EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING JUAN DIEGO CAMACHO RODRIGUEZ

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2025

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Juan Diego Camacho Rodriguez for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

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

It is my honor to congratulate Juan Diego Camacho Rodriguez on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

RECOGNIZING DANIELLE BIERMAN

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that Danielle Bierman has made through her work with the Pasco County Human Services Team. The Pasco County Human Services Team has proven itself to be a cornerstone of resilience, innovation, and unwavering commitment to the community. Amidst the devastating impacts of Hurricanes Helene and Milton, they emerged as an indispensable force, transforming challenges into triumphs and ensuring no resident was left behind. The team managed and helped coordinate efforts for shelters that housed 485 residents. When Hurricane Milton struck shortly thereafter, the team rose to even greater heights, coordinating shelters for 5,800 individuals and 1,315 animals—an extraordinary feat of operational precision and compassion. Despite personal hardships, including one case manager losing her home while another lost her rental property, the team prioritized the welfare of the community, working tirelessly to ensure safety and stability for all. Post-storm, the team was responsible for helping shelter residents whose homes were no longer safe, find appropriate alternatives for housing. Their dedication shone through in rapid response efforts. In the days immediately following Hurricane Helene, 49 residents received critical assessments and essential resources. After Hurricane Milton, they worked with 225 displaced individuals who remained in shelters, demonstrating their unparalleled ability to adapt and respond under pressure. The team leveraged the Human Services Needs app to streamline disaster case management, supporting 1,351 residents. Their follow-up system, in partnership with other agencies, ensured personalized service for every individual. This innovative approach epitomized their ability to harness technology and partnerships for meaningful impact. Beyond immediate relief, the team worked with individuals and families who would require long-term recovery efforts. For approximately 150 permanently displaced residents, they implemented a housing eligibility process, with the intent of ensuring fair and transparent allocation of resources. By securing placements at facilities like Pasco Hope, the team supported individuals and families along a pathway to rebuild their lives. Between September 28 and October 18, 2024, the team managed an overwhelming volume of call—1,194 through their direct line and another 1,214 through work phones. Yet every call was met with care, professionalism, and actionable solutions, reflecting the team's deep commitment to being a lifeline for the community. The Pasco County Human Services Team exemplifies what it means to serve with excellence, compassion, and innovation. Their remarkable achievements during Hurricane Helene and Milton, coupled with their dedication to long-term recovery and cutting-edge approaches to disaster management, have left an indelible mark on Pasco County.

It is clear Danielle Bierman has made a profoundly positive impact on our community with his work as part of the Pasco County Human Services Team, and I am grateful for her service. May we all strive to serve our communities with the same dedication and humility.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT CATHERINE ''TRINKA'' TAYLOR

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Catherine ''Trinka'' Taylor of Dallas, Texas and present her with the Congressional Patriot Award. Trinka has dedicated herself to faithfully serving our community.

A sixth-generation Texan, Trinka was born in Dallas, Texas, and grew up in Houston. She attended Rice University before transferring to the prestigious Cornell University, where she earned her bachelor's degree in architecture. Her passion for architectural design pushed her to pursue opportunities in some of our most storied cities like New York City, Boston, and Dallas. No matter where she lived, her dedication to upholding conservative values never wavered. For many decades, Trinka served in leadership roles as an Election Judge, Precinct Chairman, executive committee member of Southern Methodist University, board member of the Southwestern Medical Foundation, and as President of the Park Cities Republican Women.

Trinka has continued to stay involved in our community as a member of the Texas Federation of Republican Women, Dallas County Republican Executive Committee, and the Dallas County Council of Republican Women. Her passion for freedom, opportunity, patriotism, and our nation's values has pushed her to drive us forward to a better tomorrow. For her outstanding contributions to the Republican Party, Trinka received the Betty Marquis Award and was selected by former Texas Governor George W. Bush to serve on the Nominations Committee for the Governor's Awards for Excellence in Arts, Humanities, and Science. She also served as a commissioner of the Texas Commission of the Arts from 1998 to 2002. In her free time, Trinka enjoys fly fishing, Canoeing, and spending time with her children and grandchildren. She is a devoted woman of faith and attends Saint Michaels and All Angels Episcopal Church in Dallas. Trinka has truly made an incredible impact on the world around us, and I wish her continued success for many years to come.

