

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE OF EDNA
VERNETTE O. CARRANZA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2025

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Edna Vernetta Odell Carranza, a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, educator, and health care leader whose steadfast service strengthened the Laredo community for more than half a century.

Born on October 17, 1944, in Austin, Texas, Vernetta dedicated her life to caring for others. She served as a school nurse at Nye Elementary, later becoming the Director of Nursing at Laredo Community College, where she helped guide and mentor a generation of future medical professionals.

She went on to serve as President of Texas Health Staffing, providing compassionate home-health care to families across South Texas.

Vernetta's greatest joy was her family. She was a devoted wife to Dr. Henry Santos Carranza, and together they built a life of faith, service, and commitment to their community.

She was a loving mother, grandmother, and matriarch whose kindness, patience, and steady presence left an enduring imprint on all who knew her.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Vernetta was known for her humility, warmth, and willingness to help anyone in need.

She lived her life guided by compassion and integrity, touching countless lives through both her vocation and her example.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Vernetta O. Carranza, a woman whose legacy of service, love, and leadership will continue to inspire the Laredo community for generations to come.

CONGRATULATING MIKE OLTMAN
ON HIS RETIREMENT WITH THE
WOODFORD COUNTY EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT AGENCY

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2025

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Mike Oltman for more than 40 years of public service with the Woodford County Emergency Management Agency. Throughout his career, Mike has demonstrated unwavering commitment, technical expertise, and a deep devotion to protecting and serving his community.

Mr. Oltman began his service as a senior at Roanoke Benson High School when the agency was known as the Emergency Services and Disaster Agency. Throughout his career, he has held key roles in emergency preparedness and response, including serving as Dep-

uty Director, chief storm spotter, and a member of the damage assessment team. In these pivotal positions, he worked closely with the IEMA and FEMA to map disaster areas and support response operations that benefited the county, first responders, and residents.

His extensive experience in emergency operations uniquely equipped him to guide the county through major crises, including his leadership during the activation of the Emergency Operations Center in the COVID pandemic. This expertise made him an essential leader at the county and state levels, where he successfully coordinated emergency procedures and supported critical public safety decisions during one of Woodford County's most challenging periods.

Throughout his service, Mr. Oltman has dedicated himself to strengthening emergency response capabilities and supporting those around him. As a driver and Emergency Medical Responder with the Roanoke ambulance service and as a staff member with the Salvation Army, he has extended his commitment far beyond EMA. His dedication and leadership were further recognized in 2017 when he received the Volunteer of the Year Award from the Illinois Emergency Services Management Association, leaving a lasting impact on the agency and the community he has faithfully served.

Woodford County is fortunate to have a volunteer whose service, professionalism, and passion for public safety have spanned more than four decades. Mike's commitment to his community is truly inspiring, and his retirement marks the conclusion of a remarkable career devoted to serving others. I am honored to recognize him for his extraordinary service and congratulate him on his well-earned retirement. I wish Mike and his loved ones the very best in the years ahead.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT
OF COLUMBIA SPECIAL ELEC-
TIONS HOME RULE ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2025

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Special Elections Home Rule Act. This bill would give the District of Columbia complete authority to set the date of special elections for local offices, like other jurisdictions. This bill would remove a limitation on D.C. that is not only inconsistent with the purpose of the D.C. Home Rule Act, which is to grant D.C. self-government, but is also harmful.

In 2012, I got legislation enacted that gave the D.C. Board of Elections (Board) more flexibility to set the date of special elections for local offices. Although I sought complete authority for D.C. to set the date of special elections, the 2012 law did not include this home-rule principle.

The Home Rule Act originally required the Board to hold special elections on the first Tuesday occurring more than 114 days after a vacancy and allowed the Board to schedule special elections on the same day as the next general election if that election occurred within 60 days from when a special election would otherwise have been held. This inflexibility led to special elections being held on religious holidays and forced D.C. to hold a special election separate from an upcoming general election, costing D.C. hundreds of thousands of dollars. The 2012 law requires the Board to hold a special election on a Tuesday occurring between 70 and 174 days after a vacancy. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING MAYOR GEOFFREY
THOMAS FOR NEARLY TWO DE-
CADES OF DEDICATION TO THE
CITY OF MONROE

HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2025

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mayor Geoffrey Thomas for the eighteen years he has devoted to the City of Monroe. Mayor Thomas began his public service on the city council in 2004 and has served as mayor since 2014. Over the years, he has guided Monroe with steady leadership and a clear commitment to the community's vision through Imagine Monroe, a plan focused on safety, inclusion, and opportunity for every resident.

