

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF FEDERAL GLOVER

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 6, 2025

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today alongside Congressman GARAMENDI to recognize the life and service of Federal Glover.

Throughout his life, Federal demonstrated his unwavering devotion to service and advancing opportunity for all. Born to Morris Glover and Lucille Ball who came to the San Francisco Bay Area during the Great Migration, Federal was born and raised in Pittsburg, California. He attended Pittsburg High School, where he was elected Homecoming King. He went on to attend San Francisco State University where he studied Business Administration and was the first among his eleven siblings to attend college. He worked at Dow Chemical for 22 years before beginning his career in public service.

Federal was first elected to the Pittsburg City Council in 1996, serving as Mayor from 1998 to 1999. During his tenure, he worked tirelessly to improve the lives of residents, supporting neighborhood revitalization efforts throughout the City and establishing a "Mayor's Forum" to increase transparency in local government and facilitate better communication between city staff and residents.

In 2000, Federal was elected to represent District 5 on the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, serving as chairman in 2004, 2008, 2013, and 2017, and being the first Black supervisor to serve Contra Costa County.

In this role, he was dedicated to empowering community members, increasing public safety, and bolstering youth engagement throughout the County. He was instrumental in supporting major transportation projects throughout the County, leading efforts to widen Highway 4, extend BART service to Pittsburg and Antioch, and implement safety improvements on Vasco Road. These projects have been critical in increasing access to public transit, reducing congestion and pollution, and improving quality of life for residents.

Further, he served on the board for the Metropolitan Transportation Commission for 18 years, working to improve transportation infrastructure throughout the Bay Area. Additionally, he spearheaded the County youth conferences and the first Gang Task Force to foster youth participation in civics and provide holistic approaches to youth intervention. Throughout his tenure, he led with humility, compassion, and integrity. He retired from the Board of Supervisors in 2024 after over two decades of incredible service.

Sadly, Federal passed away on May 18, 2025, at the age of 69. He will be remembered for his resilience, his steadfast commitment to justice, and for the indelible mark that he left on this community. Please join us in extending our condolences to Federal's wife of

47 years, Janis, his children, Federal and Carissa, and his grandchildren, and in honoring Federal Glover for his invaluable impact in Contra Costa and beyond.

RECOGNIZING JOANNE THOMAS

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 6, 2025

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joanne Thomas for her service to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

A graduate of Wayland Baptist University, The University of Sydney, and The Catholic University of America's Columbus School of Law, Joanne began her career on Capitol Hill as a Law Clerk for the United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary in 2022 after having previously worked in the legal field. In January 2023, Joanne joined the House Committee on Energy and Commerce to serve as Counsel for the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. As Counsel, she oversaw Congressional investigations into FDA foreign drug inspections, the Office of Refugee Resettlement's management of unaccompanied minors, and a \$900 million taxpayer funded HHS COVID-19 Public Health Campaign.

Recently, Joanne departed the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. I wish her the best in her future endeavors and thank Joanne Thomas for her service to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

HONORING FLYING TIGER MEL McMULLEN ON HIS 100TH BIRTH- DAY AND RECOGNIZING HIS EX- TRAORDINARY SERVICE DURING WWII

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 6, 2025

Ms CHU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Mel McMullen of California on the occasion of his 100th birthday and in recognition of his extraordinary service during the Second World War.

Born in Los Angeles on June 5, 1925, Mr. McMullen answered his country's call to service at the age of 17, joining the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1943. By 1944, he was serving in the China-Burma-India Theater as a nose turret gunner and assistant engineer aboard a B-24J bomber named The Dragon Lady, as part of General Claire Chennault's famed 14th Air Force, the "Flying Tigers." The legacy of the Flying Tigers is truly inspiring because it was made up of young men like Mr. McMullen who left their jobs to volunteer alongside the Chinese in defense of China, even before the U.S. officially entered the war against Japan. Despite not being an official part of the U.S.

military, they were willing to risk their lives in the pursuit of peace. The Flying Tigers' achievements were truly extraordinary—operating with only a few dozen planes and a few hundred soldiers, they managed to bring down hundreds of Imperial Japanese aircraft, a testament to their bravery and skill.

