value."

Referring to his book with its far-reaching conclusions of ushering in the hoped for messianic era which Greenberg testifies is within human reach in our postmodern era with its new opportunity for creative human unity within enriching diversity, upholding universal human dignity and equality via restoring God's violated image, "I hope it will appeal to non-Jewish readers as well, especially to Christians, partners in the struggle to overcome millennia of hostility and delegitimization. People of all religions must work together to repair the world politically, economically, and culturally, and turn the Earth into the paradise all humans deserve." The admirable Orthodox rabbi who found his way back to faith and his own particular belief structure following a most challenging crisis impacted by the shattering Holocaust, was enabled to reach beyond the confines of his own faith's traditions and give credit where it's due.

His own Jewish people historically have not lacked fracturing divisions among opposing ideologies not allowing for urgently required unity at times of grave danger, such as during the Holocaust. The prosecution of the Gaza War following Hamas's barbarism both united and divided Israelis with a backlash of antisemitism in the United States and Europe. It is evident that events in Israel affect the Jewish Diaspora, even as the author emphasizes the debt of the latter to the Israeli partner. It is clear though that influential American Jewry is the glue to the essential relationship between Israel and the United States. Greenberg hails Israel's 1948 creation as reassuring that God's covenant with the Jewish people yet continues in spite of the Holocaust's heavy toll. The world's only Jewish state's robust democracy with multiple accomplishments benefiting humanity has served as a source of pride and unity to world Jewry even though

challenges to Israel's existence and character persist from within and without. May life's universal blessing yet triumph!

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CLIFTON LEWIS

HON. SCOTT FRANKLIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2025

Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Clifton Lewis, a beloved constituent from Bartow, Florida, who passed away on Sunday at the age of 82. Clifton was a veteran, a community leader, a tireless advocate for historic preservation and the driving force behind one of Florida's most important cultural landmarks, the L.B. Brown House.

Clifton devoted more than two decades of his life to preserving and sharing the extraordinary story of Lawrence B. Brown, a man born into slavery who rose to become a respected builder, businessman and community leader in Bartow. When the Victorian home Brown constructed faced demolition in the late 1990's, Clifton stepped forward. He rallied neighbors, secured state support and carefully led the restoration of the structure. Thanks to his conviction and leadership, the L.B. Brown House stands today as one of the only known surviving homes in Florida built by a formerly enslaved person.

But Clifton did far more than save a building, he revived a legacy. He founded and directed the L.B. Brown Heritage Festival, which celebrated its twenty-fourth year in 2025 and now attracts thousands of visitors. Through historical presentations, reenactments, music, food and fellowship, Clifton brought people together to honor the resilience, faith and contributions of African Americans in Polk County and across our Nation.

His work gained national recognition. The Smithsonian displayed artifacts from the site, and the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C., includes an exhibit dedicated to Brown and the Bartow home, a testament to Clifton's perseverance in telling this remarkable American story.

Clifton also served his country honorably in the United States Army and broke barriers as the first Black telephone technician in Washington, D.C. Throughout his life, he remained a man of deep faith, boundless positivity and unwavering commitment to his community. Even as he battled serious health challenges, he continued welcoming visitors to the museum, guiding tours and encouraging others to carry the work forward.

His friends and fellow historians remember him as gracious, diplomatic and always focused on preserving not just facts, but the humanity and soul of a community. His leadership inspired a generation of local preservationists, and his legacy will live on through the museum, the festival and the many lives he touched.

Mr. Speaker, Clifton Lewis was a remarkable Floridian and a guardian of our shared history. On behalf of Florida's 18th District, I extend my deepest condolences to his wife, Vendarae, his family, his friends and all who continue the mission he championed. May his

memory be a blessing and may his life's work continue to educate and inspire for many years to come.

CONGRATULATING CALVIN W. SCHMIDT ON HIS SERVICE TO JOHNSON & JOHNSON

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2025

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Calvin W. Schmidt for his years of service to Johnson & Johnson. Calvin is currently the Sr. Vice President and Worldwide Leader, Government Affairs & Policy, and is retiring after twenty years with the company.

