

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### HONORING EAST TEXAS UIL STATE FOOTBALL PARTICIPANTS

#### HON. NATHANIEL MORAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Kilgore, Carthage, and Joaquin school districts for their participation in the UIL State Football Championships in Texas this week.

Kilgore will face Stephenville in the 4A Division I Championship, and Carthage will face West Orange-Stark in the 4A Division II Championship. Both of these football organizations are East Texas powerhouses. Both have demonstrated incredible resilience, grit, and determination throughout the season.

Kilgore is eyeing its second State Championship, after its first championship came in 2004. Head Coach Clint Fuller is ready to lead the team to a win this week.

Carthage has appeared in the State Championship 12 times, 11 of those under the leadership of current Head Coach Scott Surratt. All 10 championship wins in those games came under his leadership as well.

Last night, Joaquin played in the 2A Division I Championship against Hamilton. Head Coach Jared Jones led the team to a historic first State Championship appearance. Making the game is an incredible accomplishment in the football program's history.

Each team has incredible leaders who help shape their players on and off the field. I am grateful for their work ethic and dedication to the game.

I wish good luck to Carthage, Kilgore and congratulations to Joaquin. What excellent football dominance from Texas' 1st District.

### REMEMBERING JANE SANDERSON

#### HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to longtime Memphis society columnist and entertainment reporter Jane Sanderson, who passed on December 13, 2025, at the age of 100.

Ms. Sanderson interviewed many of the biggest stars of the late 20th century as the society writer for The Commercial Appeal from 1950 to 1958, when she had her first daughter. She then worked for The Delta Review, covering Southern culture, then returned to newspaper journalism in 1971 as an entertainment and lifestyles reporter at The Memphis Press-Scimitar until it closed down in 1983. After that, she was the Memphis-Nashville entertainment writer for People magazine. Among the bold-face names she interviewed and wrote about were comedians Jack Benny, Phyllis Diller, and Lucille Ball; movie stars Gin-

ger Rogers, Audrey Hepburn, Burt Reynolds and Jack Nicholson; and Memphis music giants Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, and Isaac Hayes. Ms. Sanderson went to Memphis public schools and graduated from Central High School before attending the University of Alabama and graduating with a journalism degree in 1947. She married Robert Wright Sanderson, a gallery owner, who passed in 1999.

I extend my condolences to her daughters, Laura Sanderson Healy and Lisa Sanderson, her two grandchildren, and her many admirers. She lived her life in the limelight, and will be missed.

### HONORING THE 40 YEARS OF SERVICE OF DANNY CORTEZ

#### HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Mr. Danny Cortez for his remarkable 40 years of dedicated service to our community through his career with Central Power & Light and later American Electric Power (AEP).

Mr. Cortez began his career on March 12, 1984, selected from a competitive pool of 448 applicants, and started his service as a meter reader with Central Power & Light. Through hard work, reliability, and a strong commitment to public service, he earned a promotion in 1985 to meter reader specialist, where he took on critical connect and disconnect responsibilities that ensured families and businesses across South Texas received reliable electric service.

Following the merger of Central Power & Light with American Electric Power, Mr. Cortez continued to distinguish himself. In 2000, he was promoted to supervisor. In this role, he led with professionalism and integrity, mentoring others and upholding the high standards essential to maintaining safe and dependable power infrastructure for our region.

After four decades of faithful service, Mr. Cortez retired in June 2024, leaving behind a legacy defined by dedication, perseverance, and pride in a job well done. His career reflects the vital role that utility workers play in keeping our communities running and our families safe.

I am proud to recognize Mr. Danny Cortez for his outstanding contributions and to thank him for a lifetime of service. His commitment exemplifies the professionalism and hard work that strengthen South Texas every day. I wish him continued health and happiness in his well-earned retirement.