Beyond his professional experience in local government and the private sector, Mayor Thomas has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to service. He has contributed as a planning commissioner in Olympia and Monroe, a scout leader, firefighter, lacrosse coach, homeowners' association president, and church director. Mayor Thomas and his wife of 32 years, Laura, have lived in Monroe since 2000 and raised their two sons in the community he has worked tirelessly to strengthen.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing gratitude to Mayor Thomas for his remarkable service. His dedication has strengthened Monroe, and his legacy of leadership and community engagement will continue to inspire for years to come. I wish him the very best as he begins the next chapter of his life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHARICE DAVIDS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2025

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in regret that I was unable to vote on Friday, November 21, 2025. Had I been able

• 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.

to vote, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 305, H. Con. Res. 58.

RECOGNIZING JACKSON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CHAIRMAN JONATHAN D. HOLMES

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2025

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Jonathan D. Holmes, Chairman of the Jackson Township Board of Supervisors, for his many years of service to Jackson Township, York County, Pennsylvania.

Jon has dedicated his life to serving the great People of Jackson Township. He began in 1990 after being appointed as an alternate to the Township Zoning Hearing Board, where he served for almost two years. In 1992, he became a full member of the Zoning Hearing Board. In April 2003, he was appointed to the Township Board of Supervisors to fulfill another member's term, and became Chairman of the Board in 2005, where he has served for nearly 21 years.

Jon's career as a Civil Engineer has benefited the Township greatly. As a graduate of Penn State's Engineering program, he always understood the Township's infrastructure needs and made efforts to improve the quality of life for all residents. Under his leadership, he took the Township's Public Works Department to the next level. The Township implemented a roadway improvement program that funded proper paving versus tar and chip, thus improving the safety and durability of town roads. He also improved the equipment in the Department, giving town employees the necessary tools to keep things running.

Jon led the Board during the purchase of land titled for Little Creek Community Park, the Township's first park. Today, the park includes a nine-hole golf course, walking trails, playground equipment, and a pavilion; it's a heavily used community center and loved by residents and non-residents alike, yet another tangible example of how Jon's leadership impacted the communities in and outside of Jackson Township.

Jon's leadership was recognized not only by residents, but by other leaders in Pennsylvania. He was honored by the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors and inducted into its Hall of Fame in 2025, which speaks broadly to his leadership abilities and legacy.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored and privileged to recognize Chairman Jonathan Holmes for his selfless, tireless, and dedicated service to the Citizens of Jackson Township, York County, Pennsylvania. His leadership, professionalism, and fidelity will be greatly missed, and his service sets the standard for all to be judged.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. SCHLEY LOUIS "BIG LOUIE" PERRY, JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2025

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and remarkable service of a lov-

ing husband, dedicated father, doting grandfather, ingenious advocate for agriculture, and my longtime friend and steadfast supporter, Schley Louis "Big Louie" Perry, Jr., who passed away on November 26, 2025, at the age of 86. A memorial service to celebrate his remarkable life will be held on Monday, December 1, 2025, at the Baker Funeral Home in Moultrie, Georgia.

Born on March 10, 1939, on Pineywoods Farms in Colquitt County, to the union of Schley Louis Perry, Jr. and Lois Perry, Big Louie was the fifth generation to steward the family land. Pineywoods Farms, established in 1830, is a Centennial Farm and the oldest continually owned business in the county—a legacy Louie treasured, protected and preserved. Except for his college years, Louie lived and worked on the farm his entire life, and today his children and grandchildren continue that tradition as the sixth and seventh generations.

