

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE KOREAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF THE WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA AND THE 2025 KORUS FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS

### HON. JAMES R. WALKINSHAW

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 6, 2025*

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Korean American Association of the Washington Metropolitan Area (KAAW) and its President, Steve Lee, on the occasion of the 22nd KORUS Festival.

As one of the largest festivals of its kind, the KORUS festival brings together Koreans, Korean Americans, and others from our rich multicultural community to celebrate our dynamic and harmonious relationship. The festival provides not only the opportunity for us to experience the customs of the Korean culture, but also to recognize the shared history and partnership between our two nations. As a member of Congress, I look forward to continuing my friendship with KAAW and the Korean American community as we continue to build on the success of our alliance and work together toward the achievement of our common goals. I will continue to do all that I can to ensure that the U.S.-Korea alliance remains strong and enduring.

It would not be possible to hold an event of this magnitude without the support and commitment of volunteers from the community. It is my great honor to recognize the efforts and include in the Record the name of the following individuals:

Steve S. Lee, Victoria Lee, Taesung Lee, Brian Kim, Mi Kyung An, Jae Byun, Jae Lee, Kwang Hyung Park, Wan J. Chae, Chun J. Park, Elwin Maldonado, Mi Ja Kim, Jenny Hwang, Eric Shin, William Hwang, Bethel Lee, Ella Jung, Naomi Mercy Han, Zephaniah Kim, Sena Kajiyama, Sophia Moon, Jeffrey Kim, Roi Lee, Sophia Patton, Enoch Hayul Lee, Ellie Harin Lee, Iriel Kang, Kaylee Kim, Luke Lee, Leonard Kim, Aria Kwon, Kevin Kim, Irene Kang, Han June Lee, Veronica Patton, Luke An, and Genevieve An.

I would also like to give special recognition to Ms. Anna Ko, whose tireless work as KORUS coordinator and Master of Ceremonies helped make this amazing event possible.

Mr. Speaker, festivals like KORUS are a wonderful example of the tremendous diversity we enjoy in Northern Virginia. Such a variety of cultures enriches the lives of our citizens and fosters greater tolerance and understanding. I commend KAAW and the volunteers listed above for helping to bring such wonderful events to fruition and ask my colleagues to join me in wishing them great success in their future endeavors.

HONORING CHUCK WEAGRAFF AS A DISTINGUISHED FIRST RESPONDER LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA

### HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 6, 2025*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Chuck Weagraff is a 21-year veteran of the fire service and the proud third generation of his family to wear the badge. His career has spanned multiple departments and communities, including Honolulu, the cities of Ocoee and Oviedo, and now serving with distinction at the Reedy Creek Fire Department. At every step, Chuck has demonstrated the highest level of professionalism, dedication, and passion for the calling of a firefighter.

Within the department, Chuck has distinguished himself as both a leader and a teacher. He serves as an instructor on the Special Operations Team, preparing members for the most complex and dangerous challenges of the profession. As a paramedic preceptor, he has mentored countless new medics, imparting not only technical skill but also the calm confidence and compassion that define the best in emergency medicine. In addition, as a certified department fire instructor, he dedicates himself to developing the next generation of firefighters. His impact as a mentor and instructor is felt throughout our organization and beyond.

Chuck is known among his peers as steady under pressure, generous with his time and knowledge, and always putting the needs of others first. His quiet but steady leadership inspires those around him to be better, both on and off the job.

Outside the firehouse, Chuck is a devoted family man to his wife and two children. The same dedication that defines him as a firefighter is equally present in the way he supports and cares for his family.

For his decades of service, professionalism, leadership, and devotion to both his department and his loved ones, Chuck Weagraff exemplifies the very best of the fire service.

CELEBRATING THE 50 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF COMMUNITY RESIDENCES INC. (CRI)

### HON. JAMES R. WALKINSHAW

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 6, 2025*

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Community Residences Inc. on the occasion of their 50th anniversary.

For half a century, this remarkable organization has stood at the forefront of the movement to expand opportunity, ensure dignity, and promote independence for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Northern Virginia.

