

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF DR. TOM JOHNSON

HON. RANDY K. WEBER, SR.

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 15, 2025

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the well-deserved retirement of Dr. Tom Johnson, a dedicated leader and public servant who has made a lasting impact on Lamar State College Orange and the community of Southeast Texas.

For seven years, Dr. Johnson has led Lamar State College Orange with passion, determination, and a hands-on approach. He rolled up his sleeves every day to deliver real results, record-breaking enrollment and graduation rates, new vocational programs, the opening of a satellite campus, and the construction of important new academic buildings.

He even helped launch a nationally successful bass fishing team and established the Gatemouth Brown outdoor plaza to honor the legacy of the late Orange blues musician. These achievements are more than just accomplishments, they are the foundation of opportunity for countless Texans.

His impact on the community spans beyond Lamar State College. Johnson began his career as an officer in the Houston Police Department, where he served in a variety of patrol and administrative positions before retiring from a 20-year law enforcement career.

Dr. Johnson's leadership has not only transformed Lamar State College Orange but has paved the way for future generations to pursue the American Dream right here in Texas.

On behalf of Texas' 14th Congressional District and this great Nation, I want to thank Dr. Johnson for his service and dedication. His hard work and vision set an example for all leaders.

I congratulate Dr. Johnson on his well-earned retirement. May it bring him the rest and reward he so richly deserves.

HONORING LISETTE ESTRELLA- HENDERSON

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 15, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleague, Mr. GARAMENDI, to honor Lisette Estrella-Henderson as she retires after 40 years of dedicated service to public education in our district. Her leadership as Solano County Superintendent of Schools and her lifelong commitment to educational equity have made a lasting impact on thousands of students, families, and educators throughout our region.

Ms. Estrella-Henderson grew up in a military family in Solano County after her father was stationed at Travis Air Force Base. She is a 1980 graduate of Armijo High School and continued her education at Solano Community College. She later earned her bachelor of arts in history from the University of California, Davis in 1984, followed by her teaching credential a year later. Ms. Estrella-Henderson later completed her master's degree in curriculum and instruction at California State University, Sacramento, along with her bilingual teaching and administrative credentials.

Ms. Estrella-Henderson's commitment to education began in the classroom and grew throughout her career. She spent more than 20 years with the Dixon School District, serving as a teacher, program specialist, and principal before moving into district administration. In January 2017, she was appointed as Solano County Superintendent of Schools, becoming the first Latina to hold this position. She was subsequently elected to the role in 2018 and re-elected in 2022.

As Superintendent, Ms. Estrella-Henderson has overseen an \$88 million budget while providing leadership and support to six unified school districts serving approximately 60,000 students. Her tenure has been marked by achievements in expanding educational opportunities and student support services. Ms. Estrella-Henderson was able to procure \$15.6 million in additional resources for programs focused on job readiness, school safety, student wellness and educational equity in Solano County. Ms. Estrella-Henderson innovative approach to career readiness included launching the Innovation Lab at Golden Hills Education Center and establishing the Education to Employment program for at-risk youth. Under her leadership, the Solano County Office of Education was able to earn WASC accreditation for its Juvenile Court and Community Schools, enabling students to earn high school diplomas from fully accredited programs.

Ms. Estrella-Henderson has been a champion for student wellness and safety. As Superintendent, she partnered with Solano County Behavioral Health to establish more than 50 school-based mental health wellness centers throughout our county. Ms. Estrella-Henderson has also worked with county health officials to launch fentanyl education and awareness campaigns and brought emergency response training to our local educators.

Ms. Estrella-Henderson's service extends far beyond her official duties. She is an active participant in numerous organizations, including the California Association of Latino Superintendents and Administrators, the Association of California School Administrators, and the First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission. Ms. Estrella-Henderson has also received widespread recognition for her leadership including the C-STEM Superintendent of the Year Award, the Beloved Community Award, and being named Woman of the Year for California's Third Congressional District in 2018.

