

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### RECOGNIZING GILBERT HIGH SCHOOL'S PEACE WALL MURAL

**HON. J. LUIS CORREA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 8, 2024*

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gilbert High School in Anaheim, California, for its collaboration with CITYarts' 50 States of Peace initiative to create a Peace Wall mural to be displayed on campus.

For the last 35 years, CITYarts has engaged students, art teachers, and professional artists to spread the message of peace through artistic expression in all 50 states of our nation. The Gilbert High School mural does just that.

The message, "Respecting the Rights of Others is Peace," is interwoven with brilliant imagery and colors that fill a wall located at the campus entrance. This welcoming piece of art and powerful message of peace now greets students and staff who enter the campus each school day and is seen by the hundreds of community members who visit the school's food pantry and resource center.

The Gilbert High School mural was commissioned to represent the State of California and was selected as number two in the 2024 CITYarts 50 States of Peace initiative. Gilbert High students worked with art teacher Janelle Frese and artist Jamie Kough throughout the creative process. After engaging in research, investigation, and collaboration around the idea of peace, the students created a design with imagery that was also inspired by discussions on social justice and participation in ethnic studies classes, art and music workshops, and school-wide civic engagement activities.

I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating this cohort of student artists, as well as their teachers and mentors, for elevating their imaginations and creative talents into a piece of art that is literally art for peace.

### RECOGNIZING NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP'S LISA RUSSO

**HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 8, 2024*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exceptional constituent from my district, Lisa Russo. Since she was a child, she was driven to serve her country in the military. And she did just that and joined the United States Navy from 1986 through 1992 as a Communications and Electronics Technician.

Lisa continued her civic service as the Administration Executive Assistant to the Northampton Township Manager since 2007. Lisa played an integral role in implementing and maintaining the Patriots Flag Program. She ensured the respectful transfer of 92 flags,

representing 92 residents honored under the Patriots Flag Program during the Global War on Terrorism from 2003 to 2021, to the display's new home in Northampton Township Library.

In addition, her substantial contributions were instrumental in creating awareness of the issues faced by Veterans, Active-Duty Service Members and their families, providing support to countless lives in our community. I am beyond proud of and exceptionally grateful for Lisa's service to our great nation and community. Her dedication to this country as a Navy Veteran demonstrates the highest commitment to the values that make America the beacon of liberty to the world. I am truly impressed by her determination to achieve so much and employ all her talents in service of others.

### HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN HERO GABRIEL GRIESS

**HON. BETH VAN DUYNE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 8, 2024*

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, retired U.S. Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Gabriel Griess. After graduating from the U.S. Air Force Academy, Gabriel Griess was deployed to Afghanistan as a C-130 Cargo Aircraft Navigator in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Anaconda. His heroic service included evacuating critically injured troops, destroying Al Qaeda strongholds, flying in critical supplies, and providing air support to ground troops. He continued to serve in leadership and command positions with numerous worldwide deployments and tours of duty, journeying to over 40 countries. His valiant service earned him the Legion of Merit in 2013 and Air Mobility Command Company Grade Officer of the Year in 2003.

After 24 years, Lieutenant Colonel Griess retired from the U.S. Air Force and moved his family to Grapevine. Inspired by the quality of care and commitment of U.S. aero-medical evacuation teams while deployed, as well as the incredible healthcare professionals who treated his daughter's pediatric epilepsy, Mr. Griess founded Excel Medical Staffing and MedForceX, LLC, service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses that provide contingent clinical staffing services across the country. He has been active in our community, serving on multiple city boards, coaching youth lacrosse, and integrating charity work into his company's referral program.

I'd like to thank Mr. Griess for going above and beyond to serve our North Texas community and our great Nation.

### TRIBUTE TO RONALD COLLINS

**HON. KEVIN MULLIN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 8, 2024*

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ron Collins, Councilmember for the City of San Carlos, upon his retirement after 13 years of dedicated service to the city.

Ron Collins began his career of public service in San Mateo County in 1972, two years after he graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles, where he earned his bachelor's degree in history. For seven years, he served as a public-school teacher and administrator in Half Moon Bay, and obtained a Master's Degree in Educational Administration and Supervision from San Francisco State University. He then transitioned to the private sector undertaking a career in insurance, where he remained until his retirement in 2022. Ron was elected to the City Council of San Carlos in November 2011 and served in this position until December 2024. During his tenure, which included two stretches as Mayor, Ron undertook countless initiatives that have greatly improved the lives of San Carlos' residents.

