

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING JUDGE LILLIE  
BLACKMON SANDERS

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 9, 2025*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable servant, Lillie Blackmon Sanders.

Lillie Blackmon Sanders grew up on a farm in the small community of Black Hawk, Mississippi. She attended the Carroll County Public Schools, graduating from Vaiden High School. Lillie is one of 11 children of the late Percy and Leola Blackmon. She is married to Attorney Everett Sanders and is the proud mother of Aisha and Keishia Sanders.

Lillie attended Alcorn State University, where she became a trailblazer as the first female president of the Student Government Association. She was initiated into the Gamma Phi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. in the fall of 1973. After graduating from Alcorn, Lillie enrolled at the University of Mississippi College of Law, where she received her Juris Doctor degree. She began her legal career as an attorney with Southwest Mississippi Legal Services, which led her to Natchez, Mississippi, where she has made her home for the past 44 years.

Lillie was recognized by Alpha Kappa Alpha as one of the "Unforgettable and Unsung Sorors of the Civil Rights Movement." She became the first female Circuit Court Judge in the state of Mississippi and also started a Drug Court, which affords individuals a second change. She retired in 2022 but holds Senior Judge status to hear special cases around the state.

Lillie is a member of Zion Chapel AME Church, where she serves on the Steward Board. She is also a member of the NAACP, Mississippi Bar Association, Magnolia Bar Association, Mississippi Judiciary Advisory Study Committee, and the Mississippi Access to Justice Commission, and she has been the recipient of many awards.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Natchez Retired Judge Lillie Blackmon Sanders for her actions and achievements in the Natchez, Mississippi community.

HONORING HIS ALL-HOLINESS ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

**HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 9, 2025*

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to welcome to Washington, D.C. His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the spiritual head of the world's Orthodox Christians and one of the

most respected peacemakers of our time. Patriarch Bartholomew has long been known as the "Patriarch of Peace" and the "Bridge Builder." He joins a long line of true peacemakers in history—figures like Martin Luther King, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Nelson Mandela, and others who not only worked to reduce conflict, but also showed compassion even toward those who persecuted them. His All-Holiness has endured great trials, facing hostility and harassment from those who would try to silence his faith and his mission. Yet, instead of responding with bitterness, he has consistently answered with courage, with compassion, and with a steadfast commitment to peace. Despite persistent challenges, Patriarch Bartholomew has dedicated his life to building bridges between faiths, nations, and peoples. He has reached out across the Christian world, across East and West, and even across the divide between Christianity and Islam, showing by example that dialogue and mutual respect are the only true path to peace. His advocacy for religious freedom, for human dignity, and for the environment has earned him recognition across the globe. Indeed, he is a past recipient of the Congressional Gold Medal and now the Templeton Prize, joining the ranks of luminaries such as Mother Teresa and the Dalai Lama.

I also want to express my deep gratitude to my Greek Orthodox constituents, especially those of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Atlantic City and Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Egg Harbor Township, who carry forward the Patriarch's vision of faith, service, and community here in South Jersey. They enrich our communities and remind us of the enduring strength of their traditions and values. Ladies and gentlemen, the visit of His All-Holiness to our Nation's capital is an occasion of great significance. At a time when the world is too often divided, his voice calls us back to what is essential—that we are all children of God, and that blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God. I ask my colleagues to join me in welcoming Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to the United States and in honoring his extraordinary work for peace, justice, and reconciliation throughout the world. God bless Patriarch Bartholomew and God bless the United States of America. The greatest country on the face of the Earth.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF JOHN  
B. ROBINSON

**HON. CHRIS PAPPAS**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 9, 2025*

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of John B. Robinson, a constituent from Portsmouth, New Hampshire. I celebrate John's service to our country as the leader of the 5th U.S. Marine Division Special Rangers during the pivotal World War II battle of Iwo Jima.

John was just eighteen years old when Japan bombed Pearl Harbor. He enlisted in the Marines after high school and soon found himself a Staff Sergeant in charge of a sound ranging team that specialized in locating hidden enemy weapons.

