

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### HONORING TIMOTHY “TIM” MIHUC FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE

**HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 3, 2025*

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Timothy “Tim” Mihuc, Ph.D., for his years of service to the North Country community and his efforts to protect native aquatic life in the Lake Champlain Basin.

Dr. Mihuc began his career as an undergrad majoring in Biology at Oral Roberts University and his interest in science and the environment led him to pursue a Master’s in Zoology from Oklahoma State University. Dr. Mihuc went on to complete his Ph.D. at Idaho State University. After graduation, he spent several years at Louisiana State University as a post-doctoral researcher conducting invasive species research in the Atchafalaya River Basin. He then served as director of the Great Rivers Field Station for the Illinois Natural History Survey where he led a research team working on the Upper Mississippi River.

The State University of New York at Plattsburgh hired Dr. Mihuc in 1999 as an Associate Professor of Environmental Science and he was named the first Director of the Lake Champlain Research Institute (LCRI) that same year. The institute’s primary objective was to assist and promote student research across multiple disciplines related to Lake Champlain and its ecosystem.

Dr. Mihuc also serves as Co-Director of the Lake Champlain Sea Grant Institute, a branch of the National Sea Grant College Program, which aims to raise awareness to improve the environmental health of the Lake Champlain region and encourage sustainable economic development. The institute supports research on best land and water management practices and provides that research to organizations, businesses, and individuals throughout the Lake Champlain Basin.

In 2018, Dr. Mihuc was promoted to the SUNY Distinguished Professorship rank by the SUNY Board of Trustees in recognition of his dedication to the campus, the community, and Lake Champlain. During his tenure at SUNY Plattsburgh, he successfully implemented advanced experiential learning opportunities for students through LCRI and other avenues.

Further demonstrating his expertise, I was honored to invite Dr. Mihuc to bring his expertise to Congress. On June 16, 2022, he testified in front of the Committee on Natural Resources’ Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife in support of H.R. 6936, the Stamp Out Invasive Species Act. In his testimony, Dr. Mihuc cited his work at LCRI and how critical federal funding is to educate the public and combat invasive species in the wild.

On behalf of New York’s 21st district, I would like to thank Dr. Mihuc for his contributions to the North Country and Lake Champlain.

### CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF NORTHVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL GIRLS’ SOCCER TEAM

**HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 3, 2025*

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Northville Central School girls’ soccer team, the Falcons, on a hard-fought championship game victory following an impressive season.

The Falcons, led by head coach Doug Hammons, won the state championship 1–0, on a goal from freshman Lexi Ginter on a rebound from Korrine Bly’s free kick in the twenty-fifth minute of the game. The Falcons’ defense maintained steady pressure and emerged victorious over the Copenhagen Golden Knights.

The Falcons’ 2024 season finished with a 15–7 record and the New York State Class D State Soccer Championship. They are the first Western Athletic Conference team to win a state championship in girls’ soccer—a remarkable accomplishment.

On behalf of New York’s 21st Congressional District, I would like to congratulate the Northville Falcons on their tremendous 2024 soccer season culminating with the New York State Class D Soccer title.

### CELEBRATING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF PATRICK “RICK” ENGLE

**HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 3, 2025*

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Patrick “Rick” Engle on being elected St. Lawrence County Sheriff.

Rick has been an outstanding leader in the St. Lawrence County community and has worked for the Sheriff’s office for 23 years. Rick enlisted in the United States Marine Corps during his senior year of high school as part of the Marine Corps’ delayed entry program and graduated basic training in 1991. During his time in the military, he served as a fire team leader, squad leader, patrol team leader, and as a motor vehicle operator instructor. He also deployed overseas, serving on peacekeeping missions in Haiti and Cuba during his time as a Marine.

Following his time in the Marine Corps, Rick decided he wanted to pursue a career in law enforcement to continue serving his community. He began working road patrol for the St. Lawrence County Sheriff’s Office as a deputy in 2001. Rick then worked his way up to investigator before running for Sheriff himself.

