

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING CUB SCOUT PACK 545 OF BROOMFIELD, COLORADO

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2026

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Cub Scout Pack 545 of Broomfield on their 25th anniversary.

Pack 545 has helped shape the lives of many young people in Broomfield through programming focused on leadership, community engagement, and appreciation for the outdoors. Their co-ed pack is one of the largest in the Denver Metropolitan Area, averaging 90 scouts every year, and has included an impressive 30 former members who have gone on to achieve the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout.

Whether visiting the police and fire departments in the Broomfield Community or designing model rockets and cars for their annual Pinewood Derby competition, for 25 years, Pack 545 has instilled both a love of play and a sense of responsibility in its members.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's 7th Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Cub Scout Pack 545 for its remarkable 25 years of service in our community and thank them for their work.

HONORING MICHAEL REAGAN

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2026

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, visionary radio talk show host Michael Reagan was appropriately recognized in The Washington Times on January 8, 2026, with a deserved tribute by former Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker:

A great man was born into eternal life this week. Michael Reagan passed away Sunday surrounded by his family. Many people knew him as the eldest son of former President Ronald Reagan.

He was certainly proud of that distinction, but we at Young America's Foundation knew him as so much more. He was a wonderful inspiration. That was particularly true when it came to the students who heard him at YAF's programs at the Reagan Ranch.

Michael did so much more than share stories about his father. He challenged the next generation to share the values he stood for throughout his public life. He called on them to be happy warriors in the battle to uphold the founding principles of our republic.

I first got to know Michael Reagan years ago by listening to his radio show while driving to and from the state Capitol in Madison, Wisconsin. I enjoyed his insights on the news of the day.

Years later, I got to know him personally after becoming president of YAF. He was a fixture at our student programs in California. Michael and his family frequently re-

turned to Rancho del Cielo for public and private events. He and his daughter, Ashley, also headlined the very first program YAF hosted in Dixon, Illinois, after our acquisition of the Ronald Reagan Boyhood Home.

Unfortunately for all of us, the Good Lord decided to call Michael home sooner. He and I discussed his faith and devotion to Jesus. That should give us all comfort during this difficult time, as Michael is with the Lord.

One of my colleagues, Andrew Coffin, knew Michael even better, as he began working at the Reagan Ranch in October 1998. Today, Mr. Coffin is the director of the ranch and a YAF vice president. Here is part of his moving tribute to Michael: 'With Ronald Reagan, what you saw was what you got. There was no facade. You perhaps get the most profound sense of that authenticity when you visit Rancho del Cielo, President Reagan's beloved Santa Barbara ranch home. His faith, humility, patriotism and work ethic—all are on display in very personal and poignant ways at the ranch.'

No perspective on Ronald Reagan, though, has been more important than that of his son Michael. Since the earliest days of this project, Michael worked alongside Young America's Foundation to share his father's legacy and ideas with new generations.

Among many other YAF activities, Michael was typically the opening speaker at each of our high school conferences at the Reagan Ranch. He did a remarkable job setting the stage for the entire week—especially in laying the groundwork for the experience young people have when they walk in Ronald Reagan's footsteps at Rancho del Cielo. Michael helped these future leaders better understand how Ronald Reagan's life at the ranch connects to his character and values.

We were at the ranch one day several years ago for a film project when Michael looked around the simple, 19th-century adobe his father called home and said, 'Without this place, the Berlin Wall still stands.'

Michael understood well the way the ranch gave his father a respite from the pressures of his office and the courage to face the challenges ahead. Staying grounded at the ranch is part of what made Ronald Reagan a transformational leader.

That simple turn of phrase is a reminder that Michael, as well as his father, was a uniquely gifted communicator. He never spoke with notes, explaining that the few times he tried to work from a script, the speeches were failures.

Instead, Michael was a storyteller. He would often explain that his father spoke in parables, and Michael did the same. Vignettes from Michael's childhood helped illuminate his father's character, his faith, his love for his country—even his tax policy. (Michael once asked for a raise to his allowance, something his father promised to do . . . once a president was in office who would cut his taxes.)

Students who heard Michael speak gravitated to that same sense of authenticity that made his father such a successful leader. Few who had the privilege of listening to his stories will soon forget Michael's describing Ronald Reagan's long-held desire to say, "Nyet" to a Soviet leader, something he was finally able to do with General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev in Reykjavik.

