

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### RECOGNIZING NORTH RICHLAND HILLS POLICE CHIEF MIKE YOUNG

#### HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 31, 2025

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize North Richland Hills Police Department Chief Mike Young for his 40 years of dedicated public service and to congratulate him on his retirement. Chief Young joined the North Richland Hills Police Department in 1985 after serving four years in the United States Air Force.

He distinguished himself as a leader soon after joining the department serving as Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain, and Assistant Chief from 1997 to 2013. His exemplary service led to his promotion of Chief of Police in 2023, a role he led with integrity and professionalism. Throughout his career, Chief Young has guided and influenced multiple divisions within the department, including patrol, traffic, SWAT, criminal investigations, training, communications, and budget management. His focus on officer development and continuing education has strengthened the department, ensuring that those who serve are equipped with the highest level of training and expertise. Chief Young has received numerous awards for his service including the department's highest honor in 1989, the Medal of Honor.

Chief Young's leadership has shaped the North Richland Hills Police Department into the highly respected organization it is known as today. His commitment to public service has left an indelible mark on North Richland Hills and beyond, and I wish him the best in his well-deserved retirement.

### RECOGNIZING SERGEANT HAROLD PRESSEL

#### HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 31, 2025

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I'm honored to recognize Sergeant (SGT) Harold Pressel, U.S. Army Air Corps, on the auspicious occasion of his 101st Birthday on February 3, 2025.

SGT Pressel honorably served alongside the "Greatest Generation" in WWII as a machine gunner on the B-24 Liberator, during which he earned—among myriad awards and decorations—the Purple Heart for his actions and wounds in combat. His aircraft was hit by flak after turning around for a second bomb run, which pierced the fuel tank. After bailing from the plummeting aircraft, SGT Pressel told himself not to panic even when overcoming his parachute malfunction that caused him to barrel 120 MPH towards the ground.

After landing safely, he was surrounded by the enemy. Five German soldiers took him to

a nearby farmhouse, where a German officer was waiting. While being interrogated with the rest of his crew, SGT Pressel and his crewmates remained steadfast by answering every enemy question with only "name, rank, and serial number"—and was thrown in a boxcar headed to a German Prisoner of War camp. After suffering horrors from starvation to bug infestations, SGT Pressel and his crew were liberated by General George Patton's Army on April 29, 1945.

SGT Pressel returned to the United States a hero. After a brief time at the air base in Middletown, he began his civilian career at the Motter Electrical Shop in York, Pennsylvania—where he helped build numerous nuclear power plants in Pennsylvania.

SGT Pressel shared two sons—Jim and Gary—with his beloved wife, Grace, before her passing, as well as four grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and one great-great grandchild.

Mr. Speaker, I'm honored, humbled, and privileged to recognize Sergeant Harold Pressel on his 101st Birthday. I wish him the blessings of great health, happiness, and prosperity in his future adventures. "Thank you" will never be enough for his service and sacrifices in the name of our great Nation. His life and legacy set the standard by which we all should be judged.

### RECOGNIZING VERA WADDLE FINLEY'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

#### HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 31, 2025

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Vera Waddle Finley, an amazing person who will be celebrating her 100th birthday on February 5, 2025. It is my distinct honor to pay tribute to Ms. Finley on this joyous occasion and to highlight the extraordinary life that endears her to so many in the community. Born to Pearl Porterfield Waddle and Albert Norberth Waddle in Forman, Arkansas, she grew up in a family with five older siblings: Herley, Haskell, Marilla, Marilene and Aaron. In 1927, the Finley family moved to Ardmore, Oklahoma following the devastating loss of their mother, Pearl.

Vera, a high school graduate, has always been eager to learn more and has had a strong desire for knowledge, particularly in the field of business. While she initially devoted her time to being a homemaker, she later worked at Hansen Textile once her children were older. Vera finished out her career at Merck, Sharp and Dohme where she spent over 35 years as a Confidential Secretary using her fluency in typing and shorthand daily.

Vera met the love of her life, United States Army Air Corps Gunner Louis Franklin Finley, Jr. in 1943 as the pair danced the polka. The following Spring, the pair married and relo-

cated to Hatfield, Pennsylvania. Throughout their 40 years together, the pair never missed a chance to share a dance. Together they raised four children—Rockwell, Tanya, Ronald and Debra—who each went on to marry Brenda, Eddie, Barbara and Robert, respectively. If you ask any of her children, they will say that she was an excellent homemaker, gardener and cook.

