

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING WORLD WAR II VETERAN HARLAND J. HENNESSEY

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2025

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and posthumous return of United States Army Veteran Harland J. Hennessey.

Harland J. Hennessey was born on September 1, 1918. He attended Boonville High School where he was president of his eighth-grade class, played soccer, and appeared in school musicals and plays.

Hennessey left Boonville on May 27, 1941 to join the United States Army. He trained at Fort Jay on Governors Island and later at Fort Belvoir in Virginia. By December 1941 he was stationed at Fort Stotsenburg in the Philippines.

In 1942, he was serving with the 803rd Engineer Battalion when Japanese forces invaded the Philippine Islands. Heavy fighting led to the surrender of the Bataan Peninsula on April 9, 1942, and Corregidor Island on May 6, 1942. Hennessey was captured when U.S. forces in Bataan surrendered.

He and other POWs were forced to march 65 miles in the Bataan Death March and were later held at the Cabanatuan POW Camp No. 1. Hennessey died on November 1, 1942, at the age of 24. He was one of the first servicemen from the Boonville area to die in World War II. He was buried with other deceased prisoners in Common Grave 704 at the camp cemetery.

After the war, the American Graves Registration Service (AGRS) exhumed those buried at the Cabanatuan cemetery and moved the remains to a temporary U.S. military mausoleum near Manila. In 1947, AGRS examined the remains, identifying two sets from Common Grave 704 and declaring the other eight unidentifiable. These were buried as Unknowns at the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial (MACM).

In 2018, as part of the Cabanatuan Project, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency exhumed the remains from Common Grave 704 for laboratory analysis. Using dental and anthropological evidence, circumstantial data, and mitochondrial DNA testing, scientists identified Hennessey's remains.

Though interred as an Unknown for more than 70 years, his grave was cared for by the American Battle Monuments Commission. He is honored on the Cabanatuan Memorial, built by survivors of the Bataan Death March and the Cabanatuan POW camp, and on the Walls of the Missing at MACM where a rosette will now mark that he has been accounted for.

VFW Post 5538 in Boonville bears Hennessey's name in honor of his incredible service to our country. After 84 years, his remains are set to return to his hometown where he will be buried in Boonville Cemetery.

On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I am honored to recognize the incred-

ible service and heroism of World War II Veteran Harland J. Hennessey and welcome him home.

RECOGNIZING JESSE DRAKE

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2025

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jesse Drake, a proud constituent of Montclair, California, for his courageous service during World War II and to celebrate his upcoming 101st birthday on September 24, 2025.

Mr. Drake was born on September 24, 1924. On June 6, 1942, he enlisted in the United States Navy at the age of 17. He went on to serve with distinction as a Petty Officer Second Class, participating in several major campaigns, including the Atlantic Invasion of North Africa and the pivotal battles of Iwo Jima and Okinawa in the Pacific Theater.

During the Okinawa campaign, Mr. Drake and his fellow sailors bravely endured a deadly kamikaze attack while aboard the USS *Hyman*, a Fletcher-class destroyer. The enemy strike hit the ship's torpedo tube, causing a devastating explosion in the engine room. Tragically, 12 sailors lost their lives and 40 were wounded. Mr. Drake survived the attack, and his colleagues note that his resilience has been a testament to the strength and sacrifice of the Greatest Generation. Mr. Drake was honorably discharged from the Navy on October 6, 1947. He was awarded the World War II Victory Medal and the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with two battle stars to honor his valor and dedication.

Not only is Mr. Drake highly regarded by those he served with, but he is also the beloved father of three daughters and two stepsons, a proud grandfather to 16 grandchildren, and a great-grandfather to 10 great-grandchildren. He has spent 43 years married to his devoted wife, Evelyn. His nephew, Ryan Page, describes him not only as a remarkable veteran but also as an extraordinary father figure whose impact continues to shape the lives of those around him.

For his outstanding military service and his remarkable life, it is my honor to recognize Jesse Drake. His commitments to his family and our Nation are worthy of the highest commendation.

