

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING THE TRINITY VALLEY GIRLS' SOCCER TEAM ON THEIR FOURTH CONSECUTIVE 3A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. CRAIG A. GOLDMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to proudly recognize the Fort Worth Trinity Valley School girls' soccer team for capturing their fourth consecutive Southwest Preparatory Conference Class 3A state championship—an outstanding achievement that reflects sustained excellence and dedication.

The Trinity Valley Trojans secured the title with a commanding 6–0 victory over the Episcopal School of Dallas at Jones Field, completing an impressive 12–2 season. Freshman Paige Zavaleta and senior Alli Zavaleta each recorded two goals in the championship match, while senior Charlotte Goldman opened the scoring and senior Audrey Deem added the final goal. Goldman, along with seniors Sydney Fewins, Isabel Gonzalez, and Brown University signee Claire McKnight, were members of all four championship teams, a truly remarkable accomplishment.

The Trojans were equally dominant on the defensive end, with goalkeeper Blake Corder posting shutouts in both postseason matches and anchoring a disciplined and resilient defense throughout the playoffs.

This sustained success is a testament to the leadership of Head Coach Claire Pearce, a Trinity Valley alum who has guided both the girls' soccer and field hockey programs to multiple conference championships. Under her leadership, the program has fostered a culture grounded in teamwork, accountability, and high character.

The Trinity Valley School's girls' soccer team exemplifies the very best of high school athletics and brings great pride to their school and the Fort Worth community. I commend the student-athletes, coaches, and families for an outstanding season and for upholding a distinguished tradition of excellence.

On behalf of the 12th Congressional District of Texas, I am proud to congratulate the Trinity Valley School girls' soccer team on this incredible state championship victory.

HONORING DR. FREDERIC "FRITZ" A. REID

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Frederic "Fritz" A. Reid, a new California Waterfowlers Hall of Fame Inductee, who is being recognized for more than 45 years of extraordinary contributions to the preservation of waterfowl and their habitats.

Dr. Reid grew up in Edina, Minnesota, where he developed a lifelong passion for waterfowl hunting alongside his grandfather. In 1978, he earned an A.B. in Biology from Hamilton College in Clinton, New York. He later attended the University of Missouri—Columbia, where he received a Master of Science in 1983 and a Doctorate in 1989, both in Fisheries and Wildlife Ecology.

For decades, Dr. Reid has played a central leadership role in wetland conservation efforts at the local, state, national, and international levels. He joined Ducks Unlimited in 1990, where he served in multiple roles, including analyst, biologist, and ultimately Director of Boreal and Arctic Conservation. In these roles, Dr. Reid worked closely with public agency conservation partners, private land managers, and nonprofit organizations, conducting more than 100 workshops and co-authoring over 90 peer-reviewed conservation manuscripts.

Dr. Reid is widely recognized for his groundbreaking research and leadership within Ducks Unlimited, helping to establish and strengthen wetland complexes throughout California's Central Valley and San Francisco Bay. He also helped map more than 150 million acres of wetlands across Alaska and played a key role in raising more than \$200 million for conservation efforts through the Boreal Conservation Program. Additionally, he has provided leadership to the Central Valley Joint Venture, San Francisco Bay Joint Venture, International Sea Duck Joint Venture, and Arctic Goose Joint Venture, and has served as Chair of the Central Valley Joint Venture.

Dr. Reid's contributions have earned him prestigious awards, including the J. Martin Winton Conservation Award, the Holly Andre Award, and the International Canvasback Award. Dr. Reid is beloved by volunteers, respected by colleagues, and widely regarded as a national treasure in the field of conservation.

Dr. Reid's induction into the Waterfowlers Hall of Fame is a well-deserved honor. Established in 2006, the Waterfowlers Hall of Fame recognizes individuals who have made significant and lasting contributions to enhancing waterfowl populations and their habitats in California. Inductees have played a critical role in conserving waterfowl by preserving, restoring, and enhancing natural habitats; managing agricultural lands with wildlife in mind; advocating for conservation-focused policies; and implementing land-use practices designed to benefit nesting and wintering waterfowl populations.

