

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF REVEREND JOHNNIE JOHNSON, JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 20, 2026

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man whose life was a testament to courage, faith, and selfless service: Reverend Johnnie Johnson, Jr. An event to celebrate his courage and remarkable life is being held today, Monday, April 20, 2026, at Crew Quarters in Albany, Georgia.

Born May 28, 1940, in Albany, Georgia, the eldest of nine children, Johnnie Johnson learned early the value of work, family, and faith. He joined Bethel A.M.E. Church as a boy, married the love of his life, Thelma Champion, in 1958, and raised five children. Yet it was his willingness to stand, even when standing cost him everything, which marks his life as extraordinary.

In 1972, Reverend Johnson became the primary plaintiff in a class action suit against the City of Albany and its officials to challenge entrenched, unjust employment practices that denied Black men and women the dignity of equal work and fair wages. He did not bring that fight for glory or gain. He brought it because he believed—with every fiber of his being—that every person deserves to be judged by their ability, not the color of their skin; that fairness is the birthright of a free people.

He led a courageous walkout of some 260 Black city employees, demanding what was rightfully theirs. The court found in favor of the plaintiffs, and the decision opened doors that had long been locked. But the victory was bitter-sweet. Reverend Johnson paid a steep personal price. He was not rehired by the city. He faced economic hardship, rumors meant to shame him, and the pain of displacement that comes when a community you love turns its back on you for doing right.

For a time, he sought work and refuge in Charleston, South Carolina, where he found only temporary solace and short-term employment. Yet the news of his stand in Albany followed him, and the pull of home—and the cause he served—drew him back. Reverend Johnson mustered the courage to return to Albany despite the risks to his reputation and employability, choosing fidelity to his family and community over the easier path of exile.

His return marked a new chapter of resilience. He became a barber and earned master barber certification. He transformed a barber's chair into a sanctuary of counsel, dignity, and hope. Countless customers were touched by him, and many young barbers learned their trade and their character under his tutelage.

Answering a divine call in 1996, he was licensed to preach on June 10, 1996, blending

his roles as barber, reverend, and civil rights champion without a trace of bitterness. As the late Congressman John Lewis counseled those who move the Nation forward, "Never, ever be afraid to make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble." Reverend Johnson's life embodied that counsel—he made the necessary trouble to open doors for others, and he bore the consequences with dignity.

On January 11, 2000, Albany lost a beloved son, but his legacy lives on through those that he touched by his one act of courage.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join my wife Vivian and I, along with the 765,000 people of Georgia's 2nd Congressional District in honoring the life of Reverend Johnnie Johnson, Jr. His life reminds us that the work of justice is often carried forward by ordinary people who do extraordinary things. He taught us that sacrifice for the common good is never in vain and that dignity can never be taken from a man who refuses to let hatred define him.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Reverend Johnson's memory—a memory that calls us to rededicate ourselves to the ideals he lived: courage in the face of intimidation, compassion in the face of suffering, and an unflinching belief in the worth of every human being. May God bless his legacy and may we all strive to walk in his footsteps.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN LIVER FOUNDATION

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 20, 2026

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 50th anniversary of American Liver Foundation.

For half a century, American Liver Foundation has been at the forefront of liver health. Established in 1976, American Liver Foundation is the largest patient advocacy organization for people with all types of liver disease. They remain dedicated to helping people improve their liver health. American Liver Foundation provides guidance and life-saving resources, they are a beacon for the 100 million Americans affected by liver disease. They prioritize educating patients, families, caregivers, healthcare professionals, advocating for patient rights, funding medical research, and promoting public awareness campaigns about liver health.

Mr. Speaker, today we honor American Liver Foundation for their unwavering commitment to those living with liver disease. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating American Liver Foundation on 50 years of supporting patients with liver disease. I look

forward to seeing all that American Liver Foundation achieves in the next 50 years.

RECOGNIZING THE KIWANIS CLUB OF LINDSAY ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 20, 2026

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Kiwanis Club of Lindsay as it celebrates its 100th anniversary, and to commend its century of dedicated service to community improvement, support for local youth, and the promotion of education.

