

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MR. JOE B. ALLEN

**HON. SYLVIA R. GARCIA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Joe B. Allen, an accomplished attorney and civic leader who has devoted his career to strengthening and uplifting the City of Houston. Scenic Houston has recognized Mr. Allen with its Scenic Visionary Award for his leadership and his lasting contributions to our community.

For decades, Mr. Allen has helped guide Houston's growth with a steady hand and a clear vision. Through his work in public infrastructure and policy, he has advanced the idea that a great city must be both functional and beautiful. It must be a place that serves its people and reflects their pride. He has been a leading voice for thoughtful urban design and the protection of green and scenic spaces across our region.

His commitment to preserving the character of our city has inspired generations of Houstonians to see beauty as an essential part of civic life. Mr. Allen's influence endures in the parks, neighborhoods, and gathering places that define our city.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Mr. Joe B. Allen on this well-deserved honor and thank him for a lifetime of service that has made Houston a stronger, more welcoming place for all.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT COLONEL CHARLES H. WAGAMON, USAF, RETIRED, WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to present a Congressional Veteran Commendation to a member of our greatest generation, retired USAF Lieutenant Colonel Charles H. Wagamon, of Huntsville, Texas. Lt. Colonel Wagamon served as a Captain, Bombardier and Navigator flying in B-25 Mitchell Bombers with the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. His servant's life reflects the hard work and dedication that exemplifies the best of our Nation's values.

Lt. Col. Wagamon entered active duty in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in September of 1944 at twenty years of age and served an important role during period of World War II, flying reconnaissance missions over Italy detaching German activities along the railway system until the end of the war. He served in the North Apennines, Central Europe and Po Valley campaigns.

Lt. Col. Wagamon served in the 6th Bomb Group, 313th Bombardment Wing, 340th Bom-

bardment Group, 486th Bombardment Squadron earning; the Air Medal, European-Africa-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with 4 Bronze Battle Stars, American Campaign Medal, Distinguished Unit Badge and the WWII Victory Medal.

After the Allied Victory, Lt. Col. Wagamon returned home and served in the reserves and ultimately retired with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. During his service in the reserves and after, he continued his service to country and community, through his faith and devotion to God, he lead his family of five in service to the Catholic Church and received many recognitions including the very special Vatican Award, which required many levels of nomination to be considered and the Benemerenti Medal from Pope Francis given to him in 2014, recognizing 65 years of service to the Roman Catholic Church.

With his wife Marion right beside him, he has served the Huntsville community in various capacities for over 30 years that included Huntsville school teacher from 1978 to 1982, Deputy Director of Education Service Center Region 6 from 1968 to 1982, owner of Wagamon Printing that was opened in 1981, and Walker County Judge from 1994 to 2002.

As a longtime volunteer, Lt. Col. Wagamon has poured numerous hours into the HEARTS Veterans Museum of Texas. Setting up displays and doing tours educating visitors and students was a weekly occurrence. In addition to his work at the museum, he spent many hours and full days at many schools within the Huntsville Independent School District providing exceptional experiences for its students. It is with this level of love for God, country and community that I proudly commend retired USAF Lieutenant Colonel Charles H. Wagamon of Huntsville, Texas to his friends, family, and community and salute his service by awarding him the 2025 Congressional Veteran Commendation.

RECOGNIZING MS. AVA DUVERNAY: ART AS A CATALYST FOR CHANGE

**HON. KWEISI MFUME**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a trailblazing woman who fearlessly creates works of art that serve as a compelling force for change.

Award-winning filmmaker, screenwriter, and producer Ava DuVernay grew up in the communities of Lynwood and Compton, in California, and spent her summers visiting her father's home state of Alabama. It was in Alabama that DuVernay found her passion for film through cherished time spent with her aunt, Denise Sexton.

Setting out into the film industry first as a film marketer, Ava was on set with some of the world's most renowned filmmakers includ-

ing Steven Spielberg, Michael Mann, Clint Eastwood, Raoul Peck and Gurinder Chadha. Influenced by these masters of their craft, DuVernay shifted roles and began working behind the camera.

In 2008, Ava DuVernay released her first documentary, *This Is the Life*, about the rise of alternative hip hop in 1990s Los Angeles. Then, in 2010, she debuted her first narrative feature film, *I Will Follow*, which showed a woman's heartache after the passing of a dear relative. DuVernay's aunt, Denise Sexton, who nurtured her love for film and tragically passed away from breast cancer in 2003, was the inspiration for the film.

