

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING SALLARULO'S RACE FOR CHAMPIONS

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize the tremendous work and 20th Anniversary of Sallarulo's Race for Champions, an annual, inclusive 5K run/walk that takes place in my Congressional district.

Sallarulo's Race for Champions was founded by Paul Sallarulo, whose relationship with Special Olympics began more than 45 years ago as a volunteer in high school. Paul's efforts and relationship deepened when his son, Patrick, began participating as an athlete at age eight. Patrick is now 30 years old, and for more than two decades has trained and competed in swimming, bocce ball, bowling and skiing. Patrick and his sister Samantha serve each year as Race for Champions team captains.

This event celebrates respect and compassion for all by providing an opportunity for the entire community to walk or run alongside Special Olympics Florida athletes and each year, grows in size, visibility and fundraising capacity thanks to Paul's leadership and connection to the community.

The funds raised by Sallarulo's Race for Champions benefit Special Olympics Florida and help serve more than 6,000 athletes and their families each year. This includes year-round sports training and competition in a variety of 19 sports, health services, inclusive programming and leadership training. Through the transformative power and joy of sport, Special Olympics Florida and Sallarulo's Race for Champions help athletes live richer, fuller lives.

I am grateful to Paul Sallarulo, his family, and the team at Sallarulo's Race for Champions for improving the lives of thousands in our community. I congratulate them on 20 meaningful years and look forward to many more exciting years to come.

HONORING SARAH WALLY AS ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S 8TH CONGRES- SIONAL DISTRICT'S WOMEN OF THE YEAR

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Sarah Wally and to honor her as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the Richmond community. With over 30 years of experience in real estate development, historic preservation, and community-based initia-

tives, Ms. Wally has dedicated her career to fostering economic growth, sustainability, and inclusive opportunity in Richmond and the greater Bay Area. Since moving to Richmond 11 years ago, Ms. Wally has played a pivotal role in revitalizing the city through her leadership at Richmond Main Street and PLANN-A Development. She has also served on the Richmond Workforce Development Board for more than a decade, helping prepare residents for meaningful employment and sustainable careers. Beyond her professional achievements, Ms. Wally actively engages with youth through partnerships with the Richmond Police Activities League and she contributes to her community as a member of the Rotary Club. Her dedication to community empowerment, mentorship, and economic development embodies the spirit of service that strengthens our neighborhoods. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Sarah Wally for her invaluable contributions to our community.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF UNITED STATES AIR FORCE COLONEL MARLENA PARKER, RETIRED

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a true American hero from Pennsylvania's 1st Congressional District, Colonel Marlena Parker, Retired, United States Air Force, and to commemorate the inaugural presentation of the "Colonel Marlena Parker Inspirational Veteran Award". This award bears her name for a reason. It celebrates the rarest kind of courage one could imagine. The courage not only to serve, but to continue serving even when the world demands more than we ever thought we had to give.

Colonel Marlena Parker represents the very best of our Nation. A distinguished graduate of the United States Air Force Academy, she went on to fly the KC-10 Extender, one of the most demanding and mission-critical refueling aircraft in the U.S. military. She deployed to the United Arab Emirates in support of Operation Desert Shield and for nearly a decade, served on active duty, enabling and protecting missions around the world. She is known not only for her exceptional skill as a pilot but for her steadfast leadership, grace under pressure, and quiet strength.

Following her transition from active military service to focus on family life, Colonel Parker embarked on a notable civilian aviation career as a commercial pilot with United Airlines. Throughout this professional shift, she persistently demonstrated the discipline, composure, and commitment to public service cultivated during her years with the United States Air Force. The events of September 11, 2001,

marked a significant turning point in her career trajectory. While piloting an aircraft that day, Colonel Parker was confronted by the magnitude of the national crisis and, in response, reaffirmed her dedication to public service by seeking once again to contribute to the Nation's defense. This critical moment underscores the continuity of her commitment across both military and civilian roles.

She put on her uniform again with the United States Air Force Reserves, continuing to fly and command, shaping the careers and lives of the airmen entrusted to her. Later she became the first female Commander of the 73rd Airlift Squadron at Scott Air Force Base. After her 2017 promotion to Colonel, she was appointed Vice Commander at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, overseeing major operations and humanitarian missions until her retirement in April 2020, concluding 26 years of distinguished service. Her commitment to her country was unwavering, and so was her dedication to those she led.