What began in 1975 as a grassroots response to the lack of community-based housing for people with disabilities has grown into one of the region's most respected providers of inclusive services. In its earliest days, CRI, then Arlington Community Residences, challenged outdated models of institutionalization by creating homes where individuals could thrive as valued members of their neighborhoods. Over the decades, the organization evolved, broadening its programs and reaffirming its mission in a new name Community Residences Inc, with the tagline, choice, respect, and independence; that reflects the core principles guiding their work.

As the organization celebrates 50 years of service, it also looks forward to the launch of its Champions Campaign: a bold initiative to secure the resources needed to expand housing, enrich community programs, and prepare the next generation of advocates. The campaign is not only an investment in facilities and services, but in the vision that every individual deserves the right to self-determination, belonging, and a life of purpose.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing CRI for 50 years of leadership, compassion, and impact. Their history is a testament to the power of community action, and their future promises to carry forward the values of choice, respect, and independence for generations to come.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ROBERT WADE TURNER

### HON. AUGUST PFLUGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 6, 2025*

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Robert Wade Turner, who dedicated more than four decades of service to law enforcement in Coleman County, Texas.

Robert Wade Turner began his law enforcement career on August 1, 1975, in Coleman, Texas, with the Coleman County Sheriff's Office, where he faithfully served his community for his entire career. On November 5, 1988, he was elected Sheriff, a position he held with distinction until his retirement on January 1, 2017.

Over the course of 42 years in law enforcement, including 28 years as Sheriff, Robert embodied the highest standards of duty and honor. He was recognized as an honorably retired peace officer for the State of Texas.

Robert Wade Turner passed away on Sunday, September 28, 2025. He is survived by his wife, Linda Turner, his son, Joe Turner, and his daughter, Ami Polston.

Sheriff Turner leaves behind a legacy of selfless service, integrity, and dedication to the people of Coleman County. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing his decades of honorable service to Texas and to our Nation.

• 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 TROY PARKER AS A DISTINGUISHED FIRST RESPONDER LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA

### HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 6, 2025*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, firefighter Troy Parker was born and raised in Osceola County, Florida, and is a 2016 graduate of Harmony High School. At the age of 21, while returning home from his sales job, he came upon a serious motor vehicle accident. In that moment, he felt a profound calling to serve and protect others, a calling that led him to pursue a career in the fire service. Through two years of rigorous training and determination, he achieved his goal of joining Osceola County Fire Rescue.

Since that time, Firefighter Parker has earned multiple accreditations, enabling him to serve on the department's Special Operations and Hazardous Materials teams. He is an active member of the Benevolent and participates in numerous community and fire service outreach initiatives. Currently enrolled in paramedic school, he continues to advance his skills and his ability to deliver lifesaving care.

On March 3, 2025, while off duty, Firefighter Parker encountered a vehicle accident in which an occupant was trapped inside a car rapidly submerging into a retention pond. Without hesitation, he entered the water, striking the window with his bare hand until he could reach the driver. As the vehicle overturned and sank, pulling them both underwater, Firefighter Parker displayed exceptional courage and determination. With remarkable strength and selflessness, he freed the trapped occupant, swam them to shore, and remained by their side until Engine 52 arrived to provide further care. His decisive actions embodied the highest traditions of valor and service.

Firefighter Parker intends to dedicate his life to a full career of service within the fire service. His professionalism, heroism, and unwavering commitment to his community bring great pride to himself and to Osceola County Fire Rescue.

### RECOGNIZING THE 18TH ANNUAL OUT OF DARKNESS WALK

### HON. JAMES R. WALKINSHAW

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 6, 2025*

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Northern Virginia community that came together this past weekend for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's Out of the Darkness Fairfax Walk at the Mosaic District.

This annual event brings hope and healing to families across our region, offering space for remembrance, resilience, and collective action to end the tragedy of suicide.

Organized by the National Capital Area chapter of AFSP, the Fairfax Walk has become one of the most visible demonstrations of solidarity in the fight for mental health awareness and suicide prevention. Each year,

survivors of loss, advocates, mental health professionals, and neighbors walk side by side to honor loved ones and to break the stigma that has for too long silenced conversations about mental health. The impact of this work cannot be overstated: in Virginia, more lives are lost to suicide each year than to car accidents, and the need for accessible, compassionate support is urgent.

