

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING ELGIN VINES' 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. HILLARY J. SCHOLTEN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 5, 2025

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of my constituent, Elgin Vines, who turned 90 years old on May 19, 2025. Through the segregation of the Jim Crow South, on stages big and small across the world, Mr Vines' career as a bassist continues to be a bridge in the jazz community—connecting worlds, hearts, and histories.

Born on May 19, 1935, in Suffolk, Virginia, at a time when the odds were not in his favor, Mr. Vines charted a course that was uniquely his own. As a student at Norfolk State University with a Biology/Medical Technology major, Mr. Vines paid his tuition and fees with gigs along the Virginia Beach "strip," before graduating as an ASCP-certified medical technologist. During that time, he was also a member of the house trio on the daily "Morty Nevins Television Show" for three years. In his eight-year stint as a bassist for the touring group "The New Direction," Mr. Vines was a guest on national programs like The Tonight Show. He has also played alongside giants like Frank Sinatra Sr. and Jr., the Mills Brothers, and toured on the same circuits as Ella Fitzgerald and Elvis Presley. What Mr. Vines remembers most is not the glitz of the spotlight, but the dignity of people who, like him, believed music could tear down walls.

Mr. Vines moved to West Michigan in 1972, where he married his wife of nearly 52 years, Jackie, and played bass for the Bennie Carew Trio—quickly becoming an indispensable member of our local music community. Mr. Vines has been a member of the Grand Rapids Symphony Orchestra Jazz Ensemble, played for the Grand Rapids Public Museum and the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum, and worked in many local trios. He has gifted his love of jazz to both neighbors and Hollywood Lane parade-goers for decades. Mr. Vines is more than a bassist. He is a living example of compassion, resilience, and strength.

Mr. Speaker, once more, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Mr. Elgin Vines for his lifelong impact. His rhythm has carried generations, and his soulful steadiness has graced every room he's walked into. I wish him another happy, healthy, and fulfilling year ahead.

HONORING JULIE TENSEN AS SHE STEPS INTO RETIREMENT

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 5, 2025

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my longtime employee, Julie Tensen.

I have often said that a really good staff makes a decent Member of Congress look great—and I have the best staff. I've been fortunate to have outstanding individuals like Julie by my side.

Julie started working for me early in my career. She's had many roles since the beginning, including Education Outreach Coordinator, where she teamed up with the Lee Pesky Learning Center to create a program aimed at helping new mothers read to their babies and create healthy habits that we know are so important in today's tech world. I can honestly say that Julie was ahead of her time and got me involved in this important initiative back in 2002.

A Congressman's schedule is crazy at best. You have your Washington schedule full of hearings, votes, and thousands of meetings, and then you have the district schedule that consists of tours, site visits, office meetings, and so much more. Meeting with your constituents in their environment and the logistics that go with it are even more complicated. I could always count on Julie to dot every 'i' and cross every 't'.

People may also be unaware that every member of Congress receives an MRA, or a Member's Representational Allowance. This is your budget for running all of your offices. This includes staff salaries, rent, office supplies, computer equipment, subscriptions, travel expenses, and all other items that are purchased to run a congressional office. Julie was my Budget Director, overseeing the entire budget—a huge responsibility that she handled for me. Like everything that Julie did, she did well, and I never had to worry about a thing.

From helping tens of thousands of Idahoans navigate complex federal issues to managing my entire state schedule, to personally attending meetings and events representing me, Julie has been far more than an asset—she has been family.

As she enters retirement, Julie will enjoy some well-deserved time with her husband, and their children, Kris and Cole Anderson, Brad Tensen, Hannah Purdy, and their grandchildren, Max, Jacq, and Maggie.

I will miss Julie, the rest of my staff will miss Julie, and so will the Idahoans that she so faithfully served for the last two decades.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my sincere gratitude to Julie's husband, John, for sharing his amazing wife with Team Simpson for all these years. And I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking and honoring Julie Tensen for her decades of outstanding public service to the people of Idaho and this great Nation.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DIANE LUND-MUZIKANT

HON. MAXINE DEXTER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 5, 2025

Ms. DEXTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Diane Lund-

Muzikant—a fearless journalist, a tenacious truth-teller, and the founder of The Lund Report, Oregon's pioneering nonprofit dedicated to health care reporting. Diane passed away on Saturday, July 26, 2025, at the age of 86, leaving behind an indelible mark on Oregon's media and public health landscape.

