

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SPRINGFIELD ARMORY

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 12, 2025

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable milestone in our Nation's history, the 50th anniversary of the Springfield Armory National Historic Site (NHS).

Established during the Revolutionary War in 1777 as the "Arsenal at Springfield," the site was recommended to George Washington by General Henry Knox for its strategic location along the Connecticut River and its proximity to four major roads that connected to New York City, Boston, Albany, and Montreal. The Arsenal at Springfield played a critical role in the war effort, both manufacturing cartridges and gun carriages and storing muskets, cannons, and other weaponry.

In January 1787, the Armory was the site of Shays' Rebellion, an uprising led by American Revolutionary War veteran Daniel Shays in response to economic hardships faced by farmers after the Revolutionary War. Thousands of Shays' Regulators marched on the Springfield Armory, hoping to seize its weaponry and force a change of government. The rebellion directly influenced the delegates at the Constitutional Convention later that year, with James Madison citing it as a warning for the need for a stronger federal government.

The Springfield Armory was officially established by George Washington in 1794 and played an essential role in shaping America's military and industrial strength. For nearly two centuries, the Armory provided the tools necessary to defend our Nation and served as a hub of innovation and craftsmanship. In 1974, the site was officially designated a National Historic Site and was entrusted to the stewardship of the National Park Service.

Once the home of our Nation's first armory, the Springfield Armory National Historic Site is now home to the world's largest historic U.S. military small arms collection, commemorating the innovative craftsmanship and ingenuity that enabled the production of the most superior firearms for nearly two centuries. Thousands of visitors come every year to not only marvel at this collection, but also learn about the region's rich history and its critical role in the founding of our Nation.

On Saturday, August 16, 2025, the Springfield Armory NHS will host a community-wide celebration on the scenic grounds of the Springfield Armory and Springfield Technical Community College to mark this historic occasion. This free, family-friendly festival will honor five decades of preserving the rich military, industrial, and social legacy of the Armory.

I commend the Springfield Armory National Historic Site, Superintendent Fellner and her team, and our entire western Massachusetts community for honoring the past and enriching

the present. Here's to another fifty years of education, inspiration, and connection through this treasured historic landmark.

HONORING TAMMY TOME FOR HER SERVICE TO SENIORS

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 12, 2025

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Tammy Tome, recipient of Visiting Angels' 2025 National Caregiver of the Year award.

Visiting Angels is a national organization that provides in-home care to seniors. Each year, they recognize one of their caregivers whose work exemplifies the mission of the organization. With over 600 franchises across the country, the Caregiver of the Year award is both highly competitive and prestigious.

While Ms. Tome joined Visiting Angels in 2023, she has served as a caregiver for twenty-five years. In this short time, she has made a profound impact on those she serves, consistently showing clients the compassion and dignity they deserve. She visits clients in their homes, providing everything from assistance with daily needs to care for those facing terminal illnesses.

Tammy's clients and their families have noted the immense impact she has had on their quality of life. One client's wife remarked, "Tammy has given our family a sense of peace, stability, and a sense of hope." She is widely respected for her professionalism, dedication, and unwavering commitment to those in her care.

I thank Tammy for her remarkable work and steadfast commitment to caring for seniors in our community. Her compassion and service set an example for all, and I wish her continued success in the years ahead.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LORI CANNON

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 12, 2025

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and legacy of Chicago LGBTQ+ activist, Lori Cannon.

For over four decades, Ms. Cannon—known as "Chicago's AIDS Angel"—spearheaded some of the most important initiatives of Chicago's LGBTQ+ rights movement. Motivated by the inhumane treatment of those with AIDS and affected by HIV, Ms. Cannon co-founded a meal delivery service, Open Hand/Chicago, in 1988, to ensure that those suffering from AIDS would not go hungry. She then led Open Hand in its transition to a food pantry program known as "Groceryland", helping people in

need obtain much needed nourishment. Also in 1988, Ms. Cannon co-founded ACT UP/Chicago, a grassroots protest group which put the AIDS epidemic front and center during a time when the government was ignoring the community's devastation. Ms. Cannon was instrumental in helping create the NAMES Project, bringing the Aids Memorial Quilt to Chicago in 1988, 1990 and 1994. Then, in 2010, she co-founded the Legacy Project, an organization committed to honoring the cultural and civic contributions of LGBTQ+ individuals, including placing bronze plaques along North Halsted Street.

