

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### INTRODUCTION OF THE UNRWA FUNDING EMERGENCY RESTORATION ACT OF 2024

**HON. ANDRÉ CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 18, 2024*

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I am both pleased and saddened to introduce a bill that helps relieve the ongoing humanitarian crisis unfolding in Palestine. I thank my colleagues Representatives JAYAPAL and SCHAKOWSKY for joining me as co-leads, with 65 original co-sponsors and over 100 national organization endorsements. This important bill will: (1) Repeal the funding prohibitions on UNRWA included in the FY24 Appropriations bill and the Israel Security Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2024; (2) Express a Sense of Congress that it supports appropriating critical funds to UNRWA for FY25; (3) Urge the Secretary of State, as soon as practicable, to rescind the temporary pause in funding for UNRWA and resume funding to UNRWA under current authorities of the Department of State; and (4) Require the Secretary of State to report to Congress on a quarterly basis on the steps UNRWA is taking to implement the recommendations contained in the independent outside review of the Agency's neutrality mechanisms and procedures.

House-passed bills prohibiting UNRWA funding significantly erodes the United States' ability to provide life-saving assistance and basic services to Gaza's 2.2 million people. To date, over 40,000 Palestinians have been killed and about 100,000 more have been seriously injured without access to functioning hospitals. Among the victims of this catastrophe are women and children. According to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), over 150,000 pregnant women and new mothers are struggling to survive and access basic health care. Women in Gaza today are birthing children and having cesarean sections with no anesthesia. In addition, an estimated 700,000 women and girls in Gaza who require menstrual hygiene supplies are unable to manage their menstrual cycle in dignity, with some reports of contraceptive pills being taken to avoid the unhygienic menstrual conditions. Today, the fear of polio in children spreads across Gaza through fecal matter, limited clean drinking water, and destroyed infrastructure. Additionally, since October 7, thousands of Palestinian children have had one or both arms or legs amputated—without anesthesia. I want to reiterate—without anesthesia.

We must prioritize addressing the humanitarian crisis and catastrophe in Gaza. UNRWA serves nearly six million Palestinian refugees across the West Bank, East Jerusalem, Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon and is the primary humanitarian aid organization operating in Gaza. The U.S. has historically been one of the largest financial supporters of UNRWA but paused funding following allegations by the Government of Israel that 12 Agency employees had

direct involvement in the October 7 terrorist attack.

Following these allegations, the United Nations (UN) and UNRWA acted swiftly and decisively, immediately terminating the employees allegedly involved, ordering an independent outside review of the Agency's neutrality practices, and directing a review of the allegations by the UN's highest investigative body, the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS).

The outside review of UNRWA neutrality, led by former French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna, concluded UNRWA has robust, well-developed internal mechanisms and that it possesses a more developed approach to neutrality than other similar UN or NGO entities. The review also identified steps the Agency can take to further ensure its commitment to neutrality. UNRWA welcomed the report and stated it is "fully committed" to implementing its recommendations. An American, UNRWA Deputy Commissioner-General Antonia De Meo, is leading the implementation effort.

Just last month a donor review of UNRWA operations, funded in part by the U.S., concluded, "The Agency's ability to deliver education, health, and social services at scale to one of the world's most vulnerable populations is unparalleled."

Following the UN's investigation and proactive commitments made by UNRWA toward complete accountability and reform, nearly all countries have resumed UNRWA funding including the European Union, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, Finland, Germany, Japan, and Sweden. Only the U.S. has failed to restore this essential funding.

International humanitarian NGOs and the major United Nations humanitarian organizations have made it clear that given UNRWA's role as the backbone of the humanitarian response, it is imperative that funding be restored and maintained to the Agency. These statements are especially relevant considering several of these humanitarian organizations would be required to drastically scale up their efforts at an impossible speed and scope to attempt to fill the humanitarian void that would be created should UNRWA cease to operate.

Additionally, the U.S. joined 118 UN Member States in signing the Joint Commitments Initiative to Support UNRWA which stated that "UNRWA is the backbone of all humanitarian response in Gaza and recognizing that no organization can replace or substitute UNRWA's capacity."

