

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF LOUIS BASS

#### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 4, 2025*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Louis Bass, CEO of Regional Medical Center Health System (RMC) in Anniston, Alabama.

Louis has dedicated 26 years of his career to RMC Health System, culminating in a decade of service as CEO. Prior to this leadership role, he served as the system's CFO.

During his tenure, Mr. Bass led RMC through the COVID pandemic and spearheaded several key accomplishments. He integrated Stringfellow Memorial Hospital into the RMC family, allowing the transformation of inpatient care. He helped transform RMC Foundation to better invest in needs of the hospital and expanded access to serve the community. Bass improved nurse education through the donation of Jacksonville Medical Center to Jacksonville State University and helped position RMC for a financially stable future and success by securing HUD funds to refinance and make needed capital improvements.

Louis is a dedicated community leader, serving on the boards of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama, Vizient Southeast, the JSU Foundation and the RMC Foundation. He is also an active member of the Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce and Rotary Club.

Louis and his wife, Debbie, are the proud parents of Jordan and Ashley Bass, Corey and Hazuki Bass, and Lauren and Trey Shaw. They are blessed with four grandchildren: Claire, Jonathan, Emma, and Owen Bass, and Baker and Brewer Shaw.

Mr. Bass is a devoted member of Hillcrest Baptist Church, where he serves as a Deacon.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Louis on his retirement and thanking him for his service to Northeast Alabama. I congratulate Louis.

### HONORING BETHANY BRAMAN FOSTER FOR 10 YEARS OF SO- BRIETY

#### HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 4, 2025*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Bethany Braman Foster of Ludlow, Massachusetts on celebrating 10 years of sobriety, which she achieved on January 31, 2025. This milestone, which required a lot of faith, self-discipline, and healthy choices is an achievement that her new husband Micah Welintikonas (U.S. Army, Retired), her family, and friends came together to honor. Bethany is the epitome of a community-oriented individual, leading her life with care and kindness.

Bethany was always destined to lead a generous life. Since completing her education, Bethany has pursued an extremely successful career as a Physician Assistant (PA) in Springfield, Massachusetts. As a trusted medical professional, she has provided much-needed care and treatment to patients and families in times of need. Her exceptional work was recognized in 2024 when Bethany was named one of the top 5 medical providers from over 100 clinics nationwide.

In addition to her devoted work as a PA, Bethany has found time to give back to her community in other ways. She has been a long-time volunteer at animal rescues, caring for animals and helping them find forever homes. Bethany has also been a devout volunteer for AWANA, a worldwide nonprofit ministry for children and youth.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues please join me in congratulating Bethany on 10 years of sobriety and recognize her as the exceptional citizen she has distinguished herself as. Bethany has led a life full of giving, exemplified through her selfless work in the medical field, countless community engagements, and her role as a loving mother to three children. Bethany, we congratulate you on this momentous accomplishment.

### REMEMBERING THE REMARKABLE LIFE OF DANA CRAWFORD

#### HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 4, 2025*

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of Ms. Dana Crawford. She was a true Denver icon who transformed our city with her vision and determination to revitalize Colorado's most treasured places.

Born in Kansas, Dana brought her passion for preservation and community to Denver in 1953. Inspired by New England town squares, she saw the potential for our city to have vibrant gathering spaces.

Her work began with Larimer Square, a well-known landmark in downtown Denver, which she saved from destruction in the 1960s. Under challenging circumstances, she transformed a block of deteriorating buildings into a thriving hub that sparked a nationwide movement for historic preservation.

Dana's vision didn't stop at Larimer Square. From the Oxford Hotel to Union Station, her work preserved Denver's essence while building for its future. Eventually, her impact extended beyond Denver, revitalizing communities across Colorado, in places like Trinidad, Pueblo, and Idaho Springs.

Dana was a pioneer and beloved in Denver and beyond. Her work wasn't just about preserving buildings—it was about building community and creating places that brought Denverites together.

Our hearts go out to her four sons—Jack, Peter, Tom, and Duke—and all who knew and loved her.

May her memory continue to inspire us all and live in the heart of our city.

### RECOGNIZING THE FOOTHILLS YOUNG MARINES

#### HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 4, 2025*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Foothills Young Marines for being the 2024 "Division 4 Young Marine Unit of the Year."