There were few dry eyes in the room as Michael described his elderly, Alzheimer's rid-

den father standing in the doorway, waiting with arms outstretched, because Michael had forgotten to give him a hug goodbye.

What a wonderful tribute to a great man.

When I told a friend that Michael had passed, she noted that when her granddaughter came back from a high school conference at the Reagan Ranch years ago, she said that Michael Reagan had been her favorite speaker. That, along with his family—wife Colleen, son Cameron, daughter Ashley and grandchildren—will be Michael Reagan's greatest legacy.

RECOGNIZING MAJOR JUSTIN SMITH

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2026

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep appreciation for Major Justin Smith of the United States Air Force, who has served with distinction as a Department of Defense Legislative Fellow in my office since January 2025. Major Smith has brought invaluable insight, expertise, and dedication that have greatly contributed to the success of our work.

His background and experience directly informed my efforts as Ranking Member of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness, where we addressed critical issues related to the preparedness of our Nation's military forces. His professionalism, knowledge, and judgment consistently strengthened our understanding of these complex challenges.

Whether preparing for hearings before the House Armed Services Committee, drafting legislative proposals, or conducting in-depth research, Major Smith could always be relied upon to deliver work of the highest caliber. He authored key provisions that were ultimately adopted into the National Defense Authorization Act, ensuring that priorities for California's 8th Congressional District were reflected in the final bill.

Throughout the year, Major Smith provided thoughtful, well-researched perspectives that proved invaluable in supporting the mission of Travis Air Force Base and in advancing the well-being of servicemembers, their families, and the broader community. His commitment to strengthening U.S. Cyber forces was particularly noteworthy and played an important role in shaping my approach to these vital issues.

Major Smith's passion for service and dedication to his profession were evident in all that he did. His exceptional performance has left a lasting impact on my office, and both I and my entire team will miss his presence. The United States Air Force is fortunate to count him among its ranks, and I am confident he will continue to advance its mission with distinction.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District and a

● 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.

grateful Nation, I extend my deepest appreciation to Major Smith for his dedicated service and wish him every success in his future endeavors.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT; AND INTERIOR AND ENVIRONMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2026

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the FY2026 Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill, division B of H.R. 6938. This bipartisan agreement protects funding for Democratic priorities, reasserts Congress's power of the purse, and rejects Republicans' poison pill riders.

Due to the perseverance of my colleagues, Ranking Members DELAURO and KAPUR, the legislation before us today provides a critical \$2.4 billion increase over FY2025 to address rising energy costs for American families, strengthen our water infrastructure, and improve climate resilience.

This bill represents a stark contrast to the dangerous proposal that passed the House in September. House Republicans previously advanced H.R. 4553, a fiscal year 2026 Energy and Water bill that would have devastated Minnesota families, Minnesota's clean energy economy, and advanced President Trump's attacks on clean energy. I voted against that harmful legislation, which would have raised energy costs and weakened our national security.

The contrast is especially stark when it comes to programs that help vulnerable Minnesotans. Last year, House Republicans voted for a 44 percent cut to the Weatherization Assistance Program, which helps low-income households lower their utility bills by improving home energy efficiency. Thankfully, the bill before us today provides more than \$3 million for this program which will help roughly 1,200 Minnesotans weatherize their homes each year, saving families about \$372 annually on their energy bills.

Our global competitors like China are investing hundreds of billions of dollars in clean-energy development. We must do the same. The bill before us today makes the United States competitive by investing \$3 billion in energy efficiency and renewable energy programs at the Department of Energy, rejecting President Trump and Congressional Republicans' crusade on clean energy.

As more than 62,000 Minnesotans work in clean energy, I am glad to see that this bill protects Minnesota's clean energy economy. The clean energy sector in Minnesota has been growing five times faster than Minnesota's overall job growth and Federal investments in clean energy and energy efficiency will directly support these good-paying jobs.

Since taking office, Trump has been jeopardizing clean-energy jobs in Minnesota by terminating clean-energy incentives in his so-called "One Big Beautiful Bill," canceling grants, and illegally withholding funds from state, local and tribal governments. These ac-

tions are stalling clean-energy projects and eliminating high-wage jobs.

We cannot afford to abandon these investments during a worsening climate crisis. American families are already struggling with high energy bills. But the need to develop our own homegrown clean and sustainable energy isn't just a matter of economic security; it's also about our national security.

