

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE ST. PAUL HIGH SCHOOL CHEER TEAM ON WINNING THE DIVISION V OHSCCA BEST IN THE STATE TITLE

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2025

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of pride that I rise to pay a very special tribute to an outstanding high school cheer team in Ohio's 5th Congressional District. The young student athletes of the St. Paul High School cheer team have represented their school ably on their way to achieving the Ohio High School Cheerleading and Dance Coaches Association Division V Best in the State title.

In their effort to surpass all other teams in the division, St. Paul overcame the challenges posed by intense competition. The members of this very special team have shown that their sport requires an individual effort for a team result. Their hard work and dedication, both on and off the floor, in achieving this accomplishment, is truly outstanding.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to the St. Paul cheer team. On behalf of the people of the 5th District of Ohio, I am proud to recognize this great achievement.

HONORING WELDON MCCLANE WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Private First Class Weldon Edward McClane of Sadler, Texas, and to award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. PFC McClane honorably served in the United States Army from 1943 to 1945 during World War II.

At just 16 years old, Weldon felt it was his duty to serve our country. Though too young to enlist, he left high school to help build B-24 bombers, working there until he turned 18 and could join the Army.

During his service, PFC McClane fought in the Battle of the Bulge and helped liberate the French town of Gavray. His unit built and maintained the pontoon bridge near the Ludendorff Bridge—one of the final crossings that helped secure the Allied victory. Despite being wounded by enemy fire, Weldon and his unit persevered, later helping to liberate the Nordhausen Concentration Camp, saving thousands of lives. For his bravery, PFC McClane received the World War II Victory Medal, the American Theater Campaign Medal, the EAME Campaign Medal with five Bronze Stars, Good Conduct Medal, and the Purple Heart.

After returning home, Weldon married his high school sweetheart and built a life in Sadler, Texas, working as a lineman for the Fannin County Electric Company. He and his wife raised four children, and his legacy continues through his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

In 2023, at age 99, Weldon received his long-overdue high school diploma from the Texas Department of Education. That same year, he was honored for 65 years of membership as a Master Mason of Lodge 536 in Gordonville—a reflection of his lifelong dedication to community, faith, and brotherhood. Beyond his service, he lived an active life raising horses and cattle, embodying the strength and humility of the American spirit.

I am deeply honored to recognize Private First Class Weldon Edward McClane for his extraordinary courage, patriotism, and lifelong commitment to service. He represents the very best of Texas' 4th Congressional District and of our great Nation.

RECOGNIZING MOODY HIGH SCHOOL FOR WINNING THE AHSAA CLASS 5A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP IN FOOTBALL

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2025

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Moody High School football team for winning the Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA) 5A State Championship.

At Protective Stadium in Birmingham, Alabama, on December 4, 2025, the Moody football team, with a record of 13–2, secured the school's second state championship over Vigor High School with a shutout of 25–0.

The championship team from Moody, Alabama, is led by Coach Jake Ganus and is the school's second football state title.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the Moody football team, Coach Ganus and his coaching staff, the faculty and fans on this exciting win for the school. I congratulate them and Go Blue Devils.

HONORING ARTHUR "SQUEAKY" KIRK

HON. KWEISI MFUME

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2025

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a beloved figure in Baltimore City, Mr. Arthur "Squeaky" Kirk, a man I have had the honor of working alongside many times in our shared community. Arthur's extraordinary contributions to our city and his unparalleled dedication to its people epitomize the very essence of a Baltimorean.

Arthur is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of the Ruth M. Kirk Recreation and Learning Center, which is named in honor of his late mother. Ruth was a dear friend and an exceptional public servant in the Maryland House of Delegates, representing West Baltimore with pride and dedication for 28 years. It is evident that Ruth passed her passion for public service on to her son, who continues to live by the principles that she raised him with.

As a promise to his mother before her passing, Arthur agreed to take over the recreation center, in August 2011, he embarked on a journey, refurbishing and revitalizing the building, ensuring it remains as a beacon of hope and a symbol of communal resilience in our city. Since then, he has forged a sanctuary in the heart of the Franklin Square Neighborhood, where students are protected from neighborhood violence and families can get the resources they desperately need.

