

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING SOVANNA KOEURT

HON. JOSH HARDER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 8, 2025

Mr. HARDER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sovanna Koeurt for her decades of service to the Southeast Asian community in Stockton and the broader San Joaquin Valley.

Ms. Koeurt arrived in Stockton in the early 1980's as a refugee from Cambodia following the Khmer Rouge regime. Like many others in her community, she faced significant challenges resettling in a new country after surviving violence and displacement. In the years that followed, she channeled those experiences into building stronger, safer communities.

In 1989, following the tragic shooting at Cleveland Elementary School in Stockton, Ms. Koeurt joined with 34 Southeast Asian refugee families at Park Village Apartments to co-found the Asian Pacific Self-Development and Residential Association, or APSARA. The organization was founded on the belief that communities must come together to advocate for safer, more equitable living conditions.

Under Ms. Koeurt's leadership, APSARA purchased the Park Village complex from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for one dollar in 1993—a landmark act of community ownership and self-determination. Since then, APSARA has grown into a trusted community institution offering affordable housing, youth development, health access, workforce support, and immigrant advocacy.

For more than 30 years, Ms. Koeurt has served as Executive Director of APSARA. Her work has helped ensure that hundreds of families have access not only to housing, but to the tools and resources needed to succeed.

In a 2024 interview, she said, "I've been here. I love this place because they give a lot of opportunity to everyone." Her comments reflect a clear commitment to making Stockton a place where all residents—regardless of background—have the chance to thrive.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Sovanna Koeurt for her leadership and dedication. Her decades of service have had a lasting impact on Stockton's Southeast Asian community and helped create a more inclusive and supportive environment for all residents.

RECOGNIZING THE IVES

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 8, 2025

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Ives in Wheat Ridge, Colorado, for receiving an Eagle Award from Housing Colorado.

The Ives is an affordable housing development owned by Foothills Regional Housing Authority, dedicated to prioritizing the needs of its residents. This complex offers reduced rent prices for its tenants while also providing easy access to quality-of-life amenities such as their community garden, BBQ area, and many nearby food choices and transportation options. The Ives has added 50 units of affordable housing to Jefferson County since its opening in June 2024, and their peers in the affordable housing industry recognized the community development team with Housing Colorado's Eagle Award.

At a time when housing costs continue to rise, The Ives keeps housing prices down in Wheat Ridge without compromising on quality. We are grateful for the community development team at Foothills Regional Housing for making this a reality for families in Jefferson County.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to thank The Ives for its service to the Jefferson County community.

HONORING ANIYAH YATTASSAYE

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 8, 2025

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Aniyah Yattassaye, for her work as an intern serving in my D.C. office. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her hard work and recognize the meaningful contributions she has made to the office this summer.

Aniyah resides in Seattle, Washington and attends Wake Forest University. Aniyah is entering her third year at Wake Forest where she is studying Political Science and international.

Interns work with staff to serve constituents in North Carolina's 11th congressional district. Aniyah was chosen from a competitive pool of applicants and exceeded every expectation with her positive attitude and impressive work ethic. It was a pleasure to work with Aniyah, and I am so proud to have had such an intelligent and ambitious intern representing my office.

Aniyah exemplified the spirit of public service and represents the best that our Nation has to offer. I congratulate Aniyah on the successful completion of her internship and thank her on behalf of the people of Western North Carolina.

RECOGNIZING AMY SORENSEN AS SHE PREPARES FOR RETIREMENT

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 8, 2025

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my longtime employee, Amy Sorensen, as she prepares to retire at the end of August.

I have often said that a really good staff makes a decent Member of Congress—and throughout my time in office, I've been fortunate to have outstanding individuals like Amy by my side.

Amy began working in my Idaho Falls office on the very first day we opened our doors. From that day forward, she has been a steady, dedicated presence—not only for me and my team but for the people of Idaho.

Many people do not recognize what congressional offices can do for them, but with Amy's presence in Idaho, she worked tirelessly to help Idahoans where she could and serve their needs. One of the things I'm most proud of during my time in Congress is the high level of service we've provided to Idahoans—and Amy played a key role in making that happen.

Federal government agencies are often difficult and complex to navigate. However, Amy's ability to cut through the red tape made her an invaluable resource and help to many throughout the state.

Amy was also a great team builder. She created the Simpson Staff Spotlight. It is a fun survey that highlights a staff member or intern, so we all get to know each other better—something everyone on the team enjoys receiving.

From helping tens of thousands of Idahoans navigate complex federal issues to personally attending meetings and events across the district to supporting veterans, Amy has been far more than an asset—she has been family.

Mr. Speaker, I am excited for Amy as she enters the next chapter in her life and am extremely grateful to her husband, and former staff member, Josh, for sharing Amy with us for all these years. I also want to recognize Josh and Amy's incredible children; Sam, Sydney, Jane, Henry, and Lucy. They were all born while Amy worked for me, and it has been a great joy to watch them grow up.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking and honoring Amy Sorensen for her decades of outstanding public service to the people of Idaho and this great Nation.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF DON LOMBARDI

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 8, 2025

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Chief Don Lombardi of Golden,

• 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.

Colorado, on his retirement following 33 years of service to the West Metro Fire Protection District.

Throughout his career, Chief Lombardi went above and beyond the line of duty, and focused on growing programs that saved Coloradans money and protected the health of our first responders. He started the Advanced Resource Medic across West Metro, which helps patients reduce cost in their healthcare expenses by treating patients in their own homes and cutting back on unnecessary trips to the emergency room. He also established the Colorado Firefighters Benefits Trust Program, which helps firefighters and fire agencies manage illnesses that affect first responders. Chief Lombardi led the West Metro through many fires on the Front Range, but his leadership extended to the wellbeing of his team and the people who live in our communities.