Aside from her children, Vera has 10 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. She enjoys conversing with others and listening to music. She is an active member of the Montgomery Baptist Church in Colmar, Pennsylvania where she remains the oldest member.

As we celebrate her 100 years of life, we are extremely grateful for the positive impact she has had on her children, her family and all those who know her. She always sports a smile and loving heart.

### HONORING HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

#### HON. NICOLE MALLIOTAKIS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 31, 2025

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 60th anniversary of Holy Cross Greek Orthodox in Bay Ridge. I join the entire Bay Ridge community in honoring the individuals who have contributed to the growth of the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church and Demetrios and Georgia Parochial School. From the original seven founders to the clergy, staff, and countless volunteers, every person has played a significant role in ensuring the church remains a pillar of the community.

This occasion is an opportunity not only to celebrate our history but also to look ahead to the future. Today, we remember these words spoken during Holy Cross' consecration in 1965: "The past was glorious, and if the future emulates the past, then the growth of our church will be secure for future generations."

As we reflect on this important milestone, we look forward to many more years of service to God, our community, and the preservation of our cherished Hellenic traditions.

### HONORING THE LIFE OF EDWIN RANDOLPH "RANDY" LEACH

#### HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 31, 2025

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Edwin Randolph "Randy" Leach, who passed away on January 12th at the age of 68. Randy is remembered for his sound legal mind and dedicating a great legal career in the Roanoke Valley.

The birth of Randy Leach occurred in Raleigh, North Carolina, on November 27, 1956.

• 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.

Following his childhood and adolescent years in North Carolina, Mr. Leach attended academic institutions in Virginia. He earned a B.A. from Hampden-Sydney College before graduating from the renowned law school at William & Mary.

A career devoted to public service soon followed. Randy moved to the City of Roanoke to begin a career as a public defender.

Later, he joined the Roanoke County Commonwealth Attorney's office. For 14 years, he served as Chief Assistant Commonwealth Attorney.

In 2002, the citizens of Roanoke County placed their trust in Randy Leach to serve the County and elected him as Commonwealth Attorney.

Appreciated by many, he ran for re-election four times and ran unopposed in each of those campaigns. He retired from his distinguished role as a constitutional officer in 2019.

As a practicing attorney in the Roanoke Valley during the same time, I had the pleasure of working with Randy throughout his tenure in the Commonwealth Attorney's office. I had many cases in Roanoke County and often Randy would be the prosecutor in a case I was defending.

Randy also regularly frequented Mac & Bob's restaurant, a popular site in Salem, Virginia, and was beloved there by the regulars.

Randy Leach is preceded in death by his parents, Bill and Jimmie Ruth Leach. He leaves behind his older brother, Ken Leach; nieces, Leslie Wall (Chad), Lisa Yancy, and Eden Gauss (Jai); younger brother, Keith Leach (Janis); and nephews, Michael, (Meghan), and Casey.

Randy Leach was a dedicated lawyer whose service and exceptional legal talents on behalf of Roanoke County was appreciated by many. He will be sorely missed by his family, colleagues, friends and the Roanoke Valley community.

#### RECOGNIZING SHAWN MORGAN

### HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 31, 2025*

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of a grateful Nation and the Citizens of the Twenty-Fourth District of Texas, the 2024 Congressional Veteran Commendation is hereby presented to Shawn Morgan, Staff Sergeant, United States Army, of Keller, Texas for his honorable service in the Armed Forces of the United States of America and for his continued service to his community.

Mr. Morgan enlisted in the United States Army in 2004, serving as an infantryman and a drill sergeant, deploying three times in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. On May 30, 2007, he was wounded in action after being shot by a sniper during an ambush on his patrol in Tarmiyah, Iraq. After recovering from his injuries, he rejoined his platoon to complete their 15-month deployment. He later was responsible for the training of over 1,500 soldiers as a drill sergeant before leaving the service in 2014.

Mr. Morgan's decorations include the Purple Heart, the Iraq Campaign Medal with Two Campaign Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal (2nd Award),

the Army Achievement Medal (5th Award), the Meritorious Unit Commendation (2nd Award), the Army Good Conduct Medal (3rd Award), the National Defense Service Medal, the Global Warrior Terrorism Service Medal, the Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon (2nd Award), the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon (2nd Award), the Combat Infantryman Badge, and the Drill Sergeant Identification Badge.

