

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING RICHARD F. CAMACHO
FOR HIS EXTRAORDINARY SERV-
ICE TO HIS COUNTRY, COMMU-
NITY, AND FELLOW VETERANS

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2025

Ms. BROWNLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with profound respect and admiration to honor Richard F. Camacho for his exceptional leadership and tireless dedication to the Vietnam Veterans of Ventura County. For nearly four decades, Richard has selflessly served his fellow veterans, ensuring that their sacrifices are not only recognized but deeply honored. His unwavering commitment to this mission has left an indelible mark on our community, and it has been a true privilege for me to work alongside Richard over the years, witnessing his dedication, passion, and respect for his fellow veterans.

Richard's journey of service began in 1966 when he was drafted into the United States Marine Corps. A proud son of Santa Monica, Richard answered the call to duty, joining the Second Recon Battalion at Camp Lejeune after completing training with Honor Platoon 136 at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. In 1967, he deployed to Vietnam with the 1st Battalion, 4th Marines, where he displayed extraordinary courage in combat. During Operation Chamberland that August, Richard was wounded by a grenade explosion. For his heroism and sacrifice, he was awarded numerous military honors, including the Purple Heart.

After his honorable discharge in 1968, Richard returned home and began to focus on serving his fellow brothers and sisters in uniform. In 1968, he co-founded the Vietnam Veterans of Ventura County, an organization dedicated to providing support, advocacy, and recognition for local veterans. Over the years, Richard has served in virtually every leadership capacity within the organization, including as President, and has worked tirelessly to ensure that all veterans receive the care, respect, and recognition they deserve.

Under Richard's leadership, the Vietnam Veterans of Ventura County has achieved remarkable milestones, including bringing The Moving Wall—a half-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.—to Ventura County eight times, allowing thousands of community members to honor and reflect on the sacrifices made by those who served. Additionally, Richard was instrumental in the dedication of the Ventura County Veterans Memorial Highway, ensuring that the contributions of our veterans will never be forgotten.

Richard has also been a steadfast advocate for veterans in need of assistance, working to help them navigate the complex process of securing benefits through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Ventura County Veterans Services Office. His compassion and

commitment have directly improved the lives of countless veterans and their families, ensuring they receive the care and services they have earned.

As a member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I have had the honor of working with Richard and collaborating with him to improve healthcare access for our veterans. Richard was an invaluable partner in the establishment of the Captain Rosemary Bryant Mariner VA Outpatient Clinic, which opened in 2022. His dedication to this project helped expand access to healthcare for our region's veterans, ensuring they receive the timely and high-quality care they deserve.

In addition to his work on behalf of veterans, Richard has been deeply committed to educating future generations about the Vietnam War and its lasting effects. He has brought veterans into local classrooms, of sharing their stories with students, and has sponsored annual college scholarships for Ventura County high school students, helping to pave the way for their future success.

Personally, I have the deepest respect for Richard—not only for his service to our country but for the kind of person he is. His integrity, selflessness, and unwavering dedication to our veterans, our community, and our country make him a remarkable leader. It has been a privilege to work alongside him and see firsthand the lasting impact of his efforts.

Mr. Speaker, today, I join a grateful community in recognizing Richard F. Camacho for his exceptional leadership, tireless advocacy, and lifetime of service to the Vietnam Veterans of Ventura County. He is a hero, a mentor, and a true friend to all of us, and his ongoing legacy will continue to inspire future generations.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SYDNEY KAMLAGER-DOVE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2025

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 62 and NAY on Roll Call No. 61.

RECOGNIZING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN HERO NICOLE SMALL

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2025

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dallas native Nicole Small. She has gone above and beyond to improve our community, dedicating her time to civic leadership through philanthropy and science innovation. As CEO of LH Capital and Lyda Hill Philanthropies (LHP), she's shaping the future of science, technology, and nature Nicole is building a strong biotech hub in North Texas,

including through the development and expansion of Pegasus Park.

Through her work at LHP, Nicole co-founded the IF/THEN initiative to encourage women and girls to pursue STEM careers. As part of this, Small is also an Executive Producer of CBS's Mission Unstoppable.

