

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING DON HEWITT

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend Mr. Don Hewitt, a trailblazer in sustainable urban development and a visionary entrepreneur whose work has made a transformative impact on communities throughout Jackson, Mississippi, and beyond.

Mr. Hewitt is the founder and owner of Advanced Technology Building Solutions (ATBS), established in 2004 and headquartered in Jackson. With more than 20 years of experience in real estate development and urban planning, Mr. Hewitt has consistently prioritized community-centered solutions that emphasize walkability, environmental design, and economic opportunity.

Under his leadership, ATBS has emerged as a leader in mixed-use developments that integrate green spaces, affordable housing, retail accessibility, and local business engagement. The company's initiatives frequently involve partnerships with public housing authorities, nonprofit organizations and government entities—leading to the revitalization of underutilized spaces into vibrant, inclusive neighborhoods.

Currently, ATBS is collaborating with the West Jackson Community Development Corporation and the Jackson Medical Mall Foundation to implement an innovative urban streetscape project in West Jackson. This development will offer affordable workspace for local entrepreneurs and startups, fostering economic opportunity and nurturing local talent.

Mr. Hewitt's commitment to sustainability extends beyond physical infrastructure. As a participant in the AI Business Accelerator Cohort, he is integrating artificial intelligence into project planning to optimize sustainability metrics and enhance community engagement. His forward-thinking approach ensures that urban development remains both efficient and equitable.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Mr. Don Hewitt for his service, leadership, and unwavering dedication to building a stronger, more inclusive Mississippi. His work exemplifies what it means to develop with the community and for the community.

HONORING BARBARA KULIG'S RETIREMENT

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Barbara Kulig as she retires after twenty-six years of service with the

Manchester School District. Barbara has dedicated her time as a Paraprofessional to making a difference in students' education and being involved within the community.

As a lifelong Manchester resident, Barbara dedicated her career to public service and giving back to her community. She has spent twenty-five years teaching at Hillside Middle School, the same institution she attended for middle school, and she spent her final year teaching at Weston Elementary. She also previously served as a school bus driver in Bedford. She has left a lasting impact on the students she has worked with over the years and will be greatly missed by students and staff alike.

Barbara is not only a diligent public servant but also an individual of outstanding character and passion. She committed tireless days to ensuring that the students of the Manchester School District were given the care and resources they needed to thrive and grow into successful young adults.

In all, Barbara Kulig represents the very best of America's public servants—dedicated, thoughtful, and unwavering in her commitment to service to others. On behalf of a grateful district, I want to congratulate Barbara on a well-deserved and restful retirement.

RECOGNIZING MICHELLE NUCKOLS

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Michelle Nuckols for being named the 2025 Cattlewoman of the Year by the Tulare County Cattlewomen's Association.

Michelle moved to Visalia, California in 1975 with her parents at the age of six. She discovered her love for agriculture in high school through Mt. Whitney High School's FFA program, where she quickly immersed herself. Her involvement in FFA inspired her to pursue a career in agricultural education, leading her to attend the College of the Sequoias and later Fresno State University. While at Fresno State, Michelle met her husband, Justin Nuckols, who came from a farming family in Porterville. The two married in 1995 and made their home near Justin's family farm. Following graduation, Michelle began teaching at Tipton Elementary, where she has now served for over 29 years. In addition to teaching English, she offers an agriculture elective that introduces students to FFA and Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) projects. Her class includes hands-on lessons about dairy and beef cattle, visits to local farming operations, and a variety of experiences designed to connect students to agriculture. Michelle also has a deep passion for photography, which has inspired her to preserve the farming traditions of Justin's family farm through the lens of her camera. She captures branding events, assists in tagging calves, and most importantly,

ensures that donuts and cold drinks are available for all who attend.