If we fail to act now, this escalating humanitarian crisis will only grow worse in Gaza, and further exacerbate tensions across the Middle East. It is in the strategic interest of both the U.S. and our allies, including Israel and Jordan, to resume and maintain full funding to UNRWA to stabilize the region and alleviate the humanitarian catastrophe that no other organization or agency will be able to effectively address.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important bill to save lives and provide desperately needed humanitarian aid.

### RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT JUDY THOMPSON

**HON. PAT FALLON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 18, 2024*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Judy Thompson of Cooper, Texas, and present her with the Congressional Patriot Award. Judy has dedicated herself to faithfully serving our community.

Born in Paris, Texas, Judy graduated from the Cooper Schools in 1967, before graduating from East Texas State University with a double degree in French and English in 1970. She felt a calling for teaching and went back to school to earn a master's degree in education in 1980. Judy spent 41 years as a schoolteacher in the Cooper ISD, where she taught English, French, journalism, speech, drama, math, music, art, and physical education throughout every grade level. She also spent 38 years driving the school bus for students of the Cooper ISD. She received the Best-all-around student award in 1967 and is proud to have directed the State Championship winning Cooper High School One Act Play UIL in 1987.

Judy's commitment to public service and desire to leave a lasting positive impact in her community drives her to stay involved today. Currently, she serves as the Secretary and Treasurer of the Jim Chapman Lake Steering Committee and is encouraged by the vast potential of the lake. Judy is very active in the church, playing the piano for worship music since she was 16, and serving as the Minister of Music and Choir Director for 22 years. Today, she is a proud member of the worship team at New Hope Church in Cooper. I commend Judy for her dedicated service to the people of our community and wish her continued success for many years to come.

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

### RECOGNIZING MEDICAL RESEARCH WEEK

**HON. LLOYD SMUCKER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 18, 2024*

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize September 16–20, 2024, as Medical Research Week.

It is by no accident that America leads the world in medical innovation. America's free enterprise system alongside strong federal support of medical research has led to new cures, treatments, and hope for tomorrow that more therapies are on the horizon. I am proud that Pennsylvania institutions and companies play leading roles in developing these new technologies.

• 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.

In 2023, over \$2 billion in funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) was made available to researchers in Pennsylvania. This funding supported nearly 22,000 jobs and resulted in over \$5 billion in total economic activity across the commonwealth.

Pennsylvania is also home to a vibrant and growing biopharmaceutical industry, which employs over 56,000 individuals through direct employment creating billions of dollars economic impact.

In Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District, Franklin and Marshall College as well as Millersville University, are recipients of grant funding from NIH.

As we recognize Medical Research Week, may we all give thanks for the medical breakthroughs that have improved our lives and the individuals whose dogged determination and pursuit of progress made them possible.

HONORING RAYMOND "RAY"  
HOLDWICK AS VETERAN OF THE  
MONTH FOR MICHIGAN'S 9TH  
DISTRICT

### HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 18, 2024*

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ray Holdwick, the Veteran of the Month for September from Michigan's 9th Congressional District. I am honored to highlight the exemplary service and dedication of this true American hero, whose courage and commitment has left a lasting mark on our nation's history.

Ray was born and raised in Sterling Heights, Michigan, graduating from Sterling Heights High School in 1981. Demonstrating an early commitment to service, he enlisted in the U.S. Army that same year. From there, he joined the 170th Military Police Company. Ray was stationed at the Presidio in San Francisco from 1981 to 1983, where he was charged with maintaining law and order and ensuring the safety of his fellow service members. His military service extended into the reserves from 1983 to 1987, where he continued to exemplify the virtues of discipline and dedication.

Beyond his military service, Ray's commitment to community support and law enforcement has been unwavering. In 2006, he and his wife embarked on a venture to establish a donation-based support program for K-9 units through the Macomb County Police Department. This initiative reflects Ray's ongoing dedication to supporting our law enforcement community in a meaningful and impactful way.

Ray and his wife also founded Rocko's Pet Shop in Macomb Township, a business that not only serves the community but also champions charitable causes for law enforcement. Their active involvement in local charities has made a lasting difference, enhancing the resources available to K-9 units and strengthening the bond between law enforcement and the community they protect.

