

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT  
OF REVEREND DR. GERALD  
SHARON

**HON. RAUL RUIZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 1, 2024*

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable man of faith, a devoted community leader, and a dear friend, Reverend Dr. Gerald Sharon. Dr. Gerald Sharon is a rostered pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church and retired on August 12, 2024, from Hope Lutheran Church in Palm Desert, California. After 45 years of faithful ministry across numerous churches and denominations, Dr. Sharon leaves behind a legacy that has profoundly shaped countless lives.

When I think of his leadership, I'm reminded of how, in 2015, Southwest Church grew under his guidance to become one of the fastest-growing congregations in the Nation, a milestone recognized by Outreach Magazine and Lifeway Research. Additionally, Dr. Sharon traveled extensively preaching and training pastors across Latin America, Europe, Africa, and Asia. He didn't achieve this by chance; he did it through his unwavering commitment to inclusion and his deeply rooted belief that every person deserves love and respect.

It was the good Reverend Gerald Sharon who baptized my wife, Monica, who dedicated my daughters in the church, and who has been a friend and a guide through life. His Kentucky roots gave us a unique bond over bourbon, but it was his courage and transparency that set him apart. His openness brought a sense of ease to those who confided in him, and his storytelling is legendary. Dr. Sharon has that rare gift to touch both hearts and minds, inspiring people to love God, follow Jesus, and lead better lives.

Due to his leadership skills and community involvement, he was invited to join the governing board of John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital in Indio, California, where he served as Chairman from 2018 to 2020. After completing a one-year term as Chairman Emeritus, he was asked to continue his role on the board. He also serves on the hospital's Bioethics Committee.

Dr. Sharon received his bachelor of arts and master of arts degrees from Georgetown College in Kentucky. His master of divinity and doctor of ministry degrees were earned at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky.

In addition to his numerous degrees and accolades, it is his kindness and dedication to everyone he encounters that truly defines him. And, alongside his beloved wife, Gesa, he has built a beautiful family. Together they have four children, three of whom are married, and five grandchildren.

For me, my family, and countless others, we thank Reverend Dr. Gerald Sharon for his years of unwavering service, friendship, and for being a true beacon of faith and compas-

sion. May his retirement be filled with joy and peace.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVER-  
SARY OF UCSF FRESNO EMER-  
GENCY MEDICINE

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 1, 2024*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary milestone: the 50th anniversary of the UCSF Fresno Emergency Medicine Residency Program.

Fifty years ago, visionary physicians recognized the urgent need for dedicated emergency care. They established one of the first Emergency Medicine residency programs in the United States, transforming the landscape of medical training and emergency response. As Dr. James Comes aptly noted, "They had the vision to start an Emergency Medicine program here, and it has made all the difference in the world for the community."

The UCSF Fresno Emergency Medicine residency program is now regarded as one of the most sought-after programs in the country, attracting top medical school graduates. Residents train at Community Regional Medical Center, one of California's busiest emergency departments, handling upwards of 350 patients a day. This high-volume environment equips residents with the skills necessary to excel in their future careers.

Over the past five decades, the program has pioneered numerous innovations, including the Parkmedic program, which allows residents to serve as EMS directors in national parks, and the establishment of the Wilderness Medicine Fellowship—only the fourth of its kind in the Nation. These initiatives exemplify the program's commitment to advancing emergency medicine not just locally, but nationally.

In addition to its educational achievements, the program has made significant contributions to emergency medical services in Fresno County. Dr. Gene Kallsen, a former chief of the Department of Emergency Medicine, was instrumental in reforming ambulance services, ensuring faster response times and better patient care. His legacy, and that of many others, continues to shape the future of emergency care in our region.

Today, the UCSF Fresno Emergency Medicine residency program stands as a model of excellence in medical education and emergency response. It has evolved into a fully staffed program, ensuring that residents receive comprehensive training in various subspecialties while providing critical care to our community.

As we celebrate this milestone, let us recognize the dedicated faculty, residents, and leaders who have contributed to the program's success. Their commitment to training skilled clinicians who serve diverse and vulnerable

populations is a testament to the program's enduring impact.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my esteemed colleagues to join me in celebrating the UCSF Fresno Emergency Medicine residency program and its invaluable contributions to our community and to the field of emergency medicine.

