

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 15, 2025*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, due to travel restrictions related to my pregnancy, I was unable to travel to D.C. to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 8 and YEA on Roll Call No. 9.

### CALIFORNIA CONDITIONING AIDE

#### HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 15, 2025*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, there is a great tragedy occurring in California.

As we speak, tens of thousands of people have been displaced as the fires in Los Angeles have raged on and have yet to be contained.

Members of the California Delegation have been speaking out about the devastating damage, loss of life, and the lives that have been disrupted.

I was shocked to watch on television the elected leader of this House suggesting that federal assistance to respond to this tragedy be conditioned.

He didn't specify on what, but I would remind Speaker MIKE JOHNSON that \$120 billion dollars has gone to Louisiana just for Hurricane Katrina and Rita.

It would be unconscionable for this House to place any condition on the necessary assistance that the United States should give to Angelenos, Californians, and, most importantly, Americans who have lost everything.

I would ask that the elected leader of the most powerful legislative body in the world to search his conscience and for all of us who are privileged enough to serve in this body to do the right thing and support your fellow Americans in need.

### RECOGNIZING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF BLACK JANUARY

#### HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 15, 2025*

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, this month, our friend and partner, the Republic of Azerbaijan marks the 35th anniversary of "Black January."

This period symbolizes the beginning of the end of Soviet rule over Azerbaijan, an occupation that lasted for much of the 20th Century. This was a time of oppression and horror. But uncowed by the evil of communism, the people of Azerbaijan yearned for freedom.

On January 19, 1990, violence erupted in Azerbaijan's capital city of Baku where Soviet troops killed over 100 Azeri demonstrators and wounded another 700. Undeterred, the people of Azerbaijan continued their peaceful protests until declaring independence from the U.S.S.R. on October 18, 1991.

I ask my colleagues to join me in observing the events of Black January in Azerbaijan and honoring those who lost their lives in pursuit of freedom. The United States continues to stand with the people of Azerbaijan and their right to live free.

### HONORING HAROLD GROSS ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

#### HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 15, 2025*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, born in Berlin, Germany, Harold Gross' childhood was marked by resilience and adaptability. His family left Germany when he was 15 years old and resettled in the Dominican Republic, where he began learning English. He later spent time in Haiti, where he picked up French before moving to the United States and settling in Detroit, Michigan as a teenager.

Gross was drafted into the Army at age 18 in April of 1943 and gained his U.S. citizenship. Trained as an interpreter and interrogator, his skills as a German-to-English interpreter proved pivotal during World War II, particularly in interrogations of German prisoners.

Gross served heroically while assigned to the Military Intelligence Service during D-Day, Normandy Beach (1944), France and Germany (1945–1946), and the Nuremberg Trials (1945–1946).

After his service, Gross returned to the United States and immersed himself in the world of breeding horses and horse racing. His lifelong connection to horses was inspired by his grandfather in Germany, who was also in the horse business. Gross bred and trained racehorses in Michigan, Florida, and Kentucky, achieving significant success.

Gross and his wife Elaine turned their mutual love of horses into a very successful business called Boot and Saddle, which sold horse supplies and medicines for racehorses. They were married for 44 years until she passed away in 2002. One of his proudest accomplishments was naming a racehorse, Jeffrey's Gyro, in honor of their late son Jeffrey, who passed away at an early age.

Harold Gross' 100 years are a testament to resilience, love, and the enduring spirit of a veteran who has lived life to the fullest. His story inspires those around him, a beacon of wisdom and joy.

### HONORING DR. AMARJIT SINGH MARWAH

#### HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 15, 2025*

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commemorate the life of Dr. Amarjit Singh Marwah, who passed away on January 7, 2025, at the age of 98, just weeks shy of his 99th birthday. Dr. Marwah was a philanthropist, activist, and beloved leader in the Sikh-American community.

Born in Lahore in 1926, Dr. Marwah came to the United States on a Fulbright scholarship in 1950. He earned a Master of Science from the University of Illinois and a Doctor of Dental Surgery at Howard University. At the time, he was the only foreign dentistry student at Howard. Dr. Marwah became the first dentist of Indian origin in America, establishing himself as a "dentist to the stars" in Malibu, California. His patients included Elizabeth Taylor, Sidney Poitier, and Muhammad Ali.

