

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING MEMBERS OF THE CHRISCOE FAMILY

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 20, 2026

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to take the opportunity today to recognize members of the Chriscoe family for their outstanding generosity, service, and dedication to their faith. I had the pleasure of meeting the Chriscoes during their visit from Summerfield to the Capitol and was amazed by their commitment to using their gifts to celebrate and share the message of the Lord through their work in the Only God Choir and Ministries.

Music has been a touchstone of faith for the Chriscoe family through generations, and daughters Laura and Claire have sung in the Only God Choir for years, sharing God's message through beautiful music that has touched listeners across the country and the world.

Mr. and Mrs. Chriscoe, Ajay and Trish, have blessed countless students by opening their home and their hearts, offering their talents to provide the crucial support that makes the vision of ministry a reality. With tens of thousands of miles of travel and countless hours of service behind them, the Chriscoe family has helped the message of the Only God Choir and Ministries reach over 2 million people.

As they are closing this chapter of their service with the Only God Choir and Ministries, I am confident that they will remain a living testament to the value of heeding the command to store our treasures not on earth, but in heaven. I wish them the best in all their future endeavors.

HONORING THE BERA FAMILY

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 20, 2026

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of the Bera Family and their multigenerational commitment to service, education, and community.

This family legacy began with Kanta and Babulal Bera, who immigrated to the United States from Gujarat, India in the 1950s. Kanta and Babulal believed that education is the path to opportunity. They worked multiple jobs while pursuing graduate degrees and raising three sons, Raja, Dr. Rimal Bera (Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at the University of California, Irvine Department of Psychiatry), and Congressman AMI BERA.

The Beras' dedication to global health has spanned a variety of impactful projects not only in Orange County, but to the other side of the world in India. From starting an all-girls school in India that has graduated more than 7,000 students to supporting health and housing efforts throughout southern California, the

Beras have expanded opportunities for countless communities.

Two generations of the Beras have attended the UCI School of Medicine, and UCI is now the foundation of the family's key accomplishment—to support future physicians. In 2020, the Beras donated \$100,000 to the UCI School of Medicine to permanently support medical students traveling to Rajkot, India. These aspiring physicians are not only able to experience a global clinical environment, but they are also able to work in underserved communities, collaborate with local medical providers, and extend the reach of medicine beyond individual patient care.

The personal history of the Bera Family and their inspiring legacy is a reminder that we all have a responsibility to dedicate ourselves to building a stronger, kinder, and better community.

HONORING DELLA HAMMOND, LAPEER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 20, 2026

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Della Hammond, the 2026 Lapeer Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year, and to commend her for decades of dedicated service and leadership in her community.

For more than 20 years, Ms. Hammond served on the board of directors of the Human Development Commission, where she helped advance programs supporting vulnerable families, including Early Head Start, senior nutrition services, emergency sheltering, and winterization assistance. She also played an active role in fundraising efforts such as Walk for Warmth, helping families facing Michigan's harsh winters.

An active member of Grace Episcopal Church, Ms. Hammond volunteers in the soup kitchen, supports charitable outreach during Lapeer Days, and leads her church's participation in Holiday Depot to ensure families in need experience the joy of the Christmas season.

A founding member of the Lapeer County Community Foundation, she helped establish a lasting legacy of scholarships and community grants, including the creation of the Women's Fund to support women and children. Her service also includes involvement with Love INC, the Business and Professional Women's Club of Lapeer, and leadership within her church's women's organization, supporting causes such as The Refuge, Stone Soup Food Bank, and the Lapeer City Police Officers Charitable Fund.

Della Hammond exemplifies the very best of citizenship. Her compassion, leadership, and lifelong commitment to service have made Lapeer County stronger.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Della Hammond on this well-deserved honor.

RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF BROOKSVILLE

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 20, 2026

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the City of Brooksville as it commemorates the 170th anniversary of its founding. This significant milestone offers an opportunity to reflect upon the city's rich history, enduring spirit, and the generations of citizens who have shaped Brooksville into the vibrant community it is today. For 170 years, Brooksville has stood as a testament to resilience, civic pride, and a deep respect for tradition, while continually embracing progress and growth. From its earliest days to the present, the city has served as a place where neighbors support one another, local institutions thrive, and a strong sense of community binds residents together.

Brooksville's history is reflected not only in its historic landmarks and longstanding neighborhoods, but also in the character of its people—those who have worked to build local businesses, serve in public office, educate future generations, and contribute to the cultural and economic vitality of the region. The city's commitment to preserving its heritage while preparing for the future is a model of responsible and thoughtful community development. As Brooksville celebrates its 170th anniversary, it is fitting to recognize the contributions of its past and present residents, civic leaders, educators, first responders, and volunteers whose dedication has ensured the city's continued success. Their collective efforts have strengthened Brooksville and positioned it for continued prosperity in the years ahead. I extend my sincere congratulations to the City of Brooksville and its residents on this historic occasion. I commend them for 170 years of achievement and wish them continued growth, unity, and success for generations to come.

CELEBRATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HARP PROGRAM

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 20, 2026

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 10-year anniversary of the Helping Addicts Recover Progressively (HARP) Program in Chesterfield County, Virginia. Launched in 2016, Sheriff Karl Leonard initiated the program after recognizing the alarming rate of overdose deaths in his own county. HARP is a transformative initiative that is making a real difference in the lives of individuals struggling with substance use disorders.

Since the program's establishment, HARP has instituted a multi-faceted approach to behavioral modification. Their approach is based

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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.

on a unique combination of tools and techniques that are peer driven, professionally guided, and spiritually based. As news spread of HARP's devotion to both those incarcerated and former program participants, incarcerated individuals from other jail systems began to request transfers to Chesterfield specifically to join the program.

HARP's commitment to compassion, innovation, and excellence has strengthened Virginia's First District and improved the lives of countless individuals and families. They place a large emphasis on former participants as well, helping them gain access to recovery housing and allowing them to return to therapy sessions and group meetings.

HARP offers a hopeful alternative to tragedy for families affected by addiction. They represent a proactive partnership between local government, health professionals, and community stakeholders dedicated to reducing the devastating impact of substance use disorders. I am proud of the work being done by Sheriff Karl Leonard and all those involved in HARP's implementation. Their efforts are a reminder that compassionate, evidence-based approaches can save lives and build stronger communities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in honoring the 10-year anniversary of the Chesterfield County HARP Program as it continues to address critical social and spiritual needs, and strive to help treat not just symptoms, but the root causes of addiction. I wish Sheriff Karl Leonard, along with the entire HARP team, all the best as they continue to serve the community.

HONORING KOREAN WAR ARMY
VETERAN EARL SEELOW

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 20, 2026

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor United States Army Veteran Earl Seelow.

Earl Seelow was born on October 20, 1932, in Edinburg, New York, to his parents, Edwin and Flora Seelow. He was raised in the same close-knit community that he would continue to serve throughout his life.

Earl entered the United States Army on November 13, 1952. He trained as an Infantryman and was deployed to Korea as a replacement soldier. He was assigned to Company E, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, where he served for the duration of the Korean War. During his service, Earl fought in two of the most intense engagements of the conflict in the fierce Third Korean Winter campaign, including the Battles of Pork Chop Hill and Old Baldy.

Earl was honorably discharged on November 12, 1954, at the rank of Technical Sergeant. For his courageous service, he was awarded the Korean Service Medal with two Bronze Service Stars, two Overseas Bars, the United Nations Service Medal, the Combat Infantry Badge, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Emblem.

Following his military service, Earl married the love of his life, Valerie, on April 21, 1956. They shared 67 years of marriage and raised

four sons together. Earl built a long and steady career at the International Paper Company in Corinth, where he worked for nearly 37 years before retiring in 1994. During that time, he served as a UPIU Union Officer for 22 years.

