

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT CURTIS FENDLEY

#### HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 28, 2024*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Curtis Fendley of Paris, Texas, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. For over four decades, Curtis has served and uplifted our community through his leadership and dedication.

Curtis was born and raised in Paris, TX. He graduated from Texas A&M University, where he received his BBA in Accounting and MBA in Finance. Curtis began his career as a Cost Accountant for Rockwall International and Uarco Business Forms. He worked his way up to become the Chief Financial Officer for Christus Health and Saint Joseph Hospital in Paris. Curtis currently serves as a Partner at Pierson & Fendley Insurance Agency and Vice Chair of the Paris Economic Development Corporation.

Throughout his career, Curtis has continued to be an active member of our community in many ways. In 2003, he was elected to serve as the Mayor of Paris. For three years, Curtis oversaw Paris' successful economic development and business growth. Additionally, he previously served as the President of Lamar County Chamber of Commerce and United Way. For his outstanding work, Curtis was named a Hometown Hero in 2009 by The Independent Insurance Agents of Texas. The Lamar County Chamber of Commerce also recognized Curtis as Volunteer of the Year in 2016 and 2017. A devoted man of faith, Curtis attends Holy Cross Episcopal Church with his wife, Barbara. I am proud of Curtis's lifelong contributions to our community, and I wish him continued success for many years to come.

It is an honor to bestow Curtis with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to the people of North Texas.

### CELEBRATING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GAMMA PHI OMEGA CHAPTER OF ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA

#### HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 28, 2024*

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 80th anniversary of Buffalo's Gamma Phi Omega chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) Sorority, Incorporated.

The Gamma Phi Omega chapter was charted on June 25, 1944, by a group of young women returning to Buffalo from college. As a chapter of AKA, the oldest Greek letter organization established by African American, college-educated women, Gamma

Phi Omega upholds the pillars of service, scholarship, and sisterhood within our community. For 80 years, the sisters of Gamma Phi Omega have provided essential services to the people of Western New York. Then efforts focus on sisterhood, family support, economic development, local community outreach, environmental protection, and social justice. Through initiatives such as their annual MLK Day of Service, the Debutante Leadership Program for young women's professional development, and Black Dollar Days to support local black-owned businesses, the Gamma Phi Omega chapter has made a positive impact on many lives.

Carrying out their commitment to service, the Gamma Phi Omega chapter ensures that members of our community have access to the essential resources they need. Their program, Childhood Hunger Initiative Power Pack (CHIPP), supplies weekend and holiday meals to children in need. To date, this program remains AKA's most ambitious effort to combat childhood hunger. Additionally, the chapter provides academic scholarships to young students in the area, supporting their pursuit of higher education and fostering the value of scholarship.

Today, we thank the sisters of Buffalo's Gamma Phi Omega chapter of AKA for their unwavering commitment to serving our community. Please join me in congratulating the Gamma Phi Omega chapter on an exceptional 80 years of service and thanking them for all they do to make our community a better place.

### COMMEMORATING PRIDE MONTH AND HONORING SEAN ELDRIDGE

#### HON. DANIEL S. GOLDMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 28, 2024*

Mr. GOLDMAN of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Pride month and honor an LGBTQIA+ community leader in New York's Tenth District, Sean Eldridge.

Sean is the founder and President of Stand Up America, a progressive advocacy organization founded in response to Donald Trump's unprecedented assault on our democracy.

Today, the group is over two million members strong and works to expand voting rights and build a more inclusive democracy that's responsive to the needs of the American people. Prior to founding Stand Up America, Sean was a leader in the fight to pass marriage equality nationwide, serving as the Political Director of the advocacy group Freedom to Marry. Sean has been on the forefront of progressive issues for over a decade, and is a true leader in the fight for equal rights for all. I'm honored to recognize his outstanding contribution to democracy.

### RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF OGLE HARRIS AND THE DEDICATION OF OGLE HARRIS WAY IN OCCOQUAN

#### HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 28, 2024*

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and celebrate the life of Ogle Harris and his contributions to the history of Occoquan, Virginia and Virginia's Seventh Congressional District.