Today, Colonel Parker faces an adversary that no training, no aircraft, and no mission briefing can prepare a person for: Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, also known as ALS. This unforgiving disease has taken from her the ability to fly, a calling that defined much of her life. Yet, even in the face of profound physical challenge, her courage remains unbroken.

Colonel Parker's enduring influence upon those around her is rooted in her demonstrated resilience, which serves as a powerful source of inspiration. The manner in which she confronts adversity, marked by her optimism and profound faith, exemplifies that the essence of service transcends the quantitative metrics of duration or achievements accrued during military tenure. Instead, her persistent resolve and commitment illustrate that the true impact of service lies in the integrity, compassion, and purpose with which individuals approach every responsibility. Whether fulfilling missions in defense of the Nation or educating others on the value of gratitude and purposeful living, Colonel Parker's resilience reinforces an inspirational model for service and leadership.

The "Colonel Marlena Parker Inspirational Veteran Award" will be presented every year to a veteran who reflects the character, strength, and unwavering spirit embodied by its namesake. It will be presented to someone whose life reminds us that service does not end when the uniform comes off.

Colonel Parker's life teaches us that courage is not just found in the sky but is found in the everyday choices we make to lead with compassion, to persevere through hardship, and to serve others with humility and grace.

On behalf of a grateful community and a grateful Nation, we thank her for her service, thank her for her sacrifice, and thank her for her inspiration.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this recognition of Colonel Marlena Parker and the establishment of the "Colonel Marlena Parker Inspirational Veteran Award" be entered into the RECORD so that her legacy of service and courage may endure for generations to come.

• 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 MAYOR KENNETH
"KEN" SUNSERI

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize and honor Mayor Kenneth "Ken" Sunseri of my hometown of Haleyville, Alabama, as he retires after many years of dedicated service to his community. Mayor Sunseri has faithfully served as Mayor of Haleyville since 2008, providing steady and visionary leadership for the people of our community. Throughout his tenure, he has exemplified a spirit of service and commitment to the wellbeing of every citizen. His leadership has been marked by progress, integrity, and a deep love for his hometown.

Before his time in public office, Mayor Sunseri served his country with distinction in the United States Army during the Vietnam War as a platoon leader with the First Infantry Division. He went on to complete 28 years of military service, retiring with the rank of Colonel. His leadership and dedication to his soldiers and his country exemplify the best of American service.

Beyond his military career, Mayor Sunseri has been deeply involved in every facet of civic life in Haleyville. He has served as President and Deputy District Governor of the Haleyville Lions Club, President of the Haleyville Chamber of Commerce, President of the Haleyville Merchants Association, and as a member of the Haleyville Library Board, Housing Authority, and Industrial Recruiting Committee. He has also served on the Individual and Family Support Board and as Chairman of the 310 Board for Winston and Marion Counties.

In addition to his mayoral duties, he has served on the Haleyville Water and Sewer Board since 1986, chairing it since the early 1990's. Under his guidance, Haleyville has advanced key infrastructure improvements and strengthened its community services.

Over the years, Mayor Sunseri has received numerous awards recognizing his contributions, including: Civitan Citizen of the Year (2004); Alabama Communities of Excellence Volunteer of the Year (2005); State of Alabama RC&D Council Member of the Year (2017); and Outstanding Mayor Award from Alabama Communities of Excellence in both 2015 and 2024.

One of his proudest achievements as Mayor was the construction of the new Haleyville City Hall, completed in January 2016, which now stands as a lasting testament to his leadership and vision for future generations.

Beyond his public service, Mayor Sunseri's greatest source of pride has been his family. He and his wife Kay Sunseri have three children—David Sunseri, Beth Moore, and Jennifer Sunseri—and are the proud grandparents of five grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Mayor Kenneth "Ken" Sunseri has lived a life devoted to faith, family, community, and country. His legacy in Haleyville will continue to inspire those who follow him in public service. On behalf of the people of Alabama's 4th Congressional District, I extend my deepest gratitude and congratulations to Mayor Sunseri for his decades of exemplary service and wish him and Kay all the best in the years to come.