Each week, the center offers after-school tutoring and meals, GED adult programs, youth mentorship, and more, all the while supplying 450 Baltimore families with groceries. Arthur works diligently to beautify the community by enlisting the help of neighborhood children, encouraging them to learn about gardening and agriculture in his community garden. His work has been recognized by many in our Congressional District, from the Baltimore Ravens to Governors of Maryland on both sides of the aisle, past and present. "Squeaky" has made remarkable contributions to countless families across West Baltimore while honoring his mother's legacy and continuing her work.

Arthur's motivation to be a mentor and change-maker in the lives of our young people only grew in 2022, when he was struck by the greatest of tragedies, the loss of his young son Elijah. I know that the loss is a wound that he will always carry, but Elijah's memory is also one of Arthur's greatest sources of strength.

In addition to his work with the center, Arthur has helped keep our city safe as a dispatcher for the Baltimore City Fire Department for over two decades. He is the stoic voice on the other side of the line that helps maintain a sense of calm and composure during an emergency while simultaneously guiding first responders to your location. He is a proud member of the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) Local 734, where he advocates for the interests of paramedics and firefighters across Baltimore. In both his personal and professional life, "Squeaky" consistently shows his selflessness and his deep love for Baltimore and its people.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Mr. Arthur "Squeaky" Kirk for his unwavering generosity and for continuing the estimable legacy of his mother. His tireless dedication to his students, his profound compassion for their families, and his steadfast community leadership have enriched the lives of so many Baltimoreans. Today, we honor not just a man, but a living testament to the transformative power of service, and the enduring impact of one individual's dedication to uplifting the needy.

• 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 SUSAN BAXMEYER

HON. RUDY YAKYM III

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2025

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and express my sincere gratitude for the extraordinary service and cherished friendship of Susan Baxmeyer, whose decades of dedication have strengthened our community and enriched public life across Indiana.

Susan began her political involvement in 1980, volunteering for John Hiler's congressional campaign. Her skill and dedication were immediately evident, and after his election, she joined his staff as District Secretary and Scheduler. She quickly became a trusted contact for constituents and a reliable support to the office. Whether at county fairs, fish fries, Lincoln Day dinners, or state conventions, she immersed herself fully in the work and built lasting relationships throughout the former 3rd Congressional District.

After leaving the congressional office in 1987 to join her husband Carl in their planning and consulting business, Susan remained deeply engaged in public service. She has served continuously as a Precinct Committeeman and held key leadership roles at both the district and county levels, including positions within the Indiana Republican State Committee and the St. Joseph County Republican Women. Her service as a delegate to state and national conventions and her recognition as a St. Joseph County Republican Woman of the Year nominee reflect the respect she has earned across our community and our state. She lifts others up simply by being who she is, and she has strengthened every organization and every effort she has touched.

On a personal note, I want to express my deep appreciation for her friendship. In public life, the support and kindness of people like Susan mean more than can be measured. Her counsel, encouragement, and loyalty have been invaluable, and I am honored to call her a friend.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Susan Baxmeyer for her outstanding contributions, her unwavering dedication to our community, and her lifelong commitment to service. Indiana is better because of her, and we are grateful for all she has given.

**RECOGNIZING LIBERTY CENTER
HIGH SCHOOL ON WINNING THE
DIVISION V STATE FOOTBALL
CHAMPIONSHIP**

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2025

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of pride that I rise to pay a very special tribute to an outstanding high school football team in Ohio's 5th Congressional District. The young men of the Liberty Center High School football team have represented their school ably on their way to achieving the Division V State Football Title. In their effort to surpass all other teams in the Division V State Football

Playoffs, the Liberty Center Tigers overcame the challenges posed by intense competition.

In pursuing the State Championship, the Liberty Center Tigers defeated the Wheelersburg Pirates to win the state football championship. The members of this very special team have shown that their sport requires an individual effort for a team result. Their hard work and dedication, both on and off the field in achieving this accomplishment, is truly outstanding.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to the Liberty Center High School football team. On behalf of the people of the 5th District of Ohio, I am proud to recognize this great achievement.

