

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN HERO ELLIOTT WYCHE

#### HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 25, 2024*

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Elliott Wyche. A native of Hurst, Elliott has shown us the boundless nature of a child's magical imagination. Born with half a heart and having undergone three open heart surgeries, Elliott has battled immense challenges with remarkable courage and resilience.

Last month, Elliott not only inspired L.D. Bell High School's fine arts department through his creative vision, but he also played an integral role in their musical production. Elliott submitted his original story in the form of illustrations to the Sing Me a Story Foundation, which gave his drawings to Austin composer Mitch Gilly to transform into music.

The school's orchestra, choir, and theater students rehearsed all spring to bring Elliott's creativity to life. The story, titled "Smashers Crashers," follows three superheroes who unite to defeat evil. Both his story and the school's heartwarming gesture are a testament to the broader sense of community and compassion that makes North Texas special.

Elliott has inspired North Texans to overcome adversity with grace, joy, and extraordinary spirit. I look forward to seeing his ambition grow from here.

### RECOGNIZING THE 127TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREATER WARD CHAPEL AME CHURCH

#### HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 25, 2024*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The Greater Ward Chapel African American Episcopal Church as they celebrate their 127th church anniversary. An event to celebrate this singular occasion was held on Sunday, June 23, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. at the church in Columbus, Georgia.

Ward Chapel rose from humble beginnings in 1897 under a bush at the corner of Thirteenth Avenue and 24th Street in Columbus, Georgia. The first pastor of the church was Reverend R.W. Miller. After that, Reverend Swindom assumed the mantle of leadership and pastored for one year. Rev. W.J. Ferguson became the next pastor and moved the church to 26th Street, helping to rebuild it. In 1913, the church was reconstructed a second time.

In 1937, The Reverend R.D. Griffin was appointed as the next pastor. In 1939, the church was forced to move from the 26th Street location by the Government Housing Authority. The church was moved to Poui

Street and was rebuilt in 1940 for the third time. The dedication of this building in honor of God was held on April 16, 1944, by the Presiding Elder of the Savannah District at the time, the Reverend R.L. Butler. This location included the first parsonage built in the history of the church.

Reverend C.K. Knight took the helm of the church in 1949. Blessed by a spirit of benevolence, he made it possible for any child that desired to matriculate at Morris Brown College to improve their quality of life. Because of the passing of the Reverend M.C. Davis, Reverend Knight became the Presiding Elder of the Columbus District in January 1955. Reverend Knight never forgot about this love for Ward Chapel and helped to select its next visionary leader, the Reverend S.F. Jackson.

Reverend Jackson was driven by his desire to serve the Lord and to make Ward Chapel the best church in the East Columbus District. Many contributions happened under his leadership to include the renovation of the parsonage and church; the organ was paid off and new pews were purchased. Furthermore, an additional choir was formed—the Cathedral Choir which was later renamed the S.F. Jackson Choir. Rev. Jackson was reassigned to Americus, Georgia in 1961.

The Reverend M.L. Hood was appointed as the next pastor and served at the church briefly. He was followed by the Reverend M.B. McLendon. The greatest accomplishment of Rev. McLendon, besides bringing souls to Christ, was the building of a new church edifice. A groundbreaking ceremony was held on November 16, 1967, to celebrate this great milestone in the life of the church.

Another parsonage of the church was purchased in 1984 at the cost of \$60,000. The Reverend R.B. Bass was appointed pastor in 1984 and his family was its first occupants. Rev. Bass served the church faithfully from April 1984 to May 1997. Among his many accomplishments included the mortgage burnings of both the church and the parsonage, the installation of new carpet, and the cushioning of the pews.

Reverend Otis C. Duncan was the next caretaker of this remarkable church. He served faithfully until his retirement in February of 2014. Rev. Duncan's accomplishments were indeed special. During his transformational ministry, Rev. Duncan transitioned the church to a new ministry by changing the name of the church to The Greater Ward Chapel AME Church in anticipation of the church accomplishing even greater things for the Kingdom of God.