The Young Marines encourages young people to uphold the Marine Corps' core values of honor, courage, and commitment while serving their local communities. The Foothills unit, made up of about 50 students aged eight through eighteen, logged 2,440 community service hours and 880 hours towards drug demand reduction, earning them the division's highest distinction.

The group organized Children's Hospital fundraisers, food drives, Toys for Tots, and more—while also being at the forefront of drug reduction initiatives and veterans and military appreciation. The young people and staff of the Foothills Young Marines have made extraordinary contributions to our communities, and their work is greatly appreciated by all the people they serve.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate the Foothills Young Marines on winning "Division 4 Young Marine Unit of the Year" and thank them for their service to the Colorado community.

### HONORING CONGRESSMAN KEN CALVERT FOR LEADERSHIP AND INNOVATION IN NATIONAL SEC- URITY

#### HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 4, 2025*

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend my colleague and long-time friend, Congressman KEN CALVERT, who is being honored by the Creative Defense Foundation with the Visionary Award for Leadership and Innovation in National Security. Throughout his distinguished tenure, Congressman CALVERT has been a steadfast advocate for strengthening our Nation's defense capabilities and fostering technological advancements critical to our security.

As Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, Congressman CALVERT has championed initiatives to bridge the gap between technological innovation and its adoption by the Department of Defense. His instrumental role in establishing the Accelerate the Procurement and Fielding of Innovative Technologies (APFIT) program has been

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

pivotal in ensuring that cutting-edge technologies reach our warfighters without undue delay.

Congressman CALVERT's commitment to innovation is further exemplified by his efforts to formalize the Defense Innovation Unit (DIU) and the Office of Strategic Capital, ensuring that our military maintains its technological edge.

On a personal note, I have had the privilege of working alongside Congressman CALVERT for many years. His unwavering dedication to our Nation's security and his visionary leadership have been both inspiring and instrumental in shaping our defense policies. I am proud to call him a friend and colleague.

It is an honor to congratulate and recognize Congressman KEN CALVERT on this well-deserved award and express my gratitude for his invaluable contributions to our Nation's security.

CELEBRATING THE MAYOR OF  
THE CITY OF PORT HURON,  
MICHIGAN FOR 15 YEARS OF EX-  
EMPLARY SERVICE

**HON. LISA C. McCLAIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 4, 2025*

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary leadership and enduring commitment of Mayor Pauline Repp, who has served the City of Port Huron with distinction for 15 years as Mayor. Her tenure exemplifies the values of dedication, professionalism, and selfless service that define an exceptional public servant.

Mayor Repp's life story is as inspiring as her career. Born in England and raised across three countries—England, Canada, and the United States—she became a U.S. citizen in 1988. She began her professional journey in advertising, eventually serving as Assistant to the Publisher of the Times Herald. In 1977, she paused her career to focus on raising her family, but her drive to contribute to her community remained unwavering.

Her commitment to public service began in 1983 when she joined the City of Port Huron as Executive Secretary to the City Manager. Her intelligence and reliability earned her the respect of her colleagues, leading to her promotion as City Clerk in 1989, a position she held for nearly two decades. During her tenure, she achieved the prestigious designation of Master Municipal Clerk, underscoring her dedication to the people she serves.

In 2009, Mayor Repp's passion for improving her community led her to public office. After serving as Chair of the City's Charter Commission, she was elected Mayor of Port Huron and re-elected six more times. Her leadership has been transformative, steering the City toward progress while fostering a spirit of collaboration and unity.

Beyond her mayoral duties, Mayor Repp serves as Chair for the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments and contributes to its Executive, Budget, and Regional Review Committees. She holds prominent roles with the Michigan Association of Mayors, Lake Huron Medical Center Board, St. Clair County Child Abuse Neglect Council, and numerous other boards and organizations. Her work re-

flects an unwavering commitment to the welfare of her community.

Mayor Repp's influence extends beyond her professional achievements. She and her husband Greg have raised four children and enjoy the company of six grandchildren. Having lived in Port Huron for nearly 50 years, she embodies the spirit of the city she has tirelessly served.

