

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING JOSEPH RAY
WILLIAMS

HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of a grateful Nation and the citizens of the 24th Congressional District of Texas. The 2025 Congressional Veteran Commendation is hereby presented to Aviation Structural Mechanic First Class Joseph Ray Williams, United States Navy, of Roanoke, Texas, for his honorable service in the Armed Forces of the United States of America and for his continued service to his community.

Petty Officer First Class Williams served honorably in the United States Navy from 1996 to 2016, completing seven deployments and circumnavigating the globe three times in defense of the Nation. As a member of Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 15, he played a vital role in support of the Kosovo Campaign, Operation Enduring Freedom, and the Global War on Terror. His military service was marked by courage, professionalism, and devotion to duty earning him six Good Conduct Medals, three Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, three Humanitarian Service Medals, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary and Service Medals, and numerous unit and marksmanship awards recognizing his excellence and leadership across two decades of service.

Following his distinguished naval career, Petty Officer Williams continued his lifelong mission of service by founding Texas Veterans Outdoors (TVO) in 2017, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping veterans transition successfully into civilian life. What began as a small grassroots effort in Denton County has grown into a global network of more than 9,000 members, providing mentorship, coaching, and fellowship to veterans and their families. Through outdoor experiences such as hunting, fishing, hiking, and retreats, TVO offers therapeutic and empowering opportunities that help veterans reconnect with themselves, their families, and their communities.

Under Petty Officer Williams' leadership, Texas Veterans Outdoors has become a model of veteran-led outreach and healing, fostering resilience and camaraderie among service members across Texas and beyond. His work has strengthened families, inspired community partnerships, and created a legacy of compassion and leadership that continues to uplift those who have served.

Petty Officer Williams' steadfast dedication to his fellow veterans, his community, and his country reflects the highest traditions of the United States Navy and brings great credit upon himself, the State of Texas, and the United States of America.

HONORING AVERY GREEN

HON. CRAIG A. GOLDMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Avery Green in earning second place at the Health Occupation Students of America International Leadership Conference Competition. This accomplishment shows Ms. Green's dedication to her education and serving those within her community.

The Health Occupation Students of America organization encourages students to become leaders in one of the highest demand job markets in the Nation. The growing need for healthcare workers is becoming increasingly evident. Ms. Green's participation and excellence in the Clinical Nursing competition shows initiative and highlights a level of strength and compassion indicative of a true Texan spirit. As the first from Aledo High School to win the State HOSA competition and go on to compete at the International Leadership Conference, she is an inspiration to many within the district who will seek to follow in her footsteps.

On behalf of the 12th Congressional District of Texas, I am proud to offer my congratulations to Ms. Avery Green and wish her much luck and success in her years to come.

TRIBUTE TO JUSTIN MATURO

HON. DEREK TRAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Mr. TRAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Justin Maturo, a member of my congressional staff who will soon be departing Capitol Hill after a combined fifteen years of public service. From intern to Deputy Chief of Staff, Justin has held several important roles in three congressional offices where he has directly contributed to the betterment of communities in the states of Texas and California.

Born in Westchester, New York, and raised in Tappan, New York, to an Italian father and Hawaiian mother, Justin first came to Washington, D.C. as a wide-eyed college student at American University with a mountain of motivation and aspirations to shape policy.

As an intern for the U.S. House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, he showed promise by swiftly screening requests and manning the phones. He then served as a Staff Assistant to the late Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson from Texas, where he quickly rose in the ranks to serve as her Senior Legislative Assistant and covered a robust portfolio of legislative issues such as defense, labor, housing, campaign finance reform, and more. After a brief stint in the private sector, Justin was called back to public service where

he served as Deputy Chief of Staff and Legislative Director to Congressman MARK TAKANO from California. After several years on the Hill, Justin earned a prestigious appointment at the Department of Defense where he served as Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs to coordinate legislative affairs across all military departments and components in service to our great Nation.