Before I was elected to serve in this body, I spent more than two decades as a physician. I saw firsthand how opaque, inequitable, and profit-driven our health care system can be, and I also saw the vital role of journalists who were willing to peel back the curtain. Diane was one of those few. She understood that behind every headline about health care policy are real people—patients, families, and communities—impacted by decisions made in boardrooms and back rooms. She made it her mission to hold those in power accountable.

Diane began her reporting career covering local government and community issues before turning her focus to health care in the 1980's. Her work with the Medical Society of Metropolitan Portland helped illuminate the growing dysfunction in our health care system, a story too often ignored or misunderstood by the broader media.

She went on to found the Oregon Health Forum to convene critical dialogue around health policy, and then, at age 70, launched The Lund Report, a nonprofit news outlet that quickly became the gold standard for health care journalism in Oregon and across the Pacific Northwest. Relentless in her pursuit of truth, Diane asked hard questions, chased hard facts, and never shied away from hard truths. She built a legacy that will long outlive her.

Diane Lund-Muzikant embodied the best of what journalism can be: independent, courageous, and grounded in service to the public good. Her work strengthened Oregon's health care system and made our communities more informed, more compassionate, and more just.

As we continue to witness the erosion of local news and independent media, Diane's example reminds us why supporting journalists—and especially those committed to covering complex systems like health care—is essential to our democracy.

We owe her our gratitude. May her memory be a blessing, and may her legacy continue to inspire the next generation of truth-tellers.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEAL FIRST AID SQUAD

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 5, 2025

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Deal First Aid Squad as they celebrate their 75th Anniversary this year.

In 1950, residents of the Borough of Deal, New Jersey founded the Deal First Aid Squad to provide emergency medical services day

• 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.

and night. For 75 years, this organization has operated uninterrupted, completely volunteer-based, and performed a range of reliable services from routine transport to emergency response. With exemplary civic dedication, members have fostered an immeasurable dependability that stands out as a pillar to the Deal community and beyond. I commend the Deal First Aid Squad for their commitment to support residents during times of need, including life-saving interventions and storm-related emergencies. As the country braces with more extreme weather, like severe flooding and heat, it is rewarding to know that safety is the priority to the Deal First Aid Squad.

Today, the community outreach by the Deal First Aid Squad is truly inspiring. The organization reached hundreds of residents with classes to CPR, AED, and First Aid training. Over the past few decades, they have answered tens of thousands of calls, while participating in several town parades, health fairs, and local school events. The strong community connection is reflected in the generations of families that have joined the Deal First Aid Squad. Notably, they have served in key mutual aid roles and frequent interagency cooperation across Monmouth County.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope my colleagues will join me in marking the 75th Anniversary of the Deal First Aid Squad and celebrating its rich impact on the Borough of Deal and greater Monmouth County.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RONALD "RONNIE" HARVEY

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 5, 2025

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, on the 14th day of October 1959, a meeting was held far from Earth, and it was said, "It's time for a warrior to be born on Earth." This was the birth of Ronald W. Harvey, also known as Ronnie. He was born and grew up in Harvey, Illinois, where he attended Thornton High School and studied at the Metropolitan State University of Denver. He enjoyed baseball during his high school years. Later, Ronnie married the love of his life, a dedicated community leader, Mrs. Roxie Harvey.

Ronnie worked for the U.S. Postal Service for over 30 years and retired. During his tenure at the post office, he played in the post office basketball league and had a fierce 3-point shot. He and his friend, Speech, secretly started a prayer circle named the Brothers of the Circle. The group was so effective and grew so large that they had to move the meeting to a bowling alley.

Post retirement, Ronnie worked as a truck driver for Lucky Duck Express and Dynasty Trucking. He was later ordained and served as Pastor of the Real Love Christian Center in Illinois. He served as a mentor and went on several mission trips to help improve the lives of others. He rendered his service and passion by feeding the homeless and listening to and encouraging others in Jesus Christ.