Mr. Speaker, Lisette Estrella-Henderson has spent four decades building bridges, breaking barriers and creating opportunities for students throughout our Solano County. Her legacy of innovation, equity and excellence will continue to benefit our community for years to come. It is fitting and proper that we honor her today for her service to public education and her dedication to our students and families.

HONORING GREENVILLE- SPARTANBURG NOAA/NWS

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 15, 2025

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deepest gratitude for the Greenville-Spartanburg NOAA/NWS team's exceptional service during and after Hurricane Helene, one of the most devastating extreme weather events in recent history.

In September of 2024, as Helene approached, the Greenville-Spartanburg NOAA/NWS team rose to meet an unprecedented challenge. Even before the storm made landfall, the mountains were saturated with six to ten inches of rainfall, setting the stage for life-threatening flash floods and landslides. When Helene struck, their ability to accurately forecast this complex, multi-phase event and deliver timely, targeted warnings was critical in saving lives and reducing property damage.

Their proactive approach demonstrated innovation, precision, and an unwavering commitment to public safety. The issuance of sixteen flash flood emergencies, a record for the region, reflected their urgency and clarity in communication. These alerts, combined with clear guidance, helped thousands of residents take protective action just in time.

Just as vital was their collaboration with emergency responders, schools, media, and community organizations. This coordination amplified their life-saving messages and ensured widespread access to accurate, up-to-date information during the storm's most dangerous hours.

Their service during this disaster is a testament to the critical role federal agencies play in disaster response. The Greenville-Spartanburg NOAA/NWS team has set the gold standard in preparedness, communication, and interagency cooperation that will guide future emergency responses across the country.

On behalf of all of Western North Carolina, I thank Greenville-Spartanburg NOAA/NWS for their outstanding dedication to keeping our communities safe.

• 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.

RECOGNIZING THE LAKES PILOTS ASSOCIATION FOR OVER 60 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE GREAT LAKES MARITIME COMMUNITY

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 15, 2025

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend the Lakes Pilots Association, on their completion of their new docks and seawall project to preserve the maritime heritage and identity of Port Huron as a Great Lakes port city.

For over six decades, the Lakes Pilots Association has provided expert pilotage services to foreign-flagged vessels operating in the critical waters of District 2. Under the leadership of President Captain Tony Brando, the Association has played a vital role in ensuring the safety of navigation, protecting the environment, and supporting economic activity in the Blue Water Area, including the Port Huron region.

The Lakes Pilots Association is a trusted guardian of our waterways. With a team of 17 highly trained pilots and 9 full-time dedicated employees, the Association is known for its unwavering professionalism, safety, and reliability. Their efforts not only safeguard ships, cargo, and crews, but also help maintain the physical and economic integrity of the waterways they serve.

The Association's contributions extend beyond maritime operations. Through community outreach efforts like the "Touch a Freighter" program, supported in partnership with the local community foundation, the Lakes Pilots Association has fostered public understanding and appreciation of Great Lakes shipping and its importance to our region's heritage.

Their recent investments—including \$1 million in new docks and a seawall—as well as \$3.5 million in new pilot boats, demonstrate a strong commitment to strengthening infrastructure, enhancing operational capacity, and ensuring long-term service to the region.

The Lakes Pilots Association maintains a close partnership with the City of Port Huron and other local harbor stakeholders. Their ongoing collaboration helps preserve the city's identity as a historic port city, enrich its maritime legacy, and contribute meaningfully to its economic vitality.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and immense pride that we honor and thank the Lakes Pilots Association for their decades of dedicated service, commitment to safety and environmental stewardship, and for their indispensable role in sustaining commerce and maritime heritage throughout the Great Lakes region.

HONORING LA LUZ CENTER

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 15, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor La Luz Center, which is celebrating 40 years of supporting the Latino community of Sonoma Valley. This non-profit

organization has provided a variety of essential services from community engagement, family support, youth education, professional development and more to our Sonoma Valley's most vulnerable families.