In 1956, Dr. Marwah served as the Campaign Manager for Dalip Singh Saund when he ran for the U.S. House of Representatives. Dr. Marwah worked behind the scenes, out of public view, explaining: "If I showed my turban, he wouldn't get one vote." Their history-making campaign was won by only 300 votes, making Dalip Singh Saund the first Sikh, Indian, and Asian American elected to the U.S. Congress. Dr. Marwah's work was instrumental in opening the doors for future Indian Americans and Asian Americans in public service.

As a philanthropist, Dr. Marwah was dedicated to supporting young people and his Sikh community. His work included establishing the first Sikh temple in the U.S. after India's Independence from the British, establishing a new state-of-art dentistry clinic at Howard University, and funding scholarships for over 100 Indian American students. He also founded KK Marwah Girls College in Faridkot, India, which was named in honor of his late wife, Kuljit K. Marwah whose contributions were equally significant.

Throughout his life, Dr. Marwah was recognized as a leader, activist, and beacon of cultural pride. The City of Los Angeles honored him by renaming an intersection on Hollywood Boulevard as Amarjit Singh Marwah Square. In describing his work, Dr. Marwah remained characteristically humble, stating it is "a service to both my motherland and my adopted country."

Dr. Marwah is survived by his children and a community that mourns his loss and celebrates his legacy of perseverance, selflessness, and civic engagement. May his memory inspire others to follow in his footsteps and lead a life of generosity and kindness.

• 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 THE LIFE AND SERVICE  
OF BROTHER RONALD GALLAGHER**HON. MARK DESAULNIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 15, 2025*

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Brother Ronald Gallagher. Ronald was born in Oakland, California and grew up in Santa Cruz and Central California. He later moved to Napa, California where he attended the Christian Brothers Juniorate at Mont La Salle. Ronald entered the Novitiate in 1964 then took his final vows in 1972.

He received his B.A. from Saint Mary's College, his M.A. from San Francisco State University, and his PhD in Comparative Literature from the University of Washington. Shortly after earning his Masters, Brother Ron became a teacher, going on to shape generations of students. He was a devoted educator and encouraged students to grow both academically and spiritually. He taught at Saint Mary's College High School in Berkeley, Justin-Siena in Napa, and joined Saint Mary's College faculty as a professor of English in the early 1980s.

Brother Ron was a monumental figure at Saint Mary's College and his authenticity and commitment to faith were evident to all who knew him. He served as Residence Hall Director and Assistant to the President before serving as the 28th President of Saint Mary's College from 2005 through 2013. During his tenure as President, Ronald spearheaded the construction of the Kalmanovitz School of Education building, improvements to Oliver Hall, and the creation of the Athletics and Recreation Corridor. He returned to the college in 2018 as President Emeritus where he remained involved in campus activities and continued supporting the college's mission. In 2023, the college's newly renovated baseball facility was named Brother Ronald Gallagher Stadium in recognition of his outstanding service.

Further, Ronald served as Vice Chancellor of Bethlehem University in Palestine and as Secretary General of the global Lasallian Institute. He was a regular attendee at Collegiate Seminar retreats at the Russian River and Huntington Lake and started a class at Saint Mary's to share his love of Irish literature and culture with students. Additionally, Brother Ron was known for his sense of humor, love of sports, and passion for literature.

Sadly, Ronald passed away on January 4, 2025. He will be remembered for his unwavering commitment to service, education, and his faith. Please join me in recognizing Brother Ronald Gallagher for his indelible impact on our community.

TRIBUTE TO LOUISVILLE METRO  
COUNCILMAN JECOREY ARTHUR**HON. MORGAN MCGARVEY**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 15, 2025*

Mr. MCGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Louisville Metro Councilman Jecorey Arthur, whose historic election in 2020 led to him becoming the youngest city legislator in Louisville, Kentucky's history, and to honor his unwavering dedication to the citizens of Louisville Metro Council District 4.

Representing neighborhoods including Butchertown, California, Clifton Heights, Downtown, Old Louisville, Parkland, Phoenix Hill, Portland, Russell, and Smoketown, Councilman Arthur worked tirelessly to uplift his district. His investments in youth, arts, financial literacy, mental health, violence prevention, and mentoring programs provided essential resources and opportunities for our community.

