

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING CHAPPY SHARP

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chappy Sharp for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

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

It is my honor to congratulate Chappy Sharp on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

RECOGNIZING MARY MILLER

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that Mary Miller has made through her work with Gulf Middle School. Mary has been volunteering for Gulf Middle School since 2016. She has helped with the school's tutoring program, volunteers weekly in the free school store (the Treasure Chest), helped with securing English as a Second Language tutors for Gulf Middle School families, and coordinated a free weekly meal to serve families and the community. Mary has also been a big supporter of the school's annual book fair and has supported its National Junior Honor Society. She jumps in wherever needed and always goes above and beyond. She is kind-hearted and compassionate towards all students and families. She is dependable, hardworking, and efficient. Mary has a great rapport with our students, staff, and other volunteers.

It is clear Mary Miller 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.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NEAL P. DUNN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

Mr. DUNN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, due to a back injury that happened while I was home in

my district, I was unable to be in D.C. from Monday, May 5, 2025, through Thursday, May 8, 2025. Had I been present, I would have voted:

YEA on Roll Call No. 115, H.R. 530, to provide for a study by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine on the prevalence and mortality of cancer among individuals who served as active duty aircrew in the Armed Forces;

YEA on Roll Call No. 116, H.R. 36, to counter the influence of the Chinese Communist Party, the Iranian Regime, and the Russian Federation in the nation of Georgia;

YEA on Roll Call No. 117, ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 377;

YEA on Roll Call No. 118, H. Res. 377, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 276) to rename the Gulf of Mexico as the "Gulf of America", and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 881) to establish Department of Homeland Security funding restrictions on institutions of higher education that have a relationship with Confucius Institutes;

YEA on Roll Call No. 119, H.R. 1503, to combat forced organ harvesting and trafficking in persons for purposes of the removal of organs;

YEA on Roll Call No. 120, Final Passage of H.R. 881, to establish Department of Homeland Security funding restrictions on institutions of higher education that have a relationship with Confucius Institutes;

NAY on Roll Call No. 121, Motion to Recommit H.R. 276; and

YEA on Roll Call No. 122, Final Passage of H.R. 276, to rename the Gulf of Mexico as the "Gulf of America".

RECOGNIZING ELIJAH BERTONE

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Elijah Bertone for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

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

It is my honor to congratulate Elijah Bertone on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

RECOGNIZING MARIE BIENKOWSKI

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that Ms. Marie Bienkowski has made to our community through her volunteerism as part of the Save Crystal River Board of Directors. She has helped forge a path to secure more than \$50M in funding to meet the agency's original goal of restoring nearly 100 acres of waterways by the City of Crystal River's 100th Year Anniversary on July 3, 2023. To date, more than 850 new spring vents have been opened, 107 plus acres have been cleaned of 680M plus pounds of lyngbya algae and detrital materials from the riverbeds, and 590,000 plus eelgrass plants have been hand-planted. The native grasses provide a natural healthy habitat for fish, birds, and crabs, and are a source of nutrition for the manatees. Marie's generosity of her time, guidance, and commitment to educate elementary school children, business owners, and State of Florida leadership about the importance of clean water and environmental health, reflects her personal nature of resiliency as a resident of Crystal River. Like so many other residents, she has experienced the hefty challenges of multiple hurricanes and tornadoes, and she has always come right back to lead the charge to make Florida and our spring systems one of the outstanding gems of the United States, not only for residents but also for the millions of visitors who come here every year to fish and swim with the manatees in Crystal River, the "home of the manatees." In this year of our focus on resiliency, Marie embodies the very essence of resilience, and she is therefore a "Hero Among Us" for Save Crystal River.

It is clear that Marie Bienkowski 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.

WELCOMING TECO-BLOC

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to welcome Techo-Bloc to the Second District of South Carolina. In the fall of 2026, Lexington County will be the home of the company's first South Carolina operation. With an investment of \$45 million, more than 40 new jobs will be created, contributing to the growth of opportunities within the state. I appreciate the courageous leadership of their President, Charles Ciccarello.

Techo-Bloc specializes in manufacturing high-quality hardscape products such as pavers, slabs, and retaining walls for residential and commercial outdoor spaces.

• 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.

With more than 850 employees, Techo-Bloc distributes products to over 900 stores across the United States and Canada.

Best wishes to Techo-Bloc for continued success in their future endeavors.

HONORING THE 63RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE ISLAMIC CENTER OF AMERICA IN DEARBORN, MICHIGAN

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today, the 12th Congressional District honors the Islamic Center of America in Dearborn, Michigan, as it celebrates 63 years of extraordinary service to our communities. Founded by Imam Mohamad Jawad Chirri in 1962, the Islamic Center began as a dream to create a sacred space for Metro Detroit's growing Muslim population.

From its original site on Joy Road to its current home on Ford Road, the Center has grown into the largest mosque in North America. It has become much more than a place of worship—it is a hub for education, interfaith dialogue, social services, and community resilience. From Sunday breakfasts and youth programming to leading global humanitarian aid.