**HONORING THE LIFE OF THOMAS
O. HICKS**

HON. RYAN K. ZINKE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2025

Mr. ZINKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Thomas O. Hicks.

Thomas O. Hicks, of Dallas, Texas, was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather, a patriotic American, and a respected leader in business, philanthropy, and civic life.

Mr. Hicks served his country in the United States Army Reserve and later as a presidentially appointed Commissioner of the American Battle Monuments Commission, helping to honor and preserve the memory of United States service members at military cemeteries and memorials around the world.

Mr. Hicks was widely regarded as a pioneer in American private equity, co-founding Hicks & Haas in 1984 and later Hicks, Muse, Tate & Furst in 1989, and helping to advance the "buy-and-build" strategy that transformed the leveraged buyout model and created tens of thousands of American jobs in consumer products, broadcasting, and food and beverage industries.

Mr. Hicks made extraordinary contributions to the city of Dallas and to the State of Texas, including helping to develop the American Airlines Center, supporting the construction of the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge, and championing education initiatives such as the land donation that became Thomas O. Hicks Elementary in the Lewisville Independent School District.

Mr. Hicks brought distinction to American sports through his ownership and leadership of the Dallas Stars from 1995 to 2011, including the 1999 Stanley Cup Championship, and the Texas Rangers from 1998 to 2010, during which the team won multiple American League West Division titles and reached the World Series.

Mr. Hicks remained deeply committed to higher education and to the University of Texas, where he served on the Board of Regents from 1994 to 1999 and helped establish the University of Texas Investment Management Company (UTIMCO), which has grown into the largest public university endowment in the Nation.

Above all his accomplishments in business, sports, and civic life, Mr. Hicks was proudest of his role as a family man, dedicating his life to his wife, children, and grandchildren, and instilling in them a deep love of family, country, and community.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 35 years, Cinda Cree Hicks, and his six children, Thomas Ollis Hicks, Jr., Mack Hardin Hicks, John Alexander Hicks, Robert Bradley Hicks, William Cree Hicks, and Catherine Forgrave Hicks.

Each of Mr. Hicks' children carries forward his example through their own work, families, and contributions to the lives of Americans.

The House of Representatives recognizes and honors the life, legacy, and service of Thomas O. Hicks; recognizes his service to the United States as a member of the Army Reserve and the American Battle Monuments Commission; acknowledges his lasting contributions to American business, sports, education, and civic life, particularly in Dallas, Texas; expresses its gratitude for his philanthropy and commitment to strengthening communities and creating opportunity through job creation and investment; and extends its deepest condolences to his wife, Cinda, to his children—Thomas, Mack, Alex, Bradley, William, and Catherine—to his grandchildren, and to all who mourn his passing.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2025

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I am not in Washington, D.C. due to family matters and missed the vote on passage of S. 1071, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 319.

**HONORING ROBERT "BOB" HARVEY
WITH A CONGRESSIONAL
VETERAN COMMENDATION**

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Specialist Robert "Bob" Harvey of Celina, Texas, and to honor him with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Specialist Harvey honorably served in the United States Naval Reserve from 1955 to 1956 and in the United States Army from 1957 to 1963, dedicating his career to the defense of our nation with distinction and commitment.

During his military service, Specialist Harvey served as an Engineer and was a proud member of both the 101st and 82nd Airborne units. He began as Assistant Platoon Leader and was later promoted to Assistant to the First Sergeant for B Company, demonstrating leadership, responsibility, and dedication to his fellow soldiers. His service took him to the Naval Base in San Diego, California, Fort Bragg, and Fort Campbell, and to participate in operations in Lebanon. For his service, he earned the Parachutist Badge and the Good Conduct Medal, reflecting his skill, dedication, and professionalism.

Following his military career, Specialist Harvey continued his commitment to service in the Celina community. For over seven years, he provided support to his wife, Carolyn, at