

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOL SURVIVORS

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, as the longest serving Native American in the United States House of Representatives, and a member of the Chickasaw Nation, I rise today to recognize the day of September 30, 2026, as National Orange Shirt Day or, National Day of Remembrance, to honor those who were forced to attend Indian boarding schools, and to recognize the experience of Indian boarding school victims and survivors.

Today, I am proud to stand in support with Indian boarding school survivors, descendants, and Tribal nations to remember the children that never made it home and to honor the week of remembrance for the Indian boarding school era.

As the lead sponsor of HR. 7325, the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act, I support formal investigation, documentation, and reporting on the histories of boarding schools, their policies, and long-term effects those schools and policies have had on Native American peoples. My democratic co-lead, Representative SHARICE DAVIDS, and I are dedicated to finding solutions for survivors, descendants, and Tribal communities.

According to research from the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition, the Federal government funded boarding schools for Native Americans from 1819 through the 1960s that forced the removal of hundreds of thousands of American Indian and Alaska Native children as young as 3 years old, relocating them from their traditional homelands to 1 of at least 526 known Indian boarding schools, of which 125 remain open today, across 38 States.

In my state of Oklahoma, there were 98 Federal boarding schools that were often overflowed to intentionally mix more than 30 different tribes to unsettle relations and prevent children from speaking common languages among each other.

Many of the children who were taken to Indian boarding schools never returned home to their families or their communities. Many did not survive. The impact of this is still felt today.

In closing, I call upon my colleagues to stand with me in Remembrance Day and support the passage of H.R. 7325.

CELEBRATING H. LEE MOFFITT'S 85TH BIRTHDAY AND 40 YEARS OF MOFFITT CANCER CENTER

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor former State Senator H. Lee Moffitt and to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Moffitt Cancer Center, an institution born from one man's vision.

I congratulate former State Senator Lee Moffitt for bringing this vision to life and hope he has a good 85th birthday in November.

Moffitt Cancer Center began with the belief that one person can make a difference. More than four decades ago, H. Lee Moffitt envisioned a place where patients could access world class cancer care and research without leaving Tampa Bay or the state of Florida. After losing two friends to cancer and surviving cancer himself, he understood firsthand the fear of a diagnosis and was struck that those he knew had to seek care outside the state. He made it his mission to change that.

Entering the Florida Legislature, he developed a reputation for being issue-oriented and persistent, qualities that would define his effort to bring a cancer center to Tampa.

What began as one person's vision has grown into a nationally recognized cancer center where oncologists, researchers, and team members work together to advance the prevention and cure of cancer.

Because of Lee's vision, countless patients now have access to exceptional care and the latest research, closer to home.

As Moffitt looks toward its next 40 years, the foundation Lee built remains at its center. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring H. Lee Moffitt's legacy and wishing him a happy 85th birthday this November.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF GEORGE KOIKOS

HON. JIMMY PATRONIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. PATRONIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of George Koikos, a true legend of the Tallahassee restaurant industry and someone I am proud to call my family.

George is my cousin through marriage and came to America from Greece to build a life rooted in the American Dream. He opened The Spartan Restaurant in 1969, followed by Brothers Three, Torreya Grill, and other successful restaurants before founding Georgio's Fine Food & Spirits, which became a Tallahassee institution.

Long before hospitality management schools were commonplace, George helped

shape the restaurant industry through his unmatched commitment to his customers and employees.

Throughout his career, he had the privilege of serving Governors, United States Senators, Members of Congress, and legendary football coaches, while becoming a trusted and beloved fixture in the Tallahassee community.

George leaves behind his beloved wife, Karen Koikos, and his three daughters, Katerina Maroney, Leni Spears, and Nikoleta Koikos. He also leaves behind countless friends, employees, and members of the community who were fortunate enough to know him.

I am grateful for the memories I have of George and for the legacy he leaves behind. My thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends, and all those who had the privilege of knowing him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of George Koikos. May he rest in peace.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK DESAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I cast my vote incorrectly on Roll Call No. 309, on passage of H.R. 9576, the National Fraud Enforcement Division Act. I mistakenly voted YEA when I intended to vote NAY.

HONORING MICHIGAN'S WEST POINT GRADUATES

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding Michiganders who recently graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point and answered the call to serve our Nation as commissioned officers in the United States Army.

More than 12,000 men and women applied to join the Class of 2026, yet only a select few earned the opportunity to attend West Point and successfully complete its rigorous four-year program. Earning a place at the Academy is an accomplishment in itself, but graduating requires far more than academic excellence. It demands discipline, perseverance, and a willingness to put service to our Nation before oneself.

As a Marine who served our Nation for four decades, I know firsthand that military service asks a great deal of those who choose to wear the uniform. I also know that the strength of our military ultimately rests not only on equipment or technology, but on the character of the men and women willing to serve. As

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