Louie's devotion to agriculture began early. He joined the Georgia Farm Bureau at 13, was an active FFA member, and earned an associate's degree in agriculture from ABAC in 1959 before studying Agribusiness at the University of Georgia. Returning to Pineywoods Farms in 1962, he modernized operations, expanded production, and partnered with UGA Extension on on-farm research. An early adopter of center-pivot and variable-rate irrigation, Louie transitioned to a nationally recognized Limousin seedstock operation and marketed cattle nationwide. His commitment to innovation and stewardship made him a leader among Georgia producers.

Big Louie believed deeply in service. To him, farming was more than a business—he considered it a duty to the land and the next generation, a sentiment that guided his life. His advocacy advanced producer-driven programs, policy, and markets; he counseled elected officials to include me, Former President Jimmy Carter, Former United States Senator Saxby Chambliss, Former United States Senator Johnny Isakson, and former Governors Roy Barnes and Sonny Perdue, hosted farm tours, and mentored emerging leaders. As I have often observed, "Service is the rent that we pay for the space that we occupy here on this earth" and Louie embodied that truth in every role he held.

His leadership spanned commodity boards and associations—including three decades on the Georgia Cotton Commission (Chair, 2000 to 2012), Cotton, Inc. (Chair, 2006), the National Cotton Council, Georgia and regional Limousin organizations, and more. He served 19 years on the Colquitt County Commission under the slogan "Young, Able and Willing to Serve," and contributed to health care, education, and civic life through the Colquitt Regional Medical Center Foundation, the Pine-land School Board, the Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis Club and his church.

Honors reflecting his lifetime of service include the Georgia Cotton Commission Inaugural Trustees Award (2023), ABAC Family Legacy Award (2022), Centennial Family Farm Award (2020), and the J. Lamar Branch Leadership in Agriculture Award (2020).

Louie created the Pineywoods Farms Scholarship at UGA in 2007 and endowed scholarships at ABAC and UGA to support future agricultural leaders. He leaves a legacy of mentorship, innovation, and civic responsibility.

On a personal note, Big Louie was my friend and one of my biggest supporters. His support and loyalty were unquestioned, and he was always brutally honest in his advice and counsel to me. I will be forever grateful for the fidelity of his friendship. The great agricultural chemist George Washington Carver once said that "How far you go in life depends on your being tender with young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with striving and tolerant of the weak and the strong, because some day in your life you will have been all of these." Big Louie went far in life because he treated all people with dignity and respect, and he followed God's purpose for his life.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Rebecca Clark Perry; children Laura Perry Johnson (Scott), Schley Louis Perry, III (Lisa), and Jonathan Johnson Perry (Jackie); and grandchildren Bill and Libba Johnson, Jack and Alex Perry, and Zach and Alli Perry.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian, and I, along with the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's 2nd Congressional District in honoring the life and legacy of Schley Louis "Big Louie" Perry, Jr. He lived a life defined by duty to family, land, and community. His work fed our tables, his leadership strengthened the agriculture industry, and his service lifted our people. Moreover, we extend our deepest sympathies to his family, friends, loved ones and all those who grieve during this difficult time of bereavement. We pray that they will all be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

HONORING MR. BRUCE HARTMANN

HON. CHARLES J. "CHUCK" FLEISCHMANN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2025

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate and recognize Mr. Bruce Hartmann on his retirement.

Mr. Hartmann began his career with the Baltimore Sun in Maryland, where he spent his first six years in the newspaper business. He also held management positions at the Lowell Sun in Massachusetts and the Nashua Telegraph in New Hampshire. Bruce spent 26 years with the E.W. Scripps Company in several roles. He would become the youngest President and Publisher in Scripps history at the age of 36. While in this role, he oversaw the construction of the news headquarters for the Knoxville News Sentinel, founded the KNS Media Group, and launched numerous community-focused initiatives.

For the past eight years, Bruce has served as Senior Vice President and Chief Community Relations Officer for the University of Tennessee Medical Center. He has secured more than \$60 million in various grants to expand the facilities and services that the UT Medical Center offers to our community. Bruce played a key role in establishing the Fentress County Emergency Department in 2023 and the Orthopedic Institute at Cherokee Farm in Jamestown, Tennessee, allowing UT Medical Center to expand into communities with health care needs.

It was in his role with E.W. Scripps that I met and became friends with Bruce. Bruce