Mr. Speaker, Ray Holdwick's life story is one of service, sacrifice, and unwavering dedication to our country and his community. It is with immense pride that I honor him today as the Veteran of the Month for September, a fitting tribute for a distinguished veteran who truly embodies the spirit of American valor and resilience.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our deepest gratitude for Roy Holdwick. His life of service serves as a powerful reminder of the sacrifice of our service members and their families.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT JIM CHAPMAN

### HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 18, 2024*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jim Chapman of Horseshoe Bay, Texas, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Jim has dedicated himself to faithfully serving our community.

Growing up in Sulphur Springs, Jim graduated from Sulphur Springs High School in 1963. He then went on to obtain his bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Texas and earned his Juris Doctor degree from Southern Methodist University's Law School. Jim started his career as an attorney for six years, before being elected District Attorney for the 8th Judicial District of Texas in 1976, where he served 2 terms. He was then elected to Congress in 1985 through a special election, representing Texas' 1st congressional district for 6 terms. Throughout his time in Congress, he received the National Defense Achievement Award every year he served, and was recognized and endorsed by every teacher group, law enforcement group, the NRA, and many more. After retiring from Congress in 1997, Jim joined Bracewell & Patterson LLP and worked 15 years in the firm's D.C. and Austin office, co-chairing the Government Relations Group.

Jim's dedication to public service expands more than just public office. He served as Outside General Counsel for the Board of Hopkins County Memorial Hospital District, President of local United Way, and as Board Chairman and General Counsel for Peoples National Bank of Sulphur Springs. He's a proud member of 1st United Methodist Church, where he serves as chairman of the administrative board and as a Sunday school teacher for adult couples. I commend Jim for his dedicated service to the people of our community and wish him continued success for many years to come.

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

RECOGNIZING AIRWAY TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM SPECIALIST MYLES O'CONNOR MAULDIN

### HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 18, 2024*

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Myles O'Conner Mauldin and his service in ensuring the safety of his fellow Americans as a Transportation System Specialist for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Together we mourn the loss of a community member, gone too soon.

Myles worked with the FAA at the Ontario Airport in my district for 13 months, where he was responsible for maintaining a wide range of radar equipment for the National Air Space System. This entailed modifying and certifying radar, automation, and voice switches. As a safe-keeper of the systems that ensure air travel is safe, Myles helped support the backbone of our national airspace system.

Sadly, our community is now in mourning. On June 24, 2024, Myles passed away in a tragic accident while on his way to FAA training in Oklahoma. He is survived by his wife and their son. I offer my deepest condolences on their loss.

For his outstanding accomplishment, it is my honor to recognize Airway Transportation System Specialist Myles O'Conner Mauldin. His commitment to civic service and to the safety of the American people are worthy of the highest commendation. He will be missed.

RECOGNIZING LINDA BUSAM

### HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 18, 2024*

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Arizona's 8th Congressional District, it is my honor to recognize Linda Busam of Peoria, Arizona.

Linda is a dedicated public servant, serving as a West-MEC Governing Board Member and in various leadership positions throughout the community. She is also a strong advocate for conservative principles and works diligently to educate and train citizens on civic engagement.

Her support for elected officials, candidates, and the Republican Party has been instrumental to their success. I am thankful for Linda's leadership and dedication to conservative principles. I sincerely appreciate her service to Congressional District 8 and the State of Arizona.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF COLONEL DOUG HOUSTON

### HON. ZACHARY NUNN

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 18, 2024*

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to take this opportunity today to honor and congratulate a distinguished member of our military on his well-deserved retirement.

Colonel Doug Houston, a native of Fort Dodge, Iowa, and an alumnus of Fort Dodge High School and Iowa State University, began his professional career as a Police Officer with the Cedar Rapids Police Department—serving from 1992 through 2002. He enlisted in the Iowa Army National Guard's Headquarters & Headquarters Company 224th Engineer Battalion in 1997 at the age of 27. Upon completion of Initial Entry Training, Doug enrolled in the Iowa Military Academy's Officer Candidate School, commissioning in August 1999, and branching Engineer. Doug led Soldiers as a Platoon Leader, served as a Company Executive Officer, Detachment Commander, and then as a Company Commander of Company