During his campaign for Sheriff, Rick pledged to listen to his community and focus

on providing service over politics—a promise he upholds as County Sheriff each day. He has worked to strengthen relationships between St. Lawrence County’s law enforcement agencies and other first responders, rescuers, and emergency service providers. Rick’s selfless leadership and dedication to his community, exemplify why his colleagues specially requested he run for the Sheriff’s seat and why officers with eight local police unions supported his bid.

On behalf of New York’s 21st district, I am honored to recognize the distinguished, decades long service and commitment to his community of Sheriff Patrick “Rick” Engle. I congratulate him on his incredible achievements and look forward to witnessing his future endeavors in the community.

### RECOGNIZING LENNY WARD, SR.

**HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 3, 2025*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding constituent from my district, Lenny Ward, Sr. As a veteran and dedicated community service member, Lenny has devoted his career to his country and community. Through military service and volunteer work, Lenny has spent most of his life cultivating a lifetime of purpose and spirit. His relentless care and advocacy for others does not go unnoticed, and therefore I wish to commend him today.

Since Lenny was a child, he was driven to serve his country in the military. Lenny put his aspirations and life on hold and joined the United States Air Force from 1962 through 1966 as a Medic. During his time in the United States Air Force, Lenny was deployed to Vietnam from 1965 through 1966.

Lenny spent much of his career at Pine Valley Golf Club as a Caddy Master from 1994 through 2013. His infectious positive attitude will always be what he was most proud of during his career. His charisma and smile made people gravitate towards him.

I am beyond proud of and exceptionally grateful for Lenny Ward, Sr.’s service to our great Nation and grateful for the legacy he has left in our community. His dedication to this country as a United States Air Force Vietnam Combat Medic demonstrates the highest commitment to the values that make America the beacon of liberty to the world. I am truly impressed by his determination to achieve greatness. I wish him nothing but the best for all that he has done for his country and community.

• 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 GARRY DOUGLAS FOR  
HIS SERVICE AND DEDICATION

**HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 3, 2025*

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Garry Douglas for his hard work and advocacy on behalf of the North Country and its business community.

In December 1992, Mr. Douglas was selected to lead the North Country Chamber of Commerce from a pool of over 100 candidates. Prior to this, he served as Executive Assistant to Congressman Gerald Solomon for fourteen years. During his time in the Chamber, Mr. Douglas has worked tirelessly to provide members with multiple services and expand that membership. Today, the North Country Chamber of Commerce boasts a membership of over 4,200 businesses across Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Hamilton, and Warren Counties.

During his tenure, Mr. Douglas has weathered many economic storms. When a local air base was forced to close under the 1993 Base Realignment and Closure Commission, Mr. Douglas seized the opportunity to expand into the Canadian market. Mr. Douglas and the Chamber Board were swift to fill the vacuum left by the closure with new business for the community. Similarly, when faced with the Covid-19 pandemic, he created an economic plan to assist all the businesses in the North Country, not just Chamber members, on how to navigate New York State's regulations. He also instructed Chamber of Commerce staff to assist small businesses in securing federal and state resources.

Mr. Douglas also founded the North American Center of Excellence for Transportation Equipment (NAMTrans) which develops and serves a cluster of transport equipment and aerospace manufacturers in northern New York. Mr. Douglas' efforts to improve the business environment led to the recognition of a Quebec-New York corridor, uniting regions that have close historical and cultural relationships in economic development efforts.

Mr. Douglas has received many accolades during his time leading the Chamber from local, regional, and state organizations. City & State Magazine has recognized Mr. Douglas on both its Economic Development Power 75 list and its Upstate New York Power 100 list. While Mr. Douglas would be the first to credit his team at the Chamber with much of his success, there is no doubt that his visionary leadership has significantly enhanced the North Country's economic development. Earlier this year, the Town of Plattsburgh officially named a road in the newly opened Clinton County Business Industrial Gateway as Douglas Boulevard in honor of his service to the region.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I am proud to celebrate the achievements of my friend Garry Douglas. His dedication to public service and tireless support of small businesses across the North Country has benefited many and will continue to help the North Country for decades to come.

REMEMBERING THE INCREDIBLE  
LIFE OF JOHN ZURLO

**HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 3, 2025*

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the incredible life of my friend, John Zurlo. John was a pillar of our North Country community, and his life has left a lasting legacy on the lives of thousands.

