

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE 170TH ANNIVERSARY OF TALLADEGA INSURANCE COMPANY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 23, 2026

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 170th anniversary of Talladega Insurance Agency in Talladega, Alabama. Talladega Insurance is currently under the leadership of Boyd McGehee.

Talladega Insurance Company was incorporated in 1856 making it the oldest insurance agency in the State of Alabama and the second oldest in the United States.

The company attributes its longevity to its superior staffing. The Talladega Insurance Agency is built on family, as it is a family-owned and operated business and has had four generations leading the way. In the 1920s, Turner Joel Jones acquired the Talladega Insurance Company renaming it Talladega Insurance Agency and his brother, George, soon joined him in the business.

In 1950, William Boyd McGehee, Jr. (Billy) left his family's pharmacy in Montgomery, Alabama, seeking new directions. He and his wife moved to Talladega to join her father in the insurance business.

In 1974, Billy's son, William Boyd McGehee, III (Bill), returned with his wife, Evelyn, to Talladega to work at Talladega Insurance after leaving Atlanta, where he worked for the Great American Insurance Company. In 2004, Bill's son, Boyd, joined the agency.

Today, Boyd runs the agency. He is an alumnus of The University of Alabama and The National Alliance's Producer School. In 2008, he was named Alabama's Young Agent of the Year by the Alabama Independent Insurance Agent Association. Boyd has carried on the family tradition and has made Talladega Insurance Agency not only successful in business, but a community partner as he continues to invest in the City of Talladega.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in wishing my friend, Boyd, and his team at Talladega Insurance Agency a happy 170th anniversary.

HONORING SIMONE JONES

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 23, 2026

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Simone A. Jones, a public servant whose leadership exemplifies excellence, equity, and results. Simone has been appointed Deputy Chief of Staff and Chief Equity Officer to New York City Council Speaker Julie Menin—an appointment that reflects both her extraordinary talent and her unwavering commitment to good governance.

For years, Simone has been a driving force in the Bronx and across New York City. As

Chief of Staff to Council Member Kevin C. Riley, she helped architect policies that empowered communities, strengthened City Council operations, and delivered meaningful change. Her leadership style is rooted in elevating people—building teams, forging partnerships, and turning vision into action.

From her work alongside Speaker Carl Heastie to her leadership in organizations advancing Black women in politics, she has opened doors for others while holding herself to the highest standard of service. A mentor, a strategist, a community leader and a devoted mother, Simone Jones represents the very best of public service. New York City is stronger because of her leadership, and I look forward to seeing her continued success.

HONORING DAVID NELSON

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 23, 2026

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend David Nelson for his service at Amtrak. After 35 years of service at Amtrak, David will be retiring on March 2, 2026.

David started his career as a computer systems manager for former House Majority Whip Tony Coelho. During that time, Congress passed the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). After working in Congress, David began working at Amtrak. During his time at Amtrak, he has taught numerous employees and executives throughout the organization about the ADA. He was a catalyst for Amtrak's march toward accessibility when he started in 1990, and he has not stopped since.

A tireless advocate for people with disabilities in transportation, David was an active member of the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) and received its Frederick C. Schriber Distinguished Service Award in 2004, as well as the RIT 2015 Distinguished Alumni Award for the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID). He represented NAD on numerous business and association accessibility councils, including at Amtrak, Northwest Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Greyhound Lines, Open Doors Organization and NTID Advisory Group.

In his spare time, David served as president of the District of Columbia Association of the Deaf and the Florida School for the Deaf Alumni Association. While he is a proud alumnus of the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, elementary and middle school were difficult years for David. He was mainstreamed in the local schools, where students were not permitted to use American Sign Language and were physically reprimanded for doing so. David's grandmother supported his transfer to the Florida School for the Deaf for high school, which set him on a path toward college and a career.

David holds a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Systems from the Rochester Institute of

Technology as well as an Associate's Degree in Data Processing from NTID. He has resided in the District of Columbia for approximately 40 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in thanking David Nelson for his contributions to Amtrak and our Nation.

HONORING COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR CHARLES "DOUG" WALKER

HON. MATT VAN EPPS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 23, 2026

Mr. VAN EPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Command Sergeant Major Charles "Doug" Walker for his extraordinary service and steadfast dedication to the United States Army and to our Nation.