RECOGNIZING PA-1'S HOMETOWN  
HERO: ROMEO ANGELINI

**HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 1, 2024*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary individual from Pennsylvania's First Congressional District—someone who has gone above and beyond the call of duty in service to both our community and our country. It is with great respect and admiration, that I recognize Romeo Angelini, one of our district's distinguished Hometown Heroes.

Hometown Heroes are not defined by titles or accolades, but by the quiet power of their actions. They are distinguished by their unwavering integrity, the strength of their character, and their steadfast commitment to the people and places they serve. They are the foundation upon which our communities stand—the ones who lift others up, inspire hope, and in doing so, call us all to higher standards of service and compassion. Romeo has embodied this spirit in ways that words can scarcely capture.

From a young age, Romeo recognized the most valuable gift one can give is the gift of giving back. So, since his tenth birthday, he has chosen to forgo the usual birthday festivities and dedicate his special day to a cause greater than himself. Every year, Romeo organizes and hosts food drives and fundraisers to benefit the Family Service Association of Bucks County, turning his birthday into an opportunity to uplift his community. Through these efforts, he has helped FSABC better serve the 50,000 community members who turn to them in their times of need. Romeo's remarkable dedication and commitment to serving our community have not gone unnoticed. Last October, he was recognized with the prestigious Susan N. Altomari Champion for Youth Award—an honor reserved for those who have profoundly impacted the lives of others in Bucks County.

The impact of Romeo's work lies not only in the thousands of pounds of food he has helped collect but also in the poignant message it sends. It is a message of kindness, compassion, and the extraordinary power each of us holds to make a difference.

Mr. Speaker, it is through the work of people like Romeo Angelini that our communities thrive and our Nation grows stronger. His service, given without expectation of recognition, stands as a testament to the belief that

• 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.

one individual's dedication can ripple through the lives of many, sparking change, fostering resilience, and inspiring hope. Today we honor Romeo Angelini not just for his remarkable deeds but for who he is—a true hero in every sense of the word.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's First Congressional District, I extend my deepest gratitude to Romeo Angelini for his extraordinary service. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this exceptional individual, whose leadership and spirit of service will inspire generations to come. May his example remind us of the boundless potential within each of us to make our communities, country, and world a better place.

#### RECOGNIZING LINCOLN CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS' 100TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 1, 2024*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lincoln Consolidated Schools of Augusta Township, Michigan on the occasion of their Centennial Celebration. Their steadfast commitment to the education of our area's youth over the last 100 years is worthy of commendation.

Dr. Marvin Pittman was a visionary educator in the early 1920's who believed in the strength and power of public education. The consolidation of thirteen one-room schools was voted for by the community on May 2, 1923, and in April 1924, the cornerstone of a new K–12 school was laid. This school was named Lincoln Consolidated School in connection between the equal education opportunity ideals of Abraham Lincoln and the goals of the district. Once welcoming 500 students in 1924, Lincoln now hosts a diverse student population of over 3,000.

Lincoln Consolidated Schools District is currently home to four elementary schools, one middle school, and one enlarged high school. Their commitment to developing students into high-achieving, inspired adults is exemplified through their partnership with Eastern Michigan University's Early College Alliance. At no cost, high school students are given the opportunity to experience higher education and earn college credits, opening their eyes to the possibilities after graduation. With a \$25 million bond passed in 2018, the district was able to improve facilities for athletics, fine arts, technology, and more. The Lincoln Athletic Building, with new fitness and multi-sport areas was opened in 2021 and showcases the district's dedication to community involvement by encouraging community members to also utilize the space.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the staff, students, and community that have made Lincoln Consolidated Schools a tremendous educational environment for the last century. Dr. Pittman would be proud of how they have continued to build upon his ideals for public education. I am excited to see the district foster and encourage this community's students for the next 100 years.

#### CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF TROY FLOYD

#### HON. GUY RESCHENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 1, 2024*

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life and legacy of Patrolman Troy Floyd, who was killed in the line of duty on August 8, 2024.

