

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING BELLATRIX FAIL

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bellatrix Fail for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Bellatrix has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Bellatrix, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Bellatrix's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Drake Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Bellatrix Fail on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

RECOGNIZING AVTAR GROSS

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Avtar Gross for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Avtar has overcome many challenges along his journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Avtar, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Avtar's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Drake Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Avtar Gross on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

profit organization dedicated to assisting veterans with transitional housing, job placement, and recovery support. He also serves as Chaplain for the Lakepoint Church Veterans Ministry, which further exemplifies his devotion to uplifting and strengthening the veteran community.

Beyond his professional and military service, Robert Longo is a devoted family man. He and his wife, Cindy, have shared 38 years of marriage, raising triplets—one son and two daughters—who are now 33 years old. He is also a proud grandfather to two grandchildren, instilling in them the same values of dedication and service that have guided his own life.

Robert Anthony Longo's story is one of duty, perseverance, and selfless service. His contributions to the United States Air Force and his continued efforts to support veterans in need reflect the very best of our Nation's values. His legacy of service is an inspiration to all who know him.

Mr. Speaker, let us express our deepest gratitude to Robert Longo for his military service and his unwavering dedication to his fellow veterans. His life's work reminds us of the strength and resilience of those who have worn the uniform, and we honor his contributions to our country and community.

HONORING EMERY THOMPSON ON HER 4 YEARS OF VARSITY GIRLS SOCCER AT ALEDO HIGH SCHOOL

HON. CRAIG A. GOLDMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Emery Thompson as she concludes her final year with the Aledo Girls Soccer Team. Emery has been a four-year defensive starter for the Ladycats and served as team captain in her senior year. As a four-year letterman, she was named District Defensive Most Valuable Player as a sophomore and earned First-Team All-District honors as a senior. This season, the Aledo Ladycats capped off their impressive 15–4 record as District Champions.

Emery exemplifies the true meaning of a student-athlete. While excelling on the soccer field, she has also achieved remarkable academic success. She remains at the top of her class with an astonishing 4.72 grade point average. Additionally, she was named Female Student of the Year as a freshman, serves as president of Leading Ladies at Aledo High School, and holds the position of secretary in the National Honor Society. Her dedication to both academics and athletics sets the standard for student-athletes everywhere.

On behalf of the 12th Congressional District of Texas, I am proud to recognize Emery Thompson for her outstanding achievements over the past four years. Competing at the varsity level as a freshman while excelling academically is truly extraordinary. Having played soccer since the age of three, Emery's passion and commitment have been evident throughout her journey. I wish her the best of luck in her collegiate pursuits. I am confident she will excel at all that is put before her.

RECOGNIZING ROBERT LONGO AS APRIL 2025 VETERAN OF THE MONTH

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with profound respect and gratitude to recognize the exceptional service and unwavering dedication of Robert Anthony Longo, a proud veteran of the United States Air Force and our esteemed Veteran of the Month for April 2025 from Michigan's 9th Congressional District. His lifelong commitment to duty, both in uniform and beyond, exemplifies the highest ideals of service, sacrifice, and community.

Robert Longo answered the call to serve his country in July 1968, enlisting in the United States Air Force at the height of the Vietnam War. Over the next four years, he attained the rank of Buck Sergeant and was assigned to the Military Airlift Command (MAC) in New Jersey, where he served as a crew chief and aircraft mechanic on the C-141 Starlifter. His critical role ensured the operational readiness of military transport aircraft, supporting strategic global airlift operations that spanned four continents and 20 countries. Longo's expertise took him through advanced training at Edwards Air Force Base and flight school in Washington, D.C., further strengthening his contributions to the Air Force's mission.

After completing his military service in April 1972, Longo continued his lifelong commitment to helping others, particularly his fellow veterans. For the past six years, he has served as a chaplain, providing spiritual guidance and emotional support to those who have sacrificed for our nation. Today, he serves as Chaplain for People of Impact at Freedom Lake in Lapeer, Michigan, a non-

HONORING THE UNIVERSITY PLACE BOOK CLUB ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CRAIG A. GOLDMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedicated members of the University Place Book Club on their 100th anniversary. Founded in 1925, this all-women's book club has served as a haven for women in Fort Worth who share a passion for literature. Beyond being a place for social connection, the club has played a vital role in the cultural and civic development of the community.

At its inception in the 1920s, the wives of several faculty members and administrators at Texas Christian University gathered in what is now known as Robert Carr Chapel to discuss literature and music. Throughout its storied history, its members have explored topics spanning music, art, and literature.

Additionally, the University Place Book Club has made a significant impact on future generations by promoting literacy through initiatives such as hosting storytime sessions and providing financial support to schools in Fort Worth. The women of this club attribute its longevity to their enduring love of literature, which continues to be passed down through generations. Their dedication has not only enriched the lives of members but has also brought the gift of reading to many children in the community.

• 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.