Since its founding on April 5, 1926, the Kiwanis Club of Lindsay has worked tirelessly to strengthen the community through service, leadership, and fellowship. From physicians and medical providers to farmers and retail workers, members from every part of the Lindsay community came together with the goal of inspiring residents to engage in service above self. From the beginning, the club has played a vital role in enriching the lives of local children by sponsoring and organizing events such as horse shows, Boy Scout meetings, youth sports, and community entertainment. Beyond its local impact, the club has extended its reach internationally, partnering with charitable groups to provide financial aid, scholarships, and livestock to children in need. Shortly after, local Kiwanians helped establish the Lindsay-Ono Sister City Program, offering students the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to immerse themselves in Japan's rich culture and traditions.

In the 1990s, Ellen Hendricks-Blumer made history as the club's first female member and, just four years later, was elected club president. During this time, the club also supported efforts to refurbish the Lindsay Memorial Building and helped bring back the iconic "Giant Olive," which now stands proudly near the Olive Tree Inn along Highway 65.

The Kiwanis Club of Lindsay has remained steadfast in its commitment to education, providing hundreds of thousands of dollars in loans and scholarships to high school students from Lindsay and Strathmore. Its dedication to service is equally evident in its ongoing efforts, including community cleanups, food distribution, family events, and city improvement projects.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Kiwanis Club of Lindsay on 100 years of outstanding service. Through its unwavering commitment to youth, education, and community, the club continues to help shape the next generation of leaders in the Central Valley and across our Nation.

• 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.

HONORING ROCKWALL AND BRIN CHURCH OF CHRIST'S 130TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LANCE GOODEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 20, 2026

Mr. GOODEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 130th anniversary of Rockwall and Brin Church of Christ in my hometown of Terrell, Texas—a congregation that has been a meaningful part of my life since childhood. With humble beginnings in a town of cotton farmers, this congregation has been a faithful fixture in Terrell since 1896, when a small group of Christians gathered in homes and the Odd Fellows Hall on Nash Street to worship.

In 1900, Peter Breeden donated land and built a small structure on College Street to serve the growing congregation. Over the years, the church has remained on that property, expanding and rebuilding after a fire in the spring of 1994. On February 12, 1995, construction began on the building that still stands today at Rockwall and Brin. For more than a century, this congregation has faithfully served both near and far—through local outreach, mission work abroad, and partnerships with the Terrell Share Center and Boles Home for Children.

I congratulate the elders—Wynne Breeden, Ty Burnes, and Steve Rogers—on this milestone. This congregation will continue to be a source of faith, service, and strength for generations to come.

RECOGNIZING THE NEHEMIAH ALLIANCE NATIONAL 52-DAY REBUILD INITIATIVE

HON. MARLIN A. STUTZMAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 20, 2026

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend the Nehemiah Alliance for launching the National 52-Day Rebuild Initiative, calling the people of the United States to an extended time of unified prayer, fasting, and repentance for the purpose of rebuilding the spiritual walls of blessing and protection around our fifty states and our Nation.

From its founding, the United States of America has been shaped by enduring Judeo-Christian principles of faith, liberty, and justice, and has long understood itself to be One Nation under God. Throughout history, Americans have turned to these principles in moments of challenge to seek renewal, unity, and moral clarity.

From the earliest days of the Republic, our leaders have issued calls to prayer and humility, reflecting a longstanding historical precedent of seeking divine guidance during significant moments in the life of our Nation. The founding ideals of the United States affirm principles of faith, liberty, justice, accountability, and the dignity of the human person, values that continue to inspire citizens across generations.

This initiative emphasizes personal responsibility, civic virtue, reconciliation, and service, encouraging individuals to strengthen their homes, neighbors, and communities through

prayerful engagement. The Nehemiah Alliance draws inspiration from the biblical account of Nehemiah, who rebuilt the broken walls of Jerusalem in fifty-two days, and in that same spirit, during America's two hundred fiftieth Anniversary, this Initiative calls Americans to recognize that the moral, cultural, and spiritual foundations of our society require our attention and action.