Mr. Speaker, Mayor Pauline Repp's 15 years of exemplary service have left an indelible mark on the City of Port Huron. Her visionary leadership, dedication to public service, and commitment to her community stand as a testament to what local government can achieve. Let us honor Mayor Repp's remarkable legacy and express our deepest gratitude for her years of service.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT  
OF MAYOR JOHNNY SMITH

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 4, 2025*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Mayor Johnny L. Smith, Mayor of the City of Jacksonville, Alabama.

Mayor Smith graduated from Collinsville High School and received his Bachelor of Science degree from Jacksonville State University. He furthered his studies with a Master of Mathematics from the University of South Carolina, Doctor of Education with a Special Emphasis in Mathematics from the University of Alabama and Post Graduate Study in Mathematics from Emory University.

Mayor Smith served on the Jacksonville City Council for 12 years and has served as mayor for 20 years. He has served in the Alabama League of Municipalities, the Alabama Recreational Trails Commission, Past Chairman and member of the East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission and Past Chairman and member of the Calhoun County Metropolitan Planning Organization.

His children include: Laura A. Smith (deceased) (David), Jennifer Smith Aguilar (deceased) and Lyle Smith (Jennifer). His grandchildren include: Glenn M. Smith (deceased), LeeAnn Smith (deceased), Kristen Aguilar, Camden Aguilar, Amelia Smith, Olivia Smith and Luke Smith.

Mayor Smith is a member of the First Baptist Church in Jacksonville and the Jacksonville Exchange Club. In 2017, he was the recipient of the Book of Golden Deeds and the Jacksonville News Citizen of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing my friend, Mayor Smith, and thanking him for his service to the City of Jacksonville. Congratulations.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. FRANK J. MRVAN**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 4, 2025*

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 23, 2025, I missed Roll Call Votes No. 24, No. 25, No. 26, and No. 27. Had I been present, I

would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 24; YEA on Roll Call No. 25; YEA on Roll Call No. 26; and NAY on Roll Call No. 27.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AMERICAN  
SEABED PROTECTION ACT AND  
THE INTERNATIONAL SEABED  
PROTECTION ACT

**HON. ED CASE**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 4, 2025*

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce two critically important pieces of legislation aimed at protecting our oceans and marine ecosystems from the potentially catastrophic consequences of deep-sea mining: the American Seabed Protection Act and the International Seabed Protection Act.

These bills will place a moratorium on seabed mining until its full environmental, social and economic impacts are thoroughly studied and appropriate regulatory protections are in place.

Our deep oceans and seabeds are among the last unexplored frontiers of our planet. What we do know about these ecosystems is that they are fragile, diverse and essential to the health of our entire planet. Over half of all known coral species are found in the deep sea, and it is believed that as many as ten million marine species may inhabit this area, many of which are still undiscovered.

These ecosystems are not only rich in biodiversity but also serve vital functions, such as supporting carbon sequestration processes that help mitigate climate change. Additionally, some species residing in these depths have already provided invaluable benefits to humanity. For instance, enzymes from microbes found in deep-sea hydrothermal vents were crucial in developing reliable COVID-19 tests.

While deep-sea discoveries have already made significant contributions to humanity, there is still much scientific research to be done and countless discoveries yet to be made. One of the most exciting areas of research lies in the study of dark oxygen, a unique form of oxygen recently found in certain deep-sea environments. Unlike the oxygen we typically encounter, dark oxygen exists in a chemically distinct state, revealing that oxygen dynamics in the deep ocean are far more complex than previously understood. This discovery could have profound implications not only for marine life but also for biogeochemical processes in the ocean, helping us better understand how deep-sea ecosystems function and how they may respond to environmental changes, including those caused by human activities like seabed mining. The mysteries of the deep ocean, including dark oxygen, continue to unfold, offering new insights that could reshape our understanding of marine ecosystems and the vital role they play in our planet's health.

Unfortunately, these ecosystems are now under increasing threat. The imminent expansion of large-scale commercial seabed mining poses a direct threat to these ecosystems, with potentially irreversible consequences for marine biodiversity, climate processes and communities that depend on ocean resources.

The methods used in seabed mining, including shear-mining techniques that strip away