

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### HONORING DAVID COOKE'S RETIREMENT AS CITY MANAGER OF FORT WORTH, TEXAS

#### HON. CRAIG A. GOLDMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 2025*

Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. David Cooke in his retirement as City Manager of Fort Worth. Mr. Cooke is the longest-tenured City Manager in Fort Worth's history and celebrated his 10-year anniversary last October.

During his tenure as City Manager, Mr. Cooke oversaw a \$2.6 billion budget and managed approximately 8,100 employees. Among his numerous accomplishments, Mr. Cooke lowered the property tax rate, stabilized the pension fund, and passed the city's largest budget. In the Fort Worth community, he helped foster public and private partnerships with organizations, including Dickies Arena, Fort Worth Stockyards, Texas A&M School of Law, and Fort Worth Botanic Garden.

Fort Worth has experienced significant growth, growing by approximately 20,000 new residents every year. As a result, Fort Worth is now the 12th largest city in the United States and a beacon of economic and social prosperity, with an historically rich culture that is still prevalent today.

On behalf of Texas' 12th Congressional District, I would like to recognize Mr. David Cooke for his outstanding commitment and service to the city of Fort Worth. I wish the best to him and his family.

### HONORING THE BRAVERY AND SACRIFICE OF THE MEN OF U.S. NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY DANANG, VIETNAM

#### HON. BRAD FINSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 2025*

Mr. FINSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the bravery and sacrifice of the men of Naval Support Activity Da Nang, a U.S. Navy logistics support unit stationed in Vietnam from 1965 to 1972.

On February 27, 1969, the North Vietnamese Army launched two rockets into a U.S. Navy storage facility, destroying Landing Craft Utility-1500, and wounding 13 servicemen.

During the ensuing rocket barrage, ammunition on LCU-1500 were detonated, causing an explosion which spread to a nearby harbor utility craft, destroying both vessels and damaging a third.

In total, twenty-two Navy men were killed and thirty-eight wounded, many of whom subsequently died as a result of their injuries.

The men of the U.S. Navy Da Nang Unit gave their all for our Nation that day in 1969,

yet never received recognition for their heroic actions in a time of war.

I am humbled and proud to honor these brave men today for the sacrifices they made for our country fifty-six years ago. They will never be forgotten.

### COMMEMORATING THE 20TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY OF REVEREND DR. DEMETRIUS S. CAROLINA, SR.

#### HON. NICOLE MALLIOTAKIS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 2025*

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the 20th Pastoral Anniversary of Reverend Dr. Demetrius S. Carolina, Sr., a distinguished leader whose contributions have profoundly impacted our community and beyond.

Reverend Dr. Carolina has been serving as the Senior Pastor at First Central Baptist Church, where he has provided spiritual guidance and support to countless individuals. In addition to his pastoral duties, he is the CEO of Dior Consultants LLC, a full-service business that specializes in staff and board training development. His commitment to education and leadership is further exemplified by his role as an Adjunct Professor at St. John's University in the School of Education and at HJ International Graduate School for Peace and Public Leadership.

Prior to his current roles, Reverend Dr. Carolina served as the Executive Director of the Central Family Life Center, which stands as the most prominent black and brown nonprofit in the Borough of Staten Island. In this capacity, he was instrumental in developing corporate, public, and private relationships, overseeing and administering crucial strategies to ensure the operation and sustainability of the Center.

In 2015, Reverend Dr. Carolina was appointed as a Commissioner of Human Rights by Mayor Bill de Blasio, demonstrating his commitment to social justice and equality. He has been recognized for his efforts with numerous awards, including the 2017 New York City Council MLK Community Award. He also served on the Civil Complaint Review Board for New York City until February 2023.

Reverend Dr. Carolina's advocacy efforts are noteworthy, having founded The Staten Island Black History Town Hall Meeting and serving as the lead advocate for the establishment of the nationally recognized Eagle Academy in Staten Island. Furthermore, he has been a driving force in growing nonprofit community partnerships that connect Staten Island with other boroughs.

In terms of academic qualifications, Reverend Dr. Carolina holds a master's degree in educational administration leadership from Temple University and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership/Management from the University of Phoenix.