DuVernay's second feature film, *Middle of Nowhere*, premiered at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival and won the award for Best Direction. This film elevates the stories of women of color whose lives are unsettled when a spouse becomes incarcerated.

Ava DuVernay's 2014 film *Selma* followed the civil rights march shepherded by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. that resulted in the enactment of the Voting Rights Act. When developing this film, DuVernay drew from her father's direct recollection of witnessing this historic moment, as civil rights legends advanced across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama. For *Selma*, Ava became the first African American woman nominated for best director at the Golden Globes.

DuVernay's Oscar-nominated documentary *13th* put a spotlight on racial prejudice in the United States by dissecting the American prison system and its racial inequalities. *13th* would take home four of the nine Emmy awards it was nominated for and go on to collect numerous additional accolades. She has since shifted her focus back to feature films and television, with a few of her noteworthy works to date being *Queen Sugar*, *A Wrinkle in Time*, and *Origin*.

As an artist, Ava DuVernay creates both bravely and unapologetically, tackling issues that are unique to her experience as an African American woman, but that still resonate with people from all backgrounds. Her work is important and will doubtless be viewed as one of the premier artistic vehicles for social change in the modern era.

I had the distinct pleasure of welcoming Ava DuVernay to Capitol Hill when she visited Washington, D.C. in 2024. Joined by Speaker Emerita NANCY PELOSI and Congresswomen JOYCE BEATTY and AYANNA PRESSLEY, we were all struck by her poise, her genius, and her passion for artistry and activism.

Mr. Speaker, the impact of Ava DuVernay's artistry extends far beyond her portfolio. Rather, it is the voices that may otherwise have gone unheard and the generations of filmmakers who she has inspired that will be credited as her most powerful and enduring legacy.

• 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.

GREG GUTFELD ANALYSIS  
CORRECT

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Satirist Greg Gutfeld of Fox Television Channel was at his best on September 23rd correctly analyzing the consequence of violence by the Fake News Media in America. Deranged false accusations of Fascism, National Socialism, against conservatives is dangerous.

"All right. So, NBC claims that investigators have found no link between Charlie Kirk's assassin and any left-wing groups." As for this narratives timing, all you have to see are the responses which is, see everyone? No left-wing group was involved in this murder. Congrats, NBC, you provided the cover. You can add that to your other scoops. The laptop is fake, COVID came from bad soup, Trump colluded with Russia, Joe was sharp as a tack.

The mainstream media misses more mayhem than a blind cleaning lady at Motel 6. So, is it a relief to know that the assassin wasn't part of some radical group? That he was just some guy who acted upon a daily reminder that in order to save democracy you had to murder someone? True, there were no records of him showing up at the nightly potluck at the YMCA, He didn't need to. Every single day he was fed the message that all US are nazis, fascists, white supremacist. From colleges to comedy shows, you cannot escape the brainwash.

So, the media says good news, he wasn't radicalized by a group. Yeah, because he was radicalized by you, the media. The constant drumbeat from democrats, the press, activists who have been screaming for years that people like Charlie aren't just wrong, they are evil. Who needs an armed group having a clandestine meeting in a basement when you have nightly programming on MSNBC? They have more blood on their hands than Jeffrey Dahmer after a first date, I know. Never a second date with him. But if you are thrilled there was no organized group behind this hate and how do you explain the reaction after the assassination? It wasn't universal horror. You had thousands of ghouls cheering his demise. Pop stars, talking heads, teachers, bureaucrats. ANTIFA wasn't needed because culture did the work for them. Saying no left-wing group was involved doesn't mean there is no left-wing influence. It means the poison has seeped into the groundwater. You don't need a special club when the entire ecosystem is the club.

It's like Charles Manson bragging that he didn't kill anybody himself personally. No Charlie, it wasn't you. Just a gaggle of human scum, that you brainwashed. These creeps gave motive, permission, and the hopes that Kirk's assassin would be seen as a hero. Meanwhile, the same fools now cite bogus studies and say political violence comes from the right. But the stats are less believable than the shoe polish on Jesse's bald spot. They ignore everything that doesn't fit the script. When their once vaunted economist magazine cited a study showing that the most political violence is right wing, they failed to mention that the study by an outfit called TheProsecution Project was run by a self-proclaimed ANTIFA member. And yet the media devalued this fanfiction like it was objective data.

