

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING HANFORD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hanford Christian School on their 80-year anniversary and to thank them for their significant contributions to the Kings County community.

Since its founding in 1944, Hanford Christian School has provided students with the tools they need to succeed in their personal and professional lives. Hanford Christian School pushes students in and out of the classroom to reach their academic potential, through a challenging curriculum, Christ-centered teaching, and hands-on learning experiences.

The students, faculty, and families at Hanford Christian are dedicated to serving their community. Every year, they contribute to food drives and volunteer with the Salvation Army and Gleanings for the Hungry. Their community service impacts the community all year long, including during the holiday season when families donate blankets to the homeless and sing at retirement homes. These experiences at Hanford Christian and within the community empower students to become thoughtful leaders inside and outside the classroom.

The dedication of the teachers and staff at Hanford Christian School plays a vital role in helping students across the Central Valley thrive. I want to thank the entire faculty for fostering a learning environment that helps our youth become the best they can be.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating Hanford Christian School on their 80-year anniversary. Their work to enrich the lives of students in the Central Valley will be felt for generations to come.

RECOGNIZING THE SUCCESS OF TOM CROWLEY

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tom Crowley of Royse City, Texas. Tom Crowley has been a resident of Royse City since 2006 and has dedicated much of his life to public service, community engagement, and leadership. He was first elected to the Royse City Council in May 2010, building on earlier experience serving on the Royse City Zoning Board of Adjustment, as well as similar service in other communities. In 2013, he served on the Royse City ISD Strategic Planning Committee and on the Board of Directors of the Royse City Chamber of Com-

merce. He also chaired the Military Affairs Committee for the San Angelo Texas Chamber of Commerce.

A veteran of the United States Air Force, Tom served 22 years, including 18 years in intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) collections and analysis platforms. His service took him to eight ground and airborne units across Europe, Asia, the Mediterranean, and the Middle East, as well as two units within the continental United States. He later became a platform instructor, training airmen entering the airborne reconnaissance career field. During his distinguished military career, Tom was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, eight Air Medals, two Meritorious Achievement Medals, the Combat Readiness Medal, and numerous other decorations. Later in his Air Force career, he cross-trained in journalism, working in public relations and advertising and coordinating with local officials for USAF Thunderbirds aerial demonstration performances.

Tom's commitment to community extends beyond elected office. He is a former member of the Rockwall County Appraisal Review Board, past president of his homeowner's association, and a member of the Royse City chapter of Rotary International. In addition to his civic involvement, Tom spent 26 years in the real estate business, serving on six local Texas Realtor association committees and three statewide committees before retiring from active participation. During a hiatus from real estate, he also served as a law firm area manager for eleven years, overseeing operations across three West Texas counties. Throughout his life, Tom has demonstrated a consistent dedication to improving the communities he serves.

It is my honor to recognize Tom Crowley for his decades of dedicated service to his community, his country, and his family, and for his lasting commitment to strengthening Royse City and Rockwall County.

HONORING COLONEL VŨ VĂN LỘC'S LIFETIME OF SERVICE

HON. SAM T. LICCARDO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. LICCARDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and contributions of Colonel Vũ Văn Lộc, a South Vietnamese Army veteran and beloved community leader in San José and the greater Silicon Valley of California, for his unwavering dedication to Vietnamese refugees and cultural preservation—a true model of resilience and service.

From the rice fields of Nam Định to the heart of Silicon Valley, Colonel Lộc's journey was extraordinary. Born in 1933 in northern Vietnam, he graduated from the Đà Lạt Military Academy and rose through the ranks to serve as a Colonel in the Army of the Republic of Vietnam. When Saigon fell on April 30,

1975, Colonel Lộc and his family were forced to flee their homeland, ultimately finding refuge in San José, California. Rather than succumb to the tragedy of exile, he transformed it into a new mission of hope.