Ron and his wife, Gayle, have lived in San Carlos for most of their lives. In addition to raising two children in the city, Ron has done much to improve the lives of children and families. This includes protecting children's safety by banning smoking in multi-family housing and banning the sale of flavored tobacco that particularly affect teenage populations. Ron additionally has sought to improve parents' access to childcare in San Carlos through passing a Child Care Development Impact Fee, which requires nonresidential developers to include childcare spaces on their sites, and approving a Childcare Grant Program designed to support local childcare operators in expanding their access to childcare.

During his time as a Councilmember, Ron also made significant improvements to make San Carlos more accessible from both an income and transportation standpoint. He supported the 2023-2031 San Carlos Housing Element, which aims to create a total of 1,164 new units of housing for low-income families and approved numerous other significant affordable housing developments. Ron also supported the San Carlos Avenue Pedestrian Improvement Project and the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, aiming to make San Carlos a place where people can freely and safely navigate across the city's streets.

Ron has worked to plan for the future of San Carlos and has also sought to enhance the city in the present. Ron supported multiple sustainability initiatives to adapt San Carlos in the face of the threat of climate change, from beginning to transition San Carlos' fleet of Public Works vehicles to an EV platform, to adopting a disposable foodware ordinance. Ron has strengthened San Carlos' economic standing by overseeing the completion of

• 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.

projects such as the Palo Alto Medical Foundation and the Landmark Hotel. During his tenure, San Carlos updated and preserved many of the city's community facilities such as the San Carlos Library, the Youth Center, and the Adult Community Center. In doing so, Ron has provided San Carlos' residents with comprehensive spaces to congregate and enjoy the city's public resources.

Ron's impressive record as a Councilmember reflects his deep, longstanding commitment to improve the lives of San Carlos' residents. Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring Ron Collins for his years of service on the San Carlos City Council, commending him for his immense dedication towards the community he served, and wishing him all the best in the years ahead.

### CELEBRATING THE DELAVAN GRIDER COMMUNITY CENTER

#### HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 8, 2024*

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the remarkable history and accomplishments of the Delavan Grider Community Center. Established in 2001, under the bold vision of passionate block club leaders, the Delavan Grider Community Center has evolved into a space where neighbors of all ages come together to share experiences and build lasting bonds that strengthen our community.

The Delavan Grider Community Center is a resource in our community—offering diverse programming for all ages, including youth and seniors, Girl Scouts, after-school programs, and summer activities. The programming offered by the Delavan Grider Community Center has empowered countless individuals, providing a safe environment where they can discover new skills, forge lifelong friendships, and grow in ways they never imagined.

The Delavan Grider Community Center is a beautiful reminder of what we can achieve when we come together with a shared purpose, as well as a reminder that there is always something and somewhere for everyone. This Center is not just a thriving hub in the heart of our community, but also a vital part of the fabric that makes the East Side of Buffalo strong, connected, and resilient.

Today, as we look back at all that the Delavan Grider Community Center has achieved, it is important to reflect on the many ways this center has enriched the lives of so many through its past accomplishments and the exciting future that lies ahead. Please join me in celebrating the Delavan Grider Community Center—may it continue to grow, inspire, and strengthen the power of community.

### HONORING THE RECIPIENTS OF TEXAS' 26TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT VETERAN COMMENDATION

#### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 8, 2024*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recall and recognize the recipients of a special annual salute to honor local Veterans of the 26th Congressional District of Texas. Starting in 2005, I have had the privilege of honoring distinguished Veterans of my district with Texas' 26th Congressional District Veteran Commendation.

Our nation's Veterans have selflessly and honorably served our country and preserved our freedoms. It is because of their service that we enjoy all the liberties we are afforded. These brave men and women deserve our thanks and praise.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to publicly recognize eighty-six Veterans over the past two decades and honor their service through the presentation of the Congressional Veteran Commendation (CVC) at the annual "Salute Our Veterans" luncheon sponsored by the Highland Village Business Association (HVBA) and the City of Highland Village, Texas.

At this patriotic event each year, in addition to the announcement of the CVC recipients, each Veteran in attendance is afforded the opportunity to give their name and branch of service along with a highlight of their military service. With an annual attendance of over 250, the HVBA graciously covers the cost of the luncheon for attending Veterans and their guest.

