

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING FOREST LAWN CEMETERY AND THE JOHN LAY SOCIETY

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Forest Lawn Cemetery and the 175th anniversary of the interment of its oldest resident, Mr. John Lay. The founder of Forest Lawn Cemetery, Mr. Charles Clarke and his wife, Mrs. Mary Anna Clarke, created a pristine burial site for Buffalo residents because of their generosity and commitment to the community. Mr. Lay, the first permanent resident at Forest Lawn, was blessed with the Clarke's donation to ensure his eternal resting place and left a legacy of prevailing beneficence.

Forest Lawn Cemetery has continuously served both the past and present members of the Buffalo community, and is acknowledged as a place where grief can pivot to the celebration of life for permanent residents. The cemetery's monuments, architecture, and well-maintained landscape allow the history and accomplishments of those who have passed to be respected and remembered. This iconic cemetery is the final resting place of more than 165,000 individuals, recognizing that every life should be cherished and remembered with a peaceful rest for eternity.

Today, we recognize the inaugural inductees into Forest Lawn's John Lay Society and honor the lives and legacies of those who lie at peace. Forest Lawn Cemetery's unwavering contribution to the preservation of Western New York's rich history has attracted and educated community members throughout the globe, helping to shape future generations, and we are all the better for it.

RECOGNIZING THE JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER OF GREATER BUFFALO ON ITS 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF SERVICE AND COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

HON. NICHOLAS A. LANGWORTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2025

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the constituents of New York's 23rd Congressional District to recognize a true cornerstone of our community. For 80 years, the Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo has been a pillar of strength, service, and unity for Western New York—a place where generations have come together to learn, grow, and celebrate Jewish life and values.

Since its founding in 1945, the JCC has embraced its mission to be the town square for building and strengthening community through

recreational, educational, cultural, and social programs rooted in Jewish values. For 80 years, the JCC has fulfilled this mission by offering a wide array of inclusive services and programs open to people of all faiths and backgrounds. From preschool classrooms to Camp Centerland, from heated pools to the renowned Jewish Repertory Theatre, the JCC has created a space where everyone is welcomed with warmth and purpose.

Today, two vibrant campuses serve over 1,000 people each day—a testament to the JCC's enduring mission and commitment to the greater good. With a vision of "Shaping Futures, Building Community," the JCC continues to help families thrive and neighbors connect.

It is with great pride that I recognize the Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo on this important milestone and urge all residents of New York's 23rd District to join me in honoring the JCC's enduring legacy of service and its continued contributions to our community.

HONORING OTHA JAMES III

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Mr. Otha James, III, a devoted public servant and community leader from Indianola, Mississippi. For more than three decades, Mr. James has exemplified the values of dedication, resilience, and compassion, both in uniform and in this everyday life.

Born and raised in Indianola, Mr. James is a proud graduate of Gentry High School. He began his path of service as a volunteer firefighter in his youth, eventually building a distinguished career with the Indianola Fire Department, where he now serves as Captain. In this role, he supervises emergency operations, develops rescue plans, ensures safety protocols, and acts as incident commander—always leading by example.

Before his career in emergency services, Mr. James served our Nation honorably in the Mississippi Army National Guard from 1989 to 1996 as an M1 Abrams Tanker. As a Desert Storm veteran holding the rank of Specialist E-4, he demonstrated courage and an unwavering commitment to country.

A lifelong learner, Mr. James has earned an associate degree in fire science, a Bachelor of Science in fire administration and fire investigation, and a master's degree in homeland security and emergency management, all from Columbia Southern University. His dedication to education reflects a determination to serve more effectively and inspire others to do the same.

His contributions extend beyond the firehouse. As Sunflower County's fire investigator, he works tirelessly to strengthen community

safety. Among his many accolades, he was named Firefighter of the Year in 2011, a testament to his professionalism and passion for public service.

Mr. James draws inspiration from his late grandmother, Della Mae Webb, whose teachings on love, respect, and kindness continue to guide him. Despite personal losses and challenges, he remains steadfast in his commitment to his family and his community. Balancing a demanding career, he starts each day preparing his daughters for school before reporting to duty.

Looking to the future, Mr. James aspires to serve as fire chief and expand his impact in emergency management. Whether mentoring colleagues, engaging with residents, or spending time with family, he embodies the qualities of a servant leader.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great privilege to commend Mr. Otha James, III for his exemplary service, enduring dedication, and the positive difference he makes every day in Indianola. May his story inspire us all to serve with humility, purpose, and compassion.

CELEBRATING THE ACHIEVEMENTS AND LEGACY OF MR. JEFFREY E. TURNER

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2025

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to join you in recognizing and celebrating the extraordinary public service and legacy of Mr. Jeffrey E. Turner, a lifelong son of Clayton County and a dedicated servant-leader whose impact on our community spans more than three decades. A road named in Mr. Turner's honor is a lasting symbol of his journey and service, paving the way for others who will follow in his footsteps.

From his early days in 1987 as one of only four African American patrol officers on the Clayton County Police force, Mr. Turner's career has been defined by courage, professionalism, and an unwavering commitment to justice and community safety. Rising through the ranks to become Clayton County's first African American Police Chief, Mr. Turner led with vision, compassion, and innovation. Under his leadership, the department earned National Accreditation, an accomplishment that elevated both the standards and reputation of our law enforcement institutions.

Beyond the badge, Mr. Turner served our community with humility and integrity during some of Clayton County's most challenging times. His steady leadership and unshakeable dedication offered a model of public service grounded in both excellence and heart.

While Mr. Turner now steps away from formal office, his legacy continues, in the safer neighborhoods he helped build, in the officers he mentored, and in the example he set for generations to come. We honor not just his titles, but the integrity with which he carried them.

• 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.