In 1976, soon after arriving in San José, Colonel Lộc founded the Immigrant Resettlement & Cultural Center (IRCC) to aid fellow refugees in rebuilding their lives. Over the next four decades, the IRCC became a lifeline for thousands of Vietnamese, Cambodian, and Laotian families. Colonel Lộc and his team provided English classes, job training, housing assistance, and citizenship guidance to more than 20,000 refugees in Northern California. Under his leadership, the center also fostered cultural and civic events like the annual Tết Lunar New Year festivals, helping new immigrant preserve their cherished traditions as they integrated into American life.

In addition to addressing immediate resettlement needs, Colonel Lộc then started preserving the historical heritage of his people. He began collecting donated mementos that reflected the diverse experiences of Vietnamese refugees, from veterans who had fought alongside him, to boat people who survived harrowing ocean escapes, to those who endured brutal "re-education" camps after the war. Over three decades, Colonel Lộc assembled these artifacts and stories, determined to create an enduring home for the history of the Vietnamese diaspora. That vision culminated in the establishment of the Museum of the Boat People and the Republic of Vietnam, better known simply as the Việt Museum, which opened in San José's History Park in 2007. Housed in a restored historic building, the museum contains hundreds of precious artifacts, photographs, and works of art that tell the story of American journey. The museum would not have come together without immense personal sacrifice from Colonel Lộc who even mortgaged his family home to sustain the museum during difficult times. Thanks to his dedication, the Việt Museum stands today as a treasure of San José, educating future generations about the courage, sacrifice, and contributions of Vietnamese refugees.

Colonel Vũ Văn Lộc passed away peacefully on November 29, 2025, at the age of 92, surrounded by his loved ones and honored by a grateful community. For all of his military rank and community titles, he most cherished his role as a loving husband, father, and grandfather. While Colonel Lộc's journey began in war and exile, it became our community great fortune that he made his second home in San José, and that we could come to know Colonel Vũ Văn Lộc as a friend, mentor, and leader. Today, we honor his memory, and his legacy, which lives on in the hearts of more than 20,000 immigrant Americans who he supported in their brutally difficult journey, and whose journey itself has become an inspiration for our Nation.

• 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 DELIA G. GARCIA
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Delia G. Garcia Elementary School of Roma Independent School District on being named a Governor's Lone Star Ribbon School, an honor that recognizes extraordinary academic excellence and outstanding achievement in public education across Texas.

This distinction is reserved for campuses that exemplify rigorous instructional standards, exceptional student outcomes, and a schoolwide commitment to creating an environment where every child can succeed. Earning this recognition reflects years of hard work, innovation, and an unwavering dedication to student success.

It speaks not only to the resilience and determination of the students, but also to the leadership of the administration, the skill and passion of the teachers, and the steadfast support of parents and the entire Roma ISD community.

At Delia G. Garcia Elementary, educators have shown that excellence in education is achieved through collaboration, high expectations, and a shared belief in the potential of every student.

Their efforts shape the foundation of learning for our youth, strengthen our community and inspire future generations to pursue opportunities with confidence.

Mr. Speaker, the achievement of Delia G. Garcia stands as a testament to what is possible when a school community commits itself fully to academic excellence and student growth.

On behalf of the 28th District of Texas, I commend the students, teachers, staff, and families of this exemplary school for earning this well-deserved honor.

WELCOMING THE EXPANSION OF
HOFFMAN & HOFFMAN

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, South Carolinians are grateful that Hoffman & Hoffman is expanding within the 2nd District of South Carolina. Established in 1947, Hoffman & Hoffman serves as a leader in heating, ventilation, and air conditioning solutions (HVAC).

The new facility is expected to open in the second quarter of 2026 and will allow Hoffman & Hoffman to consolidate their existing Lexington County offices and grow its operations in the state.

The \$8.5 million investment will create 60 new jobs, strengthen the local economy, and enhance career opportunities across the state.

