

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MORGAN HERITAGE

HON. SHEILA CHERFILUS-McCORMICK OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 2026

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Morgan Heritage, and include in the RECORD the following proclamation in its honor:

Whereas, Morgan Heritage, comprised of the iconic trio Peetah Morgan, Gramps Morgan, and Mr. Mojo has carried forward the musical and cultural legacy of their father, the late Hon. Ras Denroy Morgan, Sr., by becoming one of the most globally recognized ambassadors of reggae music; and

Whereas, over the course of more than three decades, Morgan Heritage has released twelve studio albums earning critical accolades and commercial success, including three Grammy Awards and multiple international honors, solidifying their legacy; and

Whereas, deeply rooted in both Jamaican and African ancestry, Morgan Heritage has used music as a powerful vehicle for unity, resistance, humanitarianism, and love; promoting conscious music, while fostering connections between the Caribbean and the African nations through collaborations and cultural engagement; and

Whereas, Morgan Heritage has proudly represented both Brooklyn, New York, and Jamaica on the world stage, becoming cultural stewards and artistic visionaries whose music transcends borders and unites people across nations; and therefore, be it

Resolved, That we, Florida's 20th Congressional District, in recognition of Caribbean-American Heritage Month, do hereby honor Morgan Heritage for their extraordinary musical contributions, their dedication to preserving and evolving reggae music, and their unwavering commitment to global cultural exchange and unity, peace, and love.

HONORING SCOTT O'DELL

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 2026

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. Scott O'Dell on being named New Teacher of the Year by the Michigan Association of Career and Technical Education (MI ACTE). This distinguished honor reflects his exceptional leadership in the classroom and his steadfast commitment to preparing the next generation of aviation mechanics.

In just over two years at the Northwest Education Services Career Tech Center, Mr. O'Dell has quickly established himself as a leader in Michigan's Career and Technical Education community. Prior to entering the classroom, he worked in the aviation industry training new employees. It was there that he discovered his passion for teaching. In 2023, he became North Ed's first instructor of the Aviation Maintenance program, bringing hands-on, real-world experience directly to his students.

His expertise in aviation mechanics fosters a classroom environment where theory meets real-world practice, an impact that Assistant Superintendent Pat Lamb has noted significantly enhances student engagement and success. His dedication helps ensure that Michigan's workforce remains strong and that young men and women are well prepared for meaningful, high-demand careers.

Mr. Speaker, let us all join in recognizing Mr. Scott O'Dell for earning the distinction of New Teacher of the Year from the Michigan Association of Career and Technical Education. On behalf of Michigan's 1st Congressional District, I congratulate him on this outstanding achievement and thank him for his commitment to shaping the future of our skilled workforce.

HONORING TODD BONLARRON

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 2026

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Todd Bonlarron, a distinguished public servant, and to congratulate him on his retirement after an exceptional career serving the people of Palm Beach County.

For the past decade, Todd served as Assistant Administrator for Palm Beach County, helping to skillfully manage the day-to-day operations of a community of more than one million residents. His steady leadership touched every aspect of daily life—from clean drinking water and reliable infrastructure to strong public services and well-supported first responders—consistently delivering results through effective partnerships at every level of government.

Todd's commitment to service extends far beyond his professional role. As a co-founder and President of The West Palm 100, he helped raise more than \$600,000 for local nonprofits and contributed over 50,000 volunteer hours to strengthen our community. He also served on the National Association of Counties Contribution and Retirement Advisory Board, the South Florida Fair Board, and the Palm Beach County Anti-Defamation League Board.

A proud Floridian, Todd is a graduate of both the University of Florida and Florida State University. He began his career in the Florida House of Representatives, working for Representatives Bert Harris and Joe Spratt—where I first met him more than 25 years ago. I have had the privilege of watching Todd grow from an eager young staffer into an exemplary leader in our community—and a devoted husband and father.

Todd Bonlarron's career is defined by dedication, integrity, and a deep commitment to public service. His leadership has made Palm Beach County stronger, safer, and more resilient. I am proud to recognize his contributions and wish him all the best in the next chapter.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SAM PAREDES

HON. VICTORIA SPARTZ

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 2026

Mrs. SPARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Sam Paredes, who spent more than four decades of his life advancing the cause of liberty and defending the Second Amendment.

Sam Paredes dedicated his life to Gun Owners of California, serving as Executive Director since 1998. A tireless defender of the Second Amendment, Sam was also a member of the Board of Directors and Secretary/Treasurer of Gun Owners of America and Gun Owners Foundation, where he served as a national spokesman and trusted voice for freedom.

Under Sam's leadership, Gun Owners of California became a relentless force in protecting and preserving the rights of law-abiding citizens in California. Sam testified in hundreds of legislative committee hearings and advocated fearlessly before the California Fish and Game Commission, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Department of Justice. His work was marked by conviction, courage, and an unwavering belief that constitutional rights are God-given and non-negotiable.

Sam's expertise was sought after by virtually every California news outlet, as well as national and international media such as Fox News, ABC World News Tonight, the Wall Street Journal, New York Times, Washington Post, Univision, Telemundo, BBC, and many others. He was a frequent guest on podcasts and radio shows, a popular speaker at events across the country, and taught numerous workshops on "Confrontational Politics." He also formerly co-hosted Sacramento's Just Guns radio show.

In addition to his work with the Gun Owners of California, Sam was appointed by Governors George Deukmejian and Pete Wilson to serve in the Trade and Commerce Agency, where he worked in both administrations.

Born in Los Angeles to immigrant parents, Sam was the second of three children. He attended Pepperdine University on scholarship and graduated with a degree in political science, later pursuing studies at the Foundation for Economic Education in New York.

Sam was a certified firearms instructor, an avid outdoorsman, and a man who relished the beauty of God's creation—whether hunting, fishing, golfing, or traveling. He also served as a volunteer firefighter and on board of his local fire protection district in El Dorado County.

Above all, Sam was a man of deep faith. His love for Jesus Christ guided his life and shaped his mission. He leaves behind a legacy of faith and freedom, inspiring countless others to stand courageously in defense of liberty.

• 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.