During his tenure, Calvin exemplified the highest standards of advocacy before Congress and engaged the American people on many critical public health and public policy matters. I have had the opportunity to work with Calvin and collaborate with J&J on those pressing issues as well as the work of patient advocates and associations dedicated to the better health of the Nation. Calvin has also been a fierce advocate for Johnson & Johnson's business in Pennsylvania and the thousands of innovators and healthcare professionals that call J&J home.

After earning his bachelor's degree from Vanderbilt University, Calvin spent fifteen years at Mars, Inc. His experience at J&J spans many roles including: U.S. President, Internal Medicine; President, Wellness & Prevention Inc., where he was the founding leader of Johnson & Johnson's health and wellness business; and Worldwide Vice President, Human Resources, where he supported the J&J Consumer Family of Companies, Enterprise Supply Chain, Information Technology, and the Law Department. His commitment to purpose-driven leadership, rooted in his commitment to J&J's Credo, has greatly enriched Johnson & Johnson.

His commitment to improving healthcare goes beyond his day-to-day work. Calvin serves on the Foundation Board of Overseers for the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, represents Johnson & Johnson on the Healthcare Leadership Council as the associations 2024 to 2025 Chairman of the Board and sits on the Foreign Policy Association Board of Directors, and is a member of the Board of Directors for Mars, Inc.

I hope that he and his wife Christa, and their children Gavin, Caidyn and Alsten, will have many wonderful years ahead of them traveling the world and enjoying a well-earned and much-deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING STATE SENATOR ANN REST FOR HER SERVICE TO MINNESOTA

HON. KELLY MORRISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2025

Ms. MORRISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor State Senator Ann Rest for her decades of dedicated service in

the Minnesota Legislature and her deep commitment to improving the lives of all Minnesotans.

For over 40 years, my friend and former colleague Ann Rest has served with distinction. First elected to the Minnesota House in 1984, she served eight terms before being elected to the Minnesota Senate, where I had the privilege of serving alongside her.

During her Senate tenure, she held key leadership roles, including Assistant Majority Leader and President Pro Tempore. In 2023, she made history as the first and only Minnesota legislator to chair the Tax Committee in both chambers.

Her career is marked by legislative achievements that strengthened Minnesota's economy and communities. She championed fairer tax policy, supported investments in public education, and worked to make government more transparent and accountable. Most notably, she played a central role in a \$3 billion tax bill in 2023 delivering relief to families, seniors, and small businesses across our state. In 2025, she was honored as a "Legislator of Distinction" by the league of Minnesota Cities for her effectiveness and dedication.

Senator Rest is a hardworking, resilient person and an accomplished legislator. She is also a diehard Twins fan and a devoted grandmother. Her legacy is felt not only in her legislative achievements, but also in her care for her constituents. On behalf of countless Minnesotans, I offer Senator Rest my sincere gratitude for her decades of service to our great state. I wish her a very happy and well-deserved retirement and a winning season for the Twins next year.

RECOGNIZING MAYOR BRIAN HOLTZCLAW FOR TWELVE YEARS OF LEADERSHIP IN MILL CREEK

HON. SUZAN K. DeBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2025

Ms. DeBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor Brian Holtzclaw for his twelve years of dedicated service to the City of Mill Creek. Mayor Holtzclaw was elected to the city council in 2013, served as Mayor Pro Tempore, and has led the city as mayor since 2020. During his tenure, he has championed thoughtful city planning and growth, helping Mill Creek expand economic opportunities and enhance tourism while preserving the city's character.

Mayor Holtzclaw has lived in Mill Creek since 2003 and is deeply engaged in the community he serves. He helped advance the South Town Center Project and the DRCC properties, which include four city-owned parcels the city is exploring for a new community campus. He is also an avid cyclist, a hobby he pursues with energy and enthusiasm. His collaborative approach within Snohomish County has strengthened regional partnerships while keeping Mill Creek's unique identity intact.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Mayor Holtzclaw for his leadership and service. He has left a lasting mark on Mill Creek, and I wish him well as he begins the next chapter of his life.

CONGRATULATING THE MANOR
FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2025

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate and recognize the Penn Manor Future Farmers of America chapter (Manor FFA), affiliated with Penn Manor High School in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, on their accomplishments at the 98th National FFA Convention & Expo.