Born in Virginia in 1872, Ogle Harris grew up as one of five children. He spent his life in the Town of Occoquan where he raised his seven children from his marriages to Cora L. Peyton and Lottie Bowles.

In the early part of the 20th century, Harris opened a business in Occoquan selling hand-made ice cream out of his home's summer kitchen on Washington Street and at the African American Odd Fellows Hall. He eventually converted his ice cream shop into one of Occoquan's two main grocery stores.

Mr. Harris was known throughout the community for his honesty, generosity, and his up-standing character, which allowed his business to flourish. After his death in 1949, his son, Arthur, and his daughter-in-law, Doris, took over the store. The store served as a center for Occoquan's commercial and African American communities and continuously supported the success of the Town of Occoquan until its closure in 1974.

In recognition of and appreciation for Ogle Harris and his descendants' contributions to the Town of Occoquan, the Occoquan Town Council has bestowed the honorary designation of "Ogle Harris Way" to the 100 block of Poplar Alley.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Ogle Harris's life and his contributions to the Town of Occoquan. His legacy will live on through the designation of "Ogle Harris Way" and the memories of his impact on the Occoquan community.

### RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT JACK ASHMORE

#### HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 28, 2024*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Jackie King "Jack" Ashmore of Reno, Texas, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Jack has dedicated himself to faithfully serving out community and country.

As a child, Jack was always fascinated with aviation and began flying at the age of 7 with his uncle. After graduating from Paris High School in 1947, Jack joined the United States

• 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.

Navy while enrolled at Paris Junior College. He began flight training in 1949 and graduated from aviation school the following year. Jack flew combat tours during the Korean War and was stationed onboard the USS *Sicily* and USS *Rendova* aircraft carriers in the Sea of Japan. During the Vietnam War, he became the commander of Attack Squadron 22 and flew 254 combat missions. For his heroic actions in combat, Jack received numerous awards, including the Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, the Legion of Merit, fourteen Air Medals, and two Navy Commendation Medals. He later earned his master's degree in international affairs from George Washington University.

In July 1973, Jack retired from the Navy as a Captain. He had been working for the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon. In civilian life, Jack continued his passion of flying while volunteering in our community. He conducted flights for police departments, schools, and individuals in need across North Texas. Jack previously served on the advisory board for Paris Airport and the City of Reno. He is a current board member of the Paris Junior College Alumni & Friends Association. For his outstanding contributions, Jack was recognized in 2017 as a distinguished graduate of Paris High School and inducted into Paris Junior College's Academic Hall of Honor. He also received the Federal Aviation Administration's prestigious Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award to mark over 50 years of excellent flight. I wish Jack continued success and good health for many years to come.

It is an honor to bestow Jack with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to our Nation and the people of North Texas.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT GENERAL BASHAM'S RETIREMENT FROM THE U.S. AIR FORCE

**HON. BRETT GUTHRIE**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 28, 2024*

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the retirement of Lieutenant General Steven Basham after thirty-six years of service in the United States Air Force. A native of Bowling Green, General Basham received his commission in 1989 through the ROTC program at Western Kentucky University and went on to fly over 3,400 hours as a bomber pilot in the B-1, B-2, and B-52 planes. Lt. Gen. Basham then proudly served as the Legislative Director for the Department of the Air Force as a two-star general. His distinguished record of service and accomplishments are a result of his selfless and supportive family, so I thank his wife Angie and his daughters Lauren and Sarah for their sacrifice and support. Sarah even served as an intern in my office and possessed the same determination and work ethic as her proud father. Lt. Gen. Basham will complete his military career as the Deputy Commander for the United States European Command which oversees more than 64,000 military personnel and is responsible for U.S. defense operations and relations with NATO and 50 countries.

His career of service brings great pride to every Kentuckian, and I wish him and his family the best during his retirement.

COMMEMORATING PRIDE MONTH AND HONORING JAN LEE

**HON. DANIEL S. GOLDMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 28, 2024*

Mr. GOLDMAN of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Pride Month and honor an LGBTQIA+ community leader in New York's Tenth District, Jan Lee.