On a personal note, Reverend Dr. Carolina is married to Josenia Ruiz-Carolina, and together they are the proud parents of four wonderful children: Dior Isaiah, DeLisa Mona, Demetrius Solomon II, and Demetri Rafael Carolina.

Today, as we commemorate this significant milestone in Reverend Dr. Demetrius S. Carolina Sr.'s ministry, I invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing his unwavering dedication, impactful leadership, and the positive change he continues to bring to our community.

### HONORING WILLIAM P. MILLS, III

#### HON. CLAY HIGGINS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 2025*

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate William P. Mills, III on being named a 2025 recipient of the Horatio Alger Award. Mr. Mills, the president and owner of MPW Enterprises LLC, is one of only 11 corporate, civic, and cultural leaders across the country who have been recognized with the accolade for 2025.

The Horatio Alger Award is presented annually to individuals of outstanding character. The award acknowledges a commitment to higher education, charitable efforts, and the overcoming of adversity. Recipients exemplify the Association's values and mission to support young men and women as they pursue the American Dream through higher education.

Mr. Mills' life is a testament to hard work and perseverance. He was industrious from a young age, working a paper route, shining shoes, mowing lawns, and bagging groceries. He graduated with degrees in Wildlife Biology and a Master's in Fisheries Biology from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette—paying his way through school by working on Mississippi River dredges each summer.

Mr. Mills went on to work in the energy industry before starting his own businesses conducting environmental research and oil and gas exploration. He expanded his business ventures to include real estate management and property development. Success was not pre-determined for Mr. Mills. It was earned through hard work.

Beyond his achievements in industry and businesses, Mr. Mills has chosen to give back to his community as a philanthropist. He oversees the Mills Family Foundation, serves on the board of the Stuller Family Foundation, and funds a scholarship at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Each of these commitments provides significant public benefit to the South Louisiana community that I'm honored to represent.

Mr. Speaker, Will Mills has also been a trusted friend and counselor for me personally throughout my nine years of service in Congress. His depth of understanding regarding

• 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.

Constitutional issues and his instinctive grasp of the complex details of legislation has been a steady guide as I've endeavored to be worthy of my own responsibility to serve We, the People.

Mr. Mills is highly deserving of the 2025 Horatio Alger Award. I'm fortunate to know him and to call him a friend. I thank him for his commitment to our community, and I congratulate him on this prestigious accomplishment.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF REVEREND SAMUEL J. WILLIAMS, JR. OF FARMVILLE, VIRGINIA

**HON. JENNIFER L. McCLELLAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 2025*

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and enduring legacy of Reverend Samuel J. Williams, Jr. of Farmville, Virginia. Reverend Williams was a devoted father, pastor, educator, historian, and civil rights activist who inspired generations of Virginians to advocate for justice and equality. Throughout his lifetime, he remained a steadfast pillar of his community, dedicating over eight decades to the fight for civil rights and social progress.

A trailblazer in the movement for desegregation, Reverend Williams played a pivotal role in organizing student-led demonstrations aimed at integrating public schools and places of worship. He was a prominent leader in the protests against the segregated school system in Prince Edward County, Virginia, which became a focal point in the national struggle for educational equality.

Notably, Reverend Williams was instrumental in the historic student strike on April 23, 1951, at Robert Russa Moton High School, led by Barbara Rose Johns. Built in 1939 as the first free-standing segregated high school for African American students in Prince Edward County, Moton High was originally designed to accommodate 180 students. However, by 1951, it was overcrowded, serving 477 African American students in inadequate conditions. The strike captured national attention and garnered the support of NAACP attorneys, ultimately contributing to the landmark 1954 Supreme Court case, *Brown v. Board of Education*, which declared segregation in public schools unconstitutional.

Reverend Williams' legacy of activism continued to shape Farmville and beyond. In recognition of his contributions, the Town of Farmville honored him in December 2024 by renaming Watkins Street to Williams Way. This tribute brought the community together to reflect on his unwavering commitment to justice and the transformative impact of his work.

Reverend Williams is remembered as a leader who called attention to injustice, inspired change, and encouraged his community to persevere with faith and determination. He reminded Farmville and the Nation of the timeless words, "We shall overcome, someday." His unwavering dedication to justice not only shaped the course of history but also paved the way for a more equitable future in education and civil rights.

