

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### RECOGNIZING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

#### HON. MARK ALFORD

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 7, 2025*

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 250th anniversary of the United States Marine Corps, an institution championing courage, discipline, and devotion to duty. For two and a half centuries, Marines have stood on the front lines of freedom, defending our Nation's ideals at home and abroad with unwavering honor.

Since its founding on November 10, 1775, at Tun Tavern in Philadelphia, the Marine Corps has embodied the highest standards of service and sacrifice. From the halls of Montezuma to the shores of Tripoli, Marines have answered the call of duty with unwavering courage and honor. Through centuries of conflict and change, they have earned their reputation as one of the world's most disciplined and lethal fighting forces, steadfast in their mission to defend our freedom.

In Missouri's 4th Congressional District, we are proud to be home to two outstanding detachments of the Marine Corps League: the Sgt. Darell S. Cole Marine Corps League Detachment in Richland and the Warsaw Leathernecks Marine Corps League Detachment in Warsaw. These detachments continue to exemplify the Marine spirit long after active service: honoring fallen comrades while supporting veterans, their families, and our local communities.

As we commemorate this remarkable milestone, we recognize not only the 250 years of service and sacrifice by the United States Marine Corps but also the enduring legacy carried forward by the brave men and women who wear, or have worn, the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor. Their commitment to God, Country, and Corps remains a model of selfless devotion that inspires us all.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Missouri's 4th District, I extend my deepest gratitude to every Marine, past, present, and future, for their extraordinary service to our great Nation. May we continue to honor their courage and uphold the values they so bravely defend. *Semper Fidelis.*

### RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF GADSDEN STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

#### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 7, 2025*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of Gadsden State Community College. Gadsden State is currently under the leadership of President Alan Smith.

One of the initial founding institutions of Gadsden State is the Alabama School of Trades. It was established in 1925 as the first state-operated trade school in Alabama and the entire southern United States.

Classes began on September 16, 1925, with 42 students enrolled in the inaugural class. Four courses were available: printing, electricity, bricklaying and cabinetmaking. All students lived in the newly constructed dormitory equipped with modern conveniences such as steam heat and plumbing that featured hot and cold running water. Students helped government workmen lay bricks to build the school's first permanent two-story buildings.

The Alabama School of Trades continued to thrive as a training center for the area's technical industry with increasing student enrollment and course offerings. In 1942, courses were converted to War Training. At the close of World War II, new courses were added to help veterans re-enter the workforce such as: Radio, TV, Auto Mechanics, Machine Shop, Refrigeration, Drafting, Photography, Upholstery, Auto Body, Barbering, General Farm Dairy, Poultry and Heavy Equipment.

In 1973, the school's name was changed to the Alabama Technical College and began offering associate in applied technology degrees. In 1985, the Alabama Technical College merged with Gadsden State Community College and is now known as the East Broad Campus. It is home to many of Gadsden State's workforce development programs such as Precision Machining, Mechanical Design, Industrial Automation, Welding, Electrical, Electronic Technology, Salon/Spa, Court Reporting, Truck Driving, Skid Steer Training, Certified Nursing Assistant, Phlebotomy and Civil Engineering.

As a result of mergers and expansion of services, Gadsden State is now a sprawling Community College with five campuses including East Broad, Wallace Drive, Valley Street (HBCU), Ayers and Cherokee. Gadsden State serves Etowah, Calhoun, Cleburne, Cherokee and St. Clair counties in northeast Alabama. There are 70 programs of study offered to over 5,000 students.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in wishing Gadsden State Community College a happy 100th anniversary.

### HONORING THE SERVICE OF TAMARA STEINER

#### HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 7, 2025*

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tamara Steiner for her invaluable service to our community throughout her journalistic career.