Jan Lee is a dedicated community organizer, activist, small business owner, and lifelong New Yorker. He is a third-generation resident of Manhattan's Chinatown and has been organizing his community since the 1990s, advocating for Chinatown's post-9/11 recovery, the reopening of Park Row, and representing the community's interests with regard to the borough-based jail.

For far too long, Manhattan's Chinatown has not received the recognition, services and representation that its residents have deserved.

Jan's work has begun to change that. From his community activism to helping manage the apartment buildings that have been in his family for over 100 years, Jan's commitment to his community is inspiring. I'm proud to call Jan a friend and partner as we continue to revitalize Chinatown and give the community the attention it deserves.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT DEVABRATA GANGULY

**HON. PAT FALLON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 28, 2024*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Devabrata Ganguly of Paris, Texas, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Dr. Ganguly has dedicated himself to faithfully serving our community.

Dr. Ganguly first trained as a physician in India, his country of birth, where he taught medicine in New Delhi. After moving to the United States with his wife, Dr. Ragini Ganguly, he completed his residency at St. Lukes Roosevelt Hospital and Mount Sinai Hospital. Dr. Ganguly also attended the Jewish Parker Institute of Long Island Jewish Hospital for fellowship training in Geriatric Medicine. In 1999, Dr. Ganguly and his family moved to Texas, where he became an active practitioner based in Paris. Throughout his career, Dr. Ganguly has worked diligently to raise awareness about the opioid crisis and help others reduce their dependence on opioids. Moreover, he led his team of dedicated nurse practitioners to care for elderly patients in nursing homes during the pandemic.

Separately, Dr. Ganguly mentors and teaches college students, trainee physicians, and nurses using a combination of traditional and modern medicine. He is passionate about community advocacy and often engages with policymakers to discuss the issues of national security, international and domestic policy, and healthcare issues. As a fellow of the American College of Physicians, Dr. Ganguly promotes community wellbeing and works with numer-

ous charities to support children, veterans, and animals. I am pleased to recognize Dr. Ganguly for his outstanding efforts to provide quality care for senior citizens and improve the world around us.

It is an honor to bestow Dr. Ganguly with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to the people of North Texas.

REMEMBERING BRIGADIER GENERAL TRAVIS ACHESON

**HON. ZACHARY NUNN**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 28, 2024*

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of retired Brigadier General Travis Acheson who passed away this week after battling brain cancer.

Ever the patriot, Travis was born on July 4, 1968 in Des Moines, Iowa to Douglas and Margaret Acheson. He grew up on Army Post Road in West Des Moines and graduated from Valley High School in 1986. He received a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from the University of Iowa in 1990, where he began dating his future wife. After five years together, Travis married Brooke in June 1995.

Travis spent much of his working life following his passion: flying airplanes. He retired from the military in September 2022 as a brigadier general after 33 years of service. Travis was a command pilot with almost 3,000 flying hours in the F-16 fighter jet. He was deployed overseas five times and flew over 500 combat hours during his military career. Travis was also employed as a commercial pilot with American Airlines for over 20 years. He was a captain on the Airbus at the time of his diagnosis.

Travis was an incredible pilot, a great Iowan, a loving husband to Brooke, and a doting father to daughters Isabelle, Emma, and Gretta.

I thank Travis for his service to our community, state, and country. Fly high.

CONGRATULATING BIG SKY RODEO

**HON. RYAN K. ZINKE**

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 28, 2024*

Mr. ZINKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Big Sky PBR and Outlaw Partners for their remarkable achievement, winning the national Professional Bull Riders' "Event of the Year" award for the 10th consecutive year. I salute America and Montana's leadership in rodeo and those that carry that great legacy forward.

The traditions of rodeo run deep. The prayer and the pledge still observed before each event shows respect to both the rider and the bull. It takes a lot of courage, skill, and grit to ride a bull, and a little luck to ride it for the full eight seconds.

Many rodeo athletes who cut their teeth in small town arenas go on to do great things in the sport on a national level. A great deal of that success comes from the community that is built up under the Big Sky. That community is epitomized by Big Sky's annual event, with