On May 10, 2012, the church selected a new and dynamic leader to shepherd the Greater Ward Chapel flock in the form of the Reverend Conitras M. Houston Dickens, or as she affectionately became known as "Pastor C." She was the youngest ever pastor to serve at the church and was its first female pastor. During her tenure, the Greater Ward Chapel Development Center was established to provide after school care as well as Summer Camp to community children, the Boy

Scout Troop 11-1, the Calvin Smyre Pastoral Scholarship, the Voices of Wonder Young Adult Choir, and many other ministries were founded under her incredible leadership.

In October of 2016, Bishop Reginald Jackson appointed the Reverend Terrance Evans as the new pastor. Pastor Evans has truly built upon the great leaders of the Greater Ward Chapel's past while putting his own visionary niche on the church's bright future. Accomplishments that were made under his stellar leadership include a new front awning, the paying off of the church van and debts, and replacement of the church's roof.

Over the years, people from all walks of life have made a difference in the church and worked well together for the betterment of the Kingdom. The current members of Greater Ward Chapel continue to build on the legacy of labor and love that have set the standard for the church's success. The Greater Ward Chapel's parishioners have worshipped the Lord in spirit and in truth and have governed themselves as humble, spirit filled believers who are keen to do all they can as servants of God.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join my wife Vivian and me, along with the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's Second Congressional District in extending our sincerest congratulations to The Greater Ward Chapel AME Church and its current pastor, Reverend Curtis Frazier, as they celebrate 127 glorious years of serving God and his people. May Reverend Frazier and church members continue to press forward to the high mark of service and humility set forth by Jesus Christ.

### FAMINE THAT WASN'T

#### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 25, 2024*

Mr. Wilson of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I was grateful last week to tour Israel where I discovered the 'Famine That Wasn't' as correctly editorialized in the June 21st New York Post: "Gaza's supposed famine never happened. It was never more than Hamas propaganda eagerly consumed by the left, the media and the clueless Biden administration."

"The chief UN food-insecurity agency announced this month that it finds the analysis suggesting a famine was on the way wasn't 'plausible' and lacked 'supporting evidence.'"

"It turns out that the numbers from the Famine Early Warning System (a USAID project) were utter garbage..."

Touring Kibbutz Nir Oz demolition and the Nova Music Festival killing field is a chilling reminder all civilized countries are subject to surprise murderous attacks without notice with indiscriminate slaughter of innocent men, women, and children.

Corrupt Judge Merchan continues to earn ridicule for unethical persecution of Donald

• 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.

Trump. Now the Biden campaign has to waste \$50 million to smear Trump because Americans clearly saw judicial abuse for election interference. The result is Merchan re-earns my invitation to attend the Trump Inauguration, as Merchan re-elects Trump.

In conclusion, God Bless Our Troops who successfully protected America for 20 years as the Global War on Terrorism moves from the Afghanistan safe haven to America. We do not need new border laws; we need to enforce existing laws. Biden shamefully opens borders for dictators, as more 9/11 attacks across America are imminent, as repeatedly warned by the FBI.

RECOGNIZING MARLENE  
PIASECKI'S RETIREMENT FROM  
FAMILY SERVICE ASSOCIATION  
OF BUCKS COUNTY

**HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 25, 2024*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extremely notable constituent within my district, Marlene Piasecki of Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania who is retiring from Family Service Association of Bucks County, a non-profit agency located in Langhorne, Pennsylvania after 23 years of dedicated service.

Marlene graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a Masters in Social Work She has dedicated her life to social services. Holding several positions within Family Service from Director of Development to Chief Operating Officer to Interim Chief Executive Officer upon the sudden passing of their CEO, Audrey J Tucker, Marlene will be remembered for her mentorship, leadership and support of the staff members and the Bucks County community over these 23 years.

Today, I am proud to recognize Marlene Piasecki as an individual who has devoted her career to helping others and helping to meet the social service needs of Bucks County's residents.

We are all incredibly grateful for the positive impact Marlene has had through her long career, and we wish her much enjoyment in her retirement.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL GARRETT  
FISHER, UNITED STATES AIR  
FORCE

**HON. RON ESTES**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 25, 2024*

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Colonel Garrett Fisher, who will assume command of the United States Air Force 15th Wing at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. Fisher grew up in Burrton, Kansas, before accepting an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs in 1997 from former 4th District Congressman Todd Tiahrt. He graduated in 2001 and was commissioned as a C-17 pilot. Since then, he has achieved over 4,000 flight hours in the T-37B, T-1A, T-6A, C-37A, and C-17A aircraft.

