

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING CHOBANI'S MILITARY APPRECIATION EFFORTS

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Military Appreciation Month. Throughout the month of May, Americans nationwide acknowledge and honor the dedication of the brave men and women who have served this Nation.

Idaho is home to over 115,000 veterans and 8,700 service members. I am deeply grateful for the heroes who protect our freedom and am proud to support our military families and veterans in our great state.

Military Appreciation Month can be honored in various ways, such as through parades, tributes, flying the American flag, or simply expressing gratitude to veterans for their sacrifices. Regardless of how Americans choose to observe this important month, we stand united in our deep appreciation for our servicemembers, veterans, and their families for their sacrifices.

Chobani, an American food company that has its main manufacturing facility in Twin Falls, Idaho, is honoring our military servicemembers through facilitating connections between Blue Star Families, Mountain Home Airforce Base, and Chobani military employees.

The collaborative efforts among these groups have strengthened military families, created new relationships, and better supported those who serve us.

Throughout the years, Chobani has done incredible work to support families in the Magic Valley and throughout our country. This month, Chobani has taken the initiative to empower military families in Idaho and nationwide, an effort that shows pride and support for our Nation.

America would not be what it is today without those who risked their lives for the greater good. Our service members and their families have sacrificed so much for our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, as we take time this month to recognize those who have served and continue to serve this great country, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Chobani's military appreciation efforts. God bless our Armed Forces.

RECOGNIZING JAMES SHERIDAN

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that James "Jay" Sheridan has made through his work with the Greater Tampa Bay Area Council of Scouting America. Jay Sheridan is cur-

rently a Scoutmaster of Troop 148 and the outdoor program Chair for the Greater Tampa Bay Area Council. He volunteers for scouts at least 40 weekends a year. During those weekends, he could be leading his troop camping, helping with a training event, running a target range, cooking in the kitchen or helping with camp maintenance. He oversees all of the outdoor program committees such as camping, target sports and climbing. Jay is responsible for reestablishing the resident camp program for the council which includes driving out to camp on Christmas Day with his family to prepare for winter camp. Jay is a steadfast proponent for getting youth outdoors. He was part of the council COVID response committee which helped keep youth Scouting during the pandemic and is currently chairing the committee for the whole-council camporee this coming year.

It is clear James Sheridan 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.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL SPACE DAY 2025

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in celebration of National Space Day, a moment to honor the extraordinary contributions of the aerospace community to our Nation and the world. Designating May 2, 2025, as National Space Day gives us the opportunity to reflect on the achievements of the past, recognize the advancements of today, and inspire the possibilities of tomorrow.

Our Nation has long led the way in space exploration. From the Apollo missions that landed the first humans on the Moon to today's Artemis program, which will take us back to the Moon and beyond, the United States has shown what's possible when bold ideas meet determination. These milestones remind us of the pioneering spirit that defines America. Today, we see that same spirit driving innovation in every corner of the space sector.

NASA's groundbreaking missions, the Space Force's contributions to national security, and the work of private companies and universities are redefining what we can achieve in space. The work being done by numerous companies in my district, such as Intuitive Machines, continues to set new milestones and push the boundaries of ingenuity, technology, and inspire the next generation.

However, space exploration doesn't just inspire; it delivers real benefits to our daily lives. Our Nation's farmers utilize technologies like GPS, weather satellites, and the internet, which have allowed our producers to increase efficiencies and productivity in their operations.

Beyond that, the aerospace industry supports thousands of jobs in Texas, contributing greatly to our state economy and strengthening our Nation's competitiveness.

Perhaps most importantly, National Space Day reminds us to invest in the next generation. By prioritizing STEM education, we ensure that young people across Texas' Thirty-Sixth Congressional District and the country have the tools they need to dream big and meet the challenges of tomorrow head-on. The programs and work done at the Johnson Space Center are lighting the way for future scientists, engineers, and astronauts.

On this National Space Day, I encourage all Americans to reflect on how space exploration shapes our lives and futures. I'm proud of my district's contributions to this great endeavor, and I look forward to seeing what we can achieve together in the years ahead.

HONORING THE GREATER BUCKLEY REGION AS A GREAT AMERICAN DEFENSE COMMUNITY

HON. JASON CROW

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Greater Buckley Region in my district, which was recently recognized as a 2025 Great American Defense Community by the Association of Defense Communities.

The Great American Defense Communities program recognizes and celebrates communities and regions that support military installations that demonstrate an exceptional commitment to improving quality of life for military families, veterans, and service members—while fostering collaboration across the defense ecosystem.

I am proud of our community—anchored by Buckley Space Force Base and also home to the Colorado National Guard's Joint Force Headquarters—for its unwavering dedication to advancing quality-of-life initiatives. As an Army Ranger veteran, I understand that morale and readiness depend on more than infrastructure—we must create environments where military families can thrive. The Greater Buckley Region has led in areas such as housing, health care, employment, and education.

This recognition also reflects the strength of local partnerships, including the Aurora Chamber of Commerce's Buckley Regional Military Affairs Council, which plays a vital role in bridging military and civilian communities, advocating for service members, and fostering enduring support networks.

The Greater Buckley Region shows us what's possible when communities unite around those who serve. I congratulate them on this well-deserved honor and look forward to their continued leadership as a model for defense communities nationwide.

• 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.

RECOGNIZING JASON CHASE

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that Mr. Jason Chase 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. A truly selfless leader, Mr. Chase was a strong advocate for bringing in government and non-profit resources to aid in the recovery process.

