

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### PAYING TRIBUTE TO KAREN REID AS SHE RETIRES FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 20, 2025*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish a very happy retirement to an excellent Marylander whom I am proud to represent in the Fifth District: Karen Reid. She is retiring after 23 years of distinguished service here in the House.

Karen started working in the House Office Supply Service and House Gift Shop in 2002 as a Supply Account Specialist. Much has changed over the past 23 years. When she started on the Hill, Dennis Hastert was Speaker and President George W. Bush had just started his first term in office. As Karen can attest, given her long commute to work every day, gas was just \$1.36 a gallon. Karen's professionalism, character, and joyful personality, however, have remained the same.

From her start in the 107th Congress to the end of her tenure in the 119th Congress, she has excelled in her accounting role. In these 12 Congresses, Karen has set up and taken down multiple Member and Committee charge accounts seamlessly so that we can perform our Congressional duties to the best of our ability. Karen has played a vital role in our organization and has always been a joy to work with.

Her coworkers tell me that her desk is adorned with mementos and photos of her children and grandchildren, whom she is so proud of and loves so dearly. I am also told that she is quite fond of all things 'frog related,' and her desk reflects that passion as well.

It is now 2025, and after nearly a quarter of a century serving this great institution, Karen is ready to start a well-deserved, commute-free, and hopefully frog-filled retirement. We have been so fortunate to have her serving the House for all these years. We will miss Karen, but we wish her happiness and relaxation in her retirement. I ask all my colleagues to join me in congratulating her.

HONORING CITY OF LATHROP,  
CALIFORNIA

**HON. ADAM GRAY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 20, 2025*

Mr. GRAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the City of Lathrop, California, as it celebrates its 35th anniversary.

Lathrop was little more than a schoolhouse and a store before the construction of the Central Pacific Railroad around 1870. When the city of Stockton and Leland Stanford had a disagreement about where the railroad

should be placed, Stanford worked around the problem and Stockton by building a new town along the railroad's new route. The station he built was originally known as Wilson's Station but was eventually renamed Lathrop in 1869 to honor his wife and her brother Charles Lathrop who was a civil engineer on the Central Pacific Railroad. That year, the San Joaquin River Bridge at Mossdale in Lathrop was finished, completing the last westbound link of the Transcontinental Railroad to the Pacific Coast.

Lathrop saw a boom during World War II when Permanente Metals and the Sharpe Army Depot came to town. Permanente produced aircraft parts and magnesium bombs, while the Depot became one of the major army supply depots in the Western United States. The Depot remains a major employer in San Joaquin County and serves as the U.S. Army's western distribution center for repairs and spare parts.

Housing tracts were constructed during postwar years, and Lathrop became home to large industrial employers including BEST Fertilizer, now operated by Simplot and producing pesticides and fertilizers, and Libbey-Owens-Ford which produces auto glass. Residential growth accelerated through the seventies and eighties, Lathrop became a municipality in 1989, and the current General Plan Program began one year later.

Since then, Lathrop has focused on intelligently planned growth and development, reflected in the building of two master-planned communities: River Islands and Stanford Crossing. Lathrop launched its first police department in 2021 with 43 sworn officers and a community resource division. With its current population of 39,857, Lathrop has been designated two years in a row as California's "Fastest Growing City with a Population Over 30,000" by the California State Department of Finance.

Lathrop has a family friendly environment, fiscally responsible city government, and first-rate facilities for education and health.

It is my great privilege to honor and celebrate the 35th anniversary of the small city where the Transcontinental Railroad was completed and which continues to be at the crossroads of commerce. Let us all join in recognizing the City of Lathrop.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH  
BIRTHDAY OF PAUL DAVID LOPEZ

**HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 20, 2025*

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary American and beloved member of the Santa Barbara community, Paul David Lopez, as he celebrates his 100th birthday on June 22, 2025.

Born in Santa Barbara, California, in 1925 in a home his father built by hand, Mr. Lopez's

life has been a shining example of courage, service, and commitment to country and community. A proud son of the Eastside, Paul attended Franklin Elementary, Santa Barbara Junior High, and Santa Barbara High School. In 1943, during what would have been his senior year, Paul made the brave and selfless decision to leave school and enlist in the United States Navy during World War II.

Assigned as a 20-millimeter antiaircraft gunner aboard the *USS Maryland*, Paul served with distinction in some of the most consequential battles in the Pacific theater, including Kwajalein, Saipan, Tinian, Leyte Gulf, and Okinawa. He survived torpedo attacks, kamikaze strikes, and the historic Typhoon Louise while stationed in Okinawa. His dedication and bravery reflect the very best of our Greatest Generation.

