

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF CASA 0101 IN BOYLE HEIGHTS

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the 25th Anniversary of CASA 0101, located in the community of Boyle Heights.

Since 2000, CASA 0101 has been committed to educating and uplifting the next generation of storytellers in Los Angeles. Under the innovative leadership of its founder Josefina López, CASA 0101 has blossomed into one of the leading arts organizations serving the East side of Los Angeles, hosting theatrical productions, film festivals, and no-cost arts education classes for young Angelenos.

Guided by López's vision to bring live theater programs and the arts to Boyle Heights, the organization has spent the last 25 years cultivating an inclusive space where aspiring artists and storytellers of all backgrounds feel empowered. The impact of CASA 0101's efforts can be seen in their successful track record, with 281 alumni working on a main stage production, 528 youth participating in free classes, and over 12,000 visitors attending a performance at their theater.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring CASA 0101 on their 25th Anniversary.

COMMEMORATING STAFF
SERGEANT HENRY GERALD GISH

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of a very special patriot, Henry Gerald Gish. A tragic casualty of the Vietnam War, U.S. Air Force Staff Sergeant Jerry Gish's remains were identified by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency on June 23, 2025.

SSgt. Jerry Gish was born in Hershey, Pennsylvania on December 18, 1942, and grew up in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Following high school graduation, SSgt. Gish entered the U.S. Air Force in 1961. He served with Detachment 1, 1043rd Radar Evaluation Squadron. In 1968, SSgt. Gish and 18 other men were assigned to Lima Site 85, a tactical air navigation radar site on a remote 5,600-foot mountain peak called Phou Pha Thi in Houaphan Province in Laos. In the early morning of March 11, 1968, North Vietnamese commandos attacked the site with grenades and mortars. The Americans sought safety on a narrow ledge of the steep mountain. After a few hours, U.S. helicopters were able to rescue eight of the men under the protective cover of A-1 Skyraider aircraft. SSgt. Gish

and ten other Americans were killed in action, and their bodies were unable to be recovered.

From 1994 to 2009, joint teams led by the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command conducted multiple recovery operations, pursuing witness leads and recovering evidence and remains. In 2023, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency personnel in Hawaii and members from partner organizations discovered unexploded ordnance, incident-related materials, and possible remains, leading to the identification of an American service member. In 2025, two more excavations were conducted at the site and human remains were recovered. Modern forensic techniques were used to identify SSgt. Gish. He is survived by his wife Doris Eden Gish, daughter Terrie Gish Bayless, and sister Janice Kautz as well as several other family members.

SSgt. Gish is memorialized on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu. His name, and the names of his fallen comrades, are inscribed on the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C. After 57 years, the remains of this courageous patriot are being returned home for final rest with full military honors at the Berea Cemetery in Kentucky. I am grateful to the DPAA personnel who worked diligently to recover and identify his remains. I am also grateful to SSgt. Jerry Gish, who gave the ultimate sacrifice when our Nation called. May he never be forgotten and may he rest in eternal peace.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF JIMMY ALEXANDER

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life and legacy of Mr. Jimmy Alexander of Meridian, Mississippi. Jimmy and his wife, Ann, spent their life together investing in their family and the community of Meridian. As a member of Northcrest Baptist Church since 1986, Jimmy dedicated much of his life to service within the church and the community. He was a leader, mentor, and family man who spent his life serving others.

Jimmy will be most remembered for his contributions as a founding member of The Partnership, which later became the East Mississippi Business Development Corporation, and service on boards of the Meridian Community College Foundation, the Associated Builders & Contractors, the State of Mississippi District Workforce Council, the Mississippi Manufacturers Association, and the State of Mississippi Job Training Coordinating Council.

Jimmy's contributions did not go unnoticed. He was honored with the Ernst and Young Entrepreneurial Award, the Hartley Peavey Award, and numerous other business accolades over the years. For Jimmy, however, the

true measure of success was in the opportunities he created for others including his family, employees whom he considered his family, and the communities that grew stronger because of his vision.

Jimmy's legacy is best summarized in the business he poured his life and soul into. In 1974, alongside his business partner, Henry Burns, he founded A&B Electric Company Inc. It began as a small venture and grew into a remarkable legacy. Through Jimmy's tireless work ethic, steady leadership, and genuine relationships, A&B Electric became the catalyst for the creation of fifteen additional companies in the fields of manufacturing, mechanical, communications, and development. Over the decades, these businesses have collectively employed more than 1,200 people across the Southeast.

Jimmy was a man who believed in doing things the right way—by earning trust, keeping his word, and leading with humility. His legacy lives on in the companies he created, the countless lives he touched, and the family who will carry his memory forward with pride and love. I am honored to memorialize his legacy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I missed all the votes in the vote series on Monday, September 15, 2025.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 266, final passage of H.R. 3400, the TRAVEL Act; and NAY on Roll Call No. 265, final passage of H.J. RES. 117, On Motion to Table the Motion to Discharge Committee.

HONORING KATHRYN REXRODE

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Kathryn Rexrode and her service and contributions to Virginia's 1st District and the Nation.

Kathryn joined my district team four years ago and has served our office well. Kathryn is a highly motivated individual who was energetic about both her work and her relationships. Her work ethic and commitment to service have helped countless constituents of Virginia's 1st District.

I would like to thank Kathryn for her many contributions and dedicated service. She has been an invaluable member of my team, and I wish her the best of luck as she moves on to the next chapter of her professional career. May the Lord bless her as she embarks on a

• 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.

new challenge, and I look forward to seeing her continued success in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you in joining me to recognize Kathryn Rexrode for her service to Virginia's 1st District and the Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, on September 15, 2025, I missed a recorded vote. Had I been present, on Roll Call No. 266, H.R. 3400, the TRAVEL Act, I would have voted Yea.