Outside of his professional work, Dr. Reid enjoys traveling and spending time with his partner, Kim Forrest; her son, Forrest Hansen; and his Labrador retriever, Taiga.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Frederic "Fritz" Reid is most deserving of recognition and appreciation for his decades of dedication to conservation and stewardship of our natural resources. His work has left an enduring legacy that will benefit waterfowl and wetlands for generations to come. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor Fritz here today.

HONORING STEPHEN R. WILKINS

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Stephen R. Wilkins upon his retirement after more than 43 years of exemplary service to our Nation. His career spans over three decades in the United States Air Force and Air National Guard and more than 16 years with the Department of Veterans Affairs in Veterans Integrated Service Network 6 (VISN 6).

Throughout his time at the VA, Mr. Wilkins played an integral role in shaping how the network communicates, collaborates, and serves. As Deputy Director and Congressional Liaison for VISN 6 Strategic Communications, he helped guide complex initiatives across the region while strengthening coordination between federal, state, and community partners. His steady leadership and commitment to service ensured that veterans and their families remained at the center of every effort. In fact, he was often the first call my staff would make when helping constituents navigate the VA bureaucracy, and each time, he helped us deliver results for the people of North Carolina.

Renee and I extend our heartfelt appreciation to Mr. Wilkins for his years of dedicated service to our country and to VISN 6. I know I speak for our entire community in wishing him continued success and happiness as he embarks on his next chapter.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in honoring Mr. Stephen R. Wilkins on his retirement and thanking him for his distinguished service to our Nation.

RECOGNIZING M.L. LEDDY'S ON BEING INCLUDED IN THE NEW YORK TIMES LIST OF THE TOP 50 CLOTHING STORES IN THE UNITED STATES

HON. CRAIG A. GOLDMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize M.L. Leddy's boot shop for being included in the New York Times list of the Top 50 Clothing Stores in the United States. This distinguished honor reflects the dedication and commitment to tradition that has defined M.L. Leddy's legacy for generations.

Since 1922, M.L. Leddy's has stood as a symbol of Texas craftsmanship and authenticity. Situated in the heart of the Fort Worth Stockyards, the shop stands as a lasting symbol of the area's Western heritage and strong sense of community. While it's known for its unrivaled custom boots and saddles, M.L. Leddy's also offers western clothing, hats,

• 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.

buckles, and accessories. Each piece is crafted with meticulous attention to detail, a time-honored technique inspired by the store's namesake. When M.L. Leddy's first began crafting handmade boots and saddles, he did so with the passion and drive of a young Texan in the 1920s. He and his brothers set out to make the highest quality products while maintaining a deep commitment to customer service. This milestone is a testament to the success of their endeavor. As a forth-generation family business, Leddy's iconic storefront in the Fort Worth Stockyards is much more than a preferred store, but rather shines as a living landmark of Fort Worth History.

On behalf of the 12th Congressional District of Texas, I extend my congratulations to M.L. Leddy's on their outstanding achievement and wish them continued success in their future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAKE AUCHINCLOSS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Mr. Speaker, I was necessarily absent from votes. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 71; YEA on Roll Call No. 72; NAY on Roll Call No. 73; and NAY on Roll Call No. 74.

CELEBRATING THE GRAND OPENING OF THE ALEDO MUNICIPAL COMPLEX

HON. CRAIG A. GOLDMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the grand opening of the Aledo Municipal Complex in Aledo, Texas on January 10, 2026. Aledo, the oldest city in Parker County, began as a farming settlement and was later incorporated in 1963. This new facility represents an important milestone in the city's continued growth and development.

The Aledo Municipal Complex brings essential city services together under one roof, thoughtfully combining accessibility with contemporary design. The use of carefully selected materials pays tribute to Aledo's rural roots and reflects the city's motto, Rich Heritage, Dynamic Future. As Aledo continues to grow, this new building stands as a symbol of the community's commitment to progress while remaining firmly grounded in the values and spirit that define it.

On behalf of the 12th Congressional District of Texas, I am proud to congratulate the City of Aledo as it enters a new chapter of service.

HONORING BILLIE JO MEDDERS

HON. VINCE FONG

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 95th birthday of Billie Jo Medders

and to recognize her lifetime of steadfast service to the Bakersfield community.

