

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD'S STATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

**HON. ED CASE**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 19, 2025*

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commemorate the 25th anniversary of the State Partnership Program (SPP) between the Hawaii National Guard and the Armed Forces of the Republic of the Philippines.

The SPP pairs state and territorial National Guard units with partner nations worldwide. It helps build enduring, mutually beneficial relationships to enhance security cooperation, advance U.S. interests and improve partner nations' military readiness.

The SPP partnership between the Hawaii National Guard and the Philippines, initiated in 2000, was one of the earliest in the Indo-Pacific under this program, and it remains the longest-standing such partnership in the region. Over the past quarter century, the partnership between Hawaii's citizen soldiers and airmen and their Philippine counterparts has steadily progressed, encompassing humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, joint training exercises, strategic planning and multilateral regional engagement.

The 25th anniversary of this agreement showcases an important and long-lasting commitment to mutual security, shared values and an enduring friendship between our two democratic nations.

This great SPP's success lies in its foundation of trust, mutual respect and cultural understanding. Hawaii's geographic location and strong cultural and historical ties to the Philippines have made our state an ideal bridge between our two militaries. This special relationship has not only strengthened defense readiness but also developed personal connections that enrich both our communities.

I would also like to acknowledge the role of our partners in Guam, who have joined this trilateral cooperation in recent years. Their collaboration strengthens the regional fabric of security and partnership.

On this 25th anniversary, I wish to recognize all those who have contributed to this partnership's success. The enduring engagement between the Hawaii National Guard and the Philippine armed forces has advanced the strategic goals of a free and open Indo-Pacific and strengthened the bonds between our two great nations.

Let us honor this important milestone not just as a celebration of the past but also as a reaffirmation of our shared future. I look forward to many more years of partnership and shared commitment to peace and prosperity between America and the Philippines under our SPP.

### CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF ROOSEVELT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**HON. KATHY CASTOR**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 19, 2025*

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Roosevelt Elementary School, celebrating its 100th year of educating the children of the Tampa Bay region. Roosevelt Elementary has not only been a champion for education but a fixture of the Tampa community, supporting academic excellence, character building, and community engagement. The Tampa Bay Community is forever grateful to have caring educators and a school like Roosevelt Elementary to teach the next generation of Floridians and bring together my neighbors across Tampa Bay.

The history of Roosevelt Elementary is the history of the City of Tampa. Theodore Roosevelt was Assistant Secretary of the Navy when the U.S.S. Maine was sunk in Havana Harbor. When the Spanish-American War began, Roosevelt resigned his position and joined the military. Lieutenant Colonel Roosevelt recruited volunteers to serve in the 1st United States Volunteer Cavalry, which soon became known as the Rough Riders. In June of 1898, Roosevelt and the Rough Riders camped in Tampa for two weeks before they headed south to Cuba and became famous for their charge up Cuba's San Juan Hill. The Rough Riders were brave men fighting to achieve an independent Cuba, something Tampa's large Cuban immigrant population had sought for so long.

Roosevelt Elementary was constructed in 1925 and carries with it the ambitious spirit of the Rough Riders. It promotes academic excellence and works closely with the Tampa Bay Rough Riders, a nonprofit organization that celebrates the regiment and Tampa's contribution to the Spanish-American War through patriotic and civic activities throughout the Tampa Bay Region. Roosevelt Elementary partners regularly with the Rough Riders to foster a love and understanding of community service in students.

Roosevelt Elementary is listed in the U.S. National Register of Historic Places, honoring the cornerstone Roosevelt has become to our community and its place in the history of Tampa. Roosevelt Elementary is a Grade A school, a success that is a collective achievement, says Principal Denise Wheatley. It is the dedication by both students and teachers, and the investment by families and community partners, that make Roosevelt the thriving educational institution it is to this day. Principal Wheatley calls on all to "continue to embody the spirit of the Rough Riders." Through this collaboration of partners inside and outside of the classroom, Roosevelt will continue to thrive as a place where every student feels valued, supported, and inspired to achieve their fullest potential.