It is an honor to bestow my friend Trinka with the Patriot Award for her exceptional service to the people of North Texas.

INTRODUCTION OF THE REQUIREMENT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE COURT SERVICES AND OFFENDER SUPERVISION AGENCY FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PRETRIAL SERVICES AGENCY TO RESIDE IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2025

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce a bill that would require the Directors of two federal agencies, the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia (CSOSA) and the District of Columbia Pretrial Services Agency (PSA), to reside in the District of Columbia during their terms. There are residency requirements for government positions in federal law, D.C. law and the laws of jurisdictions throughout the United States. The primary reason such laws exist is to ensure that certain government officials have a connection to the residents they serve and in-depth knowledge of the unique issues and challenges these residents face. The House Committee on Oversight and Reform passed this bill in the 117th Congress.

CSOSA and PSA are federal agencies that focus exclusively on D.C. CSOSA supervises individuals on probation, parole or supervised release for violations of D.C. law. PSA makes recommendations regarding pretrial release and supervises defendants for the D.C. Superior Court and the U.S. District Court for D.C. The Directors of CSOSA and PSA should be

● 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.

required to be D.C. residents since these agencies serve only D.C.

Congress has justifiably required that certain federal officials live in the jurisdictions to which they are appointed, including U.S. district court judges, U.S. Marshals and U.S. Attorneys. Similarly, Congress, which controls the local D.C. court system, has justifiably required local D.C. judges and members of the D.C. Judicial Nomination Commission and the D.C. Commission on Judicial Disabilities and Tenure to reside in D.C.

There is no reason that the Directors of CSOSA and PSA should not be required to live in D.C. These federal officials need to be part of the community they serve. A D.C. residency requirement for these federal officials will lead to better outcomes in the criminal justice system and is a matter of fairness for D.C. residents.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING THE HEROISM OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2025

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the courageous divers and first responders of the District of Columbia Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department, whose swift and selfless actions in the aftermath of the devastating collision between American Airlines Flight 5342 and a United States Army Blackhawk Helicopter over the Potomac River showed heroism in the face of tragedy.

When the unthinkable happened on that cold January evening, it was the brave men and women of D.C. Fire and EMS who rushed to the scene. Without regard for their own safety, these highly trained professionals entered dangerous, frigid conditions, diving into the depths of the Potomac to conduct a search and rescue, and bring comfort to the families and civilians anxiously watching and waiting onshore.

In the face of disaster, the efforts of the D.C. Fire and EMS divers were nothing short of heroic. Their steadfast presence and commitment to vigorously search amidst the confusion and chaos was a source of strength to a city, region, and Nation in mourning.

The divers of D.C. Fire and EMS showed us the very best of public service. Their leadership, courage, and compassion make us proud. They upheld their duty with unwavering courage and commitment.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this body join me in extending our deepest gratitude to these first responders. Let the record show our respect, our appreciation, and our enduring thanks to the divers of D.C. Fire and EMS. May their service continue to be an example for future generations of public servants to follow.

HONORING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COLUMBUS, GEORGIA CHAPTER OF THE LINKS, INCORPORATED

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2025

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the noble work of the Columbus, Georgia Chapter of The Links, Incorporated on its 60th anniversary. The Columbus, Georgia Chapter was chartered on December 19, 1964. Its members and supporters celebrated this milestone at a luncheon on Saturday, April 26, 2025.