Indiana, known as The Crossroads of America, has long stood at the intersection of commerce, community, and faith, and throughout its history Hoosiers have valued prayer, personal responsibility, and service to neighbors as essential foundations for a flourishing society. Citizens of Indiana have historically participated in national seasons of prayer and reflection, recognizing that the strength of a Nation is rooted not only in its institutions but also in the character, humility, and faith of its people.

Beginning at sundown on September 10, 2026, and concluding at sundown on All Saints' Sunday, November 1, 2026, this Initiative invites people across our Nation to humble themselves before Almighty God through prayer, repentance, and periods of fasting as each person is individually led.

The purpose is to rebuild our walls, restore our homes, revive our hearts, and renew liberty and justice for all, reunifying us as One Nation under God. The mission of the Nehemiah Alliance is grounded in the call of Scripture, including the promise recorded in 2 Chronicles 7:14 that as His people pray and repent, He will hear from Heaven and heal our land.

Participants are encouraged to serve as modern-day gatekeepers, interceding for their families, neighbors, schools, churches, businesses, and leaders in authority. During the fifty-two days, focused prayers will be made for spheres of culture, the fifty states and territories, the Nation's Capital, Congress, the Supreme Court, the President, and the consequential midterm elections.

On October 31, 2026, and All Saints' Sunday, November 1, 2026, people of faith will gather online and in person, including in Washington, D.C. on the National Mall, in sacred assembly to pray and stand.

I commend the Nehemiah Alliance for its leadership in advancing the National 52-Day Rebuild Initiative and I encourage the citizens of the State of Indiana to participate in this national call to prayer, fasting, repentance, and spiritual renewal.

RECOGNIZING SARAH AGUILAR AS CALIFORNIA'S 24TH CONGRESSIONAL WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 20, 2026

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, each year, I have the honor of recognizing women on the Central Coast whose leadership, service, and dedication have made a lasting impact on our community through the Women of the Year Award. This year, it is my pleasure to recognize Sarah Aguilar of Oak View, for her outstanding contributions to animal welfare, public service, and community engagement.

Sarah Aguilar became Director of Santa Barbara County Animal Services in September

2022 and has since transformed the agency through innovative leadership, transparency, and collaboration. With a background in business and prior leadership roles in animal welfare organizations across the country, she brought a collaborative approach to an agency that had long faced significant challenges. Under her stewardship, the care of more than 6,000 animals at county's three shelters annually has been reimaged through programs that prioritize humane outcomes, community partnership, and transparency, helping change the atmosphere for volunteers and staff in a positive way.

Among her most notable achievements is the creation of the "Dog Day Fostering" program, an initiative that has enabled more than 2,000 community members to provide shelter dogs with enrichment, socialization, and exposure to potential adopters. This has reduced stress on animals, increased adoption rates, and strengthened community investment in the wellbeing of shelter pets.

Ms. Aguilar has also demonstrated leadership through securing a \$200,000 grant from the UC Davis Koretz School of Shelter Medicine to establish a "Pawsitive Care Coordinator." This bridges the gap between human social services and animal care, ensuring that individuals facing hardships are not forced to surrender beloved pets due to lack of resources.

Her dedication extends beyond policy and program development to direct, hands-on action. In one instance, Ms. Aguilar personally intervened to rehabilitate and transport a high-risk shelter dog to a safe, permanent home hours away. An act of courage and compassion that not only saved that animal's life but inspired ongoing rescue efforts for others in need.

In a field often challenged by limited resources and complex public demands, Ms. Aguilar has remained steadfast, advocating for sustainable funding, developing fundraising strategies, and maintaining a solutions-oriented approach in the face of fiscal uncertainty.

I am proud to recognize Sarah Aguilar as a Woman of the Year for her inspiring leadership, her deep commitment to both people and animals, and the lasting difference she continues to make in the Santa Barbara County community.

HONORING THE CAREER OF LOIS BRUINOOGUE

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 20, 2026

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary constituent and pay special tribute to Lois Bruinooge, who retires from The Last Green Valley, Inc. (TLGV) this month after 20 years of dedicated service to the organization. TLGV is a non-profit organization connecting residents to the Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor, a landscape of farmland and forest spanning 35 towns across Eastern Connecticut and South-central Massachusetts. As TLGV transitions to new leadership under Ms. Francesca Kefalas, I would like to recognize Ms. Lois Bruinooge for her dedication to protecting the Last Green Valley.