Since Justin's unexpected passing in 2022, Michelle has taken on a more active role in the family's cattle operation alongside her sons, Tanner and Carson. She also joined Tulare County Cattlewomen, continuing her lifelong support for agricultural education and honoring Justin's legacy through advocacy and community involvement.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Michelle Nuckols on being awarded Tulare County's 2025 Cattlewoman of the Year.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, June 23, 2025, I was otherwise detained in South Carolina. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 172; YEA on Roll Call No. 173; and YEA on Roll Call No. 174.

RECOGNIZING EPSILON SIGMA'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. EUGENE SIMON VINDMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the Epsilon Sigma Boulé of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, based in Prince William County, Virginia. Since its founding on June 13, 2015, Epsilon Sigma Boulé has exemplified the highest standards of leadership, scholarship, and community service.

Sigma Pi Phi, also known as the Boulé, is the oldest Black Greek-letter fraternity, established in 1904 to provide a space for African American men of professional distinction at a time when few such outlets existed. Its legacy includes names etched into the very fabric of American history—W.E.B. Du Bois, Martin Luther King, Jr., Arthur Ashe, Whitney Young, and so many others whose contributions have shaped our Nation. Today, its ranks continue to include influential leaders such as Representatives JAMES CLYBURN, BOBBY SCOTT, EMANUEL CLEAVER, and Senator RAPHAEL WARNOCK.

The Epsilon Sigma Boulé of Sigma Pi Phi was established to advance this rich legacy in Northern Virginia. Its members are African American men of accomplishment and service, representing diverse professions and industries. Together, they have embodied the Fraternity's founding mission by working diligently to uplift and empower their communities through servant leadership and civic engagement.

• 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.

Through the Epsilon Sigma Boulé Foundation, the fraternity has invested substantially in initiatives that serve the greater good—mentoring youth, increasing access to STEM education, supporting the performing arts in Title I schools, and providing college scholarships for deserving minority students. These actions reflect a commitment not only to excellence, but to ensuring equity and opportunity for all.

As the Epsilon Sigma Boulé celebrates a decade of excellence, we honor its enduring mission and the transformational impact it continues to have in Prince William County and beyond. They have exemplified principled leadership and civic responsibility, carrying forward the Fraternity's mission with purposeful action and a steadfast dedication to community advancement.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the 10th Anniversary of the Epsilon Sigma Boulé of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity and in celebrating the tremendous work this organization continues to do to strengthen our communities and shape the future of our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSH BRECHEEN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

Mr. BRECHEEN. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained due to illness and was not able to cast my vote on Roll Call Nos. 172, 173, 174, 176, 177, and 178. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 172; YEA on Roll Call No. 173; NAY on Roll Call No. 174; YEA on Roll Call No. 176; YEA on Roll Call No. 177; and NAY on Roll Call No. 178.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF SERGEANT KEITH DEUTSCH

HON. ANGIE CRAIG

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Sergeant Keith Deutsch, a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Sergeant Deutsch enlisted in the United States Army in the summer following the attacks of September 11, 2001. He rose through the ranks quickly, earning five promotions and receiving the Army Commendation Medal, the Bronze Star for Valor, and the Purple Heart.

In 2003, Keith was wounded by an enemy-fired rocket-propelled grenade while serving as an M249 SAW gunner. His squad leader, Staff Sergeant Mark A. Lawton, was killed in the same attack. Staff Sergeant Lawton died never having lost a Soldier under his command. He ran toward fire, shielded his Soldiers, and led from the front. A proud former Marine, the Army was Staff Sergeant Lawton's retirement position.

After recovering from his injuries, Keith helped pioneer the sport of adaptive snowboarding, competing on the World Cup Tour and in the Winter X Games using prosthetics developed with the Department of Veterans Affairs support.

Keith later returned to New Prague, Minnesota, and reopened his father's business, Ron's Cycle Shop, as a Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business. Today, it supplies electric bicycles to government agencies under contracts with the State of Minnesota and the Department of Defense. He is also the founder of the New Prague Area Mountain Bike Park.

In October 2025, Keith will run both the Army Ten-Miler and the 50th Marine Corps Marathon as an above-knee amputee in honor of Staff Sergeant Mark A. Lawton.