John's sound rangers took part in the Marine landing on the small volcanic island of Iwo Jima in February 1945. Upon landing at Iwo Jima, the Marines faced a surprise Japanese assault. Enemy fighters streamed out of underground tunnels and launched attacks with hidden artillery positioned across the island. Nearly seven thousand Marines were killed. But were it not for the work of John and his team, countless more American lives might have been lost.

In the thirty-six days of fighting that ensued, John and the 5th Marine Division's sound rangers used cutting-edge technology to echolocate Japanese weapons before they could be used against American troops. They persisted through a constant barrage of enemy fire that kept them awake day and night. Many saw fellow Marines die right before their eyes. John later recalled that "Every time [he] took a breath, someone got killed" on Iwo Jima, including many of his close personal friends.

At 102 years of age, John is the only surviving member of the 5th Division sound rangers. He marked his birthday this April by sharing war stories with nearly 100 community members gathered at his Portsmouth assisted living facility. John has also documented his service in Iwo Jima and postwar occupied Japan by donating oral history recordings to the Story Preservation Initiative.

On behalf of New Hampshire's 1st Congressional District, I would like to thank John for his service and for sharing his wartime experiences with others. As we reflect on the 80th anniversary of V-J Day this month, it is more important than ever to listen to veterans like yourself who fought with ingenuity and courage when our democracy was on the line.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JARED HUFFMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 9, 2025*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unable to make the following vote. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 236.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE  
OF ANDREW STINE

**HON. ELISE M. STEFANK**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 9, 2025*

Ms. STEFANK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the incredible life and service of United States Army Veteran, Andrew G. Stine.

• 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.

Andrew was born on June 22, 1923, in Saratoga Springs, New York, and graduated from White Plains High School in 1941. He briefly attended New York University before entering the United States Army on March 4, 1943, at the height of World War II. Andrew was assigned as a Demolition Tech with the 1884th Engineer Aviation Battalion, with whom he served in the Ryukyus campaign, a pivotal campaign in the Pacific Theater, which included the Battle of Okinawa. Andrew and his unit handled the construction and repair of airfields in remote and hostile areas throughout the Western Pacific. After being honorably discharged at the end of World War II, Andrew opted to re-enlist with the Army Corps of Engineers on February 21, 1947, and served as a surveyor with the 817th Engineer Aviation Battalion for another three years.

On February 20, 1950, Andrew was honorably discharged, and in recognition of his dedicated service to the United States, he was presented with the Good Conduct Medal with Clasp, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with two Service Stars, the American Campaign Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal.

After his military service, Andrew went on to receive his bachelor's degree from Skidmore College and worked as a land surveyor for over fifty years, including ten years working for the National Park Service, and another eight years with the Vermont Highway and Human Services Department.

Andrew and his wife, Ethel, were married for fifty years and raised three children together: Patricia, Marion, and James. They were also heavily involved with Boy Scout Troop No. 13 in Schuylerville, New York, and were proud to see their son and grandson both attain the rank of Eagle Scout. On July 4, 2019, Andrew passed away, leaving behind a legacy of service to his country and his community.

On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I am honored to recognize World War II Veteran Andrew G. Stine.

RECOGNIZING U.S. ARMY SERGEANT MAJOR KEVIN FACEMYER

**HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 9, 2025*

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Sergeant Major Kevin Facemyer, a remarkable leader from South Jersey, who is retiring after 27 years of dedicated military service to our great Nation.

From enlisting in the U.S. Army with a Ranger contract in 1996, to serving with the 75th Ranger Regiment, to deployments in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, Kevin exemplified courage and commitment in some of the most challenging missions of our time. He went on to lead with distinction in the Maryland Army National Guard, where he trained future leaders, prepared units for combat, and supported critical domestic operations. Over his career, he earned some of the Army's highest honors, including the Legion of Spirit Medal, Bronze Star, and Purple Heart, as well as recognition in the orders of Saint Maurice and Saint Michael. As Kevin retires with 27 years of combined service, we salute his extraordinary career, his devotion to his soldiers, and his steadfast defense of our country.

God bless Kevin and God bless the United States of America. The greatest country on the face of the Earth.