Command Sergeant Major Walker joined the United States Army in 1998 as an Infantryman and immediately assessed into the elite 75th Ranger Regiment, where he spent his formative years as both a Soldier and a Non-Commissioned Officer. From the outset of his career, Command Sergeant Major Walker distinguished himself through discipline, resilience, and an unwavering commitment to mission and soldiers.

Over the course of his 27-year career, Command Sergeant Major Walker has served in a wide range of critical assignments across United States Army Special Operations Command and XVIII Airborne Corps. His service includes assignments with the 75th Ranger Regiment, the 101st Airborne Division Air Assault, the 3rd Infantry Division, and the Asymmetric Warfare Group. Throughout these assignments, he has demonstrated exceptional leadership, ultimately serving in every enlisted leadership position from Fire Team Leader to Division Command Sergeant Major.

Command Sergeant Major Walker has deployed numerous times in support of the Global War on Terror, as well as on multiple worldwide deployments, answering the Nation's call whenever and wherever needed. His operational experience and battlefield leadership have left a lasting impact on the soldiers he led and the units he served.

A lifelong professional, Command Sergeant Major Walker has completed all levels of the U.S. Army's Non-Commissioned Officer Education System. He is a graduate of Ranger School and has earned Airborne, Air Assault, Pathfinder, and Jumpmaster qualifications. In addition to his extensive military education, he holds a bachelor's degree in Organizational Leadership from the University of Oklahoma, reflecting his continued commitment to personal and professional development.

Throughout his distinguished career, Command Sergeant Major Walker's service has been recognized with numerous awards and decorations, including, but not limited to, the Legion of Merit, three Bronze Star Medals, four Meritorious Service Medals, and the Valorous Unit Award, among many others. He

• 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.

has earned the Ranger Tab, Master Combat Infantryman's Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, and Air Assault Badge, symbolizing a career defined by excellence, sacrifice, and mastery of his profession. He is also a proud member of the Order of St. Maurice, the Order of St. Barbara, and the Order of Saint Michael—Airborne, and an honorary member of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Association.

Without question, Command Sergeant Major Charles "Doug" Walker represents the very best of the Non-Commissioned Officer Corps. His leadership, professionalism, and devotion to soldiers have strengthened every formation he has served and have left an enduring legacy within the United States Army.

I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our deepest gratitude to Command Sergeant Major Walker for his exemplary service and for his unwavering commitment to the defense of our Nation.

HONORING WATCH COMMANDER
RUBEN GARCIA, JR.

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 23, 2026

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Watch Commander Ruben Garcia, Jr. for his distinguished 25 years of service with the United States Border Patrol.

Watch Commander Garcia currently serves at the Harlingen Border Patrol Station, a role which he assumed on April 21, 2024. He previously served as Watch Commander at the Hebbronville Station beginning May 22, 2022. Since joining the U.S. Border Patrol on August 21, 2000, as a member of Class 448, he has demonstrated an unwavering dedication to the mission and the men and women he leads.

Promoted to Supervisory Border Patrol Agent in December 2008 at the McAllen Station, Mr. Garcia managed the Border Community Liaison program, served as an Intelligence Officer, and contributed to the Station and Sector Confined Space Entry Team. In addition to his many roles, he also established the first Border Patrol Explorer Post at the McAllen Station, reflecting his commitment to mentorship and community engagement. In 2016, he was selected to serve as a Special Operations Supervisor, overseeing the Rio Grande Valley Horse Patrol Unit and later coordinated the unit's participation in the 2017 Presidential Inauguration Parade in Washington, D.C.

Throughout his career, Mr. Garcia has served in multiple leadership capacities, including Acting Deputy Patrol Agent in Charge at McAllen and Acting Assistant Chief at Headquarters over Specialty Programs. In this role, he coordinated the National Horse Patrol Program and earned a Commendation Medal for Meritorious Achievement. Mr. Garcia holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice with a minor in English from the University of Texas—Pan American and served eight years in the United States Army Reserves.