Councilman Arthur's leadership has brought significant improvements to public amenities such as libraries, community centers, parks, and affordable housing, while also enhancing infrastructure through street and alley repaving, sidewalk repairs, lighting, and beautification efforts. His commitment to community pride is evident through the annual district events he has funded, which celebrate the rich history and culture of his district.

As councilman, he championed innovative and impactful policies that reflect a deep commitment to equity and justice. From sponsoring the country's first anti-displacement law to proactive rental inspections, protections against concentrated short-term rentals, and language access policies, his efforts have created a more inclusive and equitable Louisville.

Councilman Arthur's leadership has also extended to addressing systemic challenges, including supporting federal reparations for descendants of slavery, funding a community grocery store, and requiring city government and vendors to accept job applications from unhoused individuals. These efforts, along with community benefits agreements and protections for vulnerable populations, have left a lasting legacy of progress and opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, Councilman Arthur's service has uplifted communities, inspired change, and strengthened the bonds between government and the people it serves. I express my profound gratitude for his dedication, vision, and tireless efforts to build a brighter future for all Kentuckians, and I wish him well in his future endeavors. These efforts, along with community benefits agreements and protections for vulnerable populations, have left a lasting legacy of progress and opportunity.

HONORING JOSEPH DINGMAN  
UPON HIS FAREWELL**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 15, 2025*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the distinguished career and dedicated service of Mr. Joseph M. Dingman, who has honorably served as the Executive Director of Travis Air Force Base in California. Mr. Dingman has meritoriously served our country and community for over three decades.

Mr. Dingman has been a vital leader and served as the senior civilian advisor to the commander on both civic and military matters, overseeing 24 wing agencies that play an essential role in the mission readiness and operational success of the largest base in Air Mobility Command.

Mr. Dingman graduated from the United States Air Force Academy in 1995 and has since devoted his career to excellence in service, both in uniform and as a civilian leader. His military career, which culminated in his retirement in 2015, included key leadership roles such as Military Assistant to the Department of

Defense Executive Secretary and a member of the Secretary of Defense's Immediate Office. Over the course of two decades, Mr. Dingman demonstrated exemplary skill, dedication, and leadership in positions spanning levels in the squadron, group, wing, Air Staff and Department of Defense.

Mr. Dingman's achievements include his role as the Chief of Mobility Operations in the Air Force Executive Action Group. His service as the Deputy Chief of the Corporate Liaison Branch was responsible for managing a \$119 billion budget. Mr. Dingman also holds distinction as a McCourt Scholar at Georgetown University's Public Policy Institute. With over 2,900 hours as a senior pilot in airlift and tanker mobility aircraft, he exemplified the highest standards of professionalism and commitment to mission success.

In his civilian career, Mr. Dingman has continued to embody service, leadership, and innovation. Over the past five years, he has excelled in various executive positions, fostering collaboration and advancing organizational excellence. Mr. Dingman has demonstrated a passion for entrepreneurship and community service as a business owner, a founding member of the Avalon Institute Leadership Development firm, and a dedicated contributor to numerous community boards and foundations.

As Mr. Dingman transitions from his role at Travis Air Force Base, we reflect on his extraordinary contributions to our Nation and the enduring legacy of leadership he leaves behind. His service has been marked by unwavering commitment, exceptional expertise, and a deep dedication to the mission and people he served. On behalf of the constituents of California's 8th Congressional District, I wish to extend my sincere gratitude for his many years of steadfast dedication and tireless service to the community and best wishes in all his new endeavors.

COMMEMORATING AZERBAIJAN'S  
"BLACK JANUARY"**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 15, 2025*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the "Black January" killings, one of the most tragic events in Azerbaijan's history.

On the night of January 20, 1990, approximately 26,000 Soviet troops stormed Azerbaijan's capital city of Baku in tanks and armored vehicles. The Soviet military bulldozed innocent Azerbaijanis and opened fire indiscriminately on peaceful demonstrators, including women and children. As a result of these merciless acts, 147 people were killed, about 800 were injured, 841 were arrested, and five went missing.

The Human Rights Watch report "Black January in Azerbaijan" states that "among the most heinous violations of human rights during the Baku incursion were the numerous attacks on medical personnel, ambulances, and even hospitals." I offer my thoughts and prayers to the families of the victims and to those who gave their lives to help their fellow citizens.