

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATED SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP OF SHERIFF CHARLES FOSTER OF WYTHE COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 22, 2025*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exceptional dedication and service of Sheriff Charles Foster of Wythe County, Virginia, who retired on August 1 after a 38-year career in law enforcement.

Through nearly four decades, Sheriff Foster has served Wythe County Sheriff's Office with the integrity and devotion of a true public servant.

Hired at the age of 18 as a dispatcher, Sheriff Foster developed strong ties to those he worked with early in his career and earned high marks from his community.

After more than 30 years serving the Sheriff's Office, Mr. Foster ran for Wythe County Sheriff in 2021. Given community support of his law enforcement experience and credentials, it was no surprise that he won the election, unopposed.

In 2023, Wythe County reaffirmed their trust in Sheriff Foster by re-electing him Sheriff. For the past four years in the role, Sheriff Foster led his department with humility, professionalism, and a profound sense of duty to his community.

My office appreciated working with Sheriff Foster during his tenure. Thanks to his help and the Wythe County Sheriff's Office, they provide a room for my staff to hold traveling staff office hours and provide services to constituents.

Southwest Virginia communities are served and represented by dedicated law enforcement professionals like Sheriff Foster. Aspiring officers and fellow law enforcement groups should be inspired by his legacy, defined by a deep personal calling to protect and serve. As Sheriff Foster begins this next chapter, we offer him our heartfelt thanks for his decades of service and his unwavering protection of his fellow Southwest Virginians.

HONORING SERGEANT LEE SORENSEN AND OFFICER ERIC ESTRADA

**HON. BLAKE D. MOORE**

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 22, 2025*

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the courageous and selfless lives of two Tremonton-Garland police officers, Sergeant Lee Sorensen and Officer Eric Estrada, who were tragically killed in the line of duty on Sunday, August 17, 2025. These brave men put on their uniform each day aware of the risks involved, and today we honor the depth of their sacrifice.

Sergeant Lee Sorensen dedicated 17 years of his life to serving his community on the police force. His tireless commitment to the people around him has been recognized throughout the community, earning him and his wife Garland City's Wheelon Award for significantly impacting the city. He also received the Distinguished Service Award from the Tremonton Fire Department in February for his dedication, support, professionalism, and commitment to excellence in assisting fire and EMS units during incidents. When he wasn't providing critical support for fellow first responders, he was assisting the middle school resource officer and checking on the teenagers who loved to chat with him. Sergeant Sorensen was recently promoted to Sergeant and would have been sworn in today, Friday, August 22, 2025. He is remembered by his neighbors as humorous, kind, and a true hero. He is survived by his wife Lanette and their children.

Officer Eric Estrada devoted 8 of his 31 years of life to the police force serving the Logan, Box Elder, and North Park police departments before joining the Tremonton police force earlier this year. Although he was only with Tremonton for less than a year, he quickly formed a reputation and legacy of warmth and dedication. His favorite part of working in law enforcement was being on patrol, where he loved interacting directly with the people he served and engaging with the community. Officer Estrada is remembered as a dedicated father and husband, deeply loving and cherishing his family. He is survived by his wife Brittney and their two children.

Both Utah heroes were honored by thousands of people in a procession across Northern Utah earlier this week. It is through the service and sacrifice of honorable public servants such as Sergeant Sorensen and Officer Estrada that our communities, cities, and Nation can live safely.

I extend my deepest condolences to the loved ones, fellow officers, and entire community that feels this loss so profoundly. I am thankful to both Sergeant Lee Sorensen and Officer Eric Estrada, well as their families, for their sacrifice and the many years dedicated to the betterment and safety of their communities.

RECOGNIZING THE FEDERATION OF INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS IN COMMEMORATING INDIA'S 78 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

**HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 22, 2025*

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to recognize the Federation of Indian Associations (FIA) as it commemorates India's 78 years of independence. Since FIA's establishment in 1970, its mission has been to serve the Indian-American community, promote Indian cultural heritage, and advance bi-

lateral ties between the United States and India.