Nicole's leadership at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science is a further testament to her ability to bring communities together and create a lasting impact. She raised over \$200 million to merge three museums into one and led the Perot Museum into a new era of excellence. Most recently, she was honored by Texas Woman's University as the 2025 Virginia Chandler Dykes Leadership Award.

I thank Nicole for her continued dedication to improving our community.

CELEBRATING NORFOLK SENIOR HIGH GIRLS WRESTLING TEAM

HON. MIKE FLOOD

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2025

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Norfolk Senior High girls wrestling team for their incredible achievement in winning the NSAA Class A state championship.

The Norfolk girls wrestling team demonstrated remarkable resilience and determination throughout the season, culminating in a well-earned state championship victory during the two-day tournament. Each member of the team played a pivotal role, with all ten wrestlers contributing points to secure the win.

Under the leadership of Head Coach Andrew Stowe, the Panthers exhibited overwhelming grit and unwavering team spirit. Coach Stowe's guidance helped the team stay focused and committed, recognizing that their success as a team would come through consistency, dedication, and collaboration.

In the end, the Norfolk Panthers showed true grit and perseverance, ultimately claiming the state championship. This victory is a testament to their hard work, teamwork, and unwavering determination.

Congratulations to the entire girls wrestling on their outstanding accomplishment.

HONORING THE LATE DAVE ASHER, FORMER CITY OF KIRKLAND, WASHINGTON COUNCILMEMBER

HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2025

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Former Councilmember for the City of Kirkland, Dave Asher. During his 20 years with the council, Mr. Asher was committed to community service and devoted to

• 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.

empowering the citizens of Kirkland and enhancing civic engagement. Known for his philosophy of “promises made, promises kept,” Mr. Asher advocated a vision of public safety, walkability, fiscal responsibility, and environmental sustainability. His actions as a public servant have left a lasting impact on his community and he will be remembered for his extensive contributions to the city.

Prior to his tenure on Kirkland’s city council, Mr. Asher served for over two decades in the United States Army. He took on the roles of Infantryman, Aviator, and Logistician with assignments in the U.S., Asia, and Europe. After his service he joined the University of Washington, eventually becoming the Chief Financial Officer for UW educational outreach. During this time, he was Vice Chair of the Kirkland Alliance of Neighborhoods and Chair of the Rose Hill Neighborhood Association. He was also a member of the Kiwanis Club of Kirkland and was recognized for his notable ability in recruiting members. Mr. Asher was also a devoted husband to his wife Hae-Sun for over 40 years, showing support, respect, and partnership through every milestone in their marriage.

Mr. Asher will be remembered as a dedicated public servant and an upstanding member of the Kirkland community. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Former City Councilmember Dave Asher and the legacy his work has left behind.

RECOGNIZING GIRL SCOUTS OF
SAN JACINTO COUNTY, TEXAS
AT THE UNITED NATIONS 69TH
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF
WOMEN

HON. LIZZIE FLETCHER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2025

Mrs. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Carolyn Durso, Lana Ngyuen, Jaya Sheth, and Elise Peneguy from Girl Scouts of San Jacinto, for their selection to represent Girl Scouts of the USA at the United Nations’ 69th Commission on the Status of Women.

Each year, Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) joins more than 5,000 women and girls from around the world at the United Nations headquarters in New York to participate in the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). Delegates representing GSUSA undergo a rigorous application process and training to prepare them for their participation in the CSW. As delegates, girls have the opportunity to engage with GSUSA’s work around global advocacy, learn about global issues, see firsthand how global entities function, and have their voices heard on global issues impacting girls and young women.

The CSW is a functional commission of the United Nations, dedicated to shaping global standards on gender equality and the advancement and empowerment of women and girls. Each year, national representatives of Member States gather for a two-week session to evaluate progress on gender equality, identify challenges, set global standards, and formulate concrete policies to promote gender equality and the advancement of women worldwide. As NGO Consultative members,

GSUSA and the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts participate to bring the voice of girls and young women to the global stage.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Texas’ Seventh Congressional District, I congratulate these four young women on their selection. I thank them for their leadership and send best wishes for their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING MY CONGRESSIONAL
STAFF IN HONOR OF NATIONAL
EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION DAY

HON. DEBORAH K. ROSS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2025

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my profound appreciation for the staff who serve the people of the Second District of North Carolina.