Mr. Speaker, I am incredibly proud to support the high-quality public schools and tal-

ented teachers found in Hillsborough County. On behalf of my neighbors in Tampa Bay, I am proud to congratulate Roosevelt Elementary on 100 years of educating Florida's youngest generation. It is dedicated educators like those at Roosevelt, and the committed community that foster the Rough Rider spirit, that make our Tampa Bay community the welcoming place it is today. Our community is so proud of institutions like Roosevelt, and I applaud them on this tremendous milestone of a century of learning, service, and school spirit.

**HONORING DR. CURTIS MARION GARNER**

**HON. BRIAN BABIN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 19, 2025*

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a proud East Texan, beloved doctor, and my friend, Dr. Curtis Marion Garner.

Curtis was reunited with his wife, Anne, after sixty-two years when he joined her in heaven on September 15, 2025. He was born to Curtis Mahan Garner and Verna Burkes Garner on December 30, 1934, in Livingston, Texas. His Garner ancestors were Republic of Texas settlers in 1835, in Polk County. Mr. Garner considered himself an East Texan through and through, believed he lived in the best place on earth, and was not wrong.

Curtis graduated from Livingston High School as co-valedictorian with Anne Mahan, who later became his wife. He attended Baylor University and later graduated from the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, where he received several honors for medical school graduates. Following his internship, he and Anne settled in Woodville, Texas.

Curtis served as a physician in Woodville, for over sixty years, from 1960 until his retirement in 2021. He also worked as a family physician for over thirty years in the Swearingen-Garner Medical Clinic and as an emergency room physician at Tyler County Hospital, where he was beloved by the many nurses, doctors, and other staff he served with throughout the years.

Curtis and Anne were members of First Baptist Church of Woodville, where he served as a Sunday school teacher for almost sixty years. He was a man of faith and steadfastness who loved his family. Curtis and Ann had three children: their daughters Melissa Garner and Marian Ballard, and their son Curtis Mahan Garner. Their greatest joy was their grandchildren Evan, Barrett, Will, Elizabeth, Alison, Emily, Curtis, Madison, Zachary, and Mallory, as well as seventeen great-grandchildren.

Curtis led a life distinguished by faith, compassion, and devotion as a Christian, father, and grandfather. His legacy of service and love remains an enduring inspiration to his family, community, and all who knew him.

• 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.

HONORING DR. MICHAEL FRANK

**HON. VICTORIA SPARTZ**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 19, 2025*

Mrs. SPARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Michael Frank, an influential Professor and community leader in Anderson, Indiana. Since 2001, Dr. Frank has served the students at Anderson University in the Political Science department as Department Chair. Dr. Frank earned his B.A. in International Relations from Northern Illinois University, as well as his Ph.D. in Political Science from The University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. His studies greatly contributed to his expertise in Political Science education and lends to his research in political realignment, party history, and political inequality. Dr. Frank served as Chair of the Madison County Public Defender Board since 2009, where he ensures compliance with state guidelines for the county's public defenders and the Judicial System.

At Anderson University he teaches a variety of subjects like American Government, Research Methods, Political Parties and Behavior, and Constitutional Law. He also is the Pre-Law Advisor, preparing students for the law school admissions process, the LSAT, and the difficulty of law school. His students have gone on to work in government offices and on political campaigns in Washington D.C., for the Indiana Governor, and with Members of Congress. Dr. Frank serves as the Director of Anderson University's Center for Public Service. He helps prepare students for a life in public service careers to meet critical societal needs, and his leadership connects students to industry professionals, internships, and service opportunities.

On behalf of Indiana's 5th District, I thank Dr. Michael Frank for his incredible efforts as an educator to lead students on to success, as well as his contributions to Madison County through his work with public defenders. His passion has touched upon the lives of so many and will continue to do so in the future.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE UNIVERSAL PREKINDERGARTEN AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION ACT OF 2025**

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 19, 2025*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Universal Prekindergarten and Early Childhood Education Act of 2025, which would establish and expand prekindergarten programs in public and public charter schools for three- and four-year-olds.

This bill seeks a breakthrough in public education by providing funding for states to add prekindergarten for children at three and four years of age, like the kindergarten programs for five-year-olds now routinely available in public schools. This bill would take advantage of the safe facilities required in public schools.

