

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING APRIL AS NATIONAL ARAB AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2025

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing April as National Arab American Heritage Month (NAAHM).

During the month of April, the Arab American Foundation formally recognizes and celebrates the achievements of Arab Americans, embraced by cultural institutions, school districts, municipalities, state legislatures, public servants, and non-profit organizations nationwide.

Since migrating to America, men and women of Arab descent have shared their rich culture and traditions with neighbors and friends, while also setting fine examples of model citizens and public servants.

The Arab American Institute estimates there are roughly 3.7 million Arab Americans living in the United States, contributing to virtually every aspect of American society: in medicine, law, business, education, technology, government, military service, and culture.

The first known Arab immigrants arrived in 1527, before the founding of United States, and have helped shape and strengthen modern America to be the great nation it is today.

Their resilient family values, strong work ethic, dedication to education, and diversity in faith and creed add strength to our great democracy and enrich our society.

The celebration of Arab American ancestry and cultural heritage educates our fellow Americans, counters misconceptions and harmful stereotyping, promotes diversity and equality in our society, and acknowledges the valuable contributions and heritage of Arab Americans in this country.

In 2023 and 2024, President Biden made official proclamations recognizing the month of April as National Arab American Heritage Month. Illinois, Virginia, California, and Indiana's Senate have passed permanent legislation designating the month as well.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the contributions of Arab Americans and hereby declare April 2025 to be recognized as National Arab American Heritage Month by Virginia's 11th Congressional District. We encourage our citizens to join us in this special observance.

RECOGNIZING DAKOTA PARTELOW, GOLD AWARD

HON. W. GREGORY STEUBE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2025

Mr. STEUBE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating

Dakota Partelow. Dakota is a member of Girl Scouts of Gulf Coast Florida, Troop 608, and has exemplified extraordinary leadership, innovative problem-solving, and a demonstrated commitment to making a lasting, positive impact, by earning the most prestigious award in Girl Scouting, the Gold Award.

Gold Award Girl Scouts are recognized as trailblazers who are willing to tackle the most pressing challenges facing their communities and the world with measurable, sustainable, and far-reaching results. To earn the Girl Scout Gold Award, high school-age Girl Scouts must identify and investigate an issue they care about, devise a plan, and then lead a team of experts and community members to implement a project that produces lasting change. Over the course of 1–2 years, Gold Award Girl Scouts demonstrate significant initiative, commitment, and leadership, distinguishing them from their peers. Through their resourcefulness and perseverance, they embody the Girl Scout Law to truly make the world a better place.

Dakota's project in partnership with Valerie House was an excellent endeavor to address youth mental health and grief in our community. Dakota took action by researching youth mental health and grief, then redesigning the children's waiting room at Valerie House to create a more welcoming space. She repainted the room and assembled a resource box filled with toys and activities to support the well-being of grieving children. Her efforts will have a lasting positive impact on the community.

On behalf of the 17th Congressional District of Florida, congratulations to Dakota for achieving the highest distinction in Girl Scouts, the Gold Award. We thank Dakota for her leadership and making such a positive, lasting change in our community.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MILDRED "MAMA K" AUSTEN KENERSON

HON. JONATHAN L. JACKSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2025

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable life of Mildred "Mama K" Austen Kenerson, a woman who graced this world for an incredible 105 years. Her passing marks the end of an era, but her legacy of resilience and compassion continues to inspire future generations.

Mrs. Kenerson was born on April 19, 1919, in Braxton Mississippi. She was the second child to the late Eddie Lee Perkins and Idella Harper Perkins, who raised seven children in total. Mrs. Kenerson was educated in Rosenswald School for Children and attended the historic Piney Wood Country Life School. As she continued to pursue higher education, Mrs. Kenerson attended Jackson State Teacher's College, now known as Jackson State Univer-

sity. At 19 years old she obtained her Teaching Certificate to educate the children at Dry Ridge and D'Lo Colored Schools in segregated Simpson County.

From her earliest years, Mrs. Kenerson embraced the teachings of Christ and remained a devoted member of St. John Baptist Church, an institution with roots stretching back to 1865.