Ms. Bruinooge began her career serving as an environmental lawyer protecting waters and woods with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. She later joined TLGV as a deputy director in 2006 and was promoted to executive director in 2014. Her command of environmental law and leadership drove her to success in spearheading efforts to care for the last stretch of dark night sky between Boston and Washington, D.C.

Ms. Bruinooge has led impressive initiatives to educate people about the environment. In 2009, she led the effort to paddle the entire Thames as a part of the TLGV *Source to Sea* Program. She also expanded TLGV's water quality monitoring, created a trail assessment program, and bald eagle monitoring. Moreover, she encouraged resident and youth participation in TLGV's programming. One of her most impressive accomplishments was organizing the annual Walktober event, attracting up to 120,000 visitors to participate in over 250 hikes, bikes, and paddles each year.

Ms. Bruinooge's time at TLGV was one of transformational, positive change for the organization. She forged ties between TLGV and agricultural, land trust, historical, and cultural organizations to build stronger conservation and sustainability efforts. In 2016, TLGV received over \$6 million from USDA and millions more from regional programs to preserve their forests. In turn, TLGV has provided over \$4 million in grants to local partners. Her collaboration with financial partners has increased revenue, created endowment funds, and heightened investments into environmental conservation. Her passion for outreach, financial expertise, and creativity have set TLGV on a path of undeniable success.

Ms. Bruinooge is a graduate of Boston College Law School and a resident of Waterford, Connecticut.

Mr. Speaker, as the Member serving the 2nd District of Connecticut, I have had the pleasure of seeing the impact of TLGV on the environment of Eastern Connecticut. On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives and the American people, I express deep gratitude for Ms. Bruinooge's contributions during her two decades of service with The Last Green Valley. I join Ms. Bruinooge's family, friends, and colleagues in wishing her all the best in her well-deserved retirement.

HONORING AND REMEMBERING
MRS. CAROL KITMAN FOR HER
HUGE IMPACT

HON. EUGENE SIMON VINDMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 20, 2026

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Carol Kitman, a stalwart supporter, a trusted friend, and a maternal figure whose presence has been a constant in my childhood, my life, and my family.

I first met Mrs. Kitman in 1980, on the streets of Brighton Beach in Brooklyn, the year my family immigrated to New York from Ukraine in search of a better life. She saw my brother Alexander and me playing and asked our grandmother if she could take a photo—a small moment that marked the beginning of a lifelong connection.

In that moment, Mrs. Kitman did more than take a photograph. She took the time to speak

with us, to listen, and to understand our story. Carol was deeply touched by our Jewish family's journey to the United States and chose to remain a part of our lives.

Over the years, she became someone I looked up to, admired and deeply trusted. My brother and I went to her house for trick-or-treating, get-aways to the suburbs, and began to understand what the American dream could be for us. We forged a life-long bond with her and her husband, Mr. Marvin Kitman, an American television critic, humorist, and award-winning author.

The Kitmans were present for so many of our milestones, including our weddings, graduations, holidays, and family celebrations, always capturing those moments through Mrs. Kitman's lens. They attended my Pentagon ceremony, where I was honored with a promotion to rank of lieutenant colonel in the United States Army.

Through her kindness, dedication, and generosity of spirit, Mrs. Kitman made a lasting impact on my life. She was far more than a photographer known for documenting the lives of my brother and me. From our very first meeting, she became a vital part of my life. Throughout her 96 years, she touched many lives across New York and New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me honoring and remembering Mrs. Carol Kitman and her husband Marvin, who played such meaningful role in my life. I also extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Kitmans' children and their entire family. I am honored to have known them.

RECOGNIZING MASTER SERGEANT
JEFFREY PAUTZ

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 20, 2026

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Master Sergeant (MSgt) Jeffrey Pautz upon the auspicious occasion of his retirement from the Pennsylvania Air National Guard (PAANG) after more than 30 years of service to our Nation.

