

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING BILL COX'S DECADES OF SERVICE TO THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2025

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, we rarely take time to recognize the hundreds of public servants who, with great diligence, work behind the scenes to support this body's work for the American people. It is a surpassing honor today to praise my constituent William (Bill) Cox's decades of excellent service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

For more than 43 years, Bill has been one of this chamber's most dedicated public servants. He's served with distinction in many capacities throughout this institution and for the past 23 years has brought his excellent leadership and fastidious attention to detail to the Office of the Clerk. On June 5, 2025, Bill will retire from the Clerk's Office.

Bill was born in Fowlerville, Michigan. After graduating from high school in 1978, Bill moved to Washington, D.C. He made ends meet by working shifts at the Grand Central Station delicatessen in downtown Washington until he got his first Capitol Hill job. It was in the House's "folding room," where government publications were prepared for distribution.

His hard work quickly led to his next position as a Publications Assistant, Data Base Manager, and Systems Administrator for Representative Lee Hamilton. During his 12 years serving Representative Hamilton and the people of Indiana's Ninth District, Bill was instrumental in computerizing the office's operational systems. Under his leadership and guidance, the office graduated from a single shared printer, monitor and keyboard unit to a 25-user Unix mini-computer system. Having found his calling, Bill burned the midnight oil to attend night school at the University of Maryland University College. In 1990, he earned a bachelor's degree in information systems management.

Three years later, Bill transitioned to serve as an Administrative Assistant and then Administrative Director for the House Committee on International Relations (now the House Committee on Foreign Affairs). In 1998, Bill briefly left the Hill to become the Director of Operations for the Computer and Communications Industry Association.

In 2002, Bill returned to the House to accept the Administrative and Technical Support position in the Office of Official Reporters, a division within the Office of the Clerk. In this role, Bill has proven to be an expert in both the digital and physical systems that enable the House of Representatives to function every day. He's been the chief IT Specialist processing committee transcripts and the chief facilitator for office renovations. He has worked for five Clerks of the House: the Honorables Jeff Trandahl, Karen L. Haas, Lor-

raine C. Miller, Cheryl L. Johnson, and now, Kevin F. McCumber.

Always a family man, Bill is looking forward to his next chapter in life with his wife, Toby Long; his son, Charlie and Charlie's wife, Carolyn; and his two grandchildren, Simon and Henry. His family is counting down the days until they get to spend more time with him.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives, the people of Maryland's beautiful Eighth District and the country, I want to thank Bill Cox for his wonderful public service. I hope that he will enjoy the rest and retirement that he has so fully earned, with the knowledge that he has the gratitude and admiration of the Members of the House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING PASTOR KENNY BUZZIE

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that Pastor Kenny Buzzie of Life Style Church has made to our community in the aftermath of Hurricane Milton. In addition to providing countless hours of direct support to neighbors and flood victims, he helped coordinate the collection and distribution of emergency supplies, meals and donated services to help those who needed help. He and his wife also provided cash assistance to victims of Hurricane Milton in Lacoochee, Trilby, Ridge Manor area. A truly selfless leader, Pastor Buzzie was a strong advocate for bringing in government and non-profit resources to aid in the recovery process.

It is clear that Pastor Kenny Buzzie has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for his service. May we all strive to serve our communities with the same dedication and humility.

REMEMBERING DAVID GERLACH

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2025

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my esteemed colleague from Illinois, Representative DARIN LAHOOD, to honor the life and legacy of David "Dave" Gerlach, a dedicated educator, loving husband, father, and grandfather, on the occasion of his passing on March 26, 2025, at the age of 62.

Born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in 1962, Dave grew up in Bethel Park alongside his brothers Jeff and Steve before moving to Fairport, New York. After graduating from Fairport High School, Dave attended SUNY

Canton, where he earned his Associate of Applied Science degree in Business Administration and met his wife of 39 years, Lisa McIntosh.

Dave dedicated his life to education and service, beginning as a student worker at Chaney Dining Center and rising through the ranks to become Vice President for Advancement at SUNY Canton, where he spent three decades helping to shape the college's future. His work overseeing the Canton College Foundation, Alumni and Development, Admissions, and Athletics left a lasting impact, including leading the Centennial Campaign, the most successful fundraising effort in the college's history.

After completing his Ph.D. in Higher Education from Syracuse University, Dave fulfilled his lifelong dream of becoming President of Lincoln College in Illinois, where he led the school through a period of growth and achievement. Even after Lincoln's closure during the pandemic, Dave's dedication to students and learning never wavered.

In retirement, Dave moved to Houston to be near his beloved grandchildren, Harrison and Ruby. He was affectionately known as "Papa," attending every game, concert, and school play, and building a new community of friends in Texas.

Dave's legacy is one of leadership, mentorship, kindness, and unwavering commitment to family and community. His favorite Christmas movie, *It's a Wonderful Life*, embodied the spirit with which he lived—showing that "no man is a failure who has friends."

Dave is survived by his wife Lisa, his daughter Kayla, his son Josh, and his grandchildren Harrison and Ruby. May his memory continue to inspire all who knew and loved him.