A lifelong resident of Lincoln County, Mississippi, Troy graduated from Brookhaven High School in 1993. He started his career as a law enforcement officer in 1996, dedicating his life to protecting and serving the southern Mississippi community.

Troy spent his years in law enforcement as a Lincoln County jailer and deputy. Additionally, he was a certified agent with the Mississippi Department of Corrections and former assistant police chief of Wesson, Mississippi. He spent his career working to improve the state's law enforcement agencies by training officers through many programs. He also taught children the dangers of drugs and alcohol through the DARE Program and mentored underprivileged youth at Camp Shelby.

Troy lived a faithful life and served his community and family every day. He was dearly loved by many because of his kindhearted nature, loyalty, selflessness, and dedication to helping others.

Troy is survived by his wife, Sage Floyd, three children, four siblings, and two grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Mississippi Patrolman Troy Floyd's faith and service to his community is a shining example of what it means to be a public servant. I wish his family healing and strength during this difficult time.

#### HONORING THE LATE JERRY WOLOZ

#### HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 1, 2024*

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, a proud American and a proud New Yorker, Jerry Woloz had a profound impact on the lives of many in the fields of education and social services. He devoted his life to lifting up the most vulnerable among us and educating the next generation. For several decades, he served with distinction as a social studies teacher and dean in the NYC public school system, educating students about the critical importance of our democracy and inspiring them to be civically engaged and claim our democracy as their own. Education is the noblest profession. Jerry Woloz made it his life's work, and we are all better for it.

Jerry is survived by his wife of 54 years, Marilyn Woloz, and his two sons Michael and Jason, as well as his two beautiful grandchildren Gabriel and Olivia. The People's House is eternally grateful to Jerry Woloz for leaving behind a world better than the one he found.

#### RECOGNIZING PA-1'S HOMETOWN HERO RITA LENTZ

#### HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 1, 2024*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary individual from Pennsylvania's First Congressional District—someone who has gone above and beyond the call of duty in service to both our community and our country. It is with great respect and admiration, I recognize the late Rita Lentz, one of our district's distinguished Hometown Heroes.

Hometown Heroes are not defined by titles or accolades but by the quiet power of their actions. They are distinguished by their unwavering integrity, the strength of their character, and their steadfast commitment to the people and places they serve. They are the foundation upon which our communities stand—the ones who lift others up, inspire hope, and, in doing so, call us all to higher standards of service and compassion. Throughout her remarkable life, Rita embodied this spirit in ways that words can scarcely capture.

A lifelong Bristol Borough resident, Rita was a beacon of Bristol's small-town, neighborly compassion, known for her genuine acts of kindness that harkened back to a simpler time. A 1955 Bristol High School graduate, Rita went on to serve as the School Secretary at Warren-Snyder Elementary. Rita went to work committed to making a difference in the students' lives, instilling in them, and sharing the values of respect and love. As a lifelong parishioner at St. Ann Church, she was a woman of deep faith and a steadfast presence at mass, novenas, and all parish events. I looked forward to seeing Rita each year at the Annual St. Ann Carnival and Italian Festival, where she served as a volunteer since its inception over twenty-five years ago. No matter where or when, Rita always made the time to engage and make genuine connections with others. As a remarkable testament to her faith and compassion Rita made it a priority to attend and was a comforting presence at the funerals of generations of Bristolians. A lifetime of what may seem like simple acts of kindness has left an indelible and extraordinary mark on the Bristol Borough community.

In times of uncertainty, it is the work of individuals like Rita that reminds us of the power of the human spirit. Her service, given without expectation of recognition, is testament to the belief that one individual's dedication can ripple through the lives of many, sparking change, fostering resilience, and inspiring hope. Today, we honor Rita not just for her remarkable deeds but for who she was—a true hero in every sense of the word.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's First Congressional District, I extend my deepest gratitude to the family of Rita Lentz for her extraordinary service. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Rita, whose spirit of service will inspire generations to come. May her example remind us of the boundless potential within each of us to make our communities, country, and world a better place.