MSgt Pautz enlisted in February 1996. After completing basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, he returned to Fort Indiantown Gap to join the 553d Air Force Band, now known as the Air National Guard Band of the Northeast, wherein he served as an Instrumentalist for a multitude of bands, including the Concert Band, Ceremonial Band, German Band, "Guardsmen" Big Band, and the "Brass in Blue" Brass Quintet, performing on trumpet and the French horn.

MSgt Pautz also served in myriad other duty positions, including: Assistant Noncommissioned Officer in Charge of Supply; Additional Duty Unit Training Manager; Unit Information Systems Security Officer; Unit Equipment Custodian; Unit Computer Equipment Custodian; Assistant Director, Commander's Support Staff; and Director—Supply.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize and commend MSgt Jeffery Pautz upon his retirement from the Pennsylvania Air National Guard and on a job extremely well done. His dedicated, tireless, and selfless service to his fellow Airmen, the Pennsylvania Air National Guard, the United States Air Force, and our

United States of America set the standard by which all should be judged.

HONORING MASTER SERGEANT
ROBERT B. KIELY, JR.

HON. MATT VAN EPPS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 20, 2026

Mr. VAN EPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a truly exceptional American, Master Sergeant Robert B. Kiely, Jr., United States Army, retired, on the occasion of his induction into the U.S. Army Special Operations Command Medical Hall of Honor. This recognition is a fitting tribute to a career that reflects the very best of our Nation's military service and the enduring strength of our Special Operations Forces.

For more than 26 years, Master Sergeant Kiely devoted himself to the defense of our country and the care of those who stand on the front lines. His service culminated at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, where he served as the Senior Enlisted Medical Advisor for the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne), a unit renowned for its precision, courage, and unwavering commitment to mission success.

Throughout his career, Master Sergeant Kiely demonstrated extraordinary leadership and an unrelenting dedication to the health and readiness of Special Operations Forces soldiers. His work went far beyond the expectations of duty. He was instrumental in shaping not only the physical preparedness of the force, but also the culture of care, resilience, and excellence that defines these elite units.

As a pioneer in the development of the Special Operations tactical flight paramedic program, Master Sergeant Kiely helped revolutionize the way medical support is delivered in some of the most demanding and dangerous environments imaginable. His contributions have undoubtedly saved lives on the battlefield and strengthened the operational effectiveness of our forces around the globe.

Equally important was his devotion to mentoring and leading the next generation of non-commissioned officers and flight medics. He instilled in them the highest standards of professionalism, courage, and selfless service, ensuring that his legacy will endure far beyond his own years in uniform.

Master Sergeant Kiely's unwavering loyalty, steadfast devotion to duty, and lifetime of selfless service reflect great credit upon himself, the United States Army, our Special Operations community, and the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that we pause to recognize individuals like Master Sergeant Robert B. Kiely, Jr., whose quiet professionalism and extraordinary contributions often go unseen by the public, yet are indispensable to our national security.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his service and recognizing his induction into the U.S. Army Special Operations Command Medical Hall of Honor.

HONORING GARFIELD VOLUNTEER
FIREFIGHTER EDWARD KOVACH

HON. NELLIE POU

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 20, 2026

Ms. POU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Edward S. Kovach of Garfield, New Jersey, as he marks an extraordinary milestone: 50 years of active service as a volunteer firefighter and a lifetime of dedication to protecting others and strengthening his community.

A lifelong resident of Garfield, Ed joined Garfield Volunteer Fire Company No. 5 in 1976 at just 18 years old. From that moment on, he answered the call, time and again, whenever his neighbors needed him most. Over the decades, he has served with distinction in many leadership roles, including 2nd Lieutenant, 1st Lieutenant, and Captain, as well as Secretary, President, and Treasurer of the company, a position he continues to hold today.

Fifty years of service is a rare and remarkable achievement. Volunteer firefighters give their time, their energy, and place themselves in harm's way to keep their neighbors safe. They respond in moments of crisis and bring calm in the face of danger without asking for recognition in return. Their work requires courage, discipline, and an abiding sense of duty, all qualities Mr. Kovach has shown throughout his career.