McMullen was assigned to the 425th Squadron of the 308th Bomb Group, flying long and dangerous missions across eastern China against Japanese forces. His squadron endured perilous flights over mountainous terrain, unescorted bombing runs under heavy anti-aircraft fire, and grueling conditions that tested their endurance and courage. Mr. McMullen survived over 200 hours of aerial combat, a feat for which he was awarded both the Air Medal and the Distinguished Flying Cross.

After the Flying Tigers were disbanded, Mr. McMullen continued serving in World War II by flying hazardous fuel transport missions over "The Hump" from India to China, a route so treacherous it was known as "The Aluminum Trail" for the wreckage of downed aircraft. This was a vital air transport lifeline for the Allies and Mr. McMullen's service reflects not only immense bravery but a profound commitment to his fellow airmen and to the mission of liberating Asia from imperial oppression.

Beyond the battlefield, Mr. McMullen's life has remained a testament to leadership, service, and community. He served as National Commander of the China-Burma-India Veterans Association and as President of the Inland Empire Chapter of the Distinguished Flying Cross Society. He built a 43-year career in the title insurance industry and has been a devoted husband to his wife Jennifer for over 77 years. Together, they raised a family in Los Angeles and now enjoy the love of their grandchildren and a community they continue to serve.

Mr. Speaker, Mel McMullen embodies the best of the American spirit: courage in the face of war, resilience in peacetime, and a life of meaning rooted in family and service. On behalf of a grateful Nation, I offer my congratulations on his 100th birthday and thank him for his tremendous sacrifices in defense of our freedoms. May his story continue to inspire future generations to serve with honor, humility, and purpose.

HONORING BUILDING SAFETY MONTH 2025

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 6, 2025

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark Building Safety Month 2025 and to recognize the more than 60,000 members of the International Code Council (ICC) who have dedicated their livelihoods to ensuring public safety throughout the built environment.

• 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.

Building Safety Month is sponsored by the International Code Council and its partners to remind the public of the professionals who ensure buildings are safe, resilient, affordable, efficient, and livable.

The Code Council brings together local, state, and federal government stakeholders, as well as those from the private sector to develop model codes and standards that protect the occupants of the buildings in which we live, work, and play. Those standards are then implemented year-round by building safety officials, the fire services, architects, engineers, builders, and other skilled tradespeople to ensure the safe construction and maintenance of buildings.

Building Safety Month is an annual celebration to remind the public of the critical role of local code officials—who ensure the safe, sustainable, and affordable buildings essential to prosperity.

In late 2020, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) released its “Building Codes Saves” report, which found that implementing modern building codes could prevent \$600 billion in disaster-related spending by 2060. FEMA further confirmed a prior report by the National Institute of Building Sciences that found that adopting modern codes provides \$11 dollars in mitigation savings for every \$1 dollar invested.

As the Ranking Member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee—responsible for oversight and authorization of FEMA—I have heard repeated testimony from expert witnesses on the increase in both the frequency and severity of natural disasters. Building codes and standards are critical to protecting the public from these disasters, including wildfires, hurricanes, tornadoes, snow and ice storms, and earthquakes.

As Americans rebuild after disasters, we recognize and thank those who implement and enforce building codes for protecting lives, property, and businesses, and ultimately ensuring our communities are resilient to future events.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking International Code Council Board President David Spencer—a fellow Washingtonian—as well as ICC’s Chief Executive Officer John Belcik, the International Code Council leadership, and ICC’s Members and staff as they recognize Building Safety Month 2025.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF GWEN WATSON

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 6, 2025

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Gwen Watson.