Whether it was in Illinois, Honduras, or Florida, Ronnie's impact will continue to be felt as his legacy will live on through his beloved wife, Roxie, and his seven children.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BLUE ENVELOPE ACT OF 2025

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 5, 2025

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Blue Envelope Act of 2025. This bill would make blue envelope programs, which improve interactions between police officers and drivers with difficulty communicating through speech during a traffic stop, eligible for federal transportation safety funding. The American Association of People with Disabilities has endorsed this bill.

Blue envelope programs allow drivers, upon request, to receive a blue envelope that explains on the front that the driver has difficulty communicating through speech and that holds the documents a police officer might request during a traffic stop. These programs exist in many jurisdictions across the country, including statewide in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Arkansas, Rhode Island, Arizona and Vermont.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING 63 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE BY CITY OF TAMPA EM- PLOYEE MARY BRYAN

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 5, 2025

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and contributions of Mary Bryan, a spirited and dedicated public servant whose love of the City of Tampa knows no bounds. Mary served her Tampa neighbors for over 63 years, which began after her high school graduation in 1962. She holds the record for the longest-serving employee of the City of Tampa. I congratulate Mary on an incredible career and thank her for her unwavering dedication to the Tampa Bay Community.

Mary began her career in the early redevelopment office of Urban Renewal in 1962 and remained there until 1972. She assisted in the first wave of City of Tampa renewal and redevelopment programs. She continued her work in the housing, code enforcement and zoning department before beginning in the city attorney's office. Mary was the principal and trusted grants writer responsible for awards totaling in the tens of millions of dollars to the city annually.

Mary served under 11 mayors and 59 city council members, and she has helped Tampa Bay grow into the thriving community it is today. Mary worked in the legal department as City Attorney James Palermo's Assistant until 2011. She then returned as the legislative aide to City Council member Charlie Miranda, where she will finish out her tenure as a City of Tampa employee.

Serving as an aide to Charlie Miranda, Mary garnered a reputation that no constituent request was out of reach. From potholes to a noisy neighbor, she ensured that everyone's

requests were accounted for. Mary is known for her vast institutional knowledge, willingness to help and tenacity. She was known for calling up an administrator and speaking plainly, cutting through red tape to make sure the job at hand got done in a timely manner.

In 2023, Mayor Castor awarded Mary the Josephine Howard Stafford Memorial Award, an award given to a woman employed by the City of Tampa who has demonstrated outstanding commitment to her position and community. Mayor Castor has commented that, "There's rarely a night I go home and it's not dark outside, and if there is another car in the lot, it's Mary's."

For over the past twenty years, Mary has also set up the holiday decorations at Old City Hall. Even through her hard work, she always made time to spread cheer.

Mary's colleagues say she is not only an effective fighter, but her dedication reflects deep care for her neighbors. Occasionally when residents have appeared before the city council, some have felt intimidated by a list of suits and procedural rules. She has, at times, held people's hands to help them navigate city-level bureaucracy. Stephen Michelins, a city planner in the 1970's, said, "When people would get stuck, she'll go out in the audience and grab them and say, 'Come here.' She's been the friend of thousands."

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my neighbors in Tampa Bay and the citizens of Florida, I am proud to honor Mary Bryan for her service to the City of Tampa. Mary dedicated her life ensuring that everyone had a place in Tampa Bay. It is hard-working and selfless public servants like Mary that make Tampa the welcoming and generous place it is today. Our community is eternally grateful for Mary's immense contributions.

HONORING THE LIFE OF WYAN- DOTTE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEP- UTY ELIJAH MING

HON. SHARICE DAVIDS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 5, 2025

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Deputy Elijah Ming, who gave his life to serving his community.

Deputy Ming began serving with the Wyandotte County Sheriff's Office on October 13, 2016. In his nine years with the Office, he worked in the Detention Center for six years, spent two years on Patrol, and spent one year in Court Transport. He was truly everything good you would want in both a law enforcement officer and in a friend. He was always willing to step in for voluntary overtime and to lend a helping hand. Deputy Ming's work with the department ensured the safety and wellbeing of Wyandotte County residents. Our community mourns the loss of Deputy Ming and will miss the bright, positive attitude he brought to the Office. He was a true patriot and a shining example of courage and dedication.