She was a vital part of the St. John community, evidenced by her pivotal role in the inaugural Church Homecoming Program on May 30, 1982. There, they united families such as the Perkins, Bridges and the Dents. For years, Mrs. Kenerson and her sister-in-law, the late Doris Wilson Perkins poured countless hours of dedication into the preparations for St. John Baptist Church's cherished annual events, fostering years of unity and fellowship.

Mrs. Kenerson's life stands as a testament to the power of faith, the strength of community and the enduring bonds of family. Her devotion to St. John Baptist Church and her unwavering spirit will long be remembered.

Mrs. Kenerson was an employee of the Chicago Public Schools; she worked at the Daniel Webster Elementary School from 1969 to 1999, where she was a teacher, a tutor, a parent liaison, and provided support to staff and the Reading Lab. She instilled a passion for learning in her students, serving as a mentor to her colleagues and providing creative boards throughout the school. Mrs. Kenerson retired after 30 years of service.

In 1963, she entered in Holy matrimony with John Dubois Kenerson, a man of enterprise and community. Mr. Kenerson was the standing President of Standard Burial Insurance Company, founded in 1952. Mr. Kenerson built a family of businesses that included the William Ray Funeral Home with his sister Eunise Smith and Mr. Hodges. That funeral home is now operated by their nephew and niece, William and Annie Ray.

Together, they raised two children: Carolyn Austin and Rowland Austin. Their legacy lives on through their children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the life of Mrs. Mildred "Mama K" Austen Kenerson.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GEORGE BOULOS SABA, JR.

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2025

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today, the 12th Congressional District honors the incredible life and legacy of George Saba, who served Metro Detroit's immigrant community for over four decades as a Board of Immigration Appeals accredited representative.

George dedicated his life to reuniting thousands of families, first at the International Institute of Metropolitan Detroit and later at ACCESS, always bringing compassion, warmth,

• 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.

and unwavering commitment. Born in Ramallah, George was deeply proud of his Palestinian heritage and actively involved with the American Federation of Ramallah, working to preserve and pass on his culture to future generations. His work transformed lives, and his presence brought comfort and strength to so many.

We extend our deepest sympathies to his beloved wife Itidal Swiss Saba; children Paul (Jomana), Janan (Benjamin), and the late Amjad George Saba; grandchildren Victoria, George, and Natalia; and his entire family. May his memory continue to be a blessing and a source of strength.

CONGRATULATING TOM TEMIN ON
THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2025

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Tom Temin on the occasion of his retirement after nearly 48 years in journalism.

Tom has had a storied career in journalism that began with a bachelor's degree in photojournalism from the Rochester Institute of Technology. He also completed the Stanford Professional Publishing Program. While he ended up spending the majority of his career in Washington, he spent 17 years with Cahners Publishing Company, editing magazines in the industrial supply, electronics, and systems integration industries. He also worked in weekly and daily newspapers in New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

Once in D.C., Tom immersed himself in the federal government market. He has held numerous leadership roles in this space, including editor-in-chief of Government Computer News (GCN) for 15 years, then the most-read and highest revenue business-to-business publication in the market. The publication won several Jesse H. Neal awards from the American Business Media (ABM) editorial program. After the Washington Post Company acquired GCN, Tom became executive vice president, editorial, at the newly formed PostNewsweek Tech Media Group. There he oversaw the content of GCN, Washington Technology—also a Jesse H. Neal award winner—and several other properties.

For the past 16 years Tom has hosted Federal Drive with Tom Temin, weekday mornings on Federal News Network (FNN) 1500 AM. The show covers a range of topics, such as legislation, federal IT, oversight, and the federal workforce. His guests are often federal executives, members of Congress, think tank experts, and attorneys with subject matter expertise on a myriad of federal issues. Podcasts of Federal Drive broadcast interviews garner some 50,000 downloads per month, and Tom has conducted approximately 10,000 interviews over the course of hosting the show.

In addition to his show, Tom organizes and stages a Motorcycle Ride for Charity each year with FNN's support. The event makes contributions to the Federal Employees Education and Assistance Fund (FEEA), Friends of Patients at the NIH, and the U.S. War Dogs Association.