La Luz was founded by activist Ligia Booker in 1985, during a time when most of our Sonoma Latino population was composed of seasonal workers who would return to their native countries once the harvest concluded. Originally offering seasonal housing for harvest workers, La Luz has expanded into a beacon of cultural resilience in our Sonoma Valley. The organization now works year-round, serving over 2,000 individuals and families accounting for over 80 percent of the Latino population of Sonoma. La Luz has undoubtedly become a significant resource for families seeking assistance with immigration, small business support and learning development.

While the organization has expanded, La Luz's mission to advance immigrant safety and wellbeing has remained the same. La Luz aids those who are in dire need of human services with immediate support including legal assistance and access to food and health care. In addition to providing emergency services to our vulnerable communities, La Luz also offers resources to our community to increase school readiness of local Latino children. The group supports professional development, offering several trainings and workshops in finance and computer literacy to help our Latino community members thrive.

In 2016, the La Luz Center was rebuilt in the heart of Boyes Hot Springs to be able to provide in-person assistance and host community events. Following its humble beginnings in a shared office space, the new La Luz Center proudly hosts annual events such as Cinco de Mayo, Dia de los Muertos, Noche de Luna and many others for our community to come together and celebrate Latino culture through traditional music, dance and food.

Mr. Speaker, La Luz is greatly appreciated for their 40 years of service to our Sonoma Valley community. Their noble dream of establishing a safe place for new immigrants to receive support remains alive and well in our region to this day. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor La Luz Center here today.

CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF
REIST POPCORN

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 15, 2025

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate and recognize Reist Popcorn Company on their milestone 100th anniversary.

In 1925, a Lancaster County farmer named Alvin Reist founded what would become Reist Popcorn Company. The business grew and then moved to its current, iconic location in Mount Joy Borough in 1937. Through four generations and a century of hard work, Reist Popcorn Company remains the easternmost popcorn processor in the United States. They supply manufacturers, distributors, and concessionaires. Their product can be found in movie theaters and on store shelves. In the

past two decades, Reist Popcorn has expanded their business into transporting grain and meals along the nearby railway and by tapping into the international market. They have also partnered with growers across the country and boosted production in their Mount Joy facility.

Very few businesses can say they have lasted one hundred years, but Reist Popcorn's business has been popping ever since their founding in 1925. I am proud to say that I represent such a hard-working and resilient company such as Reist Popcorn, and I wish them another century of success.

RECOGNIZING SUSAN HARKINS FOR 45 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE LOWER BUCKS COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 15, 2025

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding constituent from my district, Mrs. Susan Harkins. It is my distinct honor to celebrate her remarkable 45 years of service with the Lower Bucks County Chamber of Commerce.

Since joining the Chamber in 1980, Susan has been instrumental in supporting business and leadership development in Lower Bucks County. She began her career in the Chamber's front office, supporting groups such as the Golf and Transportation committees and the Miss Bucks County Scholarship Pageant. Over the years, Susan has made contributions as the Outlook publication coordinator, bookkeeper, and Assistant to the President—bringing unwavering dedication and professionalism to each role.

Today, Susan serves as the Chamber's Professional Development Specialist, where she works toward the growth and success of Lower Bucks professionals. Her work with the Leadership Bucks County program, now in its 29th year, has shaped and inspired future generations of community leaders. Through outreach events like The Keynote Morning Meeting, Business Card Exchange, and Young Professionals Summits, Susan has created career development and community building opportunities.

Susan's impact reaches far beyond her formal responsibilities. Her tireless work ethic, meticulous attention to detail, and steadfast support for others have made her a cherished mentor and friend. She has played a vital role in fostering an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members, especially in her contributions to the Chamber's 60th Anniversary Celebration.

Outside of the Chamber, Susan is an Assistant Treasurer of the A. Marlyn Moyer, Jr. Scholarship Foundation, which provides scholarships to high school seniors for their first year in postsecondary education. She also serves as the Secretary for the Bucks County Technical High School Foundation for Education Excellence, supporting both students and staff alike.