Mr. Speaker, Watch Commander Ruben Garcia, Jr.'s career reflects integrity, professionalism, and a steadfast commitment to public service. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring his strong leadership and his endur-

ing contributions to South Texas and our Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 23, 2026

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call vote No. 70 on H.R. 2189, I mistakenly recorded my vote as YEA when I should have voted NAY.

RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE

HON. LLOYD DOGGETT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 23, 2026

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a critical national resource that for 30 years has served as a lifeline for victims and survivors of domestic violence and relationship abuse across our country: the National Domestic Violence Hotline.

Based in Austin, Texas, in my Congressional district, the National Domestic Violence Hotline is the only national hotline that operates 24/7, responding to all those in the U.S., its territories and military bases across the globe via phone, chat and text. These services are free and confidential.

Authorized by the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 and funded through the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, the National Domestic Violence Hotline was created to ensure that anyone experiencing relationship abuse would have a safe, confidential place to turn for help. On February 21, 1996, the National Domestic Violence Hotline answered its very first call—marking the beginning of a national commitment to listening to survivors, offering support without judgment, and helping people see pathways to safety and healing.

Since that first call, The Hotline has served more than 7.8 million people through phone, chat and text—each contact representing courage, resilience and hope. Its highly trained advocates provide compassionate support, personalized safety planning, and connections to local resources, responding to thousands of contacts each day as the demand for services continues to grow. Thirty years later, The Hotline continues to experience incredibly high demand for its services. Every day, The Hotline receives nearly 3,000 calls from those needing crisis support and a path to safety—demand for services has more than doubled during the past decade.

As the needs of survivors have evolved, The Hotline has implemented responsible, survivor-centered technology innovations—including expanded chat and text services and improved resource navigation to increase access, reduce barriers, and better meet demand nationwide.

This 30-year milestone is not a celebration of the continued prevalence of domestic violence. The ongoing need for a national hotline is a sobering reminder that relationship abuse

affects millions of people across every community, demographic, and geography. Survivors, particularly those from marginalized communities, often face compounded barriers to safety and support, and too many endure abuse in silence.

But the courage of survivors is something worthy of recognition. Every day, individuals reach out to The Hotline, often for the first time, taking a brave step toward safety, healing, and freedom. The Hotline bears witness to that courage by offering hope, validation and practical support in moments of crisis.

In addition to its core hotline services, The Hotline operates the National Dating Abuse Helpline, which provides 24/7/365 chat, text and phone support to help teens and young adults experiencing abuse or unhealthy dating situations. The Hotline also runs love is respect, a program dedicated to engaging, educating and empowering young people facing abusive or unhealthy relationships.

I also wish to recognize the dedicated advocates who staff the National Domestic Violence Hotline and its programs. Their work requires extraordinary compassion, resilience, and skill, as they respond to heart-wrenching calls and messages with care and professionalism. Their commitment saves lives and strengthens families and communities across our Nation.

For 30 years, the National Domestic Violence Hotline has stood as a beacon of hope—answering the call when it matters most. As we mark this 30th anniversary, we honor the survivors who inspire this work, the advocates who make it possible, and the enduring mission to ensure that everyone can live a life free from violence.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORDINATION OF REVEREND GEOFFREY B. CURTISS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 23, 2026

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50th anniversary of the ordination of Reverend Geoffrey B. Curtiss. Please join me and his parish, Trinity Church in Asbury Park, New Jersey, in celebrating this milestone of devotion and service of Reverend Curtiss in his priesthood.

To Reverend Curtiss, priesthood is an opportunity to connect, teach, and empower his congregants for the better. For a significant period, Reverend Curtiss served at the All Saints Episcopal Parish in Hoboken, New Jersey. Admirably, Reverend Curtiss oversaw the consolidation of three local Episcopal churches and facilitated the bridging of communities complete with benevolent initiatives and ministries. In these spaces, Hudson County low-income youth were provided after-school resources, summer programming, and a partnership to the Jubilee Family Life Center. In 1982, as president of the Hoboken Clergy Coalition, Reverend Curtiss advocated and established the Hoboken Shelter for the Homeless.

Throughout his tenure, Reverend Curtiss has taken to activism in numerous good-faith organizations for causes such as housing access, youth enrichment, racism, and urban renewal. These organizations have included the