I was fortunate Justin agreed to come back to Capitol Hill to join my office as Deputy Chief of Staff and Legislative Director. In the short time he has been with my team, he has worked with me to protect veteran jobs, secure additional resources for military assets in my district, call for the release of Vietnamese prisoners of conscience, and so much more. He has always taken every challenge in stride—appreciating and knowing fully well the great responsibility we have to our constituents as public servants. His colleagues—both current and former—describe him as a trusted mentor. What sets Justin apart is his superpower ability to stay above the fray and to keep his eye on the prize. Despite always operating with a full load of projects on any given day, Justin always makes time to give advice and mentor younger staff with sincerity and genuine compassion.

I cannot thank Justin enough for having acted as a trusted advisor and guiding me through my first year in Congress. Together, we set a foundation that will have resounding impacts in my district for years to come.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge that Justin's jovial spirit and words of wisdom will be sorely missed by all those who were lucky to work with him. Alas, all good things must come to an end. I wish him, his wonderful partner Jackie, and their dog Truman all the best in this next chapter of their lives. I know Justin will continue to make a positive impact in his next quest and I honor his great contributions to the people of California's 45th Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING ERIC LEE NEWTON

HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of a grateful Nation and the citizens of the 24th Congressional District of Texas. The 2025 Congressional Veteran Commendation is hereby presented to Sergeant Eric Lee Newton, United States Army, of Colleyville, Texas, for his honorable service in the Armed Forces of the United States of America and for his continued service to his community.

Sergeant Newton served honorably in the United States Army from 1968 to 1971 as a tank commander with K Troop, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, under the command of Colonel George Patton. While deployed to Vietnam from July 1968 to July 1969, he displayed extraordinary courage and devotion to

• 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.

his fellow soldiers. During a mortar attack on his unit, Sergeant Newton was wounded by shrapnel while shielding his comrades and rescuing the company mascot, sustaining injuries that earned him the Purple Heart. His exemplary service also earned him the Army Commendation Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, and recognition for marksmanship on both the M-14 and M-16 rifles. His unit additionally received the Valorous Unit Award and the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm for collective heroism in combat.

Following his military service, Sergeant Newton has remained a lifelong advocate for veterans and a pillar of his community. He has served as Senior Vice Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 1513 in the Mid-Cities and as Junior Vice Commander for the Department of Texas, championing programs that support wounded veterans and their families. For more than thirty years, he has also served as the National Public Affairs Officer for the 11th Armored Cavalry Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia, preserving the legacy of those who served and ensuring their sacrifices are remembered.

Beyond his dedication to veterans, Sergeant Newton has spent decades volunteering across Colleyville as a coach, civic volunteer, and youth mentor. He served on the design committee for Colleyville Heroes Park, volunteered with Kidsville Park, and coached youth baseball and soccer. In 2005, he returned to Iraq to document the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment's combat history, continuing his lifelong commitment to telling the story of American service and sacrifice.

Sergeant Newton's courage in battle, enduring service to veterans, and steadfast commitment to his community reflect the highest traditions of the United States Army and bring great credit upon himself, the State of Texas, and the United States of America.

HAITI ECONOMIC LIFT PROGRAM EXTENSION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 12, 2026

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of my bill H.R. 6504, the HELP Extension Act. My legislation provides a three-year extension of the HOPE/HELP programs. These are trade preference programs which in the past has helped deliver meaningful economic opportunities to thousands of people in Haiti who desperately need stability, hope, and a path forward.

I first traveled to Haiti doing medical mission work following the devastating earthquake in 2010, and I have returned many times since. Through those visits, I have come to know the people of Haiti well. They are good, hardworking people who are resilient and strive for stability and dignity in the midst of chaos and profound suffering caused by political unrest.

