

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MASTER SERGEANT  
MATTHEW NEWMAN UPON RE-  
CEIVING THE DISTINGUISHED  
FLYING CROSS

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Master Sergeant Matthew Newman of the 60th Air Mobility Wing upon receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service, dedication, and sacrifice during Operation Allies Refuge. He exemplifies the best of America, and his tireless efforts guarantee the safety of all those who call America home.

Last year, the servicemembers of the 60th Air Mobility Wing met a challenge of colossal scale when they played a pivotal role in completing the drawdown of forces from Afghanistan. This command was critical in the largest noncombatant evacuation operation in known history, Operation Allies Refuge, ultimately saving over 124,000 lives. The 60th Air Mobility Wing directly supported the evacuation of nearly 13,000 Afghans while simultaneously managing the security and operations at Hamid Karzai International Airport. I have listened to countless stories from this group of brave men and women that exemplify the character, leadership, and bravery that is cultivated at Travis Air Force Base.

Service records only scratch the surface of the courageous actions performed by the 60th Air Mobility Wing. They put their hearts and lives on the line to save so many. These valiant servicemembers like Master Sergeant Matthew Newman epitomize the values of courage and patriotism.

On behalf of a grateful country and all the constituents of California's Third Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Master Sergeant Matthew Newman of the 60th Air Mobility Wing for receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross and extend my sincere gratitude for his sacrifice and contributions to the defense of this great country.

HONORING CAPTAIN JOHN DAVID  
BLENCOWE

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain John David Blencowe of the California Highway Patrol in recognition of his retirement and 25 years of service to the people of California.

Mr. Blencowe was born on Travis Air Force Base to Teresa and James Blencowe. He attended the University of California, Berkeley from 1989 to 1990 and received a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the University of California, Davis in 1995.

In 1997, Mr. Blencowe graduated from the California Highway Patrol Academy and served as an Officer in the Central Los Angeles area until 1999. Following his service in Los Angeles, he worked in the San Francisco Area, Solano Area and Golden Gate Division, where Mr. Blencowe was promoted to Sergeant in 2006. From 2006 to 2013, Mr. Blencowe was Team Leader for the Golden Gate Division Multidisciplinary Accident Investigation Team and rose to the rank of Lieutenant. From 2014–2015, he served in the San Jose Area before returning to the Golden Gate Division in 2016. Mr. Blencowe received his final assignment as Commander of the Napa Area in 2018 and was promoted to the rank of Captain.

For more than two decades, Mr. Blencowe has provided exemplary service in the face of unprecedented challenges. He has served with the Napa Air Operations Unit during the 2017 Atlas Peak Fire and responded to the active shooter incident at the Veterans Home of California, Yountville. In 2020, Mr. Blencowe provided critical support to multiple natural disasters in the Napa Area including the Glass and LNU Lightning Complex fires.

Mr. Blencowe is a devoted husband to his wife Melissa and the proud father of three daughters, Erin, Sarah and Emma.

Madam Speaker, I thank Captain Blencowe for his 25 years of selfless service and commitment to the people of California. His efforts have undoubtedly made our state a safer place to live. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

RECOGNIZING SHERIFF  
MARGARET A. MIMS

**HON. DAVID G. VALADAO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the long and distinguished career of a truly honorable public servant, Fresno County Sheriff, Margaret A. Mims.

Sheriff Mims has been a fixture in the Fresno County community for decades, serving as a peace officer for over 25 years. During her tenure, she has held the roles of Deputy Sheriff Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain, Assistant Sheriff, and finally Fresno County Sheriff-Coroner, a position she has held since 2006.

Sheriff Mims has led the Fresno County Sheriffs Department with distinction and honor for over 15 years and has been recognized by numerous organizations, universities, and community groups for her leadership. During her time as Sheriff, she has received the 31st Assembly District Woman of the Year Award, been named a "100 Stars for 100 Years" by the Fresno City College Centennial Alumna, received the Girls Scout's Woman Inspiring Girls Award, and has been named a Distinguished Alumni at both Fresno City College and National University. These are just some

of the many recognitions and awards she has received throughout her career and are a true testament to her impact on our community.

I want to personally state how thankful I am for the dedicated service of Sheriff Mims. Her courage, leadership, and commitment are truly inspiring, and I consider it an honor and a privilege to have worked with her and her office for so many years.