John was born on October 24, 1938, in Plattsburgh, New York, and raised in the nearby town of Champlain on the New York-Canada border. He attended St. Michael's College in Vermont and graduated with a B.A. in Business Administration in 1960. John then returned to his hometown to teach business at Northeastern Clinton Central School, a position he held for 34 years. He also served as the coach for the school's baseball and golf teams.

Going beyond his employment at Northeastern Clinton Central School, John continually gave back to the youth serving as the president of Champlain Central Teacher's Association and the local Youth Hockey Association, North Country Cougars Youth Hockey Association. John was also a member of the St. Michael's College Alumnus Board of Directors.

Further, John was extremely active in his community and held many roles in organizations across the region including the Rouses Point Kiwanis Club, Teacher's Federal Credit Union, Board of Directors for Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital, St. Mary's Mission Center, Knights of Columbus Council No. 3525, Plattsburgh Lodge of Elks No. 621, Plattsburgh Rotary International, and the Lake Champlain Citizens Advisory Committee.

John was also a public servant and was elected to several positions, including Champlain tax collector and Clinton County Legislator, before being elected Clinton County Clerk in 1995. John was reelected to his eighth term as the Clinton County Clerk in November 2023 and was the longest-serving Clinton County Clerk.

Outside the public sphere, John was also known for his generosity and kindness and became a mentor to many in Clinton County. I had the good fortune to be seated next to John at a judicial candidate event twelve years ago. When I informed him that I planned to run for the New York 21st Congressional Seat at the age of 28 and he nearly fell out of his chair. Or at least he always told it that way, but since that day I could always rely on John for advice and friendship. In my many visits to Clinton County, it was always a highlight to see John, whether it was at county events or seeing him at the Rouses Point Independence Day Parade in his antique car without fail every year.

John was warm and welcoming to all and a true North Country icon. He loved his family, friends, community, and country. His legacy will live on in the hearts of all who had the pleasure of knowing him. On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, it is my honor to remember and celebrate the incredible life of John Zurlo.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF LOUIS  
LEONE

**HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 3, 2025*

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedicated service of United States Army Veteran and Former Mayor of Greenwich, Louis Leone, and to congratulate him on becoming the Grand Marshall for Greenwich's Memorial Day Parade.

Louis joined the Army in 1959 and served in Vietnam before retiring to Greenwich in 1984 after 24 years of active-duty service. Louis earned the Combat Infantryman's Badge, Senior Parachutist Badge with over 55 jumps, and received an expert status in rifle and pistol qualifications. In addition, he was awarded the Legion of Merit, 3 Bronze Star Medals, the Air Medal, 5 Meritorious Service Medals, Army Commendation Medal for Valor, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with 4 Bronze Service Stars, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, Korean Defense Medal, the Valorous and Meritorious Unit Awards, Vietnam Gallantly Cross Unit Citation Badge with Palm, and several Army service ribbons. He retired with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel as a public relations officer for the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, NY.

Beyond his distinguished service to his country, Louis has been an outstanding leader in the Greenwich community ever since he retired. He served as mayor from 1986 to 1995 and spearheaded the creation of the Greenwich Gazebo, Chamber of Commerce, the Youth Center, and the curbside recycling program. The people of Greenwich feel the lasting impact of Louis' leadership each day.

Louis is also active in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, a veteran service organization, and is instrumental in the Voice of Democracy Scholarship Program for high school and middle school students which instills patriotism and democracy in Greenwich's youth. He is a loving husband to his wife, Susan whom he celebrated 67 years of marriage with this summer.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I am honored to recognize the incredible service of Army Veteran Louis Leone. I congratulate him on his incredible achievements and on becoming the Grand Marshall of the Greenwich Memorial Day parade.

**RECOGNIZING LYNNAE FLORA**

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 3, 2025*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Lynnae Flora of Golden, Colorado, on her retirement following 27 years of service to the people of Jefferson County.

Lynnae joined the county in 1997, and over her career rose to become the Deputy Director of Jefferson County Human Services. There, Lynnae dedicated her professional life to ensuring every member of the Jefferson County community can access health services and receive the support they need. She served the