In recognition of Chief Lombardi's accomplishments, the Metropolitan Chiefs presented him with the prestigious Russell E. Sanders Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Federation of European Fire Officers honored him with the Cross of Merit award. In 2022, he was named Colorado State Fire Chief of the Year for his outstanding service. Chief Lombardi's career has an incredible legacy in our state.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Don on his well-earned retirement and to thank him for his service.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING
BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID M.
JENKINS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 8, 2025

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the extraordinary service of Brigadier General David M. Jenkins, a trailblazing leader in the South Carolina National Guard who will soon retire after 35 years of distinguished military service. Brigadier General Jenkins' career is one defined by excellence, integrity, and selfless service—qualities that have left a lasting impact on the armed forces of our state and Nation. As he prepares to conclude his remarkable military service, he does so with the respect and admiration of those who served with him. He leaves so that the next generation of leaders can make their mark. This act of mentorship and setting the right example speaks volumes about his character.

A proud native of South Carolina, Brigadier General Jenkins began his military journey as an ROTC cadet at South Carolina State University, where he earned his commission on May 24, 1990. Over the next three decades, he would rise through the ranks, holding a series of critical command and staff positions—from Platoon Leader to Brigade Commander, and ultimately, Assistant Adjutant General Army and Land Component Commander for South Carolina. In this final post, he held individual accountability for the training, manning, and equipping of all Army National Guard forces within the state.

His career was shaped by both operational experience and strategic leadership. In 2004,

he deployed to Afghanistan, where he served as the Strategic Plans Communication Officer for the Joint Coordination Center—Afghanistan. At home, he played a key role in the Guard's responses to hurricanes, floods, winter storms, and other emergencies that tested the strength and resilience of South Carolina communities.

Brigadier General Jenkins' academic achievements reflect the same discipline and dedication that marked his military service. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from South Carolina State University, a Master of International Business from Xavier University, and a Master of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College. His military education includes a long list of advanced training programs, from the Signal Officer courses to the Advanced Joint Staff College and the U.S. Army War College.

His contributions have been recognized with some of our Nation's highest military honors, including the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the Army Commendation Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Army Achievement Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters—a reflection of his exceptional leadership, courage, and commitment.

Outside of uniform, Brigadier General Jenkins serves as Senior Director of Strategic Operations and Technical Delivery at Lexmark International. He is also a devoted husband to Dionne, his wife of 21 years, and a proud father to three children—Dillon, Sydney, and Aubrey.

The Army's seven core values—Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage—are deeply embedded in every service member. Brigadier General Jenkins embodies all of these values, with Selfless Service particularly prominent. His steadfast dedication to mentorship has shaped leaders both within and beyond the military. His commitment—to his country, state, community, those he leads, their families, and his colleagues—has been unwavering.

Brigadier General Jenkins' acts of selfless service reflect his upbringing, the love and support from his family, the lessons he learned at South Carolina State University, and the people who have influenced his life. I thank him for embodying the Army Values, extending the legacy of the South Carolina State University Bulldog Battalion, exemplifying the pillars of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and letting selfless service speak for him.

Brigadier General Jenkins and his family have devoted over 35 years to steadfast service. Through mission after mission—missing birthdays, holidays, and countless special moments—they have made tremendous sacrifices. On behalf of a grateful Nation, and the many men and women he's mentored and continue to inspire, we thank him for a job well done.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in honoring Brigadier General David M. Jenkins—not only for his exemplary service, but for the legacy of opportunity he leaves behind. He is a soldier, a leader, a mentor, and a role model—and South Carolina is stronger because of him. May the next chapter of his life bring he and his family as much fulfillment as he's given to our great state, I have no doubt Brigadier General Jenkins will continue to make us proud.

HONORING MARGAUX SAUVAGE

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 8, 2025

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Margaux Sauvage, for her work as an intern serving in my D.C. office. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her hard work and recognize the meaningful contributions she has made to the office this summer.

Margaux is from San Diego, California and attends Georgetown University. Margaux is entering her second year at Georgetown where she plans to study Global Business and National Security.

Interns work with staff to serve constituents in North Carolina's 11th congressional district. Margaux was chosen from a competitive pool of applicants and exceeded every expectation with her positive attitude and impressive work ethic. It was a pleasure to work with Margaux, and I am so proud to have had such an intelligent and ambitious intern representing my office.

Margaux exemplified the spirit of public service and represents the best that our Nation has to offer. I congratulate Margaux on the successful completion of her internship and thank her on behalf of the people of Western North Carolina.

RECOGNIZING JEREMY METZ

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 8, 2025

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jeremy Metz for his promotion to Chief of the West Metro Fire Protection District.

Deputy Chief Jeremy Metz has served the West Metro Fire Protection District for over 27 years. In his previous roles, Jeremy oversaw emergency medical services, administration, special teams operations, and strategic planning for personal safety and benefit. He has over three decades of on-the-ground experience in fire science and emergency services administration. West Metro and all the Coloradans they serve are lucky to have an incoming Chief with such an impressive and lengthy record of public service.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Jeremy Metz for his promotion to Chief of the West Metro Fire Protection District. We thank him for his continued commitment to the safety of our community.

CELEBRATING OUR 2025 SUMMER
INTERN CLASS FOR THEIR SERVICE
TO CALIFORNIA'S 20TH DISTRICT

HON. VINCE FONG

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 8, 2025

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and celebrate the exceptional interns