Beyond the firehouse, Mr. Kovach has been an active and engaged member of the Garfield Fire Department's broader community, contributing to its traditions and friendship, including through years of involvement in the department's softball league and service in the Fire Department Relief Association.

Mr. Speaker, Edward Kovach's 50 years of service reflect the very best of New Jersey and of what it means to serve others. I am proud to recognize his extraordinary commitment and to thank him, along with his wife Jeanne and family, for the countless sacrifices they have made in support of his service and Garfield.

I wish Ed continued health and happiness in the years ahead.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE VIENNA COMMUNITY
CENTER

HON. JAMES R. WALKINSHAW

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 20, 2026

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 60th anniversary of the Vienna Community Center, a historic and enduring gathering place that has served the Town of Vienna and Northern Virginia for generations.

Since opening its doors in 1966, the Vienna Community Center has served as a shared space for residents of all ages to gather, learn, and stay active. Its creation was the result of a sustained community effort that began decades earlier, when local leaders and organizations came together to raise funds and support the vision of a shared space for the growing town.

Since its founding, the center has played a central role in the daily life of Vienna residents. As the home of the Town of Vienna Parks and Recreation Department, it has provided space for educational programs, recreational activities, and community events that bring people together and strengthen local connections.

Over the years, the Vienna Community Center has evolved to meet the needs of a growing community. Through renovations and expansions, including a major modernization project that enhanced its facilities and services, the center has remained both a historic landmark and a modern resource for residents.

Today, the Vienna Community Center continues to serve as a gathering place where neighbors connect, families participate in programs, and community traditions are built and sustained. Its enduring presence reflects the values of collaboration, civic engagement, and community pride that define the Town of Vienna.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Vienna Community Center on its 60th anniversary and in recognizing its lasting contributions to the Town of Vienna and the Northern Virginia region.

HIGHLIGHTING THE STATE OF
MILITARY INFRASTRUCTURE IN
HAWAII

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 20, 2026

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the critical need to address seriously aging and increasingly failing physical infrastructure in Hawaii across all services. This can no longer be chalked up or explained away as deferred maintenance; it requires Congressional action considering the Department's negligent administration and budgeting to address clear risks to personnel safety, mission readiness, and ultimately our ability to deter and prevail in the Indo-Pacific.

Hawaii has served as a linchpin of our Nation's presence in the Indo-Pacific since 1875, when King Kalākaua granted the United States the right to enter Pearl Harbor and establish a coaling and repair station. Today, Hawaii is the Indo-Pacific home to every service—the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Space Force—along with a significant presence of our Nation's intelligence community. It is our Nation's Indo-Pacific headquarters, hosting U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, U.S. Pacific Fleet, Pacific Air Forces, U.S. Army Pacific, Marine Corps Forces Pacific, Special Operations Command Pacific, Space Force Indo-Pacific and the National Security Agency Hawaii. It also has many key military installations including Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Schofield Barracks, Fort Shafter, the Pacific Missile Range Facility, Pōhakuloa Training Area, and various other locations. These installations support key operating forces based in Hawaii, including nuclear attack submarines, surface combatants, an Army infantry division, F-22s, MV-22s, C-17s, fuel tankers, Apaches, a Marine Corp regiment, and approximately 60,000 Department of Defense (DoD) personnel plus families.

This presence requires significant physical infrastructure investments that are sometimes difficult to maintain. Hawaii's geographic isolation makes everything from fuel to concrete significantly more expensive because they must be transported across thousands of miles of oceans. Our tropical location with buildings on or close to the ocean is also incredibly stressful on infrastructure. We face constant exposure to salt-laden air and high humidity, that can quickly cause metal to rust and lead to shorter lifespans than identical structures built on the mainland.