HONORING CASEY D. YOUNGER,
SR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend an outstanding Mississippian, Mr. Casey D. Younger, Sr., for his exemplary academic achievements, athletic excellence, professional success, and recent induction into the Millsaps College Athletics Hall of Fame.

A native of Vicksburg, Mississippi, Mr. Younger has always demonstrated a commitment to excellence. A proud graduate of Vicksburg High School, he went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Millsaps College in 2008, where he stood out as both a scholar and an athlete. He was named to the Dean's List, served as Chair of the Political Science Club, and received several athletic honors, including selection to the National Football Foundation Hampshire Honor Society, the ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District Team, and NCAA Football All-American honors.

Mr. Younger continued his academic pursuits at the Mississippi College School of Law, earning his Juris Doctor degree in 2012. During his time in law school, he was awarded the Best Paper Award in the Constitutional Law Seminar, the John B. Fareese Trial Advocacy Scholarship, and the prestigious R. Jess Brown Award. He also held leadership roles as Vice President of the Black Law Students Association, Editor of The African American Law School Survival Guide, Chair of the Thurgood Marshall Trial Practice Team, and served as a Star Mentor to his peers.

Today, Mr. Younger is a respected attorney based in Jackson, Mississippi. His primary areas of legal practice include medical malpractice defense, motor vehicle defense, nursing home and long-term care defense, premises liability, products liability, and workers' compensation defense.

His athletic legacy continues to be recognized. In 2021, Mr. Younger was named to the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference (SCAC) 30th Anniversary Football Team and inducted into the Vicksburg Warren School District's Athletics Hall of Fame. Now, in 2025, Millsaps College has honored him as a member of its Athletics Hall of Fame—a fitting rec-

ognition of his contributions to collegiate athletics and leadership on and off the field.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the remarkable life and accomplishments of M. Casey D. Younger, Sr. He is a shining example of the talent, discipline, and integrity that Mississippi produces and a role model for future generations.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK POCAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for two Roll Call votes on Monday, September 15, 2025. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

NAY on Roll Call No. 265, On Motion to Table the Motion to Discharge Committee of H. Res. 117; and YEA on Roll Call No. 266, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H.R. 3400.

HONORING HIS ALL-HOLINESS ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I welcome to Washington His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the spiritual leader of the world's Orthodox Christians and the 270th successor to the Apostle Andrew.

Patriarch Bartholomew has long been a voice for faith, unity, and reconciliation, serving as the head of the second largest single Christian church globally. Along with Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew's admirable leadership and work within the Orthodox Christian church, his deep commitment to religious freedom, interfaith dialogue, and environmental stewardship was recognized this year with the Templeton Prize. The award is administered by the John Templeton Foundation in collaboration with the Templeton World Charity Foundation and the Templeton Religion Trust. By receiving this internationally recognized honor, he joins a distinguished group of past laureates that includes Mother Teresa, the Dalai Lama, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Beginning with the founding of Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Houston in 1917, this visit is incredibly meaningful to the historic Orthodox Christian community within Texas, as well as Orthodox Christians all across America.

We are grateful for Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew's visit to Washington and for his lifelong dedication to bringing together people of different faiths to heed the call for stewardship of creation. I join my Greek Orthodox constituents and people of faith everywhere in offering him a warm welcome.

CONGRATULATING THE 2026 SOUTH DAKOTA TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARDEE

HON. DUSTY JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Becky Haenfler of Avon School District, who has been named the 2026 South Dakota Teacher of the Year.

A graduate of University of South Dakota with a master's degree as a reading specialist, Mrs. Haenfler has built a reputation as a teacher who not only educates but also transforms lives. She currently teaches English Language Arts to fifth, sixth, and seventh graders in the very school she once attended, even in the same classroom where she first discovered her love of reading.

For nineteen years, she has created a learning environment filled with energy, curiosity, and high expectations, inspiring students to connect with literature in ways that challenge and motivate them. Her dedication has left a lasting impact on both her students and her community.

As South Dakota Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Haenfler will represent our state in the National Teacher of the Year program in Washington, D.C. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to extend my congratulations on this well-deserved honor and to express gratitude for her remarkable commitment to her students, community and teaching profession.

RECOGNIZING, HONORING, AND SUPPORTING THE AMERICAN COVID MEMORIAL

HON. ROBERT GARCIA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Mr. GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize, honor and support the American Covid Memorial established by the U.S. Covid-19 Victims & Heroes National Memorial Foundation, as the 65th U.S. National Memorial. The memorial will serve as our Nation's solemn tribute of dignity and reverence to those we lost in the pandemic.

The U.S. Covid-19 pandemic is the deadliest human tragedy to occur in all 250 years of American History, with more than 1.2 million deaths. The scale of this tragedy is almost incomprehensible. Covid killed as many Americans as every war since the foundation of our country combined—twice as many people as the 1918 influenza pandemic and three times as many Americans as died in World War II. These are losses that every person in this country feels deeply, and it is a moment in history that will shape the United States for years to come.

In addition to remembering those we lost, the American Covid Memorial will serve to celebrate the 31 million heroes—16 million medical and 15 million non-medical, essential frontline workers—who bravely and selflessly worked to provide lifesaving healthcare, deliver supplies, and maintain vital community services during the pandemic. Their efforts saved lives and kept our country running.