Today, Haiti is facing an unprecedented convergence of crises. Rampant gang violence, political uncertainty, and the near-total collapse of basic institutions have devastated daily life and pushed an already fragile nation

to the brink of disaster. In this environment, economic stability is not a luxury. It is a necessity to give the people an opportunity to have some semblance of a normal life. Jobs mean food on the table, children in school, and communities that are less vulnerable to criminal influence, corruption and violence.

The HOPE/HELP programs remain among the few functioning lifelines that provide lawful employment and economic stability in Haiti, and it is imperative that the U.S. play a role in these endeavors. Extending these programs will not by any means solve all of Haiti's challenges, but it will preserve jobs, provide employers with certainty, and allow them to continue employing hardworking Haitians during an extraordinarily difficult time. Stability in Haiti matters deeply to the United States. Haiti is in our own backyard. What happens there affects the broader stability of our hemisphere. When nations in our hemisphere collapse, the consequences inevitably reach our shores. Malign influences such as Islamic radicals or dictatorial regimes such as Russia and China see an avenue to gain a foothold against the U.S. in our region.

Ensuring stability, opportunity, and lawful economic activity in Haiti as a defensive measure, if for not other reasons, is squarely in the national security interest of the United States. If these jobs were to disappear, it would fuel further instability and risk creating a vacuum that could be filled by gangs, transnational criminal organizations, or these hostile foreign actors. Without legitimate employment opportunities, many Haitians are left with impossible choices. Either submit to criminal networks, migrate to another country, or starve. So please understand that the HOPE/HELP program is a win-win for all parties involved. It is good for Haiti, good for America, and good for the security of the Western Hemisphere.

I would also like to mention a dear friend of mine, Father Rick Frechette, a Catholic priest from Connecticut who has served the poorest of the poor in Haiti for more than 40 years. He has regularly tended to their spiritual and medical needs. Yet at the same time, he has, at his own personal peril, rescued hundreds of kidnapped individuals held ransom by these murderous bandits that control much of Port au Prince. I converse with him regularly, and he provides firsthand insight into the worsening conditions on the ground. The picture he describes is heart breaking and appalling. Several hospital guards have been killed, many hospitals workers forced to leave the country, and the threat of criminal gangs continues to be an ever-present danger. These are the real human consequences of instability.

We have a moral and national responsibility to act where we can and to support policies that prevent further collapse. I urge all of my colleagues to support this critical life and nation saving legislation.

HONORING THE STANDARD MEAT COMPANY ON THEIR 90TH ANNI- VERSARY

HON. CRAIG A. GOLDMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Standard Meat Company in

Fort Worth, Texas. For 90 years, the Standard Meat Company has been providing quality meat to Texans and the rest of the world.

After its founding in 1935, the Standard Meat Company built a reputation of high quality meat products. Quickly they were able to expand from local business to a coast to coast clientele and eventually to a global market. From innovations in packaging to protect the freshness and shelf life of their product to cutting edge production and sustainability technology, Standard Meat Company has remained at the top of the industry for nearly a century. Now, in its fourth generation of family ownership, the Rosenthal family continues to prioritize innovation and evolution within the company, honoring the Texan spirit of resilience and hard work.

On behalf of the 12th Congressional District of Texas, I am proud to offer my congratulations to Standard Meat Company on their 90th Anniversary and I am eager to see their continued growth into the future.

RECOGNIZING JAMES PALMERSHEIM

HON. BETH VAN DUYN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Ms. VAN DUYN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of a grateful nation and the citizens of the 24th Congressional District of Texas. The 2025 Congressional Veteran Commendation is hereby presented to Captain James Palmersheim, United States Army, of Colleyville, Texas, for his honorable service in the Armed Forces of the United States of America and for his continued service to his community.

Captain Palmersheim was commissioned as an officer in the United States Army in 1984 as a Distinguished Military Graduate from Marquette University's ROTC program. He served on active duty as an Army aviator and intelligence officer, flying both fixed and rotary wing aircraft, including the OV-10 Mohawk and RU-21H. During his service with the 224th Military Intelligence Battalion, he demonstrated exceptional skill and leadership earning the Air Assault Badge, Senior Aviator Badge, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, and National Defense Service Ribbon.