The Links, Incorporated, is an international not-for-profit organization which traces its origins back to 1946. Margaret Roselle Hawkins and Sarah Strickland Scott gathered seven friends in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to form a group to respond to the pressing needs of the African American community after World War II. Today, an esteemed international women's service organization, The Links, Incorporated aims to improve the lives of African Americans by providing them with essential resources and services which offer disadvantaged communities new hope for improved lives. Today, Links has 299 chapters around the world, including over 17,000 members.

I would like to take this opportunity to specifically acknowledge the great work of the Columbus, Georgia Chapter of The Links, Incorporated. The Columbus, Georgia Chapter has implemented and sustained The Links, Incorporated's five programming categories: National Trends and Services, The Arts, Services to Youth, International Trends and Services, and Health and Human Services.

The National Trends and Services facet of the Columbus, Georgia Chapter champions the idea of empowering both the individual and the community through events such as a week-long community celebration that illustrates the positive impacts of diversity and multiculturalism. Displayed everywhere from government centers to schools to churches, The Links, Incorporated promotes ethnic pluralism within the community.

In addition, The Links were the first to gather local black entrepreneurs and prospective customers together in order to explore shared interests and encourage the potential for reciprocal benefits. The organization also takes the time to honor the lifeblood of local communities: trash collectors, school bus operators, postal carriers, and cafeteria workers. It seeks to recognize every aspect of a community, understanding that everyone deserves respect and gratitude for the vital roles they play in keeping the community afloat.

The International Trends and Services arm of the Columbus, Georgia Chapter brings resources to countries across Africa through well-building and providing clean birth kits to those in Uganda and survival kits to women in Haiti. The organization's dedication to domestic and international service showcases the depth of its commitment to community betterment through public service.

The Columbus, Georgia Chapter has instituted numerous programs under its Services to Youth facet, including a mentor program for kids in kindergarten to young adults in college. Additionally, Services to Youth promotes the values of higher education by raising interest in STEM education and career paths by awarding scholarships, creating endowments, and supporting Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

In line with its mission to promote cultural awareness through The Arts program, the Columbus, Georgia Chapter partners with a number of arts institutions, such as museums, art councils, symphonies, and educational institutes to reinforce the importance of a strong minority presence in the art community.

Last, but certainly not least, the Health and Human Services facet of the Columbus, Georgia Chapter works to implement and maintain community services to address the disparities in health conditions negatively impacting minorities. In this regard, the Columbus, Georgia Chapter has joined forces with Linkages to Life, Susan G. Komen for the Cure, Walk for Healthy Living, and the National Childhood Obesity Initiative.

Through the wisdom and strong leadership of its past presidents, the Columbus, Georgia Chapter has given back so much to the African American community and, in turn, the community as a whole. Today, the Chapter is led by current president, Tara Askew, and boasts 43 spirited and outstanding members who provide over 2,000 hours of service each year.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing 60 years of incredible and inspiring work by the Columbus, Georgia Chapter of The Links, Incorporated. The services this organization has provided to the greater Columbus community are immeasurable and there is no doubt in my mind that The Links, Incorporated will continue its worthy mission of promoting hope and prosperity for years to come.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT KAY AKIN

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Kay Akin of Decatur, Texas, and present her with the Congressional Patriot Award. Kay has dedicated herself to faithfully serving our community.

Kay is originally from Brownwood, Texas, and she earned her bachelor's degree in education from East Texas A&M University. She began her extensive teaching career in 1987 as an elementary school teacher for fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students. Since 1972, she has also been married to her high school sweetheart, Sheriff Lane Akin, and they raised several children and have many more grandchildren.

After retiring early from teaching, Kay has continued to remain involved in our community through numerous initiatives. She is a longtime volunteer with the Helping Hands program to provide clothing for those in need in the Wise County community, as well as helping to keep our roads clean from litter. Moreover, Kay is a member of the Decatur Church of Christ and has taught Sunday School for many years. As a result of her efforts to advance student learning and achievement, she