As I retire from the U.S. House of Representatives, allow me to announce the five recipients of the 2024 Congressional Veteran Commendation and add their names to the illustrious list of prior recipients.

2024

Thomas Balmer (Sergeant—U.S. Army), Carrollton  
Kasey Brown (Sergeant—U.S. Marine Corps), Justin  
Frank Dixon (Corporal—U.S. Marine Corps), Flower Mound  
Christopher Garner (Specialist—U.S. Army National Guard), Gainesville  
John Miller (Captain—U.S. Army), Frisco

2023

Mary Garcia (Major—U.S. Air Force) of Lewisville  
Timothy Qualls (Staff Sergeant—U.S. Air Force) of Savannah  
David Seals, Jr. (Captain—U.S. Army) of Frisco  
Melvin Sumrall (Corporal—U.S. Marine Corps) of Denton

2022

James Brown (U.S. Marine Corps—Corporal), Sanger  
Jere Delano (U.S. Air Force—SSGT), Denton  
Lena Jackson-Lynch (U.S. Air Force—MSGT), Denton  
Daniel Joseph (U.S. Army—Corporal), Lake Dallas  
John Mulholland II (U.S. Navy—Petty Officer 2nd Class), Justin

2021

Carolyn Bradford (Specialist—U.S. Army), North Richland Hills

Richard Crossley, Jr. (Lt. Col.—U.S. Army), Flower Mound  
Karl Monger (Captain—U.S. Army), Trophy Club  
Michael Shasteen (Petty Officer Fourth Class—U.S. Navy), Frisco  
Ron Trees (Lt. Col.—U.S. Air Force), Little Elm

2020

Paul Bastaich (Senior Master Sergeant—U.S. Air Force), Oak Point  
Richard Cook (Lieutenant—U.S. Navy), Double Oak  
Jacob Schick (Corporal—U.S. Marine Corps), Frisco  
Dennis Sheridan (Captain—U.S. Army), Trophy Club  
Danny Weakley (Master Sergeant—U.S. Army), Little Elm

2019

Sharon Balsley (Lt. Colonel—U.S. Army), Corinth  
Carlos Gallardo (Captain—U.S. Air Force), Frisco  
Tom Kim (Lt. Commander—U.S. Navy), Highland Village  
Robert Kohankie II (Lt. Commander—U.S. Navy), Flower Mound  
James Trombley (Sergeant—U.S. Marine Corps), Frisco

2018

Virgil Aldag (Specialist 4th Class—U.S. Army), Denton  
Lewis Duckwall II (Gunnery Sergeant—U.S. Marine Corps), Lake Dallas  
Robert Lessard (Sergeant First Class—U.S. Army), Aubrey  
Christopher Martin (Colonel—U.S. Army), Argyle  
Gustav Wittschack (Sergeant First Class—U.S. Army), Cross Roads

2017

Paul Farrar (Staff Sergeant—U.S. Army), Denton  
Donald Graves (Corporal—U.S. Marine Corps), Fort Worth  
Paul Perez Jr. (Master Sergeant—U.S. Air Force), Flower Mound  
Donald Phillips (Chief Petty Officer—U.S. Navy), Denton  
Johnnie Yellock II (Staff Sergeant—U.S. Air Force), Lantana

2016

Roberta DuTeil (Lieutenant Junior Grade—U.S. Navy), Bartonville  
William "Bill" Lawrence (Colonel—U.S. Air Force), Highland Village  
Virginia "Ginger" Simonson (Lieutenant Colonel—U.S. Army), Highland Village  
Clinton Turner (Corporal—U.S. Army), Denton  
Charles "Chuck" Wright (1st Lieutenant—U.S. Marine Corps), Frisco

2015

Jack Bailey (Major—U.S. Army/Commander—U.S. Navy), Flower Mound  
Forrest Beadle (Captain—U.S. Army), Denton  
Doug Brown (Chief Warrant Officer—U.S. Army), Flower Mound  
Andre "Frenchy" Rheault (Master Sergeant—U.S. Air Force), Denton  
Gary Steele (Senior Master Sergeant—U.S. Air Force), Denton

2014

Charles Correll (Colonel—U.S. Air Force), Denton  
Peter Lane (Colonel—U.S. Air Force), Denton  
Jack Milligan (Lieutenant Colonel—U.S. Army), Highland Village  
Pat Smith (Colonel—U.S. Air Force), Denton  
William Splichal (Chief Warrant Officer 4—U.S. Army), Trophy Club