It is clear that Jason Chase 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.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
OF FRANK CASKEY**HON. BARRY MOORE**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the outstanding contributions, hard work, and legacy of Mr. Frank Caskey. His dedicated service to the Alabama Legislature over several decades has made a lasting impact on the lives of many Alabamians.

Mr. Caskey has dedicated many years of his life to serving the Alabama Legislature and its citizens. Beginning his career in 1970 as a clerk for Senator James B. Allen, Frank's commitment to public service continued through his education at Auburn University and his work as a legislative aide. He joined the Alabama Legislative Reference Service in 1974 and served there until 1979 before pursuing a successful legal career. In 1992, he returned to the Legislative Reference Service, bringing with him a wealth of legal knowledge and expertise, making significant contributions to the legislative process.

Throughout his career, Frank's work in areas like local laws, taxation, and environmental law had a lasting impact, and his advice was highly valued by legislators, lobbyists, and fellow attorneys. His exceptional memory and institutional knowledge of the legislature were unmatched, and his dedication to public service earned him great respect. Now retired, Frank's legacy continues, and we wish him happiness and fulfillment as he enjoys his retirement, exploring the Great Smoky Mountains. His contributions to the state will never be forgotten.

I would like to congratulate Mr. Frank Caskey on his well-deserved retirement and thank him for his public service.

CONGRATULATING BILL KEPNER
ON HIS RETIREMENT**HON. LLOYD SMUCKER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor and congratulate Mr. Bill Kepner on his retirement as CEO of United Disabilities Services.

Bill Kepner has a storied history with United Disabilities Services, a nonprofit that helps disabled individuals, veterans, and seniors live more independent and fulfilling lives. He first served as a board member and board president for ten years in two separate stints and joined the organization as their Chief Operating Officer in 2008. Following the departure of Gerry Meck, Bill became CEO in 2010 and has marked his tenure as a vocal advocate for people with disabilities.

Before his position with UDS, Bill was the Chief Operating Officer for the Inglis Foundation, a Philadelphia housing and community services organization for disabled individuals, and he was Regional Vice President for Apria Healthcare and CEO for the Kairos Foundation. Additionally, he served as president of the Pennsylvania Providers Coalition Association and developed Non-Profit Management Solutions, a nonprofit LLC that assists other nonprofits with management services.

As he settles into his new role as Senior Consultant, I thank Bill Kepner for his invaluable and selfless work at United Disabilities Services. UDS has transformed the lives of people with disabilities across Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District and beyond, and I am proud to represent both their CEO and their foundation in Congress.

RECOGNIZING JEANNE WHITE

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that Jeanne White has made through her work with K-9 Partners for Patriots. After retiring from a successful career, Jeanne completed a two-year apprentice trainer program. She currently serves as Director of K9 Acquisition and a Certified Dog Trainer with more than 20 years' experience at K-9 Partners for Patriots. Jeanne's dedication to matching Veterans with the perfect rescue dog goes far beyond expectations. She has an encyclopedic understanding of dogs and their behaviors and serves multiple roles from training to K9 evaluations and acquisitions. She is also the liaison with Rescues; Animal Societies; and Animal Control agencies throughout the greater Tampa Bay metro area. Jeanne places dogs into temporary care at foster homes and follows them all the way through until she is able to schedule a meet-and-greet with a Veteran she feels would be the right match for the dog. Once a match is made and the dog goes home with their Veteran, Jeanne remains a constant source of support—always just a phone call away—even during late nights and weekends. She never lets anyone feel alone or without help.

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

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL
TIMOTHY G. VOWELL**HON. CHARLES J. "CHUCK"
FLEISCHMANN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Timothy G. Vowell, who has dedicated 30 years of exemplary service to our Nation through his career in the United States Air Force (USAF), as well as his subsequent contributions to education and the federal government. His outstanding service and unwavering commitment to the values of leadership, integrity, and duty are a testament to his character and devotion to our country.

After joining the Air Force, Colonel Vowell served with distinction in a variety of roles, ultimately retiring as a highly respected officer. Following his distinguished military service, Mr. Vowell continued to serve his community as an Air Force Junior ROTC (AFJROTC) instructor at Clinton High School. His impact as an educator was profound, shaping the lives of countless young cadets and imparting the values of discipline, respect, and leadership that will carry them throughout their lives.

Additionally, Colonel Vowell served as the Faculty Advisor for the Academy of Military Science, further extending his reach in mentoring future leaders of our Nation. His dedication to the academic and moral development of young minds is a model of public service that goes beyond military duties, inspiring students to pursue excellence in both their academic and personal lives.

In his role within the Department of Defense (DoD), Colonel Vowell provided invaluable support for national aerospace leadership, helping to advance strategic initiatives that continue to safeguard our national interests. His expertise and guidance played a significant role in shaping policy and providing support to the United States Congress on aerospace and defense matters.

Furthermore, Colonel Vowell's tireless efforts led to the development and implementation of the Inspector General Complaints Resolution Program within the federal government. His leadership in this important initiative improved the transparency and accountability of federal operations, ensuring that complaints were addressed with the seriousness and efficiency they deserved.

It is with great pride and deep gratitude that I recognize Timothy G. Vowell for his extraordinary service to our Nation. His dedication, leadership, and contributions to both the military and civilian sectors stand as a model of public service. I wish him continued success in his well-deserved retirement and express my sincere appreciation for all he has done in support of our great Nation.