Over the course of five decades, FIA has organized numerous outreach events to provide community support and to celebrate Indian culture and heritage. FIA's efforts have included consular document service assistance for over 11,000 community members, cultural dance competitions that have engaged over 19,000 children in celebration of their heritage, and an annual Diwali Soup Kitchen, which has successfully distributed thousands of meals throughout the Northeastern United States. Furthermore, FIA helped to distribute personal protective equipment and hot meals to first responders and community members during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Speaker, I honor the dedicated work of FIA to serve and uplift the Indian-American community, sustain the legacy of Indian heritage across generations, and foster cross-cultural cooperation and understanding. FIA's activities benefit all the communities in which its members reside, and for that, we are all grateful.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DIRKSEN CONGRESSIONAL CENTER

**HON. DARIN LAHOOD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 22, 2025*

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize and celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Dirksen Congressional Center. Located in Pekin, Illinois, the Dirksen Congressional Center has served as a national leader in congressional research, civic education, and the preservation of American political history.

Founded in 1975, the Dirksen Congressional Center began with a mission to honor the legacy of Senator Everett McKinley Dirksen by promoting a deeper understanding of Congress. Over the past five decades, it has expanded its reach and influence, serving tens of thousands of students, educators, researchers, and citizens who have benefited from its programs and resources.

The Dirksen Congressional Center has distributed more than \$1.4 million in grants to fund groundbreaking research into Congress and its history, trained hundreds of teachers to deliver high-quality civics education through its Congress in the Classroom workshops and produced more than 20 books and monographs about Congress, its leaders, and its operations. Additionally, the Dirksen Congressional Center's archival collections now preserve the papers of nine Members of Congress, making primary-source documents widely accessible through projects like the American Congress Digital Archives Portal.

Through its Ray and Kathy LaHood Scholarship, the Dirksen Congressional Center has supported Illinois college students for more than two decades, while the Michel-LaHood

• 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.

D.C. Summer Internship Program now offers fully funded experiential learning for young people pursuing careers in public service.

From groundbreaking scholarships to hands-on education, the Dirksen Congressional Center continues to advance understanding of Congress while forging strong partnerships nationwide. Its pioneering efforts have made it a cornerstone institution for those who study, teach, and practice American democracy.

As we commemorate this remarkable milestone, I want to recognize the staff, leadership, and patrons of the Dirksen Congressional Center for their dedication, vision, and enduring service to our Nation.

I congratulate the Dirksen Congressional Center on 50 years of advancing civics, scholarship, and public service. May the next 50 years strengthen its vital mission of connecting Americans to their Congress and history.

RECOGNIZING OFFICER CHRISTINA O'REAR

**HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 22, 2025*

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Officer Christina O'Rear on her retirement after 30 years of distinguished service in law enforcement.

Officer O'Rear earned both an associate's degree in Law Enforcement and a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Lamar University. She holds the designation of Master Peace Officer and has completed more than 2,500 hours of training. Throughout her career, she has been recognized with multiple certifications, awards, and commendations for her professionalism and dedication.

Since joining the Grapevine Police Department, Officer O'Rear has served her community with distinction in numerous roles, including Patrol Officer, Detective, Victim Liaison, and member of the Honor Guard. She has also contributed as a Task Force Officer with the Tarrant County Narcotics Task Force and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Beyond her investigative and enforcement duties, she has provided critical support as a Peer Support, CISM, and Mental Health Coordinator, roles that reflect her compassion for both her colleagues and the community she served. She currently serves as Co-Regional Director of the Texas Crisis Intervention Association and as Regional Director of the Texas Law Enforcement Peer Network.

As Officer O'Rear retires at the end of August, we celebrate a career defined by integrity, service, and leadership. I thank Officer Christina O'Rear for her three decades of outstanding service to the Grapevine community and to the State of Texas.

REMEMBERING PHILLIP DOUGLAS MORGAN OF FLORA, MISSISSIPPI

**HON. MICHAEL GUEST**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 22, 2025*

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Phillip Douglas Morgan of Flora, Mis-

issippi. Phillip Morgan was a Mississippian through and through who gave back to his community and loved his family. Meeting people was a passion of Phillip's, and he never met a stranger. Phillip grew up in rural Mississippi and was a graduate of Mississippi schools. He studied accounting at the University of Southern Mississippi and had a 10-year career as an accountant. Hired by Southern Ag Credit to work as their Chief Financial and Operating Officer, Phillip worked his way to CEO in 2020. He took his skills and passion of people and saw the Southern Ag Credit team as his extended family.