On behalf of the 12th Congressional District of Texas, I am proud to recognize the University Place Book Club for its significant contributions to the City of Fort Worth. The members' passion for literature and commitment to enhancing educational resources for children have left a lasting impact on the community. I extend my best wishes to all its members as they continue the legacy of this historic book club.

RECOGNIZING AULONNIE LOPEZ

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Aulonnie Lopez for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Aulonnie has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Aulonnie, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Aulonnie's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Drake Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Aulonnie Lopez on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

RECOGNIZING MERCER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA'S 225TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MIKE KELLY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mercer County Pennsylvania as they commemorate their 225th Anniversary. It is with immense pride that we acknowledge 225 years of history, community, and resilience. This milestone is not simply a measure of time, but a testament to the unwavering determination, grit, and ingenuity of the individuals who have molded this county into the exceptional place it is today.

From its founding in 1800, Mercer County has stood as a pillar of strength and community. What began as a frontier settlement has grown into a thriving region rich in culture, industry, and opportunity. Over the centuries, this county has been home to hardworking farmers, entrepreneurs, educators, and service members—all of whom have played a role in shaping its legacy.

We remember the early settlers who shaped life in this land, facing hardships with unwavering determination. We honor the industries that have driven our economy forward, from steel and manufacturing to agriculture and small businesses. We celebrate our schools, where generations of students have been educated and prepared for bright futures. And we take pride in our local traditions, events, and landmarks that make Mercer County a place like no other.

To the families who have lived here for generations, and to those who have chosen to

make Mercer County their home more recently, I thank them for being part of this incredible journey. Their dedication, kindness, and commitment to this community are what make it truly special.

So, as we celebrate this historic anniversary, let us not only honor our past but also embrace the opportunities ahead. Let us work together to ensure that Mercer County continues to be a place of growth, unity, and prosperity for generations to come.

HONORING THE LIFE OF KATHY GEARHEART SMITH

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Kathy Gearheart Smith, who passed away on March 12th at the age of 70.

Of the important roles Ms. Smith embraced in her life, perhaps one of the most meaningful was as a wife.

Ms. Smith was happily married to her late husband, Stephen, for many years. They shared a strong bond and growing appreciation for their greater family, which now includes three grandchildren.

In addition to her love for her family, Ms. Smith adamantly cared about the wellbeing of her community in the Roanoke Valley. This was most evident in her public service positions. She worked in my state legislative office, and later in my Congressional office.

These positions required Ms. Smith to be a professional representative for both offices and interact with thousands of constituents in the community. I was grateful for the true dedication, precise care and exceptional character with which she treated her job.

Ms. Smith was a great person to be around for my staff and myself. I appreciated her friendly demeanor and joyful nature during her long tenure helping me and the people of the 8th District of the Virginia House of Delegates and Virginia's 9th Congressional District of the United States House of Representatives.

Those left to cherish her memory are her sister, Diana Gearheart; brother, Chuck Gearheart; sister-in-law, Jennifer Gearheart; son, Jake Smith; grandsons, Caleb, Ethan, and Micah Smith; and numerous brothers and sisters-in-law, nephews, and nieces.

The impacts that Ms. Smith had on her community will surely be missed. I will cherish my memories of her and celebrate her life.

RECOGNIZING ANGEL LAMUS BONILLA

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Angel Lamus Bonilla for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Angel has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Angel,

develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Angel's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Drake Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Angel Lamus Bonilla on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

COMMEMORATING MARCH AS YOUTH ART MONTH IN KANSAS

HON. SHARICE DAVIDS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate March as Youth Art Month in Kansas. Youth Art Month exists to honor our student artists and recognize the value of art education, especially for our children.

In 1961, the Art & Creative Materials Institute created Children's Art Month as an event to emphasize the value of visual art education. In 1969, the celebration expanded to include secondary school students, and Children's Art Month officially became known as Youth Art Month. Youth Art Month is now celebrated across the Nation with art contests, exhibits, and special activities.

Annually in Kansas, every art teacher in the state is eligible to submit one student's artwork from their school to be showcased in the Kansas Youth Art Month exhibit at the Topeka and Shawnee County Library. Nationwide, a student from each state designs a Youth Art Month flag to represent their state at the National Art Education Association's Convention. This year, on March 29, 2025, there was a celebration to recognize all of these artists. At this celebration, students engaged in fun art activities, viewed the exhibits, and received certificates and prizes for their involvement in the event.

Youth Art Month exists to increase community understanding, interest, and participation in art and art education. Year round, Kansas art teachers strive to expand art programs in schools and provide opportunities for more students to explore their artistic creativity. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to these educators, and to the Kansas Art Education Association for organizing Kansas' Youth Art Month so that we can formally celebrate them and their students.

HONORING FORT WORTH MEACHAM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CRAIG A. GOLDMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Fort Worth Meacham International Airport on its 100th anniversary. Established in 1914 and acquired by the City of Fort Worth in 1925, this historic airfield was named after former Mayor Henry C. Meacham