

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 26, 2025*

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, June 25, 2025, I missed votes. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 179; NAY on Roll Call No. 180; YEA on Roll Call No. 181; and NAY on Roll Call No. 182.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JOSH BRECHEEN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 26, 2025*

Mr. BRECHEEN. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained due to illness and was not able to cast my vote on Roll Call Nos. 179, 180, 181, and 182.

Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 179; YEA on Roll Call No. 180; NAY on Roll Call No. 181; and YEA on Roll Call No. 182.

## PAYING TRIBUTE TO KIYA BATMANGLIDJ

### HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 26, 2025*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Kiya Batmanglidj on the occasion of his retirement from Federal service. Over the past 21 years, Kiya has honorably served the United States in both military and civilian service.

Kiya started his career in public service as an Army noncommissioned officer, serving as a paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne Division from 1986 to 1989. He was also voluntarily recalled to active duty in support of Operation Desert Shield.

For the last ten years, Kiya has served on the House Appropriations Committee. He started with the Surveys and Investigations (S&I) staff where he served as the branch chief for the defense portfolio. He then served briefly on the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Subcommittee working the VA portfolio before transitioning to the Defense Subcommittee in 2018.

On the Defense Subcommittee, while in the House Minority, Kiya managed the Army, Defense Wide, and Defense Health accounts. When the Republicans assumed the House Majority, Kiya oversaw the Military Personnel account and the international security co-operation accounts.

Kiya considers his greatest Committee accomplishment to be securing the funding for a

14.5 percent pay raise for junior enlisted personnel starting in 2025, the largest increase in over 40 years.

Kiya's contributions to America's warfighters will endure long after his tenure in the House of Representatives comes to a close, and I know he will continue to do great work to advance our national defense. On behalf of a grateful Nation, I join my colleagues today in recognizing and commending Kiya for his service to our country. We wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

## RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF MR. GEORGE WOODWARD

### HON. RONNY JACKSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 26, 2025*

Mr. JACKSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the retirement of Mr. George Woodward. After eighteen years of dedicated service, Mr. Woodward is stepping down from his responsibilities as the Director of Public Affairs for the 82nd Training Wing at Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, Texas.

Throughout his 30-year career as a Public Affairs Specialist, Mr. Woodward has been a tremendous source of expertise for the United States Air Force. Mr. Woodward has served in a number of critical roles and commands, including the 927th Air Refueling Wing at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida and European Regional Medical Command at Sembach Air Base, Germany. Mr. Woodward subsequently returned to the United States where he took the position of Director of Public Affairs for the 82nd Training Wing, where he has faithfully served the outstanding men and women at Sheppard Air Force Base.

At Sheppard, Mr. Woodward diligently supervised eighteen employees who delivered clear and well-informed communications support on behalf of the installation and sixty other training locations around the world. As the official spokesperson for the base, Mr. Woodward advised the commanding general on the effects of policies and actions on the base's relationship with internal and external audiences and was responsible for testing and executing crisis communication plans and procedures, serving as the base liaison with state and federal legislators, and overseeing a \$1.3 million audiovisual contract.

During his tenure, Mr. George Woodward led public relations efforts on critical developments at Sheppard Air Force base, such as the base's groundbreaking on a \$27 million Child Development Center and the 82nd Training Wing's overhaul of the Air Force's Wartime Training Plan. Mr. Woodward also supported visits to Sheppard, including from the Secretary of the Air Force and Air Force Chief of Staff, Air Education and Training Command leadership, and foreign dignitaries. As the Director of Public Affairs, Mr. Woodward also led the communications efforts for

the base's 75th anniversary and Guardians of Freedom Thunderbirds Air Show.

On behalf of the entire Congress and a grateful Nation, as well as the thousands of Airmen who served at Sheppard Air Force Base throughout his eighteen-year tenure, I express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to Mr. George Woodward for his outstanding leadership and unwavering support for the missions of the U.S. Air Force.