HONORING PETER ERRANTE

**HON. MIKIE SHERRILL**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 9, 2025*

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Peter P. Errante, who is retiring after 41 years of faithful and dedicated service as a civilian employee of the U.S. Army at Picatinny Arsenal.

Mr. Errante chose to apply his knowledge and experience to the U.S. military's armaments enterprise at Picatinny Arsenal located in New Jersey's 11th Congressional District. The contributions he has made to our national defense, and to our allies' defense, are enormous, and we all owe him a debt of gratitude.

Mr. Errante started out his career as an engineer, and in October 2002, he was selected as the Deputy Product Director for Crew Served Weapons as part of the newly formed Program Executive Office Soldier, Project Manager Soldier Lethality Organization. He served a key role in standing up for that organization and will continue that position up to his retirement on September 30, 2025.

As Deputy, Mr. Errante executed over \$7 billion in acquisitions and delivered over two million crew served weapons and accessories to soldiers and allies. He was directly responsible for weapon life cycle management, including development, production and sustainment of the M249 Squad Automatic Rifle, M240 Machine Guns, M2/M2A1 Machine Guns, Mk19 Grenade Machine Guns, Multiple Anti-Armor Anti-Personnel Weapon Systems (MAAWS) M22, M24, M25/M25A1 Binoculars, Mounted Machine Gun Optics, M107, M110, and M2010 Sniper Rifles, Medium Caliber Weapons, Common Remotely Operated Weapon Stations (CROWS), and Non-Standard Weapons and Optics. Thanks to his efforts, Picatinny's Armaments Center has continued to develop and sustain vital combat systems that both our warfighters and our allies depend on and will continue to use in the future.

I want to thank Mr. Errante for the critical engineering and program management that he and his team have done over his career to support our national defense, and I wish him the best for a well-earned and restful retirement.

COMMEMORATING THE 100-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBBY'S PUMPKIN FACTORY

**HON. DARIN LAHOOD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 9, 2025*

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 100th anniversary of Libby's Pumpkin Factory in Morton, Illinois. For a century, Libby's has been at the heart of our agricultural economy, building a legacy that has made Morton the "Pumpkin Capital of the World."

Since commencing operations in 1925, the Libby's plant in Morton has grown into the largest pumpkin canning operation in the United States. Its operations have had an immensely positive impact on local family farms, the environment, and cultivating the next generation of agricultural professionals.

The plant's local impact is remarkable, sourcing more than 90 percent of its pumpkin crop from within a 45-mile radius of Morton, supporting countless family farms and providing an economic boost to the area.

The Morton facility has a stellar record of environmental sustainability, operating as a zero-waste-for-disposal facility, recycling water used during pack season, and ensuring that every part of the pumpkin—from seed to stem—is repurposed.

Libby's has also invested in the next generation of agricultural professionals by partnering with regional institutions of higher education, including the University of Illinois, to fund scholarships and create innovative opportunities for learning best practices.

Mr. Speaker, today we honor Libby's and its employees past and present, for their enduring commitment to innovation, excellence, and positive community impact. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Libby's Pumpkin on 100 years of excellence and in recognizing Morton's proud legacy as the Pumpkin Capital of the World.

RECOGNIZING CHESTER FIRST AID SQUAD'S 80TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 9, 2025*

Mr. KEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service and commitment of the Chester First Aid Squad. Since 1945, the Chester First Aid Squad has provided exceptional care in times of need. For 80 years, these volunteers have provided free and professional support to the people of Chester and to neighboring communities during medical emergencies. The squad has logged thousands of hours administering emergency assistance to others exemplifying the spirit of sacrifice and volunteerism that embody New Jersey's 7th Congressional District.

I ask my colleagues today to join me in commending this exemplary organization and congratulating them on 80 years of extraordinary community service.

RECOGNIZING EAGLE SCOUT MADELINE DELEIGHA MILLER

**HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 9, 2025*

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize Madeline Miller of Logan Township, who at just sixteen years old has earned the rank of Eagle Scout, a distinction achieved by only a small percentage of Scouts nationwide. At such a young age, Madeline has already shown remarkable dedication, leadership, and service. For her Eagle project, she designed and built dog play