His dedication to service does not stop with his time in the military. He currently serves as a full-time advocate for veterans with the Wounded Warrior Project where he has been instrumental in helping thousands of veterans connect with resources, their community, and organizations nationwide. He also serves as a soccer coach with i9 Sports Youth Soccer.

Mr. Morgan's service is consistent with the finest traditions of the United States Army and reflect great credit upon himself, the State of Texas, and the United States of America.

#### APPRECIATION FOR HER EXCELLENCE DAME KAREN PIERCE

### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 31, 2025*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, As Chairman of the Congressional UK Caucus alongside Co-Chairs DAVID ROUZER (NC-07), JIM HIMES (CT-04), and GABE AMO (RI-01), we include in the RECORD the following to honor Her Excellency Dame Karen Elizabeth Pierce, Lady Roxburgh, DCMG and her tenure as Ambassador of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United States of America.

We are grateful to extend deep gratitude to Dame Karen Pierce, DCMG for her exemplary service as His Britannic Majesty's Ambassador to the United States. Throughout her tenure, Dame Pierce demonstrated exceptional diplomacy, fostering a spirit of collaboration and friendship between our two Nations. Her steadfast commitment to the Special Relationship has not only upheld but strengthened the deep historical ties that unite the United States and the United Kingdom.

As key liaison to the United Kingdom, Dame Pierce has facilitated meetings with Congressional members and all levels of the British Government, from Prime Ministers to Cabinet Ministers, Members of Parliament, and members of the Royal Family. Dame Pierce's tenure was marked by her unwavering professionalism, strategic insight, and tireless advocacy for shared values, including democracy, human rights, and international security. Her ability to navigate complex geopolitical challenges with grace and determination set an inspiring example for diplomats around the world. Dame Pierce has remained steadfast in her ability to ensure the highest levels of diplomatic channels between our two Nations remain open and well used.

As Dame Pierce concludes her role as Ambassador, we appreciate her for her remarkable contributions to our bilateral relationship. Her leadership and dedication will be long remembered and appreciated by both Nations. On behalf of this body and the American people, we extend our best wishes to Dame Pierce in her future endeavors and express

our sincere gratitude for her distinguished service.

I was born with appreciation of British heritage in the most British city of North America, Charleston, South Carolina. Founded in 1670, named for Charles I as Charles Town. Surviving the American Civil War, the beautiful, elegant homes of the early seventeenth century have been preserved and restored forever to recognize our valued British heritage.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE HOUSEHOLD GOODS SHIPPING CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 31, 2025*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Household Goods Shipping Consumer Protection Act. This bill would ensure that the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) has the tools to protect consumers from fraud in the interstate transportation of household goods. Last Congress, the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure passed this bill by a vote of 62–2. Representative MIKE EZELL is co-leading this bill with me. Senators DEB FISCHER and TAMMY DUCKWORTH are introducing the companion bill.

Specifically, this bill would clarify that FMCSA has the authority to assess civil penalties against fraudulent actors that hold consumers' personal goods hostage, allow FMCSA to leverage states' enforcement of federal consumer protection laws related to the transportation of household goods and establish requirements to ensure that motor carriers, brokers and freight forwarders that seek registration are operating legitimate businesses.

FMCSA receives thousands of complaints every year from the victims of fraud related to the shipment of household goods. Fraudsters have launched moving companies with fake 5-star online reviews to draw in customers, intending to overcharge customers or to hold their personal goods hostage until an additional fee is paid. After receiving negative reviews, fraudsters open a new moving company under a new name and a new FMCSA license. FMCSA lacks the authority to prevent and punish these types of fraud.

In 2019, a Department of Transportation Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) ruled that FMCSA lacks the authority to assess civil penalties for violations of commercial regulations, including unauthorized brokerage and failure to return household goods to consumers. This ruling reversed years of practice and enforcement by FMCSA. As a result of the ALJ's decision, FMCSA may not assess civil penalties for violations of commercial regulations. Instead, the Department of Justice must initiate an action in federal court, which limits enforcement action and leaves consumers to pay the price. This bill would clarify congressional intent and provide explicit authority for FMCSA to adjudicate and assess civil penalties for commercial regulations and registration requirements.

This bill would also provide explicit authority for FMCSA to withhold registration from any applicant that fails to provide a valid principal