I urge all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring such a distinguished member of our Central Valley community, Sheriff Margaret M. Mims.

TRIBUTE HONORING THE LIFE  
AND LEGACY OF HIS EXCEL-  
LENCE PRINCE ASIEL BEN  
ISRAEL

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, these words are attributed to Sir Issac Watts, who wrote, and I paraphrase, "Were I so tall as to reach from pole to pole or grasp the ocean with my span, I must be measured by my soul, for the mind is the measure of the man."

Trying to describe Prince Asiel Ben Israel is no easy task because so many characteristics of desirability. He was a man of principle, a great husband, a provider, protector, a wonderful father, grandfather, great grandfather, a patriarch, and the leader of a tribe. He was a people's Prince born, educated, trained and prepared to lead. He was a visionary who understood that you cannot lead where you don't go and you cannot teach what you don't know. Prince was always searching for truth and knowledge and was exceptionally passionate about practically everything that he did or cared about.

He loved people, and I mean people, and he had a humanitarian spirit and expressed that, "all life sacred." it is now 4:00 am, in the morning, so let me wrap this up. I was blessed to spend many fortunate, precious, and meaningful hours with Prince. We traveled at least ten times to Africa, South Africa, West Africa, Europe, and the Middle East. Many of these times it was just the two of us, and talk, talk, talk we did. We met with Heads of State, the ANC, Winnie Mandela, Members of Parliaments, academicians, grassroots groups, clerics, giants of industry, and sometimes I thought Prince was the greatest advocate and diplomat on earth, both at the same time, and he was always on point.

A gifted intellectual spiritual leader who used his knowledge, talents and skills to advance the causes of his people (all caring people), as he journeyed through a lifetime of service to humanity.

As I walked away from our last meeting with two of his sons and a government official from Ghana a few weeks ago, I had a feeling, first

• 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.

of all, servant of all, you shall transcend all, and as I walked down to my car on Michigan Avenue humming to myself, "Swing low sweet chariot, coming for to carry me home."

Good night my friend.

# HONORING MAJOR KATIE LUNNING UPON RECEIVING THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

## HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 8, 2022*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Major Katie Lunning of the 60th Air Mobility Wing upon receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross for her service, dedication, and sacrifice during Operation Allies Refuge. She exemplifies the best of America, and her tireless efforts guarantee the safety of all those who call America home.

Last year, the servicemembers of the 60th Air Mobility Wing met a challenge of colossal scale when they played a pivotal role in completing the drawdown of forces from Afghanistan. This command was critical in the largest noncombatant evacuation operation in known history, Operation Allies Refuge, ultimately saving over 124,000 lives. The 60th Air Mobility Wing directly supported the evacuation of nearly 13,000 Afghans while simultaneously managing the security and operations at Hamid Karzai International Airport. I have listened to countless stories from this group of brave men and women that exemplify the character, leadership, and bravery that is cultivated at Travis Air Force Base.

Service records only scratch the surface of the courageous actions performed by the 60th Air Mobility Wing. They put their hearts and lives on the line to save so many. These valiant servicemembers like Major Katie Lunning epitomize the values of courage and patriotism.

On behalf of a grateful country and all the constituents of California's Third Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Major Katie Lunning of the 60th Air Mobility Wing for receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross and extend my sincere gratitude for her sacrifice and contributions to the defense of this great country.

## RECOGNIZING MAJOR BRIAN SCHELLER

## HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 8, 2022*

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize United States Space Force Major Brian K. Scheller on the completion of his Legislative Fellowship with my personal office. Major Scheller has been assigned to my staff since January 2022 and has done an outstanding job as my trusted advisor for national security, foreign operations, space/technology, and veteran policy issues.

Currently a Systems Engineer and Acquisition Project Manager for the United States Space Force, Major Scheller started his military service by graduating from the United

States Air Force Academy in 2010. While at the academy, Major Scheller was on the school's basketball team and served as an Assistant Coach for the first year following his commissioning. Throughout his 12 years of service, Major Scheller has been assigned as the F-16 Engineering Liaison at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, as well as being deployed for 7 months at Al Dhafra Air Base in the United Arab Emirates where he was responsible for leading construction and design projects at the base.

