

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING BRITTON'S  
GOURMET BAKERY ON ITS 60TH  
ANNIVERSARY

**HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2025*

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I rise to proudly commend and congratulate Britton's Gourmet Bakery on its 60th anniversary, a remarkable milestone for a beloved small business that began its journey in 1965. Founded by Marie and Ray Britton in Stone Harbor, South Jersey, the bakery relocated to Wildwood Crest in 1992, where it continues to proudly operate today as a cherished, family-owned institution. Now in its third generation, my friend, Christa Linnington and her team, have remained committed to delivering the highest quality recipes, time-honored traditions, and exceptional service that have made it a cornerstone of the South Jersey community. For six decades, Britton's has delighted customers with freshly baked goods, including their famous cinnamon buns, gourmet donuts, Danishes, muffins, and French pastries so iconic, in fact, that President Ronald Reagan once requested a sample and later wrote back to say how much he enjoyed their fritters. The hardworking team at Britton's Bakery begins each day before sunrise, ensuring that their customers enjoy pastries that are not only fresh, but often still warm from the oven. I congratulate Britton's Gourmet Bakery on 60 years of excellence. May their legacy of quality, community, and service continue for generations to come. God bless Britton's Bakery, and God bless the United States of America, the greatest country on the face of the Earth.

CELEBRATING THE HAGAMAN  
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPART-  
MENT'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2025*

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the Hagan Volunteer Fire Department on the 100th anniversary of its founding and thank them for their tremendous dedication to protecting and serving the Village of Hagan as well as the surrounding municipalities in Montgomery County.

Since its founding in 1925, the Hagan Volunteer Fire Department has been at the forefront of combating disasters across Upstate New York. In addition to fighting fires, the Department protects the Hagan community by responding to medical emergencies, motor vehicle accidents, rescue calls, and incidents involving hazardous materials. These brave men and women have gone above and beyond to ensure the safety and stability of not only their community, but the Mohawk Val-

ley as a whole. For a hundred years, they have faced challenges with unwavering resolve and compassion embodying the true spirit of civic virtue.

In addition to ensuring the safety and stability of the Village of Hagan, the Department also plays a crucial role in fostering community development. Over the years, the Department has worked alongside their neighboring municipalities, strengthening relationships and creating long lasting bonds.

Today, the Hagan Volunteer Fire Department boasts nearly sixty volunteers among its ranks, answering over five hundred emergency calls every year. As a testament to their growth and commitment, the Department has grown from a single firetruck station to its current size, boasting 6 fire trucks which are ready to answer the call at a moment's notice.

On June 7, 2025, the Hagan Volunteer Fire Department will celebrate its 100th anniversary. On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, it is an honor to recognize the generations of brave men and women who have volunteered with the Department. These extraordinary individuals have sacrificed their time and wellbeing to protect our upstate communities and I am proud to recognize their historic accomplishments and service.

HONORING KATRINA FOTOVAT

**HON. LOIS FRANKEL**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2025*

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with deep admiration and heartfelt gratitude to honor Katrina Fotovat, a fierce, compassionate, and tireless champion for the rights of women and girls around the world, as she marks her retirement from the U.S. Department of State.

For more than two decades, Katrina has been a driving force in embedding gender equity and equality into the fabric of American foreign policy. Her legacy is one of courage, conviction, and quiet, determined leadership in some of the most challenging arenas of global diplomacy and human rights work.

Katrina has served with distinction in numerous roles across the State Department: in the Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations, the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, at the U.S. Embassy in Moldova, the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, and at USAID. Most recently, she served as the Principal Deputy Director, and many times as the Acting Ambassador-at-Large, for Global Women's Issues, guiding the office through moments of great complexity with grace and resolve. Under her leadership, the Office of Global Women's Issues became a beacon for our partners around the world, showing what it means when the United States stands up for the dignity and rights of all people.

Her service has never been about recognition or accolades, it has been about impact.