Despite generosity from the House Armed Services and Appropriations Committees in recent years, we must face the hard truth that the Department is not prioritizing critical repair and maintenance on its own. A 2023 Congressional Budget Office (CBO) study found that Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam alone requires almost \$5 billion to properly renovate and modernize—twice that of the next closest Navy base needing major upgrades. A 2022 CBO study found that U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii and Fort Bragg essentially tied with a \$1.5 billion deferred maintenance backlog, and a 2024 CBO report noted that Marine Corps Base Hawaii was among the “top” three Marine Corps bases with the worst backlog of deferred maintenance. Failing to perform such maintenance will accelerate the degradation of real property and increase the cost of future renovations and repairs.

The effects of avoiding infrastructure investments for years are now having real world consequences in Hawaii. For example, our aging waste water treatment systems at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and Marine Corps Base Hawaii have repeatedly spilled raw and insufficiently treated sewage into our oceans, and power outages and water main breaks have become all too real occurrences with potentially major impacts on service members' safety, especially when it affects Tripler Army Medical Center—the military's largest medical facility in the Indo-Pacific.

For far too long we have also ignored the need for major new construction. The Marine Corps' three-star command headquarters for the Indo-Pacific operates in the 1940s era 'Aiea Heights Naval Hospital that lacks sufficient classified spaces and secure connections. Special Operations Command Pacific, which serves as the functional component for all special operations missions throughout the Indo-Pacific, has personnel spread across 19 locations in O'ahu due to facility space limitations at its primary headquarters at Camp H. M. Smith. Space Forces Indo-Pacific is operating out of temporary buildings, which are little more than trailers. The 25th Infantry Division's Headquarters lacks sufficient Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility spaces and a modern headquarters facility. Failing to invest in these headquarters units now will make command and control more difficult in a time of war.

Further, the modern equipment used by our troops is in desperate need of new modern buildings to house them. The 3rd Marine Littoral Regiment does not have a magazine for the new weapons it needs, lacks sufficient climate-controlled facilities for its modern equipment, and has insufficient classified workspaces. Army helicopters operate out of World War II era hangers without modern climate control that often lead to spare parts being rusted and unusable. The Air Force's runways

and taxiways at Hickam Field have gotten so bad that waivers are requested for all routine landings, and aircraft stationed in Hawaii have longer depot periods because there is not even an adequate aircraft wash facility. Piers throughout Pearl Harbor should have been fully replaced years ago as many cannot support the cranes needed to maintain our vessels, and most piers and wharves cannot be used to refuel our vessels.

Finally, housing remains a major concern for too many. The barracks at U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii and Marine Corps Base Hawaii do not meet modern standards, and there is a strong desire from both the military and State of Hawaii to move more service members back onto base to alleviate high stress on the civilian housing supply, yet military housing is essentially full and many older buildings face ongoing maintenance issues, especially related to air conditioning that leads to dangerous mold when left unaddressed.

Mr. Speaker, the failure to address these infrastructure issues is placing our Nation's presence and mission in the Indo-Pacific at risk, and I ask for your help to address it. Given the depth of the problem, it will likely take many years and actions to address the challenge, but some of our first steps can include:

Investing in Critical Conflict-Related Infrastructure. The FY 2026 NDAA conference report mandated a study on the infrastructure investments required to support potential conflict-related needs in Hawaii. Congress must carefully review this forthcoming report and act on recommendations that can prepare Hawaii for any future contingency.

Funding Facilities Sustainment, Restoration, and Modernization (FSRM). Congress has wisely required the military to no longer short-change FSRM accounts. We must ensure this happens over multiple years and prevent further backsliding.

Support Unfunded Priorities. Far too often the military has been reluctant to fund projects in Hawaii because they are expensive. However, many projects make the unfunded priorities list, a sign that the military needs Congressional help to address critical shortfalls. When justified and executable, we must authorize these projects.

Reforming Pacific Deterrence Initiative (PDI). Despite the need for investments to support U.S. military power in the Indo-Pacific, rarely do Hawaii construction projects carry a PDI "label." The Government Accountability Office reviewed the DoD's PDI budget and concluded that the PDI does not consistently reflect department-wide priorities or requirements and generally presents an inconsistent mix of programs and funding. We need to reform the PDI budget presentation rules so readiness projects critical to the Indo-Pacific are properly considered and funded.