I thank Mr. Turner for his 35 years of selfless service to Clayton County. His commitment has left an indelible mark on our community, and it is my hope that this moment of recognition serves as a reminder that his contributions will not be forgotten.

With my deepest appreciation.

CLARIFYING CHANGES TO H.R. 1

HON. DUSTY JOHNSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2025

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I rise to clarify the changes to depreciation rules in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act as they pertain to energy property installed by the geothermal heating and cooling industry. Section 70509 of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act will exclude certain energy property from qualifying as "5-year property" under section 168(e)(3)(B) of the tax code. It is my understanding that after this change, geothermal heat pump systems (i.e., energy equipment of the type described in section 48(a)(3)(A)(vii) of the tax code) will qualify as "7-year property." This is because geothermal heat pump systems do not have a class life, and it is my understanding that they are not considered residential rental or nonresidential property for purposes of the tax code. Accordingly, such systems are 7-year property (which is one of the asset classes eligible for bonus depreciation).

CELEBRATING THE REMARKABLE CAREER OF PAUL MARZELLO

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Mr. Paul Marzello and his remarkable career of service as President and CEO to the Buffalo and Erie County Naval & Military Park, as he enters into retirement after many years of dedicated work. Mr. Marzello's impactful leadership with the Park has strengthened the legacy of the Nation's largest inland naval park, through strategic partnerships and innovative outreach programs.

Mr. Marzello has inspired civic engagement and preserved crucial American history by way of his visionary leadership and commitment to our Nation's history. His work directly focused on making connections with local and national institutions to bolster STEM education, as well as strengthening relationships with veterans' organizations and civic leaders. Mr. Marzello's experience and dedication to fostering relationships between local and national organizations deepened his unwavering commitment to the Western New York community.

Mr. Marzello's innovative guidance and commitment to honoring United States veterans and preserving our Nation's military history was instrumental in spearheading the pre-restoration of the U.S.S. *The Sullivans*, a retired United States Navy Fletcher-class destroyer that previously faced partial sinking from extreme weather conditions. Mr.

Marzello's 'Master Plan' restoration project garnered financial support from local, state, and federal leaders, along with national media attention.

Today, as Mr. Marzello retires from his dedicated service, and innumerable medal presentations, we celebrate not only his professional accomplishments but also his unwavering commitment to Western New York and the United States of America. His continued outreach, insight, and loyal devotion to the Buffalo and Erie County Naval & Military Park has forged a strong path for the preservation of our Nation's history for generations to come, and we are all the better for it.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2025

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unable to make the following 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.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DELIA C. RAMIREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2025

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 194; NAY on Roll Call No. 195; and YEA on Roll Call No. 196.

RECOGNIZING DR. HAGIR ELSHEIKH

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2025

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Dr. Hagir Els Sheikh, a distinguished resident of the 10th Congressional District, for her exemplary public service, charitable leadership, and extraordinary contributions to healthcare and autism advocacy within the Commonwealth and the Nation. Dr. Els Sheikh is the Chairwoman and CEO of Hagir Network and the founder of multiple mission-driven organizations, including Kareem's Mission Autism Support Center, Tomorrow's Smile Inc., HSE Staffing Agency LLC, Autism Care Solutions LLC, and KMission TV LLC.

A serial entrepreneur, nurse, educator, and a former Sudanese refugee who survived political torture and violence, Dr. Els Sheikh came to Pennsylvania in 2001, where she rebuilt her life and impacted thousands through programs that serve children with autism, train and employ caregivers, and create educational media. She also mentors women and youth throughout Pennsylvania in leadership, business, and civic engagement.

Dr. Els Sheikh has earned awards such as the 2025 Globe St. Humanitarian Woman of Influence Honoree, Honorary Doctor of Humane

Letters from Central Penn College, 2024 YWCA Carolyn L. Smith Legacy Award Recipient, 2024 Harambee Award, Life Esteem Inc., Pennsylvania Senate Citation Honoree, and her work was featured on France 24, BBC, WITF, ABC, AlhurraTV, and VOA. Her memoir, *Through Tragedy and Triumph: A Life Well Traveled*, supports survivor scholarships and peacebuilding initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 10th Congressional District, I am honored to recognize Dr. Hagir Els Sheikh as a courageous leader, international diplomat, and philanthropist for her exceptional service to the Citizens of Pennsylvania, and for her tireless efforts to build love and compassion into every sector she touches, from healthcare to charity. Her life stands as a model of resilience, passion, and public service.

RECOGNIZING EMILY HALE

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2025

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

A Louisville, Kentucky native, Emily graduated with a Bachelors of Arts in Political Science from the University of Kentucky in 2024. During her time in college, Emily volunteered her time as a Court Appointed Special Advocate in Lexington and served as an intern in my Washington, D.C. office. Upon graduation, Emily began her career in Washington, D.C. and joined my team to serve the constituents of Kentucky's 2nd District as my Staff Assistant in the summer of 2024, where she gave phenomenal tours, treated my constituents with kindness, and navigated the unpredictable 2025 Presidential Inauguration with grace. After I became Chairman of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, I knew I wanted Emily's optimism and readiness to serve on my new team. She transitioned to become the Staff Assistant for the Energy and Commerce Committee in January of this year and was a critical farce in making sure committee markups and hearings went smoothly, including a nearly 27 hour long markup to help pass our portion of President Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill.

Soon, Emily Hale will depart the House Committee on Energy and Commerce to serve another member of the Kentucky delegation, Dean of the House HAL ROGERS (KY-05), as his Legislative Correspondent—a role I know she will excel in. I wish her the best in all her bright future and thank her for service to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and to the constituents of Kentucky's 2nd Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING MS. AGNES BAIN

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life of Ms. Agnes Bain, a beloved Western New York