Following his military career, Captain Palmersheim has continued to exemplify selfless service through a lifetime of work supporting veterans, military families, and youth across the Nation. In 2003, he led a national effort to restore and fly a Huey helicopter across the country culminating in its historic landing on the National Mall, where it now stands as a centerpiece of the Smithsonian's Price of Freedom exhibit. As founder and longtime director of American Airlines' Veterans and Military Initiatives program, he helped develop groundbreaking partnerships that provided resources, recognition, and support for wounded warriors, Gold Star families, and military personnel worldwide.

Captain Palmersheim has also served on the boards of numerous nonprofit organizations, including the Air Power Foundation, the Gary Sinise Foundation, and Snowball Express, which honors children of fallen service

members. He co-founded Independence Corps Foundation, which has donated millions of dollars in mobility equipment to veterans and first responders with disabilities. He currently sits on the board of the Tribute to Valor Foundation, an organization he helped establish to inspire students nationwide through the core values of the Medal of Honor and STEM education. His service has earned him multiple prestigious honors, including the Medal of Honor Society Patriot Award, the Order of Saint Michael from the Army Aviation Association of America, and honorary recognition from the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment and the 457th Fighter Squadron.

Captain Palmersheim's unwavering dedication to veterans, their families, and the next generation reflects the highest traditions of the United States Army and brings great credit upon himself, the State of Texas, and the United States of America.

**CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT
OF LOS FRESNOS CHIEF OF POLICE,
HECTOR GONZALEZ**

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the City of Los Fresnos Chief of Police, Hector Gonzalez, whose retirement marks the conclusion of forty-five years of outstanding service in law enforcement.

Chief Gonzalez's leadership has kept our community safe, enabled our continued growth, and made the Rio Grande Valley a desirable place to live.

As a mentor to countless men and women in uniform, he instilled core values of accountability, transparency, and respect, which will leave a lasting and positive impact on the Los Fresnos Police Department.

Chief Gonzalez served Los Fresnos with honor, integrity and courage, while maintaining a steadfast commitment to the safety and well-being of everyone in our community.

I am honored to represent some of the best of South Texas, including those who put their lives on the line each day to keep our communities safe. Under Chief Gonzalez's leadership, Los Fresnos Police has gone above and beyond, fostering trust between law enforcement and the community they serve.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful South Texas, I thank Chief Hector Gonzalez for his service to the people of Los Fresnos and congratulate him on his much-deserved retirement.

**HONORING THE LIFE OF EDWARD
"EDDIE" COLE**

HON. MAXWELL FROST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Edward "Eddie" Cole, a devoted public servant, community advocate, and beloved leader who passed away on Saturday, December 20, 2025, at the age of 67.

Eddie Cole proudly served as Mayor of Florida's oldest Black incorporated municipality, the Historic Town of Eatonville from 2016 to 2022.

A tireless champion for preserving Eatonville's history, including the legacy of the Hungerford School, Mayor Cole led with passion, integrity, and an unwavering commitment to his community.

Beyond public service, he spent more than 30 years as an assistant coach for the Rollins College women's basketball team, earning induction into the Rollins Sports Hall of Fame in 2023. He also served as chaplain for the Orlando Magic, offering guidance and faith to players and staff.

Perhaps his greatest pride was his two decades as executive director of Every Kid Outreach Inc., where he transformed countless young lives through mentorship, encouragement, and opportunity.

While his accomplishments were many, Eddie Cole's greatest impact was the love he poured into people.

Mayor Cole led with love, compassion, and a deep commitment to uplifting others, serving his community for decades as a public servant, coach, and trusted leader.

Sending much love and prayers to his family, loved ones, and all who were blessed to know him. His legacy of service will live on forever.