Prior to the national convention, the Manor FFA was named as a national finalist for the 2025 Premier Chapter Award in the Building Communities category for their Mini-THON Line Dance activity. They were also recognized as a 3-star chapter, which is the highest ranking an FFA chapter can receive. Three of their students—Vita Failla, Molly Gehr, and Carly Railing—also received American FFA Degrees, the highest honor bestowed to FFA members.

The Manor FFA excelled during the 98th National FFA Convention & Expo, which was held from October 24, 2025 to November 1, 2025, in Indianapolis, Indiana. During the Poultry Evaluation event, Manor FFA students evaluated live poultry, graded carcasses and eggs, and completed a written exam. The Manor FFA team won a gold ranking, and the students—Anna Frey, Jozie Gilger, Leanna Kneisley, and Misty Railing—each earned silver.

The Dairy Cattle Evaluation and Management event saw students assess pedigrees, herd records, and live dairy cattle, and presented oral justifications for their decisions. The Manor FFA team earned an overall silver ranking. Katie Charles received a gold ranking, Jayden Buck and Grace Shaielby received silver, and Lillian Walborn received bronze.

The Manor FFA entered the 98th National Convention FFA with accolades and left with even more. Through their commitment to agriculture and their stellar work ethic, these students exemplify the character of Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District. I congratulate the Manor FFA chapter on their accomplishments, and I wish them continued success.

RECOGNIZING JIM BROWN

HON. JOSEPH D. MORELLE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2025

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exemplary public servant, distinguished leader, and dear friend from Rochester, New York, Jim Brown, who is retiring after more than three decades of dedicated service to the Joseph A. Floreano Rochester Riverside Convention Center.

Jim Brown began his tenure at the Convention Center on April 4, 1994, and over the course of 30 years, built a career defined by professionalism, integrity, and unwavering commitment to the success of Rochester's premier event facility. He held several key positions, including Event Manager, Director of

Operations, Building Manager, and Facility Manager, before being appointed Executive Director on October 8, 2014. In every role, Jim led with humility and purpose, ensuring that the Convention Center served as a welcoming, world-class venue for both residents and visitors.

Under his leadership, the Floreano Convention Center strengthened its reputation as a hub for regional and national gatherings, driving economic development and fostering community engagement. Jim's deep understanding of operations, combined with his steady guidance and collaborative spirit, helped modernize the facility and expand its impact across the Greater Rochester region. His ready smile and warm personality have been the hallmark of his tenure, and his decades of service reflect not only professional excellence but also a genuine commitment to the people and institutions that make Rochester thrive.

Across every stage of his career, Jim Brown has exemplified dedication, leadership, and service. His contributions have enriched Rochester's cultural and economic landscape, strengthened professional standards in the venue management field, and supported countless colleagues, businesses, and community partners.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and deep appreciation that I recognize Jim Brown for his remarkable career and his enduring contributions to the Rochester community. His legacy of service will continue to benefit our region for years to come, and his leadership will be greatly missed.

TRIBUTE TO SHARON RANALS

HON. KEVIN MULLIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2025

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an exemplary public servant who has dedicated her career to serving the residents of my hometown of South San Francisco, California. After nearly five decades in public service our City Manager, Sharon Ranals, is retiring.

Sharon graduated from Reed College and later earned a Master's in Public Administration from San Francisco State University, embarking on a lifelong career in municipal government that commenced in Colorado Springs and continued with steady promotions in South San Francisco, culminating with her appointment as City Manager in 2023. Sharon began her career with the City of South San Francisco in 1980 as a part-time employee in the Parks and Recreation Department. She became a full-time staff member in 1984 and steadily advanced through roles of increasing responsibility. Her experience rising through the organization provided valuable insight into the challenges of local government and the importance of collaboration to achieve results. Over the years, she has hired and promoted dozens of talented City staff and is especially proud of leading high-functioning teams with low turnover, as well as fostering the professional growth and success of her colleagues. Her approach of "take the blame and give the credit" has been one of the keys to her success.

Throughout her tenure, Sharon championed the work of South San Francisco's dedicated

City teams and their many accomplishments. Under their leadership, the city has grown as a global hub for biotechnology, accelerated the construction of new housing, and maintained a high standard for public safety and emergency response. South San Francisco has continued to expand access to responsive, technology-driven police services, collaborative library and recreation programming, and reliable public works and infrastructure maintenance—the award-winning Water Quality Control Plant and strong internal operations reflect a commitment to service excellence. Central to these efforts has been a focus on sustainability and on creating a thriving environment for both residents and businesses.