## HONORING ANNETTE AND MYRON GREENBAUM ON THEIR 60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

### HON. MIKIE SHERRILL

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 26, 2025*

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable partnership of Annette and Myron Greenbaum of South Orange, New Jersey, who will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on July 4, 2025.

They first met on a group ski trip: Annette was there with a friend, Myron with the group. Their first date came shortly after, when Annette had an extra theater ticket and invited Myron to join. Neither remembers the name of the play, but both remember it led to the next meeting. Their second date was a Marx Brothers movie, an early sign that laughter would become one of the cornerstones of their life together.

They were married on July 4, 1965, in a small ceremony at a temple on Central Park West, followed by a luncheon at the Delmonico Hotel, a classic Manhattan venue that's part of the city's long history. In the early years of their marriage, Annette and Myron lived in a Brooklyn Heights brownstone, enjoying walks along the promenade, afternoons at museums, and everything the city had to offer.

Eventually, they made their home in South Orange, New Jersey, where they raised two children and have lived in the same house for more than forty years. Along the way, they opened their home to many beloved cats—each one a part of the family. Today, they are the proud grandparents of three.

When asked the secret to a long marriage, Annette doesn't give a grand declaration, just a simple truth learn to accept each other's quirks.

It is my privilege to recognize Annette and Myron's 60 years of marriage. Their story is a reminder that the best partnerships are built not just on love, but on humor, patience, and a shared life well-lived.

• 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.

# RECOGNIZING THE 75TH BIRTHDAY OF MARSHALL BRACHMAN

## HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 26, 2025*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor a dear friend, Marshall Brachman, on the occasion of his 75th birthday on July 6, 2025.

Marshall has long exemplified the best of civic engagement and public service. His remarkable career spans more than four decades, beginning in 1978, and is defined not only by professional success but by a deeply rooted commitment to his community, his faith, and the betterment of this country.

Outside of his accomplished professional life, Marshall has devoted himself to civic and philanthropic causes. At just 23 years old, he became the youngest treasurer of a Jewish Community Center in the United States when he assumed that role at the Fort Worth Jewish Community Center. His leadership and vision led him to soon become president of the Center as well as Treasurer of the Fort Worth Art Museum, now The Modern, setting a high bar for service at a young age.

Marshall's dedication to community did not stop there. He has been a tireless advocate and supporter of Jewish causes both locally and nationally, particularly through his involvement with the United Jewish Appeal, the Young Leadership Cabinet, the Texas-Israel Exchange, and AIPAC. His impact in these organizations is a testament to his belief in the power of service, charity, and enduring commitment to one's values.

Marshall is also a trusted voice in public policy and government affairs. He has helped countless Members of Congress understand complex issues, including providing historical context, and make informed decisions. His insight and integrity have made him a valuable advisor to many on both sides of the aisle. And to me personally, Marshall has been a friend, a sounding board, and an unwavering supporter—qualities for which I am sincerely grateful.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Marshall Brachman for his enduring contributions to civic life, his generous spirit, and his invaluable friendship. I extend my warmest wishes to him and his family on this milestone birthday and thank him for the positive impact he continues to make in so many lives.

Happy 75th to Marshall.

# INTRODUCTION OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE VOLUNTARY EARLY RETIREMENT AUTHORITY ACT OF 2025

## HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 26, 2025*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Foreign Service Voluntary Early Retirement Authority Act of 2025. This bill would allow members of the Foreign Service to use Voluntary Early Retirement Authority (VERA) when an agency is undergoing a reduction in

force (RIF) or other restructuring. While most other federal employees are eligible for VERA if their agencies are undergoing a RIF or other restructuring, the members of the Foreign Service are not.