A pillar of the community she loved so much, Ms. Cannon was unrelenting in her commitment to the well-being of each individual. When the government and the families of those affected by HIV/AIDS abandoned those who were suffering, Ms. Cannon stepped up to fill that void—organizing, volunteering, protesting, feeding, hugging, and loving each person when there was no one else. As her longtime friend Sharyl Holtzman remembers, "She took care of the whole universe."

Ms. Cannon was born and raised in West Rogers Park. Her father, Lee Cannon, was a champion of Native American rights. Her younger brother, J.H., was born with a defective heart, leading to a lifelong disability. After her older brother Jules suffered a horrific motorcycle accident, she became the caretaker for both of her brothers, a precursor to her life of service.

When Lori Cannon passed away on Sunday, August 3, 2025, Chicago and its LGBTQ+ community lost a selfless champion. Her legacy will live on in the community that she supported and loved so much. I am forever grateful for her immeasurable contribution and impact on the City and its LGBTQ+ community.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF MARQUIS ENERGY

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 12, 2025

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize and celebrate the 50th anniversary of Marquis Energy. Located within Illinois' 16th Congressional District, Marquis serves as a cornerstone example of American entrepreneurship and energy leadership.

Founded in 1975, Marquis began as a grain merchandising business in rural Buda, Illinois. Now, Marquis is the largest dry-mill ethanol facility in North America, producing clean, home-grown American biofuels and value-added co-products that support thousands of farm families and strengthen America's energy independence.

Marquis is a consistent national leader in biofuel innovation. Through their work and advocacy, Marquis continues to shape the future of clean energy and rural investment, advancing next-generation corn markets for producers and farmers alike.

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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.

From ethanol production to carbon capture, Marquis forges new opportunities that support American families and put our farmers first. What started as a local operation grew into a prosperous company that has created over 450 jobs and purchases over 140 million bushels of corn annually. Still today, the deep roots of family farming and a strong commitment to the agricultural community continue to be the foundations of Marquis' success.

As we commemorate this incredible milestone, I want to recognize Mark Marquis, Tom Marquis, the whole Marquis family, and their entire team for their entrepreneurial spirit, strong values, and unwavering commitment to their community and country.

Congratulations to Marquis on 50 years of American excellence. May the next 50 years strengthen the values that make Marquis and rural America strong.

HONORING WESLEY LePATNER

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 12, 2025

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, my heart goes out to the family, friends, and colleagues of Wesley LePatner, one of the victims of the tragic shooting in Midtown Manhattan.

A city is only as strong as its people, and Wesley LePatner represented the very best of New York. She left a lasting impact wherever she went: as a senior executive at Blackstone, a devoted congregant at the Altneu Synagogue, and a dedicated board member at the Heschel School.

Wesley lived as we all should strive to live: with civic purpose, compassion, and a commitment to something greater than herself. She was a devoted spouse and parent, a distinguished professional, and a doggedly public-spirited New Yorker whose love for family and community was palpable to everyone she knew. May her memory be a blessing.

RECOGNIZING 2025 AS "A CHORUS YEAR"

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 12, 2025

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to speak in celebration of a group of workers and artists who entertain live audiences in every state across the country: the theatrical chorus. I am pleased to recognize 2025 as "A Chorus Year."

From Oklahoma! to Hamilton, some of the greatest art to come out of the United States has been musical theatre, and a staple of this art form is the chorus.

The chorus has always been more than a group of singers and dancers filling up a stage. It is an integral part of theatrical storytelling, as well as a major player in labor history. The historic actors strike of 1919 that established union protections for live performers succeeded in large part because of the women and men of the chorus who formed their own union and walked off Broadway stages in large numbers to join the fight.

And 2025 is a particularly auspicious year to celebrate the chorus. This year marks the 70th anniversary of the merger between Chorus Equity Association and Actors' Equity Association into the Equity that exists today, protecting the rights of actors and stage managers in live theatre across the U.S.