Sharon played a key role in the planning, development, and improvement of many public buildings and spaces throughout the city. Her work helped bring to life the Municipal Services Building, Alice Peña Bulos Recreation Center and Preschool, Terrabay Gymnasium and Recreation Center, Roberta Teglia Senior Center, Community Learning Center, and after-school facilities on South San Francisco Unified School District campuses. At Orange Memorial Park, she supported projects including the picnic shelter, sculpture garden, Joseph Fernekes Recreation Center, new sports fields, and the award-winning water capture system. She was instrumental in securing funding and advancing the vision for the co-located Library with the Parks and Recreation Center and the new Aquatics Center.

Her commitment to public spaces also extends to parks and open space. She contributed to the renovation of Sellick and Westborough Parks, the creation of Avalon and Alta Loma Parks, the expansion of Sign Hill's open space, and improvements at Oyster Point, Civic Campus Park, and neighborhood playgrounds. She led successful grant efforts for projects like Centennial Way and oversaw the development of new amenities along the trail, a preschool in Westborough, and a new park on Linden Avenue.

Beyond infrastructure, Sharon supported the community through special events such as Day in the Park, the establishment of the City's public art program, and advocacy for expanded childcare and senior services.

She has built strong partnerships with outside agencies, the South San Francisco Unified School District, and local organizations. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she and a core team remained on-site at City Hall to ensure continuity of operations and support for both staff and the public. She also led the City's emergency coordination during major storms and flooding in 2022 to 2023.

Her contributions have been recognized by the California Association of Parks & Recreation Commissioners and Board Members with their Outstanding Professional Award, the California Parks and Recreation Society's Professional Merit Award, South San Francisco Historical Society's Victor John Feudale Award, and by the Institute for Local Government as a Local Government Champion—reflecting her professional excellence and community impact.

Throughout her tenure as City Manager, Sharon has exemplified a tireless work ethic, accessibility, innovation, community engagement, and sound stewardship of public resources—addressing pressing challenges including economic resilience, infrastructure renewal, affordable housing, climate adaptation,

public safety, equity, and more. Sharon was Leslie Knope of Parks and Recreation fame before there was a Leslie Knope. She exemplifies the true Leslie Knope philosophy: public service is working hard at work worth doing alongside people you love.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues please join me in congratulating Sharon Ralals for an exemplary record of service to the City of South San Francisco, commending her for tireless dedication of time and talent, and wishing her all the best in the years ahead.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, December 2, 2025 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

DECEMBER 3

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Tammy Bruce, of California, to be the Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador; the Deputy Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations; and to serve concurrently and

without additional compensation as Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, during her tenure of service as Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, Darryl Nirenberg, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to Romania, Melissa Argyros, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Latvia, Christopher Yeaw, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary (Arms Control, Nonproliferation, and Stability), Yehuda Kaploun, of Florida, to be Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, with the rank of Ambassador, and Bernardo Navarro, of Puerto Rico, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Peru, all of the Department of State.

S-116

9:45 a.m.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to continue consideration of the nominations of Scott Mayer, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of five years, and Mary Anne Carter, of Tennessee, to be Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts for a term of four years, and other pending business.

SD-430

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Jared Isaacman, of Pennsylvania, to be Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and Steven Haines, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce.

SR-253

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Lee Beaman, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority, and Douglas Weaver, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

SD-562

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine making the health care system affordable.

SD-430

2 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs

To hold hearings to examine the abduction of Ukrainian children by the Russian Federation.

SD-138

2:30 p.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Federal Courts, Oversight, Agency Action, and Federal Rights

To hold hearings to examine impeachment, focusing on holding judges accountable.

SD-226

3 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine aging and the impact of community during the holidays.

SH-216

4 p.m.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine medication management in VA healthcare.

SR-418

DECEMBER 8

5:30 p.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Business meeting to consider pending calendar nominations.

S-216

DECEMBER 9

10:15 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine protecting children online against offenders.

SH-216

DECEMBER 11

10 a.m.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the future of the U.S. organ procurement and transplantation network.

SD-430