After serving our country, Earl returned home to serve his community. He served with the Edinburg Fire Department as the Assistant Fire Chief, managed the Community Bowling Center, served as Corinth Town Assessor for five years, worked as a crossing guard for the Corinth School, and later worked alongside his son Jim at the Olde Saratoga Brewing Company for 12 years. Earl dedicated more than 52 years to Corinth Little League as a coach, umpire, and Executive Board member. He was a member of Free and Accepted Masons Lodge 22, Shriners Valley of Albany, Oriental Temple of Troy, American Legion Post 533, and the New York State Assessors' Association.

His life reflected steady leadership, service, and commitment to others. On behalf of New York, I am honored to recognize Korean War Army Veteran Technical Sergeant Earl Seelow.

CELEBRATING THE GARDENING
GAYS FARM'S COMMUNITY IM-
PACT

HON. EUGENE SIMON VINDMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 20, 2026

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Gardening Gays Farm of King George County, Virginia, on earning multiple honors in the 2026 King George "KG Best of the Best" Awards, a community-driven recognition of outstanding local businesses.

Through the votes of their neighbors and customers, Gardening Gays Farm was recognized in several categories, including best customer service, best family-owned business, best small business, best agriculture or farm business, best grocery or convenience store. This recognition reflects their outstanding service, quality, and community engagement. Their success is a testament to the dedication, innovation, and integrity that define this family-owned farm.

I had the pleasure of visiting Gardening Gays Farm and witnessed firsthand the passion and hard work that have made it such a beloved local institution. From their commitment to sustainable farming practices to the welcoming atmosphere that they create for families across the region, it is clear why so many in King George County hold them in such high regard. Small businesses like Gardening Gays Farm are the backbone of our rural communities and an essential part of Virginia's proud agricultural heritage.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the owners and team at Gardening Gays Farm on these well-deserved honors and wishing them continued success in the years ahead.

RECOGNIZING PATRICK KELIHER

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 20, 2026

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to recognize Patrick Keliher as the 2025 recipient of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Captain David H. Hart Award. This recognition honors Pat's remarkable leadership and contributions toward improving Atlantic Coast marine fisheries.

As former Commissioner of the Maine Department of Marine Resources, Pat spearheaded countless initiatives—from restoring passage for sea-run fish species like Atlantic salmon to rebuilding working waterfront properties after historic storms ravaged our coast. His efforts have strengthened our environment, commercial fisheries, and coastal communities.

While Commissioner, Pat engaged stakeholders on some of the toughest issues facing our state. He worked diligently to understand the concerns of Maine's fishing communities and translate those concerns and recommendations into public policy. He skillfully facilitated a pause on federal whale regulations and continuously explored opportunities to protect Maine's heritage lobster industry, while securing funding for broader fisheries and marine mammal research. Further, he helped steer Maine's fisheries and marine economy through crisis during the pandemic.

Pat embodies transformative public service. His tireless work ethic, commitment to the health of our coast and coastal economy, and collaboration across industries have made our state a better place in innumerable ways. I could not imagine a more deserving recipient of this honor.

I commend Pat for his unparalleled career of service and congratulate him on this award.

HONORING LUIS FRANCISCO
RAMOS RAMIREZ, BREVARD
COUNTY'S JANUARY VETERAN
OF THE MONTH

HON. MIKE HARIDOPOLOS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 20, 2026

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor Luis Francisco Ramos Ramirez, who has been selected as January's Brevard County Veteran of the Month.

Mr. Ramos Ramirez proudly served our Nation in the United States Army, answering the call to duty during a critical moment in our history. He served for three years, including time in Vietnam, where he conducted reconnaissance missions—some of the most dangerous and demanding assignments in combat. Not only did he serve honorably, but he also volunteered to remain in Vietnam for additional time, demonstrating extraordinary courage and selflessness.

For his service, Mr. Ramos Ramirez earned the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal with two Bronze Service Stars, and the Vietnam Campaign Medal—decorations that reflect both valor and sacrifice.