The Center welcomes people of all backgrounds and faiths and continues to be a space where generations gather to pray, celebrate, and organize. Its volunteers have led vital relief efforts around the world, including sending food and medical aid to families in Yemen, Palestine, and Lebanon. I extend my deepest congratulations to the Center's leaders, families, and volunteers who have made this institution a beacon of faith and hope.

RECOGNIZING ELIJAH STIMPFEL

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Elijah Stimpf for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

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

It is my honor to congratulate Elijah Stimpf on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

RECOGNIZING MARLENE LAW

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that

Ms. Marlene Law has made to our community through her work over three decades to promote opportunities for youth with the UF/IFAS Extension Citrus County 4-H program. Her tireless efforts have been mostly behind the scenes. Marlene supports the core values of 4-H, to develop citizenship, leadership, responsibility, and life skills in young people through experiential learning programs. She is a strong role model for the youth in our community. As a long-time 4-H volunteer and leader of the Ropin' the Wind 4-H club, she has sought to identify needs in the community, set goals, work in partnership with the 4-H Agent and County Extension office, and advance educational programs for youth. In 1995, with a mission to "Make the Best Better", Marlene Law was a founding member of the Citrus County 4-H Foundation. Her actions planned and produced the 1st Citrus Stampede Rodeo to benefit the Citrus County 4-H program, Past Foundation president, Hal Porter recounted "We had a dream, then . . . to raise \$100,000 for our county 4-H program." As the Citrus Stampede Rodeo Chairwoman, Marlene Law, has raised over \$380,000 for the countywide 4-H youth development program. This year, the 29th Annual Citrus Stampede Rodeo will continue to support youth in our community. Raising money for the local 4-H program is a worthy endeavor, but the true impact of those dollars are the opportunities they open for young people engaged in Citrus County 4-H programs. Marlene's support and advocacy for youth development provides vital resources for school enrichment programs, residential camping programs, adult volunteer training, teen workforce development, civic engagement, and graduating senior and 4-H alumni scholarships.

It is clear that Marlene Law 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 270TH BIRTHDAY OF LAREDO, TEXAS

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a historic milestone for my hometown—the 270th anniversary of the founding of the City of Laredo, Texas.

Founded in 1755 along the banks of the Rio Grande, Laredo stands as one of the oldest communities in our Nation—established even before the birth of the United States. Originally known as Villa de San Agustín de Laredo, it was founded by Don Tomás Sánchez de la Barrera. Nearly three centuries later, we continue to celebrate the enduring spirit, culture, and resilience that define our community.

Throughout its history, Laredo has flown under seven different flags: Spain, France, Mexico, the short-lived Republic of the Rio Grande, the Republic of Texas, the Confederate States of America, and ultimately, the United States. Each chapter reflects the complex and vibrant story of a city shaped by shifting borders and strong people.

Today, Laredo and its sister city, Nuevo Laredo, form the Dos Laredos—creating the larg-

est inland port in both the United States and Mexico. This dynamic economic engine is a hub for land, rail, and air cargo, driving billions in trade annually and supporting families across both nations.

But Laredo is more than just a commercial gateway—it is a cultural cornerstone. From the Washington's Birthday Celebration, one of the oldest and largest of its kind in the country, to our strong educational institutions and proud neighborhoods, Laredo remains rooted in tradition while embracing innovation and growth.

Mr. Speaker, Laredo is a city of hardworking families, a city rich in heritage, and a city that stands as a testament to the enduring promise of the American Dream.

Happy 270th birthday to Laredo. May we continue to thrive for generations to come.

CONGRATULATING REVEREND LYDIE NGOIE AND THE MEMBERS OF TRINITY FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ON 35 YEARS OF WORSHIP AND LEADERSHIP

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, the 12th Congressional District congratulates Reverend Lydie Ngoie and the members of Trinity Faith United Methodist Church on 35 years of spiritual worship and leadership in our community.

Trinity Faith blossomed from humble beginnings. Founded in 1918 in the basement of a building under construction on Twelfth Street, just eleven devoted charter members came together, united by a vision of faith and service. Their commitment and love for their community sparked growth, soon reaching 23 members. As the neighborhood around them evolved, so did the church, embracing change and relocating to a new home on West McNichols in 1950. By May 27, 1951, Trinity Church broke ground on their new fellowship hall, proudly serving a growing congregation of 210 strong.

While expanding their congregation and educational programs, Trinity Church opened its doors to Faith Bethany United Methodist Church, offering them a temporary home until a permanent location was secured. In 1989, the two churches united, forming what we now know as Trinity Faith United Methodist Church. Over these 35 years, they've shown a deep commitment to serving others—whether through their food pantry that nourishes those in need or through their dedication to spiritual learning and growth.

The 12th Congressional District honors their service and dedication to creating a place of friendship and learning for our community. I thank them for being a guiding light rooted in faith and service to all.

RECOGNIZING ADALINA CASTILLO

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Adalina Castillo for earning the