HONORING THE 140TH ANNIVERSARY OF BETH SHALOM CONGREGATION

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2025

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 140th anniversary

of Beth Shalom congregation. This historic synagogue, recognized as a state historical site, holds the distinction of being the oldest continuously operating synagogue in our state.

As the remote mill community of what would become Traverse City grew, three Jewish merchants—Julius Levinson, Julius Steinberg and Solomon Yalomstein—organized a congregation in 1882. It was Mr. Steinberg who originally purchased the land where the synagogue would be built, which initially served as a cemetery for the congregation's members. In 1885, the synagogue's first cornerstone was laid, and in March of 1886, the building was dedicated, marking the beginning of a lasting religious and cultural presence in Northern Michigan.

Over the following years, Beth Shalom congregation became not only a house of worship but also a beacon of service and advocacy. By the turn of the twentieth century, more than forty Jewish families were part of the community. Throughout the twentieth century, the congregation advocated for Jewish people across the world, helping a Jewish family fleeing Nazism in 1939 by raising funds for rescue and resettlement efforts. In 1970, the congregation campaigned on behalf of Jews persecuted in the Soviet Union, and in 1973, the congregation had its first woman president—symbolizing the synagogue's move towards gender equality.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to commend Beth Shalom congregation on its 140th anniversary and for its unwavering support for the Jewish community across the globe. For well over a century, the congregation has stood as a pillar of faith, resilience, and community spirit. I offer my best wishes to the congregation as they continue their efforts to serve their neighbors and enrich the broader fabric of Northern Michigan.

RECOGNIZING MARIE AND DAVID TROY

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2025

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marie and David Troy of Greenwich, New York for their admirable patriotism.

Marie Troy is a lifelong New Yorker and resident of Washington County. For four years now, she and her husband David Troy have dedicated time and effort to bringing patriotic pride back to their community on Memorial Day. Together the Troys line their town's main streets with American flags made here in the USA by the Saratoga Flag Company.

To pay for all 78 flags and the necessary hardware the Troys raised money through neighbors and local businesses. To install the flags, the Troys partnered with Veteran Mike Savage, the Middle Falls Fire Department, and local leaders so that the flags are all up by Memorial Day. Marie and David Troy are an

• 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.

example to New Yorkers and to Americans. I truly respect and admire them for their enthusiasm and patriotism.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I want to thank Marie and David Troy for being model citizens of our community.

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CLAREMONT GRADUATE UNIVERSITY

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2025

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and commend the Claremont Graduate University on their 100th Anniversary. I include in the RECORD the following proclamation:

Whereas, in 1925, the Claremont Graduate University was founded on the belief that higher education holds a vital role in shaping the future of our nation and in nurturing the intellectual and ethical foundations upon which our democracy thrives; and

Whereas, for 100 years, the Claremont Graduate University has contributed immeasurably to the intellectual, cultural, and civic life of California, the nation, and the world through the education of generations of students, groundbreaking research, and public service; and

Whereas, The Claremont Graduate University has long been a beacon of intellectual rigor, fostering a diverse and inclusive academic environment that has produced leaders and innovators in many fields. The university's commitment to transdisciplinary education and research has had a profound impact on society; and

Whereas, The alumni of the Claremont Graduate University are professionals from diverse cultures and backgrounds who have gone on to become members of Congress, university presidents, professors, health researchers, superintendents, classroom teachers, data analysts, deans, art directors, and community leaders; and

Whereas, the 100th anniversary of the Claremont Graduate University is a moment to honor the legacy of its founders, celebrate a century of achievement, and inspire future generations to uphold the principles of academic inquiry, leadership, and service;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, Congresswoman JUDY CHU, representing California's 28th Congressional District, do hereby recognize and commend the Claremont Graduate University on the occasion of their 100th Anniversary, and extend sincere appreciation for their enduring contributions to the people of California and beyond.

HONORING CARL LUCAS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Carl Lucas—a dedicated educational leader, proud native of Hollandale, Mississippi, and tireless advocate for student achievement and equity in education.

Mr. Lucas began his career as a secondary mathematics teacher, where he created a classroom culture of rigor and relevance. His students consistently demonstrated significant

growth on state assessments, earning him recognition for narrowing achievement gaps and instilling academic discipline.