Phillip was a family man who spent time with his wife Christy and his two daughters at their hunting club, cheered his daughters on in horse shows and cheer camps, and also enjoyed vacationing with extended family.

With a passion for fostering rescue horses, Phillip worked closely with the MS Horse Rescue. His support for the Dixie National Rodeo, Ducks Unlimited, and Heart of the Horse were passion projects of his. Phillip will be greatly missed by his family, friends, and the Southern Ag Credit family. I was honored to have had the opportunity to work alongside him through the years. His dedication to the Ag industry will continue through his legacy.

RECOGNIZING CLACKAMAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESIDENT TIM COOK ON HIS IMPRESSIVE FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

**HON. JANELLE S. BYNUM**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 22, 2025*

Ms. BYNUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the impressive efforts of Clackamas Community College President Tim Cook, who ran more than 1,400 miles over 52 days to raise money and awareness for Oregon students. His journey, which started on the Oregon-Idaho border, visited each of the state's 17 community colleges. Averaging roughly a marathon a day. Tim worked to bring attention to the many challenges students face, including food insecurity, homelessness, and lack of childcare.

I am truly impressed by Tim's work, dedication, and drive. I could not be prouder to represent the school he leads. I look forward to continuing to fight for strong education policies together. Way to go.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN'S "BORN TO RUN"

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 22, 2025*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th anniversary of one of the most iconic albums in American music history, *Born to Run* by Bruce Springsteen. Released on August 25, 1975, this landmark album did more than launch a young songwriter from Long Branch, New Jersey into stardom; it became the soundtrack for countless Americans and an anthem for all those blessed to call New Jersey home.

Songs like "Thunder Road", "Jungleland", and the titular "Born to Run" demonstrate Springsteen's unmatched ability to blend vivid storytelling set in the incredible mosaic that is New Jersey with the generational musical talent of the E Street Band. *Born to Run* has stood the test of time and is remembered today as a timeless masterpiece about our daily struggles and chasing our dreams no matter the odds.

Over the past five decades, Bruce Springsteen has become more than just an iconic artist. He is a staple of American culture. Known as "The Boss", he has sold more than 150 million records, won 20 Grammy Awards, and been awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. His philanthropic efforts supporting food banks, veteran organizations, and anti-poverty initiatives reflect the values of compassion, solidarity and looking after each other that have always been the foundation of his music. And even with all of his success, you can still find him near the streets, venues, boardwalks and people that shaped him and his music.

Mr. Speaker, the 50th anniversary of *Born to Run* is not just a celebration of an album, it is a recognition of Bruce Springsteen's enduring impact on our country. For more than half a century he has given voice to the struggles and aspirations of the people we encounter in all our lives—the dreamers and the believers, the down-but-not-out, and the men and women whose stars may have faded but still burn inside them. But perhaps what separates Springsteen from his peers is that he continues to create music that captures the moment and times we are in.

On behalf of the people of New Jersey's Eighth Congressional District, and the millions of Springsteen fans worldwide, it is a privilege to honor this important anniversary and to thank him for all his contributions to our country, and most notably, to the great Garden State.

HONORING SGT. ROHN HULTGREN

**HON. BRIAN J. MAST**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 22, 2025*

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true American hero, Sergeant Rohn Hultgren of Palm Beach County, Florida. Sgt. Hultgren is a father, husband, soldier, and public servant whose courage on the battlefield and commitment to my community deserves our recognition.

During his service in Afghanistan, Sgt. Hultgren's convoy was struck by an improvised explosive device. The blast left him with a broken femur and a traumatic brain injury. As a result, Sgt. Hultgren underwent extensive speech therapy, but he never wavered in his devotion to our Nation or his fellow soldiers. For his sacrifice and bravery, he was awarded the Purple Heart.

Mr. Speaker, Sgt. Hultgren did not allow any of his injuries to define his life here at home. After being honorably discharged from the Army as a Sergeant E-5, he dedicated himself to serving other veterans in Florida's 21st Congressional District. Today, as Veteran Services Manager for the Palm Beach County Division of Senior and Veteran Services, Sgt.