I strongly oppose the Trump administration's efforts to fire federal employees and to dismantle the federal government, and I will continue to fight those efforts using every tool at my disposal. However, it is important to mitigate the harm where we can, which this bill would do.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

# RECOGNIZING ALLY CASTAÑEDA

## HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 26, 2025*

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary public servant, Ally Castañeda, who is departing my office and Washington, D.C. for a new role.

Ally has been an outstanding member of my team since 2022. She began her work as a Legislative Correspondent before becoming a Legislative Assistant, and then a Senior Legislative Assistant.

In every role, Ally was the ultimate professional and went above and beyond. This job gives us all an incredible opportunity to better people's lives, and Ally embraced this ideal. She worked hard every day to serve the people of California's 52nd Congressional District.

Ally led critical pieces of legislation, including the Border Water Quality Restoration and Protection Act, and helped secure essential funding for our district. In part because of her tireless advocacy, our San Diego Congressional delegation has been able to secure millions of dollars in funding to address cross-border pollution. For instance, last year Ally worked with staff for the San Diego delegation to successfully advocate for funding to support environmental infrastructure in the Tijuana River Valley Watershed to be included in the Water Resources Development Act.

It is impossible to interact with Ally and not be impressed with her encyclopedic policy knowledge, attention to detail, and thoroughness. She was always a trusted voice.

On a personal level, Ally is kind, principled, funny, and generous. She cares about the people she works with and the constituents she served in California's 52nd Congressional District. She will be greatly missed in our office.

I thank Ally for her work, both past and future. We're always rooting for her.

# CELEBRATING THE MARINE CORPS ATTACK DRONE TEAM KINETIC STRIKE DEMONSTRATION

## HON. EUGENE SIMON VINDMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 26, 2025*

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the exceptional work of the Marine Corps Attack Drone Team based in Quantico, Virginia, for their groundbreaking achievement in conducting the first-ever

armed First-Person View (FPV) kinetic strike demonstration by the Marines in the continental United States. This milestone event took place during a live-fire exercise on April 25, 2025.

These Devil Dogs used a leading-edge FPV drone integrated with an anti-personnel fragmentation payload, which can support other modular payloads, which exhibited the flexible and scalable solution in contemporary warfare our military urgently requires.

The results were impressive. The drone engaged and neutralized every target in the strike zone, illustrating not only the technical effectiveness of the platform, but its immense strategic value in high-risk, operational environments.

This capability comes at a time when global conflict is redefining how wars are fought. Today, over 70 percent of the casualties in Ukraine are from these types of drones. The recent coordinated drone strikes carried out by Ukraine against Russian military infrastructure are a clear signal: low-cost, highly adaptable drones are reshaping the modern battlefield. America must be prepared. This demonstration by our Marines shows we are not just responding, but leading. As we scale up our investment in unmanned systems, we must prioritize solutions that are fast, flexible, and affordable.

By equipping our Armed forces with reliable, mission-ready tools that can be rapidly deployed and continuously improved, we will maintain both deterrence and dominance. The Marines at Quantico are proving that innovation doesn't require complexity or high cost; rather, it requires bold thinking and dedicated execution.

After 25 years in the Army, I recognize the uniquely critical importance of innovation, readiness, and a steadfast commitment to success. These Marines modeled all of that and more.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in commending these Marines for their bravery, professionalism, and pioneering accomplishments with respect to operational drone warfare.

Their service is indicative of an evolving, strong, and adaptable U.S. military and I hope they serve as an inspiration to all Americans.

# COMMEMORATING THE 30TH ANNI- VERSARY OF THE SREBRENICA GENOCIDE

## HON. ANN WAGNER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 26, 2025*

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Srebrenica Genocide.

I thank the Congress of Bosniaks for bringing together dignitaries, faith leaders, human rights advocates, policymakers, scholars, and community leaders from around the country to mourn loved ones lost, and commit ourselves anew to a future of peace, mutual tolerance, and truth.

I want to give a special welcome to the delegation from my home state of Missouri.

I represent the largest Bosnian community outside of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Over the years, I've had the honor to get to know and