This is an exceptionally challenging time for public servants in America. Congressional staff are no exception. Yet, despite an increasingly hostile political environment, my office continues to deliver superlative results for my constituents.

Last year, my district staff hosted or attended almost 200 events in Wake County, closed more than 1,500 constituent cases, and returned more than \$22.3 million in federal benefits to the people of North Carolina. Over the same period, the staff in my Washington, D.C. office researched hundreds of policy questions, drafted 32 bills, amendments, and resolutions, and responded to more than 43,000 messages from constituents.

These numbers are an impressive but inadequate measure of my staff’s contributions. In ways large and small—sometimes splashed on the frontpage of the newspaper but more often known only to a single family—they touch the lives of the people I represent.

Their service isn’t just about providing information on legislation or assistance with benefits. In moments of hardship and frustration, my staff offer hope and wise counsel. They make people feel heard and understood and appreciated. In a very practical sense, they make real our Constitution’s promise to every American of the right to “petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of their dedicated service and long hours on behalf of the people of North Carolina, I wish to include in the RECORD the names of each staffer currently employed by my office:

Puj Adusumilli, Kimberly Moore, Nadia Alston, Samantha Crane, Caroline Spencer Sparks, Josie Feron, Maura Haydin Thompson, Walker Beard, Tom Koester, Matthew Lee, Katie Paulson, Ally Tannenbaum, Jackie Gonzalez, Daphné Moore, Bardia Asefnia, Huston Wallace, Sam Upah, Alisa Sarkisian-Tatarian, Sophia Jacome, Sophie Macomber, Erendira Ramirez, Easton Inman, and Chalina Morgan-Lopez.

Mr. Speaker, March 7th was National Employee Appreciation Day. On that day and every day, I am grateful that my staff have chosen to invest so much of their precious time and talent to making a difference for North Carolina. Their enthusiasm energizes me. Their creativity inspires me. At this difficult time, their positivity in the face of so much turmoil fills me with hope for the future.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARION
COCKRELL

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2025

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the life of Marion Cockrell, a beloved member of Virginia’s First District Republican Committee. It was with immense sadness that I learned of her passing late last week and would like to take a moment to highlight her many contributions to Virginia’s First District.

Marion served as Chairman for the Northumberland Committee with strength, grace, kindness, and a truly exceptional sense of humor. All of us who have been privileged to know Marion can attest to her thoughtfulness and authenticity. I was blessed to know her and work by her side the past few years.

Despite her health challenges this Spring, Marion never stopped serving her committee and our party with integrity and conviction. She was an extraordinary woman whose positive effect on all of those who served alongside her will never be forgotten. Her efforts to serve others exemplify the very best of what it means to be a citizen of the Virginia Commonwealth and this great nation.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to recognize Marion Cockrell for her lifetime of service and dedication. On behalf of the people of Virginia’s First District, I extend my deepest gratitude and admiration for Marion Cockrell and wish her family comfort and blessings during this difficult time.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF THURMAN GUPTON

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2025

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Thurman Gupton, who was a compassionate mentor, dedicated community leader, and advocate for positive change. Thurman leaves a legacy of service in Contra Costa County and beyond.

Thurman dedicated his life to uplifting others, particularly young men navigating fatherhood. Through his role as Mentor Coordinator at the Family Wellness Center and his tireless work on the “Young Men as Fathers” program, he transformed lives by providing incarcerated and at-risk young fathers with essential parenting skills and mentoring opportunities. Thurman believed that it was critical to break cycles of neglect and dysfunction and foster better futures for families in our community. His dedication to the program left an indelible mark on the young men who worked alongside him. Through the program’s structured guidance, he helped many young men in developing a greater sense of purpose and community as they built parenting skills, fostered emotional growth, and set positive examples for their children.

Furthermore, Mr. Thurman Gupton was a dedicated advocate for equity and community empowerment, reflected in his active participation in the Black Families Association, the