Born on March 8, 1931, in Indianola, Mississippi, Billie Jo graduated from Indianola High School, where her interest in civic life first took shape. As a senior, she was selected as a delegate to Mississippi Girls' State and was elected lieutenant governor, an experience sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary that foreshadowed a lifetime of engagement in public affairs. She went on to attend Delta State University in Cleveland, where she met her husband, Clarence Medders, and began a lifelong partnership rooted in service.

In 1956, Billie Jo and Clarence relocated to Bakersfield, joining the Bakersfield City School District and making our community their permanent home. Together, they raised their daughters, Emily and Pamela, while investing deeply in the civic and educational life of Kern County. Clarence devoted 44 years to education as a teacher, counselor, and principal. Billie Jo also served the district for 13 years as a school secretary.

As Billie Jo's family took root in Bakersfield, so too did her public service. She joined Assemblyman Thomas's staff as a part-time aide and, following his election to Congress, continued in his Bakersfield office as a caseworker and eventually director of constituent services. Over the course of 29 years, she assisted countless constituents in navigating complex federal agencies, exemplifying the vital role district offices play in responsive government.

I worked directly with Billie Jo for many years as a field representative in the district I now have the honor of representing in Congress. During that time, she demonstrated that constituent services is about serving people with diligence, integrity, and respect. She made clear that every issue—from veterans' benefits to immigration casework to small business assistance—deserved urgency, careful attention, and professionalism. That standard continues to guide how I approach the responsibilities of this office and how I serve California's 20th Congressional District today.

In addition to her government service, Billie Jo remained engaged in the broader nonprofit and civic community. Her decades of involvement have strengthened local institutions and reflected her enduring commitment to Bakersfield's families and seniors. In recognition of that commitment, she was recently honored by Family-to-Family Mentoring, a division of Garden Pathways, Inc., with the "Heart for Bakersfield" award—an apt description of her life's work. Today, she enjoys time with her seven grandchildren, along with traveling, reading, gathering with friends, and adding to her well-known elephant collection.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Billie Jo Medders for her decades of service and for the example she continues to set in our community.

HONORING COACH GARY PATTERSON'S DISTINGUISHED CAREER AND INDUCTION INTO THE COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME

HON. CRAIG A. GOLDMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mr. Gary

Patterson on his induction into the National Football Foundation College Football Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility. This honor reflects more than four decades of excellence, leadership, and service to the college football.

Coach Patterson's 43-year coaching career, including 24 years leading Texas Christian University, culminated in his distinction as the winningest coach in TCU history. A transformational leader both on and off the football field, he guided the Horned Frogs through an era of sustained excellence and national prominence while navigating many transitions and challenges.

Over the course of 260 total games, Coach Patterson earned 181 victories, led his teams to 18 bowl appearances with 11 bowl victories, and coached five defensive units that ranked number one nationally. Widely regarded as one of the Nation's preeminent defensive coaches, his success was recognized across college football, including being named National Coach of the Year a total of 22 times. He was inducted into the TCU Athletics Hall of Fame as a member of the class of 2025 and is set to receive the Davey O'Brien Legends Award in February.

His leadership extends well beyond wins and championships. He has mentored generations of student-athletes, many of whom went on to professional careers, academic distinction, and leadership roles of their own. Coach Patterson also co-founded The Big Good Foundation, earned the National Football Foundation Gridiron Club of Dallas' Distinguished Texan Award, and served as president of the American Football Coaches Association.

On behalf of the 12th Congressional District of Texas, I join the people of Texas, the TCU community, and college football fans across the Nation in congratulating Gary Patterson and all those who shared in this journey on this well-deserved and historic honor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HERBERT C. CONAWAY, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for the first vote series on February 24, 2026. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 74; NAY on Roll Call No. 73; YEA on Roll Call No. 72; and YEA on Roll Call No. 71.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF BOB JAMESON AFTER 13 YEARS WITH VISIT FORT WORTH

HON. CRAIG A. GOLDMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career and public service of a distinguished leader in Fort Worth's tourism and economic development community. After 13 years of service, Bob Jameson will retire this April from his role as President and Chief Executive Officer of Visit Fort Worth.