After returning home in 1946, Paul built a new life while continuing to serve. He was later recalled to Active Duty during the Korean war, where he was stationed in the Marshall Islands as part of a Seabee unit maintaining critical airfields. Upon his second honorable discharge, Paul began a long and respected career at the University of California, Santa Barbara, where he worked for over four decades, retiring in 1990 as the longest-serving employee in the campus' history.

Paul married Gladys Cota in 1958, becoming a devoted husband and loving father to Marcia, Ronald, and Paula. Known fondly as "Uncle Paulie" and "The Mayor of Chino Street," he and Gladys became cherished pillars of Santa Barbara's Westside, mentoring and caring for generations of local children with wisdom and heart.

In a touching full-circle moment, Paul walked down the hill at Peabody Stadium in 2013 to receive his long-overdue Santa Barbara High School diploma, graduating alongside his grandson, Diego, nearly 70 years after he left school to serve his country.

Mr. Speaker, on this occasion of his 100th birthday, we recognize Paul David Lopez not just for the longevity of his years, but for the richness of his legacy. He is a war hero, a public servant, a family man, and a treasured friend to so many. It is an honor to celebrate his century of life, sacrifice, and service.

Happy 100th birthday to Paul. I thank him for everything he has given—to his Nation, to his community, and to all of us.

HONORING ANDREW BROWNE AS A  
DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CEN-  
TRAL FLORIDA FOR CARIBBEAN  
HERITAGE MONTH

**HON. DARREN SOTO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 20, 2025*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Andrew Browne was born in the city of Georgetown, Guyana, in South America, on August 10, 1962, into a family that valued kindness with humble

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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.

means. He was the fifth of six siblings to their parents, the late Maurice and Mary Browne. He migrated with his siblings to the United States of America in 1983 and settled in Brooklyn, New York. Andrew married his fiancée, June, and arranged her migration to the USA. From this union came three offspring. In 2003, the family relocated to the state of Florida, where they currently reside in the City of Kissimmee.

There are moments in every life that become turning points. For Andrew, one such moment was the World Trade Center terrorist attack in 2001. In January 2002, he was diagnosed with an enlarged heart with an ejection fraction of 10 percent. Even though he was still able to pursue a semi-normal lifestyle, he was given one year to live. He then placed his complete trust in the Most-High-God and his Savior Jesus Christ and continues to give total glory to the God he serves for keeping him alive.

Andrew discovered passions that ignited his spirit. This involves helping others who need computer assistance, but most of all, being the director of his local church's food pantry, which reaches out to serve community neighbors. This brings him joy and gives him a sense of fulfillment.

As he writes this, he is reminded that his autobiography is far from complete. There are chapters yet to be written. This is his story—one of resilience, growth, and hope. It is a testament to his faith in God, dreams, and the strength of the human spirit. As he continues this journey, he is reminded that the best stories are those that are shared.

RECOGNIZING REGINALD L. THOMAS FOR HIS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO LABORERS LOCAL 264 AND THE MISSOURI AFL-CIO

### HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 20, 2025*

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a steadfast leader, a tireless advocate, and a committed public servant, Mr. Reginald L. Thomas, who has dedicated his time to improving the lives of workers in Missouri's Fifth Congressional District and throughout the state. As Mr. Thomas steps down from his roles as Vice President of the Missouri AFL-CIO and Business Manager of Laborers Local 264, a position he held for more than 15 years, let us celebrate the work he has done to defend workers' rights, raise workplace standards, and expand union access across numerous industries.

Mr. Thomas began his career in the labor movement with Laborers Local 264 in May 1996, earning promotions to Laborer Foreman and Crew Supervisor. In these positions, he was responsible for managing job-site teams, ensuring safety compliance, and overseeing the timely and effective completion of construction projects. In April 1999, Mr. Thomas was appointed Secretary-Treasurer of Local 264, where he managed financial operations, enforced fiscal accountability, and ensured resources were directed toward member support and workforce development. He then went on to serve as Assistant Business Manager and Field Representative, where he coordinated

grievance procedures, negotiated collective bargaining agreements, and advocated for safer job conditions on behalf of the local membership. These roles prepared him well for his election as Business Manager of Laborers Local 264 in February 2010, a position he held for over a decade.