### WAR CRIMINAL PUTIN ATTACKS

#### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on the very day war criminal Putin, in Moscow, boasted he would achieve his goals by "negotiations or war" by annexing Ukraine into a failed resurrected Soviet Union, he unleashed a murderous assault on civilians in Odessa, as exposed by Ukrainian Prayer Breakfast Leader Pavel Unguryan. I include in the RECORD, the following statement:

"Dear friend, dear brother, my country—and especially my city, Odesa—has endured the most intense attacks in the entire time since the war began.

Just try to grasp this: for the second day in a row, more than three hundred different missiles—hypersonic, cruise missiles, Kinzhal systems, and many other types of weapons in the arsenal of the Russian Federation—have been launched against our city.

At this moment, Odesa is completely without electricity. There is no water, no heating.

People are living in fear and deep uncertainty, not knowing how they will survive the coming days. Tomorrow is Sunday—the day we gather to go to church.

We have already experienced worship services without electricity many times, relying on generators. But to hold a service without water is something we have never faced before, and honestly, we do not yet know how to handle this situation.

A city of more than one million people is now without water, without electricity, and without heating.

This is how the criminal Putin demonstrates today—to European leaders, to President Trump, and to the entire world—his so-called readiness to end the war, his desire for peace negotiations, and his "good intentions."

I humbly and urgently ask you to stand with us in prayer these days—for our people, for our city, and for our country.

This is truly an extremely heavy and painful time for all of us.

With love and deep gratitude, your brother, Pavel."

### RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT COLONEL GEORGE E. HARDY, THE LAST TUSKEGEE AIRMAN

#### HON. DON BACON

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished veteran of the Army Air Forces who served the United States during World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War by fighting in the skies. The country lost Retired Air Force Lt. Col. George E. Hardy, the last surviving member of the famed original Tuskegee Airmen, a group of African-

• 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.

American combat pilots, on September 25, 2025. He was 100 years old.

Lt. Colonel Hardy was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1925, as the second oldest of seven children. He was the youngest Red Tail fighter pilot among the Tuskegee Airmen and one of the first African American aviators at the age of 19.

Commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, Hardy deployed in 1945 to Italy, joining the African American 99th Fighter Squadron, 332nd Fighter Group. He flew 21 combat missions over Germany and Nazi-occupied Europe in P-51 Mustangs, helping escort heavy B-17 and B-24 bombers.

America's bomber crews grew to value and respect the "Red Tails," a nickname derived from the strikingly painted red tails of the Tuskegee fighter planes and often requested to be escorted by them.

Before then, African Americans could not serve as United States military pilots, and their service did not stop the segregation and racism they faced while they fought for our country. During this time, our military was racially segregated, and black Americans faced intense discrimination in the Jim Crow South where they trained. The Tuskegee Airmen faced resistance to their integration as pilots, and many were assigned to non-combat roles; Hardy experienced that himself.

Colonel Hardy faced segregation, like his fellow Tuskegee men, who were also restricted from attending social clubs and were under pressure to excel with outdated aircraft and biased personnel. Yet, he never let that stop him.

After World War II, Hardy was deployed to Japan in 1950 during the Korean War. He was assigned as a co-pilot for B-29 bombers, but his commander doubted the abilities of a Black pilot. He remembered the moment when then-Lt. Col. Fred W. Miller ordered him, "Hardy, get down out of the airplane," as he was preparing for his first mission. But eventually, that senior officer commended his talents. Hardy then served in the Vietnam War, flying an additional 70 combat missions.

Leaving a lasting legacy, he and his Tuskegee Airmen comrades were honored with the Congressional Gold Medal, alongside his decorations. Hardy was described as a "humble man" with a deep passion for aviation by the Tuskegee Airmen National Historical Museum. He attended air shows and speaking events, inspiring future generations to pursue careers in aviation.

We are forever grateful for Hardy's courage, sacrifice, and perseverance. The legacy of all the original Tuskegee Airmen will continue to live on for future generations.

May we continue to honor and celebrate the progress our American military has made from the service of people of all colors. America is a better country today because of the bravery and resilience of the Tuskegee Airmen. America's promise is that all citizens will be treated equally under the law and can equally attain life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness in the land of the opportunity. Lt. Col. Hardy helped make this reality. We must never forget.

