

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING RABBI JASON  
KIMELMAN-BLOCK'S LEADER-  
SHIP AT BEND THE ARC: JEWISH  
ACTION

**HON. JAMIE RASKIN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2025*

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my distinguished constituent and friend, Rabbi Jason Kimelman-Block, as his fourteen years of remarkable leadership as the Washington Director of Bend the Arc: Jewish Action come to a close.

I have been proud to partner with Bend the Arc in the fight for strong democracy, solidarity and justice. For over a decade at Bend the Arc, Rabbi Jason has modeled these principles every day in his role as a core leader within the interfaith solidarity movement. When leaders in government face stark moral and political choices, Rabbi Jason hasn't hesitated to pray—not just with his hands and his mind but with his heart and his feet, in the tradition of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel—to influence public actions. He is quick to remind us of our collective imperative to advance social justice and fairness for all Americans. I have seen him communicate the intricacies of budget reconciliation through a parable from the Torah.

Throughout his career, Rabbi Jason has shared his profound knowledge about the complexities of antisemitism, immigration, mass incarceration and war and peace, both within the American Jewish community and with my colleagues in Congress. He's been at the forefront of movements to protect and expand voting rights; to institute a living wage through the Fight for \$15 movement; to end the injustice of mass incarceration and to fight the appalling Muslim Ban and other unjust immigration policies. Rabbi Jason also carefully cultivated Bend the Arc's Selah Leadership Program to imbue the next generation of Jewish social change leaders with core skills and practical experience.

Rabbi Jason is a man of society and a man of nature, a man of public engagement and private life. I see him and his wife Devora on multiple occasions enjoying a long Shabbat afternoon hike through the forests of Maryland's beautiful Eighth District. I know he deserves the additional time he will be able to spend with his family now.

Bend the Arc derives its name from the assertion by 19th century abolitionist and Unitarian minister Theodore Parker—and made famous by Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.—that “the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice.” For more than a decade, Rabbi Jason has dedicated his waking hours to carrying this prophetic voice forward and bringing Bend the Arc's promise into reality. He is a gentleman and a scholar who brings soulfulness and warmth to his interactions with everyone, no matter their background, their age or their political affiliation.

Rabbi Jason has shown us what it means to devote one's life's work to solidarity and what Dr. King called the beloved community. Through the relationships he has built and his unwavering commitment to creating a better future for all people, Rabbi Jason Kimelman-Block has made a profound difference in Washington. It is an honor to represent him and support his righteous causes in Congress. On behalf of the good people of Maryland's Eighth District, I proudly salute his 14 years of service at Bend the Arc.

RECOGNIZING NYPD SERGEANT  
CHRISTOPHER E. LEAP

**HON. ANDREW R. GARBARINO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2025*

Mr. GARBARINO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, NYPD Sergeant Christopher E. Leap of Babylon, New York on the occasion of his recognition with an Honorable Mention in the 2025 TOP COPS Awards from the National Association of Police Organizations. Sergeant Leap has been an exemplary member of the NYPD and has been recognized by the department for his meritorious and excellent service to the City of New York 12 times since he joined the department in June 2013.

Sergeant Leap was nominated for this award by his fellow officers for his heroic actions above and beyond the call of duty in an incident that occurred on August 1, 2024, on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. On that night, Sergeant Leap, along with Sergeant Carl Johnson, responded to reports of an armed robbery and apprehended a suspect after pursuing him on foot through busy traffic. During the struggle to detain the suspect, the assailant fired a shot, wounding both sergeants. Additional officers arrived on the scene, and working together, they were able to subdue the suspect and secure the area. Thanks to the swift and coordinated response of Sergeant Leap and his fellow officers, this violent criminal was taken into custody.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize Sergeant Leap and to commend him for his heroism and this well-deserved award. I wish him many safe and distinguished years on the police force to come and convey my deepest gratitude for his outstanding service to the people of New York.

RECOGNIZING ALMA MORENO  
DEL VALLE

**HON. BRITANNY PETERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2025*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alma Moreno Del Valle for earn-

ing the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Alma has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Alma, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Alma'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 Alma Moreno Del Valle on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

RECOGNIZING KRISTIN AMATO

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2025*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that Kristin Amato has made through her work with the CARES Senior Clinic. Kristin has over 24 years in nursing experience. She has worked in ER department's, home health, orthopedics and will be a nurse practitioner in June 2026. She uses her time and talents to help patients in need.

It is clear Kristin Amato 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.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBU-  
TIONS OF DOW CONSTANTINE

**HON. PRAMILA JAYAPAL**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2025*

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Dow Constantine, who is stepping down after 16 years of service as King County Executive. Throughout his tenure, Dow has been a transformative leader, driving significant progress in our region with a relentless focus on equity, sustainability, and community well-being. His leadership has made a lasting impact not only in King County, but throughout our entire region. Thanks to Dow's leadership and his commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, Martin Luther King, Jr. County will remain a welcoming place for all to thrive.

Dow has brought significant positive change to King County. A few notable achievements including the creation of a bold climate action plan, protecting immigrant communities, expanding affordable housing, leading efforts to address homelessness, advancing mental health initiatives and promoting sustainable transportation. His administration created over

• 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.