The Department of Defense considers climate change to be a top national security concern. Climate change is making nations around the world more unstable and less safe. It's also hurting our military readiness here at home, with sea-level rise and extreme weather flooding our bases. Permafrost thaw is making Alaskan runways unusable. Radar stations are at risk of falling into the sea.

America can, and must, meet the new age frontiers of energy and water, and invest in our workers, protect our water, and power our future. I thank my colleagues for their overwhelming bipartisan support for this bill, and I urge the Senate to move with haste to get this legislation to the President's desk to be signed into law.

We don't have the luxury of ignoring the very real effects of climate change happening around us—especially when they're affecting our lives and livelihoods and our national security. Future generations will pay the highest costs if we fail to act.

As your representative, I will continue to fight for these critical investments because Minnesotans deserve better. Our children and grandchildren deserve better.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan agreement.

RECOGNIZING JOE HENGSTLER

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2026

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joe Hengstler, the Executive Director of Olde Town Arvada Business Improvement District, who sadly passed away on September 23, 2025 after his battle with esophageal cancer.

Joe was affectionately known as "The Mayor of Olde Town." He was instrumental in establishing the heart and soul of Arvada's most iconic and historic destination. Friends, family, and community members knew Joe as a true leader who was always ready to pick up a shovel and get to work to put his projects into action.

Joe cultivated a thriving hub for local businesses. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Joe transformed Olde Town to ensure that business owners had the tools and environment to persevere through economic hardship. Olde Town innovated and implemented new physical distancing rules and created unique events to bring the community to Olde Town. The community showed up for the small businesses while still prioritizing safety. This innovation and our community's support for small businesses had a lasting impact as Olde Town continues to thrive.

Joe will be remembered for his enthusiasm, ambition, and optimism. He is survived by his wife, Megan, their daughter Juniper, his mother Camilla Hengstler, his sister Erika Huber,

and his brother Bob Hengstler. I know I join our community in my hope that Joe's loved ones continue to find comfort in the stories that friends and family are sharing. He undoubtedly had an impact on those around him, and in that way, he'll continue to live on with us.

HONORING MRS. BARBARA ANNE DORSEY'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2026

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with immense pride and profound appreciation to honor a remarkable woman on the momentous occasion of her 90th birthday—Mrs. Barbara Anne Dorsey. Mrs. Dorsey is more than a friend; she is the embodiment of love, community service, and dedication to nurturing the future. An event to honor her birthday will be held on Saturday, January 10, 2026, in Columbus, Georgia at the Green Island Country Club.

Mrs. Dorsey was born on January 10, 1936, in Hawkinsville, Georgia, and spent her formative years in Winter Haven, Florida before moving to Columbus, Georgia. It was here, surrounded by family and the nurturing spirit of her community, that her passion for music and education first took root. Growing up, she became an active member of Fourth Street Baptist Church and a musician at Shady Grove Baptist Church, where she discovered her love for serving others and sharing her musical gifts. From her earliest days, Mrs. Dorsey carried a melody in her heart, playing the clarinet and captivating those around her with the joy of music.

After completing her education at Spencer High School, Mrs. Dorsey attended Fort Valley State College, where she not only honed her teaching skills but also began to shape her future as an educator and community leader. She became a devoted mother, embracing the roles that define family—one that has grown cherished, with each name she earned—Barbranne, Bootsie, Aunt Barbara, Mama Barbara, Grandma and Gigi. Each moniker captures not just her identity but the love and bonds she has cultivated through the years.

In the span of her impressive career, Mrs. Dorsey made her mark at Manly Taylor Elementary School, where she embarked on a journey that would touch the lives of countless young minds. Her devotion extended beyond the classroom, as she served with passion in the Project Head Start summer program. Mrs. Dorsey understood that early education lays the foundation for a lifetime of growth and success. Through her nurturing spirit, she empowered her students, instilled hope, and ignited the flames of curiosity.

I am reminded of the inspiring words of Mary McLeod Bethune, who said, "The true measure of the success of any society can be determined by the contributions of its women." Mrs. Dorsey's life resonates with this idea; her unwavering commitment to education, service, and community upliftment has forged a legacy that will be felt for generations to come.

Mrs. Dorsey's life has not been confined to one place or role. With an indomitable spirit, she embraced many responsibilities within her