RECOGNIZING KEVIN POTTINGER

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of a grateful nation and the citizens of the 24th Congressional District of Texas. The 2025 Congressional Veteran Commendation is hereby presented to Major General Kevin Pottinger, United States Air Force, of Keller, Texas, for his honorable service in the Armed Forces of the United States of America and for his continued service to his community.

Major General Pottinger served with distinction in the United States Air Force for nearly four decades, from 1976 to 2015. A command pilot with more than 3,500 flight hours in the F-16 Fighting Falcon, he held leadership positions at every level, culminating in his role as Commander of the 301st Fighter Wing and later as Mobilization Assistant to the Commander, Pacific Air Forces, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. Following his initial retirement, he selflessly returned to active duty after the September 11th terrorist attacks to fly combat missions in the War on Terror, exemplifying the Air Force core values of integrity, service, and excellence. His military decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Service Medal with silver oak leaf cluster, Air Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, Air Force Achievement Medal, and numerous campaign and service awards recognizing his combat readiness and humanitarian contributions.

Following his military career, Major General Pottinger has continued to serve his state and Nation through leadership, mentorship, and

advocacy for veterans. Appointed by Texas Governor Greg Abbott as Presiding Officer of the Texas Military Preparedness Commission, he works to strengthen Texas' military installations and ensure their continued role in national defense. As President of the Freedom Mobility Foundation, he leads efforts to provide adaptive vehicles and mobility equipment to severely injured veterans empowering them to regain independence and quality of life.

Major General Pottinger's exceptional record of military leadership, combined with his unwavering commitment to veterans and the community, reflects the highest traditions of the United States Air Force and brings great credit upon himself, the State of Texas, and the United States of America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EMILIA STRONG SYKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 18; NAY on Roll Call No. 19; YEA on Roll Call No. 20; YEA on Roll Call No. 21; YEA on Roll Call No. 22; and NAY on Roll Call No. 23.

HONORING ABRAHAM ALEXANDER

HON. CRAIG A. GOLDMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Abraham Alexander for receiving the Stephen Bruton Award.

Mr. Alexander grew up and began his career in Fort Worth. In remarkable fashion, his music career has soared, earning him national recognition and numerous accolades. The Stephen Bruton Award recognizes Mr. Alexander for his contribution to the film industry through his song "Like a Bird" in the film Sing Sing. As filmmaker and fellow Fort Worth native Taylor Sheridan described, Mr. Alexander is a "dreamer who is living that dream."

For eighteen years, the Lone Star Film Festival has brought together filmmakers, producers, and musicians from across the media and entertainment industry for its prestigious award show. With the reception of the Stephen Bruton Award, Mr. Alexander joins the ranks of celebrated musicians such as Willie Nelson, Clint Black, and Pat Green.

On behalf of Texas' 12th Congressional District, I am honored to recognize Mr. Alexander's outstanding achievement in music. His success is an inspiration to the City of Fort Worth and our community. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Alexander and look forward to seeing what he creates next.

**RECOGNIZING JAMES LEONARD
WILLIAMS**

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of a grateful Nation and the citizens

of the 24th Congressional District of Texas. The 2025 Congressional Veteran Commendation is hereby presented to Major General James Leonard Williams, United States Marine Corps, of Dallas, Texas, for his honorable service in the Armed Forces of the United States of America and for his continued service to his community.

Major General Williams served with distinction in the United States Marine Corps for more than 38 years, including both active and reserve duty during multiple conflicts. Over the course of his career, he held numerous leadership and command positions within the 4th Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Combined Joint Task Force 180, and 2nd Force Reconnaissance Company, Special Operations Capable. His operational service included deployments supporting the War on Drugs and combat tours in both Afghanistan and Iraq. His military decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Legion of Merit Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and the Secretary of Defense Service Badge, among numerous other honors.