As Principal of Simmons High School, Mr. Lucas set a bold goal of earning a B rating. Through systems that raised expectations, improved instruction, and increased student accountability, he led the school to measurable gains in academic performance, graduation rates, and climate.

In addition to school leadership, Mr. Lucas developed and expanded transformative academic programs, including:

Dual Enrollment & Career Pathways with Mississippi Delta Community College and Tougaloo College.

ACT Prep Initiatives, including summer boot camps and classroom integration.

Credit Recovery & Summer Learning, led by certified teachers.

Middle College Readiness Programs for college and career acceleration.

Student Support Systems including mentoring and behavior contracts.

Mr. Lucas holds a Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics and a Master's Degree from Mississippi Valley State University, as well as an Education Specialist Degree from Belhaven University.

He is married to his high school sweetheart, Monet Dye-Lucas, and together they are the proud parents of Carl Kaisha, Carl Jr., Carlnell, and Carlndria.

Mr. Lucas leads with heart, vision, and integrity. He believes every child deserves access to a quality education and the opportunity to thrive. His life's work reflects that belief, right in the community that raised him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Carl Lucas for his unwavering service to education and his lasting impact on the Mississippi Delta.

HONORING AIR FORCE VETERAN PETER TAUTZNIK

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2025

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor United States Air Force and Air National Guard Veteran Peter Tautznik.

Peter Tautznik, born on December 4, 1947, has dedicated his life to serving both his country and his community. Peter served in the U.S. Air Force as a Vehicle Maintenance Superintendent, and later with the Air National Guard. He achieved the rank of Senior Master Sergeant, reflecting not only his technical expertise but also his strong leadership abilities and commitment to his country.

During his military career, Peter earned an impressive number of commendations. His honors include three Air Force Commendation Medals, two Air Force Achievement Medals, seven Air Force Longevity Service Awards, two National Defense Service Medals, and two Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards. He was also awarded two Humane Service to New York State Medals and four Long and Faithful Service Awards, recognizing his ongoing commitment to excellence and selfless service.

Beyond his military service, Peter has been a dedicated and active member of his community. For more than 35 years, he owned and

operated PJ's Truck Repair, providing reliable service to his neighbors. He has also served as a certified National Rifle Association (NRA) Instructor and as a Fulton County Sheriff's Licensing Course Instructor. Today, Peter continues his service by maintaining the Lake Valley Ambulance Corp. vehicles, ensuring the readiness of critical emergency services in Fulton County.

On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I am honored to recognize Senior Master Sergeant Peter Tautznik for his service, sacrifice, and unwavering dedication to both our Nation and our local community.

HONORING ROBERT AND LINDA MCNEILL ON 25 YEARS OF MARRIAGE

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2025

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Robert and Linda McNeill on the occasion of their 25th wedding anniversary. It is with great pleasure and excitement that I share this wonderful news.

Robert, a man of integrity, loyalty, and strength, has devoted his life to family and loved ones. Linda, a kind and graceful soul, treasures her family values and cherishes every moment with those dearest to her.

Fate brought Robert and his beautiful wife, Linda, together at the Curwood festival in Owosso, Michigan. In a serendipitous moment, as he picked her up, their eyes locked, and their lifelong love began. Robert and Linda's story reached a cherished milestone on September 23, 2000, when they were united in marriage. Since then, they have raised three sons together and have continued to grow not just as individuals, but also as partners in life.

Love and marriage represent the joining of two hearts and lives, built on a foundation of trust, respect, and shared dreams. Robert and Linda embody the promise to stand together through life's joys and challenges, growing stronger as individuals and as partners. Their love story is a testament to the beauty of finding someone who not only inspires you but also walks beside you every step of the way.

Mr. Speaker, let us all join in congratulating Robert and Linda on this momentous milestone and celebration of their long-lasting love. I wish them boundless happiness, love, and success as they continue on their journey together.

RECOGNIZING SALVADOR BARAJAS

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2025

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Salvador Barajas, an outstanding historical muralist and visionary artist, who has worked tirelessly to preserve history, mental youth, and strengthen multicultural identity in San Diego.

Mr. Barajas served in the United States Air Force from 1961 to 1964. During his service,