RECOGNIZING FERNANDO SERRANO

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that Fernando Serrano has made through his 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

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

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 calls—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 Hurricanes 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 Fernando Serrano has made a profoundly positive impact on our community this his work as part of the Pasco County Human Services Team, and I am grateful for his service. May we all strive to serve our communities with the same dedication and humility.

HONORING MRS. LAURA BOYD FOR
HER DEDICATED SERVICE

HON. MARK E. GREEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2025

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Laura Boyd, a dedicated public servant, on her retirement from Blanchfield Army Community Hospital (BACH). Laura was born in Sumner County, Tennessee and raised in Mt. Juliet, Tennessee. In high school, Laura's softball team won the state championship, giving her the opportunity to attend Cumberland University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in business administration.

Laura first came to Fort Campbell in 1991 as a teachers' assistant and, shortly after joining the school system, took on the Public Re-

lations role for the Assistant Superintendent until the summer of 2003. In August of 2003, Laura accepted the Public Affairs role at BACH. For over two decades, Laura has served in this role and has been an invaluable member of the Fort Campbell and Clarksville communities. In her role, Laura recreated the responsibilities for a position that had been vacant for over two years. In addition, Laura took on more challenges and opportunities for the department, including managing protocol responsibilities, community outreach, patient advocacy, patient and family-centered care, customer service, and many others.

In my former position as a State Senator and currently representing Fort Campbell in Congress, Laura has always been vigilant to inform my office of the most up-to-date information and advocate for BACH's needs. In addition to these positions, I had the honor of working with Laura when I served as the Chief of the BACH Emergency Center. It was inspiring to watch firsthand how she treated everyone who stepped into the hospital, from the Commanding General to a sick individual coming in for care, with dignity and respect. More than just a job title, Laura has been an institution at BACH and will be sorely missed.

In retirement, Laura plans to spend time with her husband, Bill, whom she will celebrate her 36th wedding anniversary with this fall, their son, Aaron, his wife Jordan, granddaughter Charlotte, and her daughter Hope. In addition, Laura plans to serve her church and community as well.

As Laura steps away from her position after many years of dedication, it is my great pleasure to honor her. We owe Laura our deepest thanks and respect. Her leadership and unwavering commitment to the families who rely on Blanchfield has impacted the lives of not only our servicemen and women, but everyone who is connected to our Fort Campbell community.

We wish Laura and her family the best in her retirement as she continues to serve her family, community, and church.

RECOGNIZING FRANK CASSARA

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that Frank Cassara has made to our community through his volunteerism at A New Generation. Frank has dutifully served A New Generation for five years as a Board member. He tirelessly champions the cause of A New Generation in the community and within his professional circles. From volunteering at events, helping to oversee the bookkeeping and finances to fundraising, Frank does not stop. Frank's commitment to promoting the many services offered by the pregnancy center and speaking so highly of the services provided to those seeking pregnancy and relationship related decisions, is truly admirable. Not a week goes by without the center feeling the positive impact of Frank's care and diligence to embracing and promoting everything the organization does. Without a doubt, Frank is acutely tuned to the needs of every aspect of the organization. He helps guide and problem solve.

He always follows through, and his cheery and pleasant disposition makes him, not just a pleasure to be around, but a great public face for the organization. Individuals, like Frank Cassara, are a rare breed.

It is clear Frank Cassara has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for his service. May we all strive to serve our communities with the same dedication and humility.

HONORING MCKEE FOODS, A
WOMAN-OWNED BUSINESS

**HON. CHARLES J. "CHUCK"
FLEISCHMANN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2025

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of women entrepreneurs and to recognize the impact of women-owned businesses in the Third District of Tennessee and our communities nationwide.

Like many communities across the United States, East Tennessee is home to many women- and family-owned businesses, critical local employers supporting generations of employees, and local charitable efforts, including our schools and youth sports teams.

Women-owned businesses are important drivers of our local economy, employing millions of Americans nationwide and accounting for trillions of dollars in revenue annually. Women-owned businesses also include businesses of all sizes and industries, including in the healthcare, professional services, retail, real estate, and construction industries.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that one such business—McKee Foods Corporation—is located in my district in Collegedale, Tennessee. McKee Foods, better known as the makers of Little Debbie Snack Cakes, was founded by O.D. and Ruth McKee in Tennessee nearly 100 years ago and today is a fourth-generation family business employing thousands of employees nationwide.

In March, during Women's History Month, I had the pleasure of meeting with Debbie McKee-Fowler, Chairman of the Board for McKee Foods, and representatives from several women-owned and family businesses here in Washington. These women-owned businesses were on Capitol Hill as part of an event with Family Enterprise USA and members of the Congressional Family Business Caucus to share the stories of their businesses and educate Congress on challenges in starting and growing their businesses, including how government policies like the Death Tax prevent business owners from passing down their legacy to the next generation.

As Congress continues its important work of advancing policies that grow our economy, unleash American innovation, and increase opportunity, it is vital that we continue to listen to and support these women-owned businesses, including through legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise in support and celebration of these and other women-owned businesses.