Throughout Colonel Fisher's career, he has demonstrated the importance of a strong character and work ethic, laudable core values, and commitment to his country. He has selflessly served across the United States and world, from Hawaii to Washington D.C. to Europe and the Middle East. Colonel Fisher's schooling has taken him across the country as well, furthering his education at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, St. Louis University, the Air Force Research Institute, and most recently, the National War College. He is the recipient of several major awards and decorations, including the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, and more.

I am grateful to Colonel Fisher for his service and sacrifices and look forward to seeing this Kansan excel as Commander of the 15th Wing. The 15th Wing has a long history in service to the United States, dating back to World War II and the war in the Pacific. Today, the 15th Wing is a critical component to projecting combat power across the United States Indo-Pacific Command. While this assignment comes with great responsibility, I am confident Colonel Fisher will gracefully step into this new role and make Kansas and our country proud.

Again, congratulations to Colonel Garrett Fisher as he assumes command of the 15th Wing.

CELEBRATING LOS ANGELES  
UNION STATION'S 85TH ANNIVER-  
SARY

**HON. JIMMY GOMEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 25, 2024*

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Los Angeles Union Station's 85th anniversary.

Los Angeles Union Station opened its doors in May of 1939, becoming the main railway station in Los Angeles, California, and the largest railroad passenger terminal in the Western United States. This landmark enjoys the great distinction of being known as the "Last of the Great Train Stations" built in the United States.

Owned by the Metro/Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority since 2012, Union Station is a major transportation hub for Southern California, providing thousands of passengers daily access to Amtrak long distance trains, Amtrak California regional trains, Metrolink commuter trains, and Metro Rail subway and light rail lines.

Los Angeles Union Station is also a vibrant landmark and symbol of Downtown Los Angeles. This station serves as a hub for visitors to Los Angeles, and has been the star of hundreds of movies, television shows and commercials.

The station also showcases an array of arts and cultural events from music and dance to film screenings, architecture tours and holiday programs, and was internationally recognized as the host to the 93rd Oscars in 2021.

In the eight-plus decades since its opening, Los Angeles Union Station has captured the spirit and soul of Los Angeles and is a source of great civic pride for Angelenos.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating this milestone for Los Angeles

Union Station, and I look forward to seeing all that they do in the next 85 years and beyond.

HONORING GEORGE B.  
HERNÁNDEZ, JR.

**HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 25, 2024*

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of the retirement of George B. Hernández, Jr.

Mr. Hernández spent the last 19 years serving South Texas as president and CEO of University Health. A member of the University Health family for more than four decades, Mr. Hernández attended his first Board of Managers meeting in December of 1980. Since that time, University Health has become a nationally recognized health care organization. That growth would not have been possible without his leadership.

University Health is a longtime fixture for community health, trauma care, and disease prevention in San Antonio. During his tenure, Mr. Hernández oversaw the opening of a new state-of-the-art medical office building, the expansion and redesign of University Hospital, and just last year, the opening of a women's and children's hospital. Mr. Hernández has ensured that University Health will continue to expand, with construction of public health clinics and community hospitals underway.

Notably, Mr. Hernández led the health system through the COVID-19 pandemic, with his team of healthcare heroes administering more than 600,000 doses of Covid vaccines throughout our community.

A native of San Antonio, Mr. Hernández has never stopped giving back to his hometown, serving on the boards of the United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County, the Center for Health Care Services, St. Mary's University and the San Antonio Medical Foundation.

Mr. Hernández's efforts with University Health have improved the lives of thousands of South Texans. With his retirement, he leaves behind a legacy of compassionate care, education, and discovery that will continue on.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to express my gratitude for Mr. George Hernández, Jr. and his spirit of service to San Antonio.

RECOGNIZING JOANNA SEBELIEN  
FOR HER ACHIEVEMENTS WITH  
HARVESTERS

**HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 25, 2024*

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with eternal gratitude to celebrate the long and diverse career of Joanna Sebelien, the last 23 years of which were devoted to service with the charitable food bank, Harvesters. Since 2001, Joanna has been an integral part of Harvesters' mission to create a healthy, thriving community where no one is hungry. As the non-profit's Chief Resource Officer, she has been responsible for its fundraising, volunteer recruitment, food acquisition, communications,