Stateside, Major Scheller served as the Chief of the Director's Action Group where he responded to Congressional inquiries for the Director of the National Security Space Launch Program. He also served as a Government Mission Integration Manager and led day-to-day operations that culminated in the successful launch of a Lockheed Martin GPS III satellite on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket.

During his fellowship in my office, Major Scheller was instrumental in helping my staff and I develop the fiscal year 2023 House Defense appropriations bill. His direct contributions will help provide our nation's uniformed men and women with the resources needed to defend our great Nation. Additionally, Texas' 12th district is home to numerous DOD priorities including the F-35 program, Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, and thousands of Active Guard and Reserve service members. Major Scheller quickly built a relationship with these entities, mastered their issues, and was essential in helping me fight for them. Additionally, Major Scheller coordinated dozens of engagements with senior administration officials, foreign heads of state, and industry leaders; and was a tireless advocate for servicemembers and veterans.

Servicemembers like Major Brian Scheller are the reason why our Nation's defense forces are the best in the world. On behalf of the 12th District of Texas, I offer my congratulations and best wishes to Brian, his wife Christine, and children Jacob and Keegan, as they continue their military journey in service to our great Nation.

## RECOGNIZING NORTHEAST WISCONSIN'S 2022 VETERAN OF THE YEAR, MICHAEL WEAVER

## HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 8, 2022*

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Northeast Wisconsin's 2022 Veteran of the Year, Michael Weaver. His service on and off the battlefield in Vietnam, his dedication to fellow veterans back home, and his devotion to Wisconsin's 8th Congressional District make him well-deserving of this recognition.

The Northeast Wisconsin Veteran of the Year is chosen annually by a selection committee consisting of members from the veteran and civilian community. It recognizes veterans in Northeast Wisconsin who continue to demonstrate service, excellence, and dedication in all that they do.

A longtime resident of Kaukauna, Wisconsin, Michael served in the Army as a medic during the Vietnam War. He enlisted in 1966 and served for 3 years before receiving

an Honorable discharge. During Michael's crucial service he received numerous medals and achievements, including the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, and the Vietnam Service Medal. Inspired by his father's service as a Combat Engineer in World War II, he enlisted as a Medical Corpsman in the Army after graduating high school. Once deployed to Vietnam in 1968, he started in a prisoner of war medical facility where he was charged with keeping enemy troops alive. He then returned to California to the Letterman Army Hospital in San Francisco where he provided care to the wounded service members who had made it back home until his discharge in 1969.

While Michael's service to Vietnam will never be forgotten, his commitment to serving the men and women of Northeast Wisconsin after he hung up his uniform is just as impressive. After leaving Vietnam he has dedicated his life to giving back and he has done that every day since his discharge. Some key examples of his dedication to our community include: Past President and Lt. Governor for Wisconsin Kiwanis Club, Chairman of the Board for the Heart of the Valley Chamber, Special Olympics Fox Valley coach, Emergency Medical Technician, rifle team member for Kaukauna VFW, a mentor for the Outagamie County Veterans Treatment Court, and chaplain of the Disabled American Veterans Appleton Post. Since his retirement from his civilian career, he has placed wreaths on nearly 1,200 grave markers for veterans, served as Senior Captain of the Patriot Guard, and also managed American flag poles for numerous organizations throughout the Fox Cities.

One impressive feat noted by one of Michael's nominators was that he recently helped honor two of Kaukauna's oldest veterans by reuniting them after 75 years through the VFW's Golf with a Vet event. He has clearly demonstrated a commitment to excellence, service, and dedication throughout all that he does in his life.

Most notably, Michael dedicates a substantial amount of time to St. Paul Elder Services in Kaukauna. Michael has spent the last decade dedicating time with veterans who are on hospice or end of life care with St. Paul Elder Services. As an Army medic veteran, he often connects with other veterans in a way that civilians simply cannot. From Vietnam to Kaukauna Michael continues to walk with veterans through an extremely challenging time.

Madam Speaker, I once again congratulate Michael Weaver for his service to Northeast Wisconsin, the veteran community, and on being the 2022 Northeast Wisconsin Veteran of the Year. Northeast Wisconsin can be proud of the many great veterans who call the 8th Congressional District home, and I urge all colleagues to join me in recognizing these outstanding men and women.

## TRIBUTE TO HENRY VINCENT "VINCE" FORD

## HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 8, 2022*

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a community leader and