Thanks to the dedication of volunteers, community partners, and sponsors, this year's Fairfax Walk has raised over \$125,000 to support prevention programs, research, advocacy, and resources for those in crisis. Local partners including Leidos, Intact, SPAN, Interstate, Wellsourced, Dutyfirst, Columbia Mental Health, Embark Behavioral Health, Bechtel, and the County of Fairfax joined AFSP in providing resources and encouragement to those walking this past Saturday.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Virginia's 11th Congressional District, I ask you to join me in extending my gratitude to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention National Capital Area chapter for their leadership, and to every participant who walked Out of the Darkness in Fairfax. Their commitment ensures that no one has to struggle alone, and that our community continues to move toward light, compassion, and healing.

### CONGRATULATING AIRPORT HIGH SCHOOL

### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 6, 2025*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to recognize the Airport High School baseball team from West Columbia, "The Eagles," as they rallied to defeat Seneca High School in the 2025 4A South Carolina High School League (SCHSL) State Championship. This marks the first State Championship in team history.

In the best of three-game final, the Eagles defeated Seneca 4–3 in the first game, and 10–0 in the second game—a strong close to their winning season record of 15–1.

The Airport High team includes players Brayden Dinlap, Gabe Ingram, Charlie Jackson, Ayden McCauley, Isahia Clemons, Landon Jeffcoat, Hunter Epps, Saundiata Anderson, Harrison Shoffner, Cash Epps, Casen Hatfield, Brice Gillette, Braden Gross, Justin Sightler, Sean Feliciano, Rodrigo Rizo, Caleb Eubanks, Cooper Chavis, and Daniel Butts. Alongside the players are talented coaches Casey Bradwell, former Eagles player, and assistant coaches Kris Kirkland, Jermei Epperson, Cameron Zimmerman, Brandon Caughman, Nick Gooding, Ryan O'Hara, and Layne Turner. Three of my sons, Add, Julian, and Hunter are Airport graduates and former baseball Eagles.

On behalf of all South Carolinas, I congratulate the Airport High Eagles on this impressive achievement and I wish them the best of luck as they defend their title in the upcoming season. This victory of the Airport High Eagles is well-deserved for the team, coaches, families, and community for all their hard work and support, making their dream come true.

HONORING TIM JONES AS A DISTINGUISHED FIRST RESPONDER LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA

### HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 6, 2025*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Tim Jones was born in the Bronx, New York, in the 1970's, and from a young age knew he wanted to be a firefighter. Growing up, he admired the courage and sacrifice of firefighters, and as a child, he often told friends and family that one day he would drive fire trucks. September 11, 2001, profoundly shaped Tim's path, reaffirming his commitment and lifelong calling to public service. Two years later, on September 11, 2003, he officially began his career with the Orange County Fire Rescue Department. From that day forward, he has dedicated his life to protecting others, serving his community, and honoring the legacy of sacrifice and courage that inspired him.

Driving and operating fire engines quickly became his passion, while training and teaching emerged as his gift. Tim has trained hundreds of new recruits as a recruit training officer and guided experienced firefighters, engineers, and lieutenants through advanced instruction on the fire ground. He has helped design and administer the department's driver-operator promotional exam and has been a consistent leader in professional development.

Beyond technical training, Tim has invested deeply in the health and well-being of his fellow firefighters. As a certified peer fitness trainer, he has supported personnel in maintaining physical readiness. As a founding member of the Peer Support Team and Dog Therapy Program, he has championed mental health resources for firefighters and their families. His leadership, loyalty, and compassion have made him a cornerstone of the department and community. His fellow firefighters know they can count on him at any hour, on or off duty, and his community knows him as a trusted friend. It is not uncommon for neighbors, residents, or even strangers to stop him to thank him for the many ways he has touched their lives—whether through saving a loved one, offering comfort during hardship, or simply showing up when he was needed most and simply being a steady and trusted presence.

Tim lives by the words of Muhammad Ali: "Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on Earth." His career exemplifies that service, sacrifice, and commitment.

### RECOGNIZING THE 2025 ELLY DOYLE PARK SERVICE AWARDEES

### HON. JAMES R. WALKINSHAW

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 6, 2025*

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the honorees of the 2025 Elly Doyle Park Service Awards. These awards, sponsored by the Fairfax County Park Authority Board in cooperation with the Fairfax County Park Foundation Board, recognize individuals and organizations for their extraordinary contributions to our environment and public park system.