As Business Manager, Mr. Thomas spearheaded numerous initiatives to empower union members, improve labor protections, and expand job opportunities. He worked to create training partnerships with local school districts and technical colleges, building pre-apprentice and apprenticeship programs aimed at opening doors for young people to enter family-supporting careers in construction and skilled trades.

Throughout his career, Mr. Thomas has demonstrated strong leadership and an unwavering commitment to the labor movement, and his contributions have not gone unnoticed. In 2016, he received the Lillian L. McKittrick Labor Advocacy Award from the NAACP, an honor named in memory of Lillian L. McKittrick, a lifelong advocate for the rights of minorities and women. Having worked for many years in the garment industry, McKittrick witnessed firsthand the need for reform within the labor movement. This honor recognizes individuals who have shown outstanding dedication to labor advocacy while advancing the broader goals of civil rights and economic justice. In 2019, Reggie was named Labor's Representative of the Year by the Labor's Educational & Political Club Independent in recognition of his effectiveness in organizing, legislative engagement, and grassroots mobilization. These accolades reflect the tangible, community-level impact of Mr. Thomas' contributions toward creating more equitable hiring practices, greater workplace protections, and a stronger pipeline for economic mobility.

Beyond the state of Missouri, Mr. Thomas' voice has been heard across the country. As Special International Representative for the Laborers International Union of North America and Vice President of the Missouri AFL-CIO, he played a major role in supporting national labor efforts. These included advocacy for the expansion of wage protections, along with infrastructure-investment legislation such as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Mr. Thomas was also a vocal proponent of pro-labor reforms to the National Labor Regulation Act, aligning Missouri's agenda with national priorities.

Mr. Thomas' service is not only defined by awards and titles, but by the lasting impact of his work. He forged partnerships between unions and civic groups and strengthened the role of labor in addressing housing, healthcare, and education challenges. Additionally, he led efforts to remove systemic barriers to union jobs for communities of color and championed a public education campaign on the economic and social benefits of organized labor.

Now, as Secretary-Treasurer of the Greater Kansas City AFL-CIO, Mr. Thomas continues to provide leadership and vision for the future. Those who have worked with Reggie know him as a man of principle, integrity, and resolve. He is respected by colleagues, union members, and public officials alike. His legacy includes not only stronger institutions but a more empowered, united labor force in Missouri and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing and thanking Mr. Regi-

nald L. Thomas for his years of extraordinary service to the American labor movement. As he begins this new chapter, we celebrate his legacy of progress and look forward to the continued impact he will have in building a more equitable and empowered workforce for Missouri and beyond.

HONORING RICHARD KOCH FOR  
EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE AND  
LEADERSHIP

### HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 20, 2025*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the strong-willed commitment Richard Koch holds for the people of Cabarrus County, North Carolina. Mr. Koch served as the Cabarrus County Attorney for 19 years alongside serving as the County Planning and Zoning Attorney for an impressive 32 years.

Mr. Koch earned his undergraduate degree from Washington and Lee University, where he was a member of the swimming team. He then went on to earn a Juris Doctor degree from Wake Forest Law School, and he has been a licensed attorney for 47 years. Mr. Koch currently serves as both the Administrative Law Judge for North Carolina Occupational Safety and Health, and the Harrisburg Town Attorney, which he has been doing for 37 and 32 years, respectively. Serving on two boards, the Historic Cabarrus Board and the Cannon School Board, there is no doubt that Mr. Koch is dedicated to his county.

Over the past 37 years, Mr. Koch has exemplified high levels personal sacrifice and commitment to Cabarrus County. The magnitude of his efforts and dedication cannot be overstated.

Renee and I offer our most heartfelt appreciation to Mr. Koch for the decades of loyal service he gave to Cabarrus County. We wish him continued success and happiness as he moves forward on to his next adventure.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in honoring Mr. Richard Koch for the lifetime of service he dedicated to his community.

HONORING JAMILAH FELIX AS A  
DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL  
FLORIDA FOR CARIBBEAN  
HERITAGE MONTH

### HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 20, 2025*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Jamilah Felix is a passionate advocate for civic engagement and public service. Her love for service began while growing up in Osceola County. For over a decade, she has dedicated her professional and educational journey to service. She's often at the helm of helping lead revitalization initiatives, mentoring, and government affairs.

In 2024, she received the statewide recognition of being named as a News Service of Florida's 40 Under 40 Rising Star and a trailblazer by the City of Kissimmee during Women's History Month. Ms. Felix currently serves as the manager of government relations for