Whether working with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, advocating through the International Human Rights Legal Clinic, or standing shoulder to shoulder with survivors of trafficking and violence, Katrina has always placed people, especially the most vulnerable, at the center of her work.

She has lifted up voices too often silenced, built bridges where there were none, and inspired a generation of women and girls to imagine a better, freer, and more just future.

On behalf of a grateful Nation, and with personal appreciation for her extraordinary dedication, I want to thank Katrina Fotovat for her years of service. She leaves behind a profound and lasting legacy that will continue to ripple across borders and generations.

We honor Katrina, we thank her, and we wish her joy, purpose, and continued impact in whatever comes next.

HONORING KENNETH FREED

**HON. ILHAN OMAR**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2025*

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my constituent, Kenneth Freed.

Mr. Freed devoted his life to his family, his community, and his love of classical music. He started his career as a professional musician with the Manhattan String Quartet before relocating to Minnesota and earning a coveted position as violist with the Minnesota Orchestra, where he served for 27 years. Whether with the Minnesota Orchestra or on his own, Mr. Freed shared his love of music across Cuba, Europe, South Africa, and Vietnam, where he performed, gave lessons, and made new friends. Simultaneously, Mr. Freed served as the music director of the Mankato Symphony Orchestra and played viola with the Rosalyra String Quartet and the Isles Ensemble.

Mr. Freed also devoted himself to inspiring a love for classical music in younger generations. He co-founded the non-profit Learning through Music, which helped children improve their academic abilities through music. He helped secure state funding for music education in schools across Minnesota, and especially in communities struggling with historic disinvestment.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the life of Mr. Kenneth Freed alongside his family and friends.

RECOGNIZING ADELINA WILKS

**HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2025*

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Adelina Wilks, an outstanding student-athlete from my district and a

• 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.

recipient of the Olympiad Student Athlete Award. For seven years, Adelina has competed for Bridgeton High School with excellence and distinction—beginning with interscholastic middle school sports and continuing into a celebrated high school career filled with accolades and honors. But Adelina's achievements extend far beyond the athletic arena. She has maintained a GPA above 3.7 throughout her high school years, reflecting a strong commitment to academic excellence alongside her competitive spirit. Adelina brings a rare and powerful combination to every endeavor—a kind and friendly demeanor, a sharp wit, and an unwavering drive to succeed. She has consistently represented her school, her community, and above all, her family, with pride and honor. Supported by a strong foundation at home and guided by her own inner discipline, Adelina has become a role model for young athletes in South Jersey. I congratulate Adelina, on receiving the Olympiad Award, and thank her for inspiring those around her through her dedication and character. God bless Adelina Wilks, and God bless the United States of America, the greatest country on the face of the Earth.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND  
ACHIEVEMENTS OF MASTER  
SERGEANT STEVEN WILLIAMS

**HON. LLOYD SMUCKER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2025*

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate and recognize Master Sergeant Steven Williams for his appointment as the 41st Drum Major of "The President's Own" Marine Band.

Master Sergeant Williams, a native of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, graduated from Lampeter-Strasburg High School. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 2002, where he attended recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island in Beaufort, South Carolina. He later attended Marine Combat Training and the basic course at the Armed Forces School of Music in Little Creek, Virginia, as a trumpet player. From January to September 2005, he was deployed to the Al Anbar Province in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III.

Prior to joining "The President's Own", he was stationed with the 2D Marine Division Band at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina. He became Assistant Drum Major for "The President's Own" in April 2013, where he assisted in leading the band in ceremonial duties and oversaw unit training. As Drum Major, Master Sergeant Williams directs "The President's Own" in its duties, which include performing at ceremonies such as the inaugural parade, and reviews for the President, heads of State, and dignitaries.

I want to thank and congratulate Master Sergeant Williams for his invaluable service to our country at home and abroad, and for his appointment as 41st Drum Major of "The President's Own." I wish him continued success in his military service and further pursuits.