For over 20 years, Tamara has worked to keep our community connected and informed. Tamara and Bob Steiner started *The Pioneer* in 2003, providing local news to Clayton, Con-

cord, and Pleasant Hill residents at no cost. *The Pioneer* covered key community events, including Clayton Business and Community Association (CBCA) festivals, De La Salle football, and local politics. Under Tamara's leadership, *The Pioneer* provided critical news to local residents throughout challenging and uncertain times, such as the 2008 financial crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic, and local emergencies like landslides and fires. *The Pioneer* also sponsored several annual local events including CBCA festivals, the Hay Day "Woof-oween" dog costume contest, and more. As local newspapers became more scarce, *The Pioneer* continued to thrive and worked to foster a strong and vibrant community in Clayton and beyond.

Beyond their work with *The Pioneer*, Tamara and Bob have continually demonstrated their steadfast commitment to our community. They started Clayton Clean Ups, served on CBCA's board, marched in local parades, and more. Additionally, Tamara served as Executive Director of the Pacific Business Center and as a board member for the Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce, underscoring her commitment to local development. She also taught Business English and Communications at the community college level, helping to prepare the next generation of journalists and business professionals. Throughout her life, Tamara has worked tirelessly to serve our community with enthusiasm and care.

Please join me in thanking Tamara Steiner for her decades of remarkable dedication to local journalism and in recognizing her incredible impact in Contra Costa County.

### CELEBRATING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF QUITMAN, TEXAS

#### HON. LANCE GOODEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 7, 2025*

Mr. GOODEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the First Baptist Church of Quitman's 175th anniversary. Organized on November 16, 1850, the First Baptist Church of Quitman, commonly known as FBCQ, is the oldest church in Wood County. It was established just nine months after the Texas Legislature voted to create Wood County in February of that same year, and it was the home church of James Stephen Hogg, the first native-born governor of Texas.

At its founding, the Baptist congregation met in public buildings, homes, and in the open air before finding a permanent location on the first floor of the Quitman Masonic Lodge. The church resided in multiple buildings in the early 20th Century. Tremendous growth in the late 1940's led to the construction of FBCQ's fourth and current sanctuary, located on Lane Street, where the congregation still gathers to worship today. I am deeply grateful to the First

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Baptist Church of Quitman for its long and storied history of service to the Greater Quitman area. I congratulate them on this incredible milestone.

CONGRATULATING FIRE CHIEF  
GINA SWEAT ON HER RETIREMENT

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 7, 2025*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the outstanding public service performed by Memphis' first female Fire Chief, Gina Sweat, who retired last month after more than 33 years with the department. Ms. Sweat joined the Memphis Fire Department in May of 1992, one of two women in her recruiting class of 84, after receiving a bachelor of business administration in 1988 from Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, Tennessee, where she played collegiate basketball. After joining the department, she continued her education by receiving a bachelor's of professional studies in fire administration in 2000 and a master's of professional studies in strategic leadership in 2013 from the University of Memphis. She rose through the ranks as a driver, lieutenant, battalion chief and division chief, deputy chief of logistics and deputy director until she was appointed Fire Chief by former Mayor Jim Strickland on January 1, 2016. In interviews through the years Chief Sweat said she learned to "over-prepare" for each new assignment. As chief, she undertook initiatives to improve the Insurance Services Office, made multi-million dollar renovations of the 911 Communications Center, the Office of Emergency Management building and built three new state-of-the-art fire stations and a new fire administration building. Chief Sweat's tenure also saw the department expand into responding to medical emergencies. It also included the Covid epidemic period when the fire department was the lead local agency conducting vaccinations. In my contacts with Chief Sweat, she was always pleasant. She was easy to communicate with and she certainly had a professional demeanor, which inspired my belief that the Fire Department was in good hands. Sweat had "the most appropriate name for the job" joked a local columnist, and her tenure as chief led to significant advances. I wish her well in retirement.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF  
COMMISSIONER GEORGE COPADIS

**HON. CHRIS PAPPAS**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 7, 2025*

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the retirement of George Copadis, the Commissioner of New Hampshire Employment Security (NHES). George's longstanding career in public service encourages us all to serve as strong advocates for our local communities and state. George will be retiring after decades as a public servant.