3,800 affordable housing units and acquired 1,400 supportive housing units through the Health Through Housing program. Dow supported the creation of the King County Immigrant and Refugee Commission (KCIRC), provided funding to immigrant-serving organizations and reinforced King County's commitment to being a welcoming community. He launched the Crisis Care Centers initiative, providing essential care and reducing the burden on emergency rooms and jails. Dow's commitment to environmental conservation resulted in the protection of 30,000 acres of land and the restoration of 500 acres of fish and wildlife habitat, including the successful resurgence of the Kokanee salmon population. Through his advocacy for sustainable transportation, he expanded King County Metro with the launch of eight RapidRide routes and growing the Link Light Rail network to 51 stations.

Dow's leadership has always been grounded in the values of equity, public service and collaboration. His legacy will continue to inspire future leaders to carry forward the work of building a stronger community that serves all people. As he moves on to serve as CEO of Sound Transit, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Dow's accomplishments and service to our country. On behalf of Washington's 7th Congressional District, I thank Dow for making King County a more inclusive, sustainable, and just place to live.

RECOGNIZING THE INCREDIBLE SERVICE OF UNITED STATES MARINE CORPORAL JOSEPH DONALD

**HON. EUGENE SIMON VINDMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2025*

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor United States Marine Corporal Joseph Donald for his incredible service to our country and to recognize his recent approval to receive the Purple Heart.

The Purple Heart is one of the oldest and most revered military decorations. It is awarded to those who have been wounded or killed in action while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. It represents not just injury, but sacrifice—the physical cost of defending our freedoms.

Corporal Donald served honorably for over six years, including deployments to both Afghanistan and Iraq. His time in uniform coincided with some of the most dangerous years of conflict, ending in 2011. During that period, he witnessed the loss of many fellow Marines—brothers and sisters in arms who gave their lives in service.

In 2011, while deployed in Afghanistan, Corporal Donald was severely injured in an explosion. Despite the severity of his injuries, Corporal Donald's resiliency is a true testament of his character and to the Marine Corps values of honor, courage, and commitment.

Today, as we recognize Corporal Donald's receipt of the Purple Heart, we also reflect on the sacrifices made by so many service members like him. His story is one of bravery, dedication.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Corporal Donald formally on the honor of re-

ceiving the Purple Heart award. I join the rest of the community in thanking Corporal Donald for his courage and bravery in the line of duty.

RECOGNIZING ALFONZE ROMERO

**HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2025*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alfonze Romero for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Alfonze 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 Alfonze, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Alfonze'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 Alfonze Romero on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

RECOGNIZING KRISTINA ARNOLD

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2025*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that Ms. Kristina Arnold 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, she helped coordinate the collection and distribution of emergency supplies, meals and donated services to help those who needed help. A truly selfless leader, Ms. Arnold was a strong advocate for bringing in government and non-profit resources to aid in the recovery process.

It is clear that Kristina Arnold 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 MARTHA JANE WEST

**HON. WESLEY BELL**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2025*

Mr. BELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life, service, and unwavering commitment of Ms. Martha Jane West—a proud educator, community advocate, and lifelong champion for equity and justice—who passed peacefully on Sunday, March 30, 2025, surrounded by her loving family in Mississippi, following a lengthy illness.

Born in Dyer, Tennessee, Ms. West charted a path of purpose early in life. She earned her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Tennessee State University in 1953, a proud alumna who remained deeply involved

with her alma mater throughout her life. Each summer during her college years, she visited St. Louis with her cousin, forging a bond with the city that would eventually become her life-long home.

Following her graduation, Ms. West settled in St. Louis, living for more than three decades on the 5100 block of Greer Avenue in the Kingsway West neighborhood. Her commitment to education was unwavering. She began her career at the Nursery Foundation—the first integrated nursery school in St. Louis—before dedicating herself to the St. Louis County Special School District, where she served students with the highest needs for over 40 years before her retirement.

Beyond the classroom, Ms. West gave tirelessly to her faith community at Lane Tabernacle Methodist Church, where she had been a devoted member since 1960. She shared her time, talent, and treasure as part of the Kitchen Committee and the Trustee Auxiliary Club, visiting the sick, supporting the elderly, feeding the hungry, and collecting clothing for those in need.

Her sense of civic duty extended far beyond her church walls. She was deeply engaged in local politics and social justice. As a precinct captain in the former 20th Ward, she registered voters, attended the Democratic National Convention in the 1980's, and proudly cast her ballot for President Barack Obama in 2008. She was an active member of the NAACP, the Coalition of Black Trade Unions, the Organization for Black Struggle, and the Tennessee State University Alumni Association. Whether speaking out at St. Louis Public School board meetings or calling into the iconic Onion Horton radio show, Ms. West's voice was one of courage, conviction, and clarity.

Ms. West never shied away from the front lines in the fight for justice. She was a visible force in demonstrations to protect and honor the legacy of Homer G. Phillips Hospital in the Ville neighborhood. She also knew how to celebrate her community—supporting local clubs and causes through galas, dances, and events. Among her proudest philanthropic efforts was serving as the number one booster for TSU during its annual alumni fundraiser dinner and dance.

Ms. Martha Jane West was a woman of principle, purpose, and boundless compassion. Her legacy lives on in the countless students she nurtured, the communities she uplifted, and the lives she so profoundly impacted.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring the extraordinary life of Ms. Martha Jane West. May her service be remembered, her example be followed, and her family be comforted with the peace and pride of knowing her legacy will endure.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF REPRESENTATIVE MIA LOVE

**HON. JAMES A. HIMES**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2025*

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of the Honorable Mia Bourdeau Love, a trailblazing public servant, devoted wife and mother, proud Haitian American, and