Creating Infrastructure "Tiger Teams." Given workforce shortages in key public works departments, we need small, specialized, and cross-functional group of high-level experts assembled temporarily to investigate and develop actionable plans to address our infrastructure woes in Hawaii. These teams bypass standard slow-moving hierarchies and create plans for action.

Resolving Joint Infrastructure Issues. Much of the military's infrastructure in Hawaii has a joint element especially since the services need to share installations given the limited

land available in our islands. For example, Pōhākūloa Training Area is used by all the services and could use improvement to its airfield and temporary barracks. However, there are often disagreements over how to move forward in a joint manner as illustrated by ongoing disagreements over how to prioritize and fund Air Force infrastructure needs at Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam that have remained unresolved for years. Given the joint nature of Hawaii's military infrastructure, it needs leadership from a joint perspective to ensure all interests are considered and supported.

We must face the hard truth that the status quo for military infrastructure in Hawaii is unsustainable. We can no longer expect our service members to project 21st-century power from 20th-century infrastructure. The fiscal and operational costs of continued neglect far outweigh the investment required to modernize these aging facilities. The steps I have proposed today represent a roadmap to restoring our regional readiness, but I stand ready to work with my colleagues to ensure the FY 2027 NDAA and appropriations bills provides the necessary resources to rebuild and protect our Nation's most critical Indo-Pacific location.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MILLPORT VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

HON. NICHOLAS A. LANGWORTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 20, 2026

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the historic 100th anniversary of the Millport Volunteer Fire Company, a vital institution of safety and service in Chemung County. For a century, this dedicated department has stood as a courageous shield for the residents of Millport and surrounding communities.

Throughout its storied hundred-year history, the Millport Volunteer Fire Company has been defined by the selfless spirit of neighbors helping neighbors. Since its founding, the company has remained unwavering in its mission to protect life and property. The bravery of members, both past and present, is a testament to the enduring strength of the volunteer fire service in Chemung County.

Under the steadfast commitment of its officers and volunteers, the company has fostered a legacy of reliability, integrity, and sacrifice. Their tireless efforts have not only ensured the safety of their district but have also deepened the sense of community through active civic engagement and local leadership. These volunteers routinely leave their homes and families to answer the call, embodying the very best of the American spirit.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the United States House of Representatives join me in honoring the Millport Volunteer Fire Company on this momentous milestone, and in thanking its members for a century of heroic service to the community.

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, April 21, 2026 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

APRIL 22

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2027 for the Department of Commerce.

SD-192

Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Department of Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2027 for the Department of the Interior.

SD-124

Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2027 for the Department of the Treasury.

SD-138

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine federal boxing laws.

SR-253

Committee on Finance
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2027 for the Department of Health and Human Services.

SD-215

10:15 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine China's ongoing theft of U.S. innovation.

SH-216

2 p.m.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2027 for the Department of Health and Human Services.

SD-430

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for

fiscal year 2027 for the Department of Agriculture.

SD-106

Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2027 for the Department of Energy.

SD-124

3 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Legislative Branch

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2027 for the Senate Sergeant at Arms and United States Capitol Police.

SD-138

Select Committee on Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

APRIL 23

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To receive a closed briefing on anomalous health incidents.

SVC-217

10 a.m.

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine The President's 2026 Trade Policy Agenda.

SD-215

10:15 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 1572, to improve the Federal carjacking statute, S. 3062, to require artificial intelligence chatbots to implement age verification measures and make certain disclosures, S. 3966, to prohibit the enforcement of certain contractual clauses that restrict disclosure of sexual abuse of minors, and the nominations of Sheria Akins Clarke, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina, Kathleen S. Lane, to be United States District Judge for the District of Montana, Evan Rikhye, to be Judge for the District Court of the Virgin Islands for a term of ten years, Kara Marie Westercamp, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade, and Kenneth Sorenson, to be United States Attorney for the

District of Hawaii for the term of four years.

SH-216

APRIL 27

3:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

To hold hearings to examine Department of Defense missile defense activities in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2027 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-222

MAY 14

8 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold closed hearings to examine the posture of the United States Central Command and United States Africa Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2027 and the Future Years Defense Program; to be immediately followed by an open session in SD-G50.

SVC-217