I want to recognize not only the talent of chorus performers, but their great skilled labor and tireless work ethic. They make it all look easy, but their ongoing contribution to American culture and a healthy entertainment industry is born of fierce commitment and dedication to their craft. They exemplify the best of America: many people working as individuals to build something amazing together.

PROCLAMATION HONORING DR. REVEREND GRIFFIN DAVIS

HON. SHEILA CHERFILUS-McCORMICK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 12, 2025

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following proclamation honoring Dr. Reverend Griffith Davis.

Whereas, born one of eighteen children to Mr. Lindsey and Mrs. Ruth Davis, Reverend Griffin Davis emerged early as a charismatic and gifted leader, first a performer alongside his sister, to then becoming the iconic drum-major at Roosevelt High School in West Palm Beach, channeling his creativity and gift for leadership into divine purpose;

Whereas, at age 21, Reverend Davis courageously answered his calling, leaving behind a successful management role, answering God's calling to set out with only ten cents and a command to "Go Build";

Whereas, after attending seminary in Nashville, Tennessee, Reverend Davis returned to his community with his wife, Mrs. Hughetta Davis, and their three sons, Reverend Griffin Davis Jr., Denzel Davis, and Sydney Davis, to establish Hilltop Missionary Baptist Church, a sanctuary built on prayer, faith, generosity, and service;

Whereas, for more than 55 years, Reverend Davis led his congregation by powerful example, ringing in each new year with a forty-day fast and prayer, instilling the transformative power of spiritual discipline and never-ending faith;

Whereas, his ministry extended far beyond the church walls, touching the lives of the most vulnerable through food and clothing drives, housing initiatives, compassionate counsel, and tireless community advocacy, all of which are reminiscent of his mantra that "Being nice costs nothing, but it pays a million";

Whereas, his legacy as a servant-leader, spiritual father, and pillar of goodwill lives on in the countless lives he touched and in the enduring foundation of Hilltop Missionary Baptist Church; and

Therefore, be it resolved that we, Florida's 20th Congressional District, proudly honor and celebrate the contributions, wisdom, and life, of Reverend Griffin Davis for his spiritual guidance, unwavering dedication to service, and elevation of morality.

CONGRATULING DEERE & COMPANY VICE PRESIDENT OF GLOBAL GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COLLIS JONES ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. DARIN LaHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 12, 2025

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Collis Jones, Vice President of Global Government Affairs, for his nearly 37 years of distinguished service at Deere & Company. Throughout his career, Jones demonstrated unwavering dedication, strategic insight, and a deep commitment to advancing the company's mission and values.

Collis joined John Deere in 1989 as a financial services representative. Throughout his career, he has held key positions in Sales, Marketing, and Government Affairs, including serving as the director of U.S. Public Affairs before leading the Global Government Affairs organization. In this pivotal role, he developed Deere's strategy and advocacy priorities leading to legislative, regulatory, and public policy outcomes that ultimately benefited the company, customers, employees, and business partners.

His extensive experience with product sales uniquely equipped him to educate policymakers and regulators about the company, its products, and processes. This expertise made him an effective advocate at the global, federal, and state levels, where he successfully influenced policy discussions.

Throughout his career, Collis has dedicated himself to building and leading effective teams and mentoring numerous colleagues. As a strong brand ambassador, he has served on several boards, including the Thurgood Marshall College Fund and The Congressional Award Foundation. His dedication and leadership have left a lasting impact on the company and his many colleagues across the enterprise.

Collis and his wife Stefanie, who also recently retired, plan to spend time traveling, enjoying family and friends, and perfecting their golf game. I wish Collis, Stefanie, and their daughter, Camryn, all the best in the years to come.

HONORING THE 6994TH SECURITY SQUADRON OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE SECURITY SERVICE, ALONG WITH THE 360TH, 361ST, AND 362ND TACTICAL ELECTRONIC WARFARE SQUADRONS

HON. AUGUST PFLUGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 12, 2025

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to rise today to recognize and commend the distinguished service of the 6994th Security Squadron of the United States Air Force Security Service, along with the 360th, 361st, and 362nd Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadrons. These squadrons executed highly classified and dangerous missions aboard the venerable EC-47 aircraft to meet the intelligence