CELEBRATING U.S. GRADUATES OF  
THE LATIN AMERICAN SCHOOL  
OF MEDICINE (ELAM)

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2025*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend exceptional commitment of the 2025 graduating class from the Latin American School of Medicine (ELAM) in Havana, Cuba. These eleven courageous and compassionate individuals are now part of a legacy of global medical solidarity that began 25 years ago when Cuba offered full scholarships to students from underserved communities around the world, including the United States.

In partnership with the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization (IFCO), the U.S. ELAM program has graduated 245 physicians since its inception. Many of these graduates come from communities that have historically been denied access to medical education. These individuals have chosen a career path focused on service rather than profit, prioritizing community health over personal comfort. Currently, 101 graduates are making significant contributions to public health across various fields, including integrative medicine, research, education, and nonprofit work. Additionally, 144 graduates are either fully licensed or participating in residency programs in over 30 U.S. States, with many practicing in areas designated as health professional shortage areas or medically underserved communities.

Seventy percent of the program's graduates are women, and eighty percent are Black and Brown, reflecting the diversity of the broader student body at the school as a whole.

These graduates faced unique challenges, including studying medicine in a second language, adapting to a different healthcare system, and navigating the geopolitical impacts of the U.S. blockade on Cuba. Despite these obstacles, they persisted. Their achievements are not just academic; they are also profoundly political, demonstrating what is possible when healthcare and medical education are recognized as fundamental human rights.

Mr. Speaker, during a time when our healthcare system struggles with racial and economic disparities, these doctors remind us that another model is possible—one founded on equity, internationalism, and public service.

On behalf of Mississippi's Second Congressional District, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the U.S. ELAM Class of 2025. May their work continue to heal, inspire, and remind us that solidarity can indeed save lives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BILL HUIZENGA**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2025*

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in regard to missed votes. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 191; YEA on Roll Call No. 192; and YEA on Roll Call No. 193.

RECOGNIZING EMILY KUKAL

**HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2025*

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to highlight the remarkable accomplishments of Emily Kukal, a standout student-athlete from my district and recipient of the Olympiad Student Athlete Award. Emily has been a shining example of excellence at Millville High School—both in the classroom and in competition. With a remarkable 4.8 GPA, she ranks second in a class of over 400 students, having completed eight Advanced Placement courses and earned numerous academic honors. She is also a proud member of the National Honor Society. On the athletic field, Emily has been just as impressive, earning eight varsity letters across three sports: soccer, swimming, and golf. Her ability to balance such high-level academics with outstanding athletic achievement speaks to her dedication, discipline, and character. Emily is not only an accomplished student and athlete—she is a future leader. Her talents and strong work ethic will no doubt continue to shine as she begins the next chapter of her journey at the United States Coast Guard Academy this fall. I thank Emily, for choosing a path of service to our Nation, and I have every confidence she will make an extraordinary officer and continue to make South Jersey proud. I congratulate Emily, and thank her for representing Millville and my entire district, with such great pride. God bless Emily and God bless our United States of America, the greatest country on the face of the Earth.

CONGRATULATING THE EAST PAL-  
ESTINE FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR  
150 YEARS OF SERVICE

**HON. MICHAEL A. RULLI**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2025*

Mr. RULLI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the East Palestine Fire Department, a pillar of our beloved Ohio community since 1875. It is a privilege to honor these firefighters who have dedicated themselves to keeping our village safe.

For 150 years, these brave men and women have put their lives on the line, responding to countless emergencies with unwavering courage. Beyond their role as first responders, they connect with our community daily and strengthen the bonds that make East Palestine a special place in which to live.

I also want to recognize their heroism during the 2023 train derailment. When disaster struck, with flames and toxic hazards threatening our village, they stepped up with incredible bravery. Their actions that night, and in the days that followed, will be remembered for generations to come.

The East Palestine Fire Department stands as a symbol of hope and resilience, meeting new challenges and staying true to their mission. Their work embodies the spirit of East Palestine, and I am proud to represent them.

I invite my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the East Palestine Fire Department for