With a presence across the Southeast, Hoffman & Hoffman continues to demonstrate a commitment to innovation and growth. I appreciate the dedication and leadership of Chief Executive Officer, Jim Bingham.

I extend my best wishes to Hoffman & Hoffman for success in their future endeavors.

CELEBRATING CHIEF ERIC
VOLLMER

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Hayward Fire Department Interim Chief Eric Vollmer on the occasion of his upcoming retirement on December 30, 2025, after nearly three decades of exemplary service to the City of Hayward and to communities throughout California.

Eric grew up in Fremont, California, where he first developed a strong appreciation for community and public service. That commitment would later define a distinguished career in the fire service spanning nearly 30 years, including service with CAL FIRE, the Manteca Fire Department, and the City of Hayward.

Eric earned an Associate of Science in Fire Technology from Columbia Junior College and a Bachelor of Arts in Biology from California State University, Hayward.

Eric began his service with the City of Hayward in 1999, where he rose through the ranks, serving as Firefighter, Captain, Battalion Chief, and Deputy Chief of Special Operations, prior to his current assignment as Interim Fire Chief. His leadership, professionalism, and dedication have left a lasting impact on the department and the residents it serves.

Before being promoted to management, Eric dedicated ten years as a member of the Local 1909 Executive Board, including four years as President, where he advocated for firefighters and worked collaboratively to strengthen labor-management relations.

Among his proudest accomplishments is his time in the Training Division, where he managed three recruit academies and helped shape the next generation of firefighters. Eric also worked to introduce local youth to the fire service through a partnership with the Eden Area ROP First Responder Program, expanding access and opportunity for students interested in public safety careers.

Eric played a critical role in renewing the department's Critical Incident Stress Management program, ensuring firefighters had the support they needed during challenging moments. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he also managed the Hayward Emergency Operations Center, providing steady leadership during an unprecedented public health crisis.

As Eric prepares for retirement, he looks forward to spending more time with his wife, Mallory, and their daughter, Sloane.

We extend our deepest gratitude and congratulations to Mr. Vollmer as he embarks on this new chapter of his life, with utmost respect for his service and with the best wishes for his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LIZZIE FLETCHER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mrs. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, on December 15, 2025, a family commitment caused me to miss Roll Call votes No. 335 and No. 336.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 335, and YEA on Roll Call No. 336.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MARIJUANA IN FEDERALLY ASSISTED HOUSING PARITY ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Marijuana in Federally Assisted Housing Parity Act. This bill would permit the use of marijuana in federally assisted housing, including public housing and Section 8 housing, in compliance with the marijuana laws of the state (including the District of Columbia) where the property is located. Senator CORY BOOKER is introducing the companion bill.

Individuals living in federally assisted housing should not be denied admission, or fear eviction, for using a product that is legal in the state where they reside. Adult-use marijuana, medical marijuana or both are currently legal in 40 states, the District of Columbia and three territories, and approximately 90 percent of Americans support legalized medical marijuana. Under federal law, users of drugs that are illegal under federal law, including marijuana, are prohibited from being admitted into federally assisted housing. Moreover, federal law allows landlords to evict residents of federally assisted housing for using illegal drugs.

The federal government has begun to change its approach to marijuana. For example, for the last several years, Congress has prohibited the Department of Justice (DOJ) from using federal funds to prevent jurisdictions from implementing their medical marijuana laws. This bill would similarly allow individuals to use marijuana in federally assisted housing in compliance with a state's marijuana laws. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), like DOJ, should not be allowed to interfere with jurisdictions implementing their marijuana laws.

Under this bill, HUD must develop regulations that restrict smoking marijuana in federally assisted housing in the same manner and in the same locations as HUD restricts smoking tobacco in federally assisted housing.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, on December 16, 2025, I missed votes due to personal reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 337; NAY on Roll Call No. 338; YEA on Roll Call No. 339; NAY on Roll Call No. 340; YEA on Roll Call No. 341; and NAY on Roll Call No. 342.