Sergeant Deutsch's life and career is characterized by great personal sacrifice and exemplary service. He represents the best that this country has to offer. I thank him for his service and dedication to our country.

CELEBRATING THE TEN-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE OBERGEFELL MARRIAGE EQUALITY RULING

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the ten-year anniversary of Obergefell v. Hodges, a landmark U.S. Supreme Court case that affirmed marriage equality nationwide on June 26, 2015. This ruling positively impacted the lives of millions of LGBTQIA+ Americans and serves as a significant milestone toward equal rights for all. I wish to honor the legacies of Jim Obergefell, his late husband John Arthur, and all the couples who brought the battle for marriage equality to the steps of the United States Supreme Court.

Furthermore, I would like to honor the incredible activists—Marsha P. Johnson, Bayard Rustin, Audre Lorde and Harvey Milk—who played instrumental roles in fighting for LGBTQIA+ rights decades before this case reached the Supreme Court. To this day, their legacies inspire Americans to advocate, celebrate, and respect the differences we have as people to promote equal rights. It is fitting that this anniversary falls during Pride Month, a time to recognize the strength and perseverance of the LGBTQIA+ community as well as a call to action for equality.

Unfortunately, the Trump Administration and extremist Republicans are attacking LGBTQIA+ rights around the country. These extremists are banning books that feature LGBTQIA+ characters from schools, eliminating the suicide prevention hotline for LGBTQIA+ individuals, rolling back civil rights protections, and undermining the health, military service, and education of LGBTQIA+ Americans. House Republicans recently passed a dangerous bill out of Committee that threatens to jail parents and doctors offering medically-affirming care to trans youth. Policymakers in Washington should not make private health decisions for Americans. LGBTQIA+ individuals are humans and deserve equal civil rights protections under the law, autonomy, and dignity. I reject extremist efforts to promote hate and harm based on who one loves or how they self-identify.

In the face of these intensified efforts to hurt LGBTQIA+ individuals, I promise to continue

to fight for equal rights for LGBTQIA+ Americans. We must protect same-sex marriages and civil rights laws for LGBTQIA+ individuals. We must enact the Equality Act that would amend the Civil Right Act of 1964 to prohibit discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation. We must enact my bill—the John Lewis Every Child Deserves a Family Act—that would prohibit any entity that receives federal child welfare funds from discriminating against children, youth, or prospective adoptive or foster parents based on religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status. I am committed to continuing to support legislation that protects the rights of LGBTQIA+ individuals because everyone deserves the right to be who they are, free from discrimination.

Celebration is an act of resistance. In the face of an administration that wants to reinvigorate injustice and discrimination against LGBTQIA+ people, it is essential to celebrate our country's landmark marriage equality ruling and Pride month and to commit ourselves to ensuring that "We the People" includes all Americans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call Vote number 175 on H. Res. 537, Motion to Table, I mistakenly recorded my vote as no when I should have voted yes.

HONORING MS. JORDANA ZUBKOFF FOR HER SERVICE TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Jordana Zubkoff for twenty years of outstanding service to this House in several administrative and support roles. She lives in Arlington, VA, and I am proud to represent her here in Congress.

Ms. Zubkoff is retiring after having lent her talents and skills to the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) for over twenty years. She started in the Immediate Office for the CAO in 2004, and has also worked for the Finance Immediate Office, Budget Planning and Analysis, and finally in the Office of Payroll and Benefits, starting in 2013.

Ms. Zubkoff has provided vast knowledge about payroll calculations and impeccable attention to detail; her reconciliations, tax calculations, and customer service in service to House offices and employees, has helped to ensure that their employees have been paid accurately while adhering to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and U.S. House of Representatives standards. Her expertise, experience, and courteous attentiveness enabled her to be an invaluable asset to the House of Representatives over the years. Ms. Zubkoff is well respected by her coworkers and colleagues.