Farmville has embraced his legacy as a champion of change, honoring his courage

and rights commitment to social progress. His life's work continues to inspire future generations to stand against injustice and remain steadfast in the pursuit of equality. Reverend Samuel J. Williams, Jr. will forever be remembered as a man of faith, conviction, and service—one who never wavered in his commitment to his community and the ideals of justice and equality.

HONORING SERGEANT FIRST CLASS JEREMY KERR

**HON. GREG STANTON**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 2025*

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of an American and Arizona hero, Sergeant First Class Jeremy James Kerr, who we lost on February 23, 2025.

Sergeant Kerr was born in Buffalo, New York on September 26, 1973, to Joann and Gary Kerr and spent most of his childhood in Columbus, Ohio where he was active on the soccer and wrestling teams in high school. He entered the United States Army in 1992 as an infantryman and joined the elite Army Rangers where he became airborne certified and completed the rigorous Ranger School.

In 1993, Sergeant Kerr deployed to Somalia as part of Operation Gothic Serpent. While there, he was thrust into the forefront of a defining moment of United States military history: the Battle of Mogadishu.

He was honorably discharged from the Army after 5 years of service, and in 2009 he joined the Arizona Army National Guard as an Information Technology Specialist. Shortly after in 2011, he was deployed to Afghanistan where he provided critical support to combat operations for the raid that brought Osama Bin Laden to justice. He deployed to Jordan in 2018 and was a key leader in many Warfighter training exercises.

Sergeant Kerr served with the 158 Maneuver Enhancement Brigade (MEB) from 2012 until his passing and was known for his technical expertise and witty personality. He had a gift for uplifting those around him. Always quick to tell a joke or share trivia, he brightened the darkest moods and kept morale high on long days.

He had a passion for fantasy football and March Madness Brackets, always organizing leagues for his unit, and he enjoyed listening to Eighties and Nineties rap.

Sergeant First Class Jeremy Kerr will be deeply missed by his friends, his wife Heather and his extended family members, and the Arizona National Guard community. We stand with his family in gratitude for his service and sorrow at his loss. His legacy will remain an enduring part of Arizona National Guard history. I thank him, and Ranger that.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 2025*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I recently gave birth and am unable to travel to D.C. to

vote. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 58; NAY on Roll Call No. 59; and YEA on Roll Call No. 60.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MAXINE WATERS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 2025*

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 58.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 2025*

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, due to the passing of a cherished member of my family, my elder brother and former Member of Congress, the Honorable Lincoln Diaz-Balart, I was unable to vote the week of March 3, 2025. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on H.R. 856—Roll Call No. 54; YEA on H.R. 758—Roll Call No. 55; YEA on Ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 177—Roll Call No. 56; YEA on H.J. RES. 177—Roll Call No. 57; YEA on H.J. RES. 61—Roll Call No. 58; YEA on H.J. RES. 42—Roll Call No. 59; NO on Motion to Table on H. RES. 189—Roll Call No. 60; YEA on S.J. RES. 11—Roll Call No. 61; and YEA on H. RES. 189—Roll Call No. 62.

HONORING ABRAHAM ALEXANDER'S OSCAR NOMINATION FOR BEST ORIGINAL SONG FOR THE FILM SING SING

**HON. CRAIG A. GOLDMAN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 2025*

Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Abraham Alexander on his first Oscar nomination for Best Original Song for the film *Sing Sing*. Mr. Alexander grew up in Fort Worth and began his musical career at Niles City Sound, a Fort Worth-based studio. He performed at open mics around the city before releasing his debut album, *Sea/Sons*.

In recent years, Mr. Alexander has achieved numerous musical milestones in Fort Worth. He debuted his album at Bass Hall in 2020, performed at Sundance Square in 2022 before a crowd of over 100,000 people, and played alongside Leon Bridges during a sold-out show at Dickies Arena. He was recently honored at Sundance Square, where he received a City Proclamation from Fort Worth Mayor Mattie Parker.

The nominated song, "Like a Bird," was written and performed by Mr. Alexander and Texas native Adrian Quesada. Mr. Alexander learned of his nomination at his home in Fort Worth and credits the city for fostering his artistic growth. Fort Worth has a rich legacy of artistic innovation, and Mr. Alexander is a proud continuation of this tradition.