HONORING MR. PAUL-RAYMOND
BUITRÓN, III

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Professeur Paul-Raymond Buitrón, III—an internationally acclaimed martial artist, educator, and cultural ambassador whose life's work has elevated both the sport and the spirit of martial arts.

Professeur Buitrón began his training at the age of six under his uncle, Maître Isidro Chapa, studying the Basque art of Zípora. His early discipline and creativity shaped a lifetime dedicated to mastery, mentorship, and cultural exchange.

Through years of study in Aikido, Kung Fu, Kenpo, Boxing, and especially Savate, Professeur Buitrón broke barriers.

He became the first American and first non-Frenchman to earn the title of Professeur in all disciplines of Savate and was the first American to receive France's prestigious Silver Glove and Silver Troisième Degré.

After an injury cut short his competitive career, he founded the first official School of Savate in the United States, training generations of champions and introducing Savate to countless communities.

His leadership through the Buitrón Academy and his creation of the Savate Danse De Rue movement have bridged cultures and inspired athletes worldwide.

Mr. Speaker, Professeur Paul-Raymond Buitrón, III's achievements as a teacher, innovator, and cultural ambassador embody excellence and perseverance.

On behalf of the 28th District of Texas, I commend him for his lifelong contributions to sport, education, and international friendship.

HONORING SHELMAE TURNER AS
ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S 8TH CON-
GRESSIONAL DISTRICT'S WOMEN
OF THE YEAR

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Shelmae Turner, who is being honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year for her outstanding service and unwavering dedication to the Solano County community for over 50 years. Ms. Turner has long been a steadfast advocate for young people, a cultural ambassador, and a committed community servant. Her work has ensured that essential resources are accessible to those in need, and her impact is deeply felt across generations. For more than 25 years, Ms. Turner has been an active member of the Chinese American Association of Solano County, an organization with deep personal meaning to her since her father was one of its founding members. In the past decade, she has served as Secretary of CAASC, continuing her family's legacy of service and civic involvement. Under her leadership, CAASC has awarded scholarships to 409 students. Ms. Turner has

also played a key role in promoting cultural awareness and diversity in Solano County. She has organized Chinese New Year and Lunar New Year celebrations and ensured CAASC's active participation in local events such as the Vacaville Fiesta Days Parade and the Fairfield 4th of July Parade, uplifting Asian American voices and traditions in the community. In addition to her cultural work, Ms. Turner has dedicated over 13 years to Fairfield High School, her alma mater, as the Associated Student Body Treasurer. Her efforts have allowed countless students to experience safe and memorable events, from proms to club activities, ensuring that every student feels valued and supported. Recognizing the growing needs of students and families, Ms. Turner has also volunteered for the past 10 years to manage Fairfield High School's clothing closet and food pantry. Thanks to her dedication, up to 20 individuals a day receive clothing, supplies, and food. Ms. Turner represents the very best of our community. Her legacy of compassion, inclusion, and service will continue to inspire generations to come. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Shelmae Turner for her invaluable contributions to our community.

RECOGNIZING JESSE LOVE, JR.

HON. ADDISON P. McDOWELL

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Mr. McDOWELL. Mr. Speaker, over the past weekend, on November 1, 2025, Jesse Love, Jr. brought home the 2025 NASCAR Xfinity title from Phoenix, Arizona. Love held the lead for the final 24 laps, displaying his dominance as he secured his third career victory on his first-ever non-superspeedway track.

At just 20 years old, Love is no stranger to winning and bringing back hardware to the stock car racing capital of the world. At age 15, he set a record as the youngest winner of the ARCA Menards Series West and the youngest winner in any NASCAR-sanctioned race.

North Carolina is proud of its long heritage in racing. Love drives for Richard Childress Racing out of Welcome, North Carolina, a team known for its historic caliber of elite racers, from Dale Earnhardt claiming six NASCAR Cup Series championships and two Daytona 500s, to Austin Dillon bringing home a third Daytona 500 victory in 2018. RCR racing continues to represent the pride of North Carolina in the stock car racing community around the world.

I congratulate Love and the entire RCR racing team. The future of NASCAR is with the drivers who represent the sport with honor and spirit.

HONORING ST. BENEDICT
CATHOLIC CHURCH

HON. GREG STANTON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize St. Benedict Catholic Church, a mainstay