This bill would provide federal funds to states to establish or expand universal, voluntary prekindergarten in public and public charter schools for three- and four-year-olds,

regardless of income. The classes, which would be full-day and run throughout the entire school year, would be taught by teachers who have equivalent or similar qualifications to those teaching other grades in the school. The funds would supplement, not supplant, other federal funds for early childhood education.

The success of Head Start and other pre-kindergarten programs, combined with the scientific evidence on the importance of brain development in early childhood, virtually mandates the expansion of early childhood education to all children. Early learning programs have been available only to the affluent, who can afford them, and to some low-income families in programs such as Head Start, which would be unaffected by this bill. This bill is a practical way to create universal, public pre-kindergarten. The goal of this bill is to provide the benefits of early childhood education to those who have been left out of this essential education.

We cannot afford to allow the most critical years of child development to pass unenriched. This bill responds both to the great needs of parents who seek early childhood education and neuroscience, which shows that a child's brain development begins much earlier than had been previously understood.

Considering the staggering cost of day care, the inaccessibility of early childhood education and the opportunity that early education offers to improve a child's chances of success, schooling for three- and four-year-olds is overdue. The absence of viable options for working families demands our immediate attention.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

**WELCOMING HIS ALL-HOLINESS ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW**

**HON. JOSH GOTTHEIMER**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 19, 2025*

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to welcome the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, His All-Holiness Bartholomew, to Washington, D.C. this week, and to congratulate him on receiving the distinguished Templeton Prize.

His All-Holiness has been a steadfast leader for the Orthodox Church, and especially for my constituents in New Jersey. He continues to encourage us all to reach toward peace, to love and respect our neighbors, and to uphold our values as a Nation.

At a time when hate and intolerance are surging across the country, His All-Holiness's focus on religious freedom is a powerful reminder that we must work together and respect one another. In the greatest country in the world, there should be no room for intolerance or hate of any kind.

As His All-Holiness Bartholomew has said, "We have it in our power either to increase the hurt inflicted on our world or to contribute toward its healing. The choice is ours." Together, we must work toward a world filled with healing and hope.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CHARLES "CHARLIE" JAMES KIRK

SPEECH OF

**HON. NANCY PELOSI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 2025*

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, the horrific murder of Charlie Kirk was reprehensible. Members of Congress pray for Charlie's wife, Erika, their two young children, and all who loved him during their time of mourning and grief. We also extend our prayers to all who were present on the Utah Valley University campus at the time of this tragedy, who will carry the trauma of that day with them forever.

In recent years, a disturbing and unacceptable pattern has emerged: individuals being targeted for their role in public life or for their association with political discourse. Violence of this nature is not an attack on one person alone—it is an assault on democracy itself, meant to silence debate, sow fear, and tear at the fabric of our civil society.

We remember the assassination attempt on Congresswoman Gabby Giffords, which left her critically injured and six innocent lives lost. We remember the shooting at a Congressional baseball game practice, which seriously wounded Congressman STEVE SCALISE and injured five others. We recall the chilling plot to kidnap Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer. We will not forget the storming of the United States Capitol on January 6th, which resulted in the deaths of five law enforcement officers and shook the very foundations of our democracy.

My own family still lives with the trauma of a near-deadly attack on my husband, Paul, in our home by an individual seeking to kidnap me—an act of violence that underscored in the most personal way the escalating threats that public officials and their loved ones endure.

We have also seen assassination attempts on the life of President Donald Trump; the arson targeting Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro's residence and family; the heartbreaking assassination of Minnesota House Speaker Emerita Melissa Hortman and her husband, and the attempted assassination of State Senator John Hoffman and his wife. And now, we are horrified by the murder of Charlie Kirk, targeted while exercising his right to speak freely on a college campus.

All of these incidents must be denounced unequivocally and without qualification. Violence has no place in our political process, in our communities, or in our country. At the same time, we have a solemn responsibility to act. Congress must work with state and local leaders, law enforcement, and communities to ensure the security of Members, staff, and constituents alike—so that all Americans may fully participate in civic life without fear. That also means we must address the epidemic of gun violence in our country to keep our children and their families safe.

Let us be clear: political differences must be resolved at the ballot box and through dialogue, never through the barrel of a gun or the threat of violence. The strength of our democracy lies not in unanimity, but in the peaceful contest of ideas. Together, we must recommit to protecting that principle and the American