Beyond his exemplary military career, Major General Williams has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to public service, education, and community leadership. He has served on numerous boards and advisory groups, including the FBI Citizens Academy Alumni Association, InfraGard North Texas Alliance, North Texas Crime Commission, and the Veterans Advisory Board for the VA North Texas Health Care System. He is President of the Board for International Leadership of Texas, a public charter school district, and serves as an advisor to both the Tarleton State University School of Criminal Justice and the Tower Center for Political Science at Southern Methodist University.

Major General Williams also dedicates extensive time to helping veterans navigate the VA system, offering mentorship, guidance, and financial coaching to help fellow servicemembers and their families succeed in civilian life. His leadership, compassion, and devotion to service continue to strengthen North Texas communities and inspire future generations.

Major General Williams' extraordinary record of military and civic service reflects the highest traditions of the United States Marine Corps and brings great credit upon himself, the State of Texas, and the United States of America.

THE LIGHT WILL WIN

HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, last week, the bipartisan House Abraham Accords Caucus was privileged to host Rabbi Yehoram Ulman and Ahmed al-Ahmed, of Sydney, Australia, and survivors of the terrorist attack at Bondi Beach last month.

When a father-and-son pair of ISIS-inspired gunmen began massacring Jews during a Hanukkah celebration on the beach—murdering 15 people, including Rabbi Ulman's son-in-law—Ahmed, a Muslim who was at the event

by serendipity, rushed for cover. As one of the terrorists approached his position, Ahmed heroically rose to the moment, charged, and single-handedly disarmed the attacker, saving countless lives.

On behalf of the entire Abraham Accords Caucus, I thank Rabbi Ulman and Mr. al-Ahmed for traveling here and passionately sharing their stories. I also thank my many colleagues for joining us to honor these two great men.

The Abraham Accords Caucus was formed after the accords were signed five years ago on a simple belief: Jews and Arabs belong to the same land, and elevating the people will elevate the land and bring peace to everyone in the region.

Yesterday, Rabbi Ulman and Ahmed al-Ahmed showed that this spirit extends far beyond the Middle East. Their shared humanity and embrace of each other reflects our hope for the future, a future in which people see the dignity and grace in one another and have the strength to stand up and confront hatred and evil.

As I told Ahmed, he is a hero to us all. He teaches us that love of the stranger can lift us all and defeat hatred. Or, as Rabbi Ulman and Mr. al-Ahmed have titled their visit around the world, "The Light Will Win."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HERBERT C. CONAWAY, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for part of votes on January 12, 2026. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 15.

RECOGNIZING KENNETH A. HARRISON

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of a grateful Nation and the citizens of the 24th Congressional District of Texas. The 2025 Congressional Veteran Commendation is hereby presented to Staff Sergeant Kenneth A. Harrison, United States Air Force, of Keller, Texas, for his honorable service in the Armed Forces of the United States of America and for his continued service to his community.

Staff Sergeant Harrison served honorably in the United States Air Force from 1966 to 1970 during the Vietnam War, where he was assigned to the 12th Reconnaissance Intelligence Technical Squadron. In that role, he provided critical intelligence and reconnaissance support, contributing to the success of U.S. operations in Southeast Asia. His professionalism, dedication, and skill earned him the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Air Force Good Conduct Medal, and Air Force Medal 900 in recognition of his exemplary performance and commitment to duty.

Following his military service, Staff Sergeant Harrison devoted himself to improving edu-

cation, civic engagement, and community development in Keller and Tarrant County, serving for twelve years on the Keller Independent School District Board of Trustees. Additionally, he is a founding member of the Keller ISD Education Foundation, which continues to provide grants and stipends to outstanding teachers and programs that enhance student learning opportunities.

In addition to his education leadership, he has held numerous community and civic roles, including Treasurer of the Keller Chamber of Commerce Board, Chair of the Boy Scouts' Friends of Scouting fundraising campaign, Foundation Chair and past President of the Golden Triangle Rotary Club, and member of the Fort Worth Symphony Board. Through these positions, Staff Sergeant Harrison has played an instrumental role in raising funds and building partnerships that strengthen schools, support youth development, and enrich the cultural life of North Texas.