Throughout his career, Tom has been a speaker and moderator at events staged by groups such as AFCEA, the Association for Federal IRM (AFFIRM), and ACTIAC.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Tom Temin on his retirement. I wish him the best in all of his future endeavors and hope he enjoys retirement with his wife, children, grandchildren, and his Harley-Davidson Motorcycle.

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF
UNITED DISABILITIES SERVICES

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2025

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate and recognize United Disabilities Services for their 60th anniversary.

Founded in 1965, United Disabilities Services is one of the leading disability services providers in Pennsylvania helping older adults, individuals with disabilities, and veterans lead more independent and fulfilling lives. What began as United Cerebral Palsy of Lancaster County in 1965, has since expanded its scope to include personal care and care management services, adult enrichment programs, and the modification of homes and mobility equipment such as wheelchairs. Additionally, their advocacy for the inclusion of people with disabilities, their training and placement of service dogs across our communities and schools, and—on a lighter note—their popular puppy calendars have all extended their reach beyond the individuals and families they directly serve.

Today, United Disabilities Services employs hundreds of individuals and touches the lives of 20,000 people each year. Though headquartered in Lancaster County, UDS serves over 50 counties in Pennsylvania as well as nearby states.

As UDS celebrates 60 years of service, I would like to thank the organization and its employees for everything that they do. Their selfless efforts have made Pennsylvania's 11th District a better place for all.

RECOGNIZING SHERI JONES

HON. TOM BARRETT

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2025

Mr. BARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true legend in Michigan broadcasting, Sheri Jones, who is retiring after nearly 37 years as a trusted voice and compassionate presence on WLNS-TV 6 in Lansing.

Since 1987, Sheri has been more than a news anchor—she's been a steady, reassuring presence in our homes. Her warm demeanor and unwavering professionalism have made her a beloved figure across mid-Michigan. Whether reporting breaking news or moderating debates, Sheri brought clarity, dignity, and heart to every story she told.

Her excellence has not gone unnoticed. Sheri is a proud inductee of both the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame and the Michigan Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame. She's

received multiple Emmy nominations, accolades from the Associated Press, and recognition from the Michigan Association of Broadcasting. Sheri is also a proud member of the Silver Circle of the Michigan chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences—an honor reserved for those who have devoted a quarter-century or more to broadcast excellence.

But Sheri's impact goes far beyond the newsroom. She's been a tireless advocate on the frontlines of some of our most pressing issues—raising awareness about the opioid crisis, mental health, and human trafficking. Additionally, she has used her platform not just to inform, but to inspire change.

Sheri Jones is more than a journalist—she is a storyteller, a mentor, a community champion, and a true public servant. Her retirement marks the end of an era for Michigan journalism, but her legacy will continue in the lives she's touched, the issues she's illuminated, and the community she's helped build.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me and a grateful mid-Michigan community in recognizing Sheri for her decades of service and wishing her all the best in this well-earned next chapter.

CELEBRATING THE OPENING OF
THE NEW HIDALGO COUNTY
COURTHOUSE

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2025

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the historic opening of the new Hidalgo County Courthouse in Edinburg, Texas.

I am proud to announce that this new and modern courthouse will house 24 district and county courtrooms, a court of appeals and an additional six future courtrooms to accommodate and serve our growing county.

This courthouse replaces its outdated predecessor, providing Hidalgo County with the modern judicial space it deserves.

I am honored to represent a thriving community and I am excited to see our infrastructure and local government develop alongside with our population.

This new courthouse stands as a symbol of our growth and continued development in South Texas, and its design proudly reflects the culture, people, and heritage of the Rio Grande Valley. With local designs, architecture and native vegetation, this courthouse stands as a new pillar for South Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate Hidalgo County on this historic achievement and commemorate the opening of the New Hidalgo County Courthouse.

RECOGNIZING REAGAN GRAHAM,
GOLD AWARD

HON. W. GREGORY STEUBE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2025

Mr. STEUBE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating