

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### RECOGNIZING THE MARYANN WRIGHT ANIMAL ADOPTION AND EDUCATION CENTER

#### HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2025*

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, the 12th Congressional District of Michigan recognizes the opening of the MaryAnn Wright Animal Adoption and Education Center in Dearborn. The center is a new facility that belongs to the Friends for Animals of Metro Detroit, a non-profit animal shelter that provides invaluable services to our community and our beloved animals.

Friends for Animals of Metro Detroit has extended their animal rescue, adoption, and education services over the past 27 years to serve people and animals within and beyond the Detroit Metropolitan Area. We extend our deepest gratitude to the staff and volunteers who make the MaryAnn Wright Animal Adoption and Education Center work every day.

Our district and community recognize the crucial services the MaryAnn Wright Adoption and Education Center delivers. We will see the impact of their contributions for generations to come, and we, alongside our animals, will continue to acknowledge their selfless dedication. I congratulate them on this momentous occasion.

### WELCOMING REVEREND TONY RIGOLI BACK TO ST. ROSE OF LIMA CHURCH

#### HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2025*

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome back Reverend Tony Rigoli to celebrate a special mass at St. Rose of Lima Church in Buffalo, New York. Our community is thankful for the guidance and comfort Father Rigoli provides to parishioners across Western New York, and we are humbled and honored that he has returned to continue spreading the word of God.

Father Rigoli was born in Buffalo and grew up on the West Side, where he graduated from Grover Cleveland High School. He was ordained as a priest in 1972 in the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate. He served as pastor of Holy Angels Church on Porter Avenue, as well as the Chaplain of D'Youville College, throughout the 1990's, in the heart of the neighborhood he knew so well. He then continued his ministry at St. Rose of Lima parish in North Buffalo, where he was associate pastor until his departure from Buffalo in 2002.

Father Rigoli has been the pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, which is also the International Shrine of St. Jude, in New Orleans, Louisiana, since 2002. During his tenure

in New Orleans, Father Rigoli helped parishioners through extremely trying times in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Ida. COVID-19, as well as the New Year's Day terror attack. He has served as a guiding light for many in need of counsel, faith, and support, and the people of New Orleans are blessed to have him.

Today, we honor the lasting impact Reverend Tony Rigoli has made on Western New York, touching countless lives and guiding those on the path of Jesus Christ. The people of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church have a steadfast leader who cares deeply about his parishioners and the people of New Orleans. I am thankful that Reverend Rigoli has returned to St. Rose of Lima Church in Buffalo to spread his everlasting light upon us all. May we all thank him for his tireless acts of service to the communities he loves.

### HONORING RICHARD LEBLANC

#### HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2025*

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, the 12th Congressional District recognizes and honors Richard LeBlanc on his extraordinary 33-year career in public service and on his recent retirement as the City of Westland's City Clerk.

Mr. LeBlanc's steadfast dedication to community and service to our residents has spanned five elected offices, from his start on the Wayne-Westland Board of Education to the Michigan House of Representatives, and most recently, as Westland City Clerk. At every step, LeBlanc was known as a hard worker and accessible leader, focused on making our government work for everyday families. He modernized the Clerk's Office, expanded access to civic participation, and mentored countless public servants along the way, shaping the lives and careers of young leaders. He is proud of his strong roots and service to the Western Wayne community. I have seen his commitment firsthand.

His retirement marks our district's appreciation for his service to our families. His recent heartfelt tribute from city officials and the presentation of a key to the city is a symbol of how deeply he shaped Westland's civic life and communities. While Richard LeBlanc's formal legislative work has ended, his legacy of service and integrity will continue to inspire our community for generations to come.

### HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. WALLACE CLARK RONEY

#### HON. DOUG LaMALFA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2025*

Mr. LaMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and career of Wallace Clark

Roney, who passed away on July 6, 2025, at the age of 79.

Wallace, known as "Wally," was a fifth-generation cattle rancher. From a young age, he balanced school with the responsibilities of adulthood, working alongside the men on the ranch. As he grew older, Wally helped drive cattle on horseback to and from the mountains, a journey of more than eight days each way. He made the trip multiple times each year with several herds, accompanied by up to 20 ranch hands, a chuck wagon, and camp gear. Wally's passing marks the end of an era that will not be repeated.

Wally went on to earn a degree in Agricultural Business from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. He received numerous awards and recognition over the years and was known as an industry leader focused on finding better ways to do things and making the seemingly impossible work. He also honed lifelong skills training exceptional horses and competing as a rodeo cowboy while at Cal Poly.

In the late 1980's, Wally traveled to Washington, D.C. to warn the Department of the Interior that our forests would someday burn to the ground if changes weren't made to their management. Wally, as usual, was right. His insights on so many issues were nothing short of remarkable. He often said he "learned something new every day."

He is survived by his wife, Billie Jean; sister, Catherine Jane Oviedo; son, Jaret; daughter, Sally Roney; grandchildren, Eric, Tyler, Gigi, Joy Roney, Austin, George, and Ani Knox; and great-granddaughter, London. He will be deeply missed by his family, friends, and all who knew him.

Rest in peace, Wally.

### RECOGNIZING SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO, FOR BEING NAMED THE NO. 1 CITY IN THE U.S.

#### HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2025*

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Santa Fe—our state capital, the heart of New Mexico, and my beloved home, where I raised my family, for being named the No. 1 City in the United States in Travel + Leisure's annual reader survey.

Imagine a city nestled in the foothills of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, where the sun blesses us in winter, spring, and summer. The skies stretch endlessly—clouds dance, summer storms roll through and leave behind the fresh smell of rain and double rainbows.

And when you walk our streets, you are surrounded by creativity and inspiration: the work of our artists, musicians, and writers; the care of our educators, medical professionals, and first responders; the vibrancy of our small businesses, museums, and cultural institutions; the unmatched flavors crafted by our

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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.

chefs; and the deep pride of our hardworking residents.

Visitors may come for the food, the views, the art—but they leave with something more. A sense of calm, of peace, of awe. They say they have just visited a place where love is paramount—love for a city, a culture, the Earth, and for each other.

I congratulate and Felicidades to Santa Fe—and it has always been No. 1 in our hearts. Now the world knows it too.

HONORING ARLENE BYCZEK OF  
WARRENDALE

**HON. RASHIDA TLAIB**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2025*

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, the 12th Congressional District recognizes Arlene Byczek, a beloved resident of the Warrendale neighborhood in Detroit, for her decades of unwavering service to our community.

Originally from New Jersey, Arlene moved to Michigan to earn her nursing degree from Henry Ford College and settled in Warrendale with her husband, Richard, in 1975. She dedicated nearly 20 years as a parish treasurer at Sacred Heart of Jesus and continued her community involvement at Ss. Peter and Paul parish, helping with school fundraisers, Scout Troop committee, and serving as a basketball coach.

Arlene played a vital role in local organizing as a founding member of the WaSaTi Block Club and a longtime member of the Warrendale Business Association and Warrendale Community Organization. Most in the community know her as “the Bike Lady,” whose daily rides symbolize her deep love and constant care for her neighbors. Warrendale is better because of her.

The 12th Congressional District celebrates Arlene Byczek for her service to the community and our district. We send Arlene Byczek and her family our best wishes.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PHIL GREEN

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2025*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Phil Green, who passed away on Saturday, July 19, 2025. Phil was an incredible father, citizen, and advocate for ALS patients, and he will be deeply missed.

Phil Green's journey was one of resilience, dedication, and advocacy. A former walk-on kicker for the 1991 University of Washington National Championship football team, Green went on to build a fulfilling life with his wife Jennifer and their four children, Arianne, Hunter, Parker, and Whitney, in Temecula, California. Unfortunately, he began experiencing unexplained muscle weakness in early 2018 and was diagnosed with ALS later that year.

Following his diagnosis, Green became a tireless advocate, working with prominent ALS organizations such as Augie's Quest, I AM ALS, and others, and he worked with Major

League Baseball to raise awareness of ALS and Lou Gehrig's day. Beyond advocacy and raising awareness, Green was committed to advancing research by partnering with UW Medicine to support ALS initiatives at the Center for Translational Muscle Research and the Institute for Stem Cell & Regenerative Medicine. His life centered on creating a better future for others with ALS, combining personal courage with public advocacy to drive meaningful change.

Phil is survived by his wife, Jennifer, and four children. I extend my personal and heartfelt condolences to the Green family, his friends, and everyone fortunate enough to know Phil. Although he may be gone, Phil's many contributions have left an enduring legacy. I and many others will keep working until we find a cure for ALS.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR.  
BARUCH SAMUEL BLUMBERG

**HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2025*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the extraordinary legacy of Dr. Baruch Samuel Blumberg and commemorate 100 years of his enduring impact on scientific advancement and human welfare.

Dr. Blumberg was born on July 28, 1925. In a fitting tribute to his trailblazing discoveries, the world observes World Hepatitis Day on this date each year. In 1967, Dr. Blumberg and his colleagues discovered the Hepatitis B virus and developed the first blood test to detect it. Two years after his discovery, he helped develop the first Hepatitis B vaccine—widely regarded as the world's first “anti-cancer vaccine.” This seminal contribution had a global impact, reducing Hepatitis B infection rates in Chinese children from 15 percent to 1 percent within a decade. Much of this research was conducted at Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

In 1976, Dr. Blumberg was awarded the Nobel Prize in Medicine or Physiology, alongside Dr. Daniel Carleton Gajdusek, in recognition of these groundbreaking discoveries.

His contributions to Hepatitis B research extended far beyond his initial breakthroughs. He continued his advocacy and research efforts through helping to establish the Hepatitis B Foundation and the Institute for Hepatitis and Virus Research—later renamed the Baruch S. Blumberg Institute after his passing in 2011. At their Doylestown, Pennsylvania campus, he actively worked with scientists and the public health team. He also served on the Foundation's Scientific and Medical Advisory Board and as its Distinguished Scholar for nearly two decades.

Beyond his pioneering contributions to Hepatitis B research, Dr. Blumberg's career was marked by other accomplishments across science, academia, and public service. After high school, he served as a U.S. Navy deck officer during World War II. He later earned his M.D. from Columbia University and a D.Phil. in Biochemistry from Balliol College, Oxford.

Beginning in 1977, Dr. Blumberg was a professor of medicine at the University of Pennsylvania and was the first American to serve

a Master of Balliol College from 1989 to 1994. From 1999 to 2002, he directed the NASA Astrobiology Institute, and in 2001, he was named to the Library of Congress Scholars Council. In 2005, he became President of the American Philosophical Society, continuing his lifelong commitment to scholarship.

Dr. Blumberg's character was just as remarkable as his professional accomplishments. He was a proud Jewish American born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. He credited the teachings of the Talmud with shaping his mental discipline and societal contributions. His friends and colleagues described him as “endlessly curious, deeply compassionate and profoundly impactful.” It was said that during nature walks, he could speak with near encyclopedic knowledge about the plants and animals he encountered. He had a true zest for life and learning, as well as a deep commitment to teaching.

Today, on what would have been his 100th birthday, it is my distinct honor to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Baruch S. Blumberg. His unparalleled work continues to save millions of lives, and his example continues to inspire generations of scientists around the world.

CELEBRATING THE 81ST BIRTHDAY  
OF DR. HESHAM ALALUSI

**HON. RASHIDA TLAIB**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2025*

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I proudly honor the accomplishments and community dedication of Dr. Hesham Alalusi on his 81st birthday. We recognize his service as a distinguished engineer, educator, and humanitarian work at home and abroad.

He is proud of his roots and being born in Baghdad, Iraq. Dr. Alalusi was orphaned as a teen, and even under enormous challenges, he earned a PhD in civil and structural engineering from UC Berkeley and went on to shape Iraq's infrastructure and engineering future before political unrest led him to resettle in the U.S.

Dr. Alalusi's most enduring contribution, however, lies in the founding of the Alalusi Foundation, which has delivered over 830 million in humanitarian aid to orphans, widows, and families in Iraq, Syria, and Palestine, for medical assistance, food security, and access to clean water.

He has been married to his lovely wife, Diana, for 58 years, and has two children and six grandchildren. Dr. Alalusi's life exemplifies resilience, generosity, and global compassion, and I am proud to uplift his remarkable legacy on his 81st birthday.

CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISH-  
MENTS OF DEDE HOWARD

**HON. PETE STAUBER**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 29, 2025*

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor DeDe Howard, an extraordinary woman whose remarkable achievements in pageantry