Staff Sergeant Harrison's exemplary service to his Nation and his lifelong dedication to the Keller community reflect the highest traditions of the United States Air Force and bring great credit upon himself, the State of Texas, and the United States of America.

HONORING THE SANDERS TRAVEL CENTRE ON THEIR 30TH ANNIVERSARY AND FORBES TRAVEL GUIDE ENDORSEMENT

HON. CRAIG A. GOLDMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sanders Travel Centre in Fort Worth, Texas. For 30 years, Sanders Travel Centre has been guiding people in luxury travel and has been recognized with an endorsement by Forbes Travel Guide.

Trust is a major factor in booking travel and for three decades Sanders Travel Centre has excelled in building and maintaining that much needed trust. Their diverse expertise in advising individual, group, and corporate travelers on both domestic and international destinations, along with their dedication to a luxury experience is what makes them stand out. Forbes Travel Guide, a prestigious luxury travel rating system, has also acknowledged and endorsed Sanders Travel Centre for their hard work in the hospitality industry. This endorsement marks them as one of the top 50 travel agencies in the world, quantifying what we, in Fort Worth, have long recognized.

On behalf of the 12th Congressional District of Texas, I am proud to offer my congratulations to Sanders Travel Centre on their 30th Anniversary and endorsement by Forbes Travel Guide.

RECOGNIZING TODD BOEDING

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of a grateful Nation and the citizens of the 24th Congressional District of Texas.

The 2025 Congressional Veteran Commendation is hereby presented to Captain Todd Boeding, United States Marine Corps, of Dallas, Texas, for his honorable service in the Armed Forces of the United States of America and for his continued service to his community.

Captain Boeding served with distinction in the United States Marine Corps from 1989 to 2001. Beginning his service as an enlisted Marine administrative clerk and later commissioning as an infantry officer, he embodied the Marine Corps' core values of honor and commitment throughout his career. He served with the 1st Marine Regiment and was later selected for the elite Marine Barracks in Washington, D.C., where he was a member of the famed Silent Drill Team representing the Marine Corps in ceremonies honoring presidents, foreign dignitaries, and fallen service members. His military decorations include the Navy Unit Commendation Medal, two Meritorious Unit Commendations, the National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, Certificate of Commendation, and multiple letters and certificates of appreciation, along with Expert Rifle and Sharpshooter Pistol Badges.

After the September 11, 2001, attacks, Captain Boeding extended his service to continue supporting the Corps and his country. Since leaving active duty, he has remained deeply committed to service and leadership within his community. As a Board Member and Ambassador for Carry The Load, he has played a vital role in honoring and supporting veterans, first responders, and military families helping expand the organization's national impact and

its mission of restoring the true meaning of Memorial Day. His mentorship and friendship have guided countless veterans in their transition to civilian life, continuing his lifelong legacy of servant leadership.

Captain Boeding also co-founded Tribe and Trust Leadership Academy, a program dedicated to developing the next generation of leaders by instilling the principles of teamwork, integrity, and service that defined his Marine Corps career. His tireless dedication to veterans, young leaders, and the broader North Texas community exemplifies the very best of American service and citizenship.

Captain Boeding's honorable military service and his enduring commitment to country and community reflect the highest traditions of the United States Marine Corps and bring great credit upon himself, the State of Texas, and the United States of America.

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 Thursday, January 15, 2026 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JANUARY 28

10 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine improving the Federal environmental review and permitting process, part 2.

SD-562

2:30 p.m.

Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Federal Courts, Oversight, Agency Action, and Federal Rights

To hold hearings to examine scammers, focusing on fighting fraud in Minnesota and beyond.

SD-226

FEBRUARY 3

10:15 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine hidden facts regarding Nazis and Swiss banks.

SH-216