Throughout her life, Gwen was committed to serving vulnerable populations and empowering community members. She began her career as an educator, working with high school students in her home state of Louisiana who were interested in pursuing vocational careers. After moving to the San Francisco Bay Area, Gwen remained focused on giving back to her community. She was a part of St. Vincent de Paul’s Advisory Task Force, working to serve Contra Costa County’s homeless population.

Driven by her faith and her dedication to service, Gwen helped to provide rental assistance and other critical resources to unhoused individuals through St. Vincent de Paul’s mobile homeless shelter. That program has grown into what is known today as the St. Vincent de Paul Hope Conference.

Additionally, Gwen was a member of the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County and cofounded the Winter Nights program. This program aims to break the cycle of homelessness by providing shelter, food, childcare, and other key services to unhoused families. Through this program, Gwen helped countless Contra Costa families to get back on their feet and to have access to the resources they need in order to thrive.

Furthermore, Gwen served as President of the League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley. In this role, she oversaw the “You Don’t Need a Home to Vote” project, which worked to increase civic engagement from unhoused and low-income individuals and help them register to vote. Gwen’s fierce commitment to advocacy and social justice was evident to all who knew her.

Sadly, Gwen passed away in May 2025. She will be remembered for her compassion, unwavering commitment to service, and her deep love for this community. Please join me in honoring Gwen Watson for her invaluable contributions to our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUSS FULCHER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 6, 2025

Mr. FULCHER. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 153.

SUPPORT FOR PATIENTS AND COMMUNITIES REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2025

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2025

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I will vote in support of H.R. 2483, the Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment (SUPPORT) Reauthorization Act of 2025. This bill, which was first signed into law in 2018, aims to fight the opioid epidemic in our country by improving access to treatment, increasing recovery opportunities, and strengthening prevention initiatives. The opioid epidemic has devastated communities and torn apart families across our country, and H.R. 2483 is the latest in a long line of bipartisan efforts to address this problem and ensure Americans get the help they need without stigma or other barriers.

However, we must acknowledge that this legislation came to the House Floor at a time when the Trump administration is systematically dismantling our Nation’s mental health and substance use treatment programs. In the last several months, the administration has announced plans to eliminate the Substance

Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) as an independent division of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), fired hundreds of SAMHSA employees, rescinded over \$1 billion in state funding to treat mental health and substance use disorders, and proposed eliminating some of the very programs that are authorized in the SUPPORT Act. House Republicans have also just voted to make the largest health care cut in history in their so-called “Big Beautiful Bill”, taking away Medicaid from millions of Americans.

While I will vote in favor of the SUPPORT Act, my concern is that this Republican led Congress has authorized these programs with no one left at the agencies to see them through.

RECOGNIZING GAVIN PROFFITT

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 6, 2025

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gavin Proffitt for his service to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

A Lynchburg, Virginia native, Gavin began his career on Capitol Hill as a Research Assistant for Rep. Louie Gohmert (TX–01) in October 2016 before becoming a Legislative Correspondent and Legislative Assistant for Rep. Bob Goodlatte (VA–06) and a Professional Staff Member for the Republican Study Committee. In February 2023, Gavin joined the House Committee on Energy and Commerce as a Professional Staff Member for the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations after serving as a Senior Advisor to the Administrator and Medicaid Project Officer for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. During his time working for the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, Gavin worked on a wide array of issues such as the fentanyl crisis, FDA drug shortages, and antimicrobial resistance.

Recently, Gavin departed the House Committee on Energy and Commerce to take on a new role as Health Policy Advisor for Sen. RON JOHNSON (WI). I wish him the best, congratulate him on his new role, and thank Gavin Proffitt for his service to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF JAKE LARSON

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 6, 2025

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor World War II veteran and D-Day survivor, “Papa” Jake Larson, for his invaluable contributions to our nation.

Eager to serve his country, Jake enlisted in the National Guard at just 15 years old after lying about his age. After the attack on Pearl Harbor in December, 1941, Jake was sent to Fort Dix, New Jersey before heading overseas to Europe. He advanced to the position of Operations Sergeant where he assisted in planning the invasion of Normandy in Operation