As the NHES Commissioner and Chair of the Board of Commissioners on the Manchester Housing and Redevelopment Author-

ity, George consistently demonstrated his commitment to his colleagues and his community. George's steady leadership guided the agency through the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring Granite Staters received efficient and reliable services. Also serving as the President of the Board of Directors at St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral, George's generous and cooperative spirit knows no bounds.

A lifelong resident of Manchester, George represents the very best of our community. George's compassion and kindness provided immense support to individuals experiencing challenging situations. His dedication to his work had a significantly positive impact on countless Granite Staters who benefitted from George's knowledge and support. But perhaps most of all, George will be remembered for the delicious baklava that he brought to special meetings.

On behalf of the constituents of New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I commend George for his dedication to Granite Staters. My well wishes are with George and his family as he enjoys retirement.

HONORING LT. COLONEL DEIDRE  
D. SMITH

**HON. TRENT KELLY**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 7, 2025*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Lt. Col. Deidre D. Smith, Director of Public Affairs for the Mississippi National Guard. In this role, she provides critical counsel to the Adjutant General and senior leaders on command information, community outreach, and media engagement, ensuring the Guard remains connected to the citizens of Mississippi.

A Hattiesburg native, Lt. Col. Smith has served across the United States, Europe, and overseas in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Throughout her distinguished career, she has taken on leadership roles in Human Resources, Public Affairs, Information Operations, and Equal Opportunity, demonstrating versatility and excellence in every assignment.

Within the Mississippi Army National Guard, she has held several key positions, including State Director of Public Affairs, Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, and Director of Outreach Services. Her dedicated service has earned her numerous awards, including the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and the Mississippi Magnolia Cross, reflecting her professionalism and commitment to duty.

Lt. Col. Smith is a graduate of Marion Military Institute, Southeastern Louisiana University, and the University of Oklahoma. She has also completed advanced military education through the Command and General Staff College, the Defense Information School, and the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute. In addition to her military achievements, she was selected for Leadership Mississippi in 2018 and named among the Mississippi TOP 50 in 2022.

She resides in Brandon with her husband, Maj. James Kevin Polk of the 172nd Airlift Wing, and their daughters, Pfc. Harley Smith and Pvt. Lyndi Polk, both newly enlisted mem-

bers of the Mississippi Army National Guard, continuing their family's proud tradition of service.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SERVICE  
ACADEMIES DISTRICT OF CO-  
LUMBIA EQUALITY ACT

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 7, 2025*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Service Academies District of Columbia Equality Act, which would give the District of Columbia the same number of appointments and nominations to the U.S. service academies as states. Currently, each member of the House and each senator is allocated five appointments to each service academy—the U.S. Military Academy, the U.S. Naval Academy and the U.S. Air Force Academy—and each member of the House and each senator is allowed 15 nominations for each appointment. Therefore, since D.C. has no senators, D.C. is deprived of 10 appointments and, assuming all appointments are vacant, 150 nominations to each service academy. Senator TIM Kaine has introduced the companion bill.

This bill would provide equality for D.C. residents who choose to serve their country by applying to a service academy. It is remarkable that D.C. residents volunteer to fight and die for a country that denies them statehood, voting representation in Congress and full home rule. D.C. servicemembers have helped secure voting rights for people around the world, yet have always been denied those same rights when they returned home. D.C. residents, who pay the same federal taxes as residents of states, deserve the same opportunity as residents of states to attend our prestigious service academies.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT  
OF CITY COUNCILWOMAN ANITA  
BEDWELL

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 7, 2025*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the retirement of Anita Bedwell, a City Councilwoman for Rainbow City, Alabama.

Anita was born in Rainbow City to Eugene and Loretta Wimpee on August 27, 1961, along with her sisters, Lisa Abernathy and Susie Carr. She graduated from Southside High School in 1979, attended Gadsden State Community College, and graduated from the University of Alabama at Birmingham with a degree in Dental Hygiene.

After working as a dental hygienist for 15 years, Anita joined her family's construction business and eventually started her own business, Rainbow Pipe and Metal.

Councilwoman Bedwell has tirelessly served on the Rainbow City Council for 17 years. She was first elected in 2008 and has served four terms. As a member of the City Council, she