Coming up with a bogus study to smear the right and laundering it through the media,

rinse and repeat. So, you have to wonder, why lie? Why did Jimmy Kimmel blame MAGA for Kirk's death? It wasn't bad timing; it helped provide cover for future left-wing violence. So don't tell me no group. The group is CNN; the group is Hollywood. The group is the late-night hosts losing millions but still propped up by the networks. The group is every politician who calls the country nazis. And they are shocked when some unhinged loser believes them? If you can't see that, it means you're part of that group too.

HONORING JENNIFER SEVILLA  
KORN AS A 2025 SHE LEADS  
AMERICA CHRISTIAN WOMAN OF  
DISTINCTION

**HON. LISA C. McCLAIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jennifer S. Korn as a 2025 She Leads America Young Christian Woman of Distinction award recipient.

A native of East Los Angeles and a proud Marine Corps spouse, Jennifer is a national conservative leader, policy expert, and political strategist whose faith has guided her throughout a distinguished 20-year career in public service. She helped elect and advise two U.S. Presidents and two U.S. Attorneys General while leading national grassroots and communications efforts that achieved historic gains among minority, veteran, and faith voters.

Appointed by President Trump as Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of the newly created White House Faith Office, Jennifer works to protect religious freedom, ensuring Americans of all faiths have a voice in their government. She advises the President on matters of faith at home and abroad. Previously, she co-founded the National Faith Advisory Board, the largest faith coalition in the United States, representing leaders from every state, denomination, and ethnic background.

Her earlier career includes serving as Deputy Political Director at the Republican National Committee, Director of Hispanic and Women's Affairs in the George W. Bush White House, and Senior Advisor to two U.S. Attorneys General at the Department of Justice. As a She Leads America honoree, Jennifer believes leadership is a calling to serve others with both truth and compassion, empowering individuals, strengthening families, and preserving freedom for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this outstanding woman of distinction.

RECOGNIZING TOM DOWNEY

**HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tom Downey of Ireland Stapleton, PC for being named Lawyer of the Year. Additionally, Tom has been named one of The Best Lawyers in America for Administrative and Regulatory Law and Government

Relations by The Best Lawyers in America publication.

As a regulatory attorney, Tom has provided legal assistance to a wide range of clients, helping them navigate regulatory agencies. Tom has been particularly impactful within the City of Denver, having rewritten Denver's liquor licensing rules, helped create regulations for recreational marijuana, and designed the licensing structure for pedal cabs in the city. His work with the American Arbitration Association has helped further its mission for more equitable and accessible conflict resolution.

Tom also gives back to the legal community by serving as a guest lecturer at law schools such as the University of Denver and helps clients in his private practice.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's 7th Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Tom Downey for his awards and thank him for his contributions to our community.

HONORING THE GEYSERS AND THE  
CALPINE CORPORATION

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise along with my colleague Congressman JARED HUFFMAN, to honor Calpine Corporation (Calpine) as The Geysers, located in our Lake and Sonoma Counties, celebrates 65 years of commercial geothermal operations.

Commercial geothermal power generation at The Geysers began in 1960, marking the first such operation in the United States. Today, The Geysers remains the world's largest geothermal field, and Calpine has served as its primary operator for almost three decades.

In 1997, Calpine acquired 19 geothermal power plants and their associated steam fields, creating a unified approach to managing our critical natural resources. That same year, Calpine partnered with Lake County to construct a 29-mile pipeline delivering treated wastewater to replenish the geothermal steam reservoir. In 2003, the company completed a second 40-mile pipeline in collaboration with the City of Santa Rosa. Together, these systems now supply approximately 20 million gallons of treated wastewater each day, sustaining renewable energy production while providing environmentally sound wastewater solutions for our neighboring communities.

Today, Calpine is the nation's largest producer of geothermal energy, operating 13 plants at The Geysers that generate roughly 725 megawatts of baseload renewable power. These operations employ more than 300 full-time workers and support an additional 150 contractors, contributing significantly to the economies of our Lake and Sonoma Counties.

Beyond its role in energy production, Calpine has demonstrated a long-standing commitment to community partnership and philanthropy. Since 2011, the company has contributed over \$3.4 million to youth programs, local nonprofits, and schools throughout our region. These efforts include scholarships for graduating seniors, support for 4-H and Future Farmers of America, sponsorship of youth sports, and donations of meat from the Junior Livestock Auction to the Clearlake