## RECOGNIZING MIDVIEW HIGH SCHOOL ON WINNING THE DIVISION III STATE SPIRIT CHAMPIONSHIP

### HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 18, 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 cheerleading team in Ohio's 5th Congressional District. The young student athletes of the Midview High School cheerleading team have represented their school ably on their way to achieving the Division III State Spirit Title. In their effort to surpass all other teams in the Division III State Spirit Competition, the Midview Middies overcame the challenges posed by intense competition.

In pursuing the State Championship, the Middies defeated their competitors to win their first state spirit 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 floor, in achieving this accomplishment, is truly outstanding.

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

## RECOGNIZING MARY ANN GRANT PETTY

### HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 18, 2025*

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate a trailblazer, dedicated public servant, and lifelong resident of Southwest Georgia, Ms. Mary Ann Grant Petty, as she retires after over 53 years with the City of Albany's Administrative Services Department. A "Legacy Celebration" will be held on December 19, 2025, at the Albany Civic Center to honor her over five decades of service.

Ms. Petty was born in Dougherty County to the union of T.W. and Annie Mae Grant on September 1, 1953. The second of seven siblings, she graduated from Monroe High School in June 1971 and thereafter graduated from Albany Technical College with a degree in Business Administration.

On May 29, 1972, as a result of a Federal Civil Rights Court Injunction for the City of Albany to desegregate its downtown offices, Ms. Petty was hired as a Customer Service Records Clerk with the City of Albany's Water, Gas & Light Commission, and was the only black employee in the front office for many months, during which she endured countless acts of discrimination from management, co-workers, and city residents. Ms. Petty, however, remained steadfast and resilient in the face of adversity; she remained at her post, upheld the highest levels of professionalism, and was promoted to the position of Customer Service Supervisor, for the Water, Gas & Light Commission, in 1977, and then to the position of Administrative Services Director, in 1997.

While she may have been the first black woman to hold these roles, she blazed a new trail ahead for many others to follow in her footsteps.

Former Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm once said that "service is the rent we pay for the space we occupy on this Earth." Ms. Mary Ann Grant Petty has paid her rent and paid it well. Over the years, she has worked tirelessly in the aftermath of tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, and other community disasters, to provide the city and its residents with continued service and support. She is a long-time member of First Monumental Faith Ministries Church and has served on various governmental committees, organizations, and forums, earning numerous awards, certificates, and vast forms of recognition.

Ms. Petty has accomplished so much during her life, but none of this would have been possible without the grace of God and the love and support of her late husband, Hillard Key Petty; two children, Hillary Keyanna Petty-Jackson, and Heather Keyronica Petty; and a host of extended family and beloved friends.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the over 765,000 people of Georgia's 2nd Congressional District, in honoring and commending Ms. Mary Ann Grant Petty for over 53 years of dedicated service to her city and her community. We send her and her loved ones best wishes as she retires and begins the next chapter in her life.

## HONORING THE QUILTS OF VALOR RECIPIENTS

### HON. NATHANIEL MORAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 18, 2025*

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor five veterans who were presented with Quilts of Valor: Marine Corps veteran Ben Gallagher, Air Force veteran Bill Presson, Texas National Guard veteran David Baker, Army veteran Dick Wood, and Air Force veteran Mike Mathea.

These five veterans from Arabella of Longview Senior Living received blankets made just for them by members of Longview's Country Patches Quilt Guild, in conjunction with the Quilts of Valor Foundation. This is a small way to honor their service and sacrifice. As they are wrapped in this quilt, I hope they feel wrapped in the arms of a grateful Nation.

I thank the Arabella Military Veterans for creating a space where veterans and their families can gather, support one another, and be recognized.

I also want to thank the Longview Country Patches Quilt Guild for the time, care, and love stitched into every one of these quilts. These are not simple blankets; they are symbols of appreciation from a thankful community to those who have answered the call to serve.

The Quilt says unequivocally, "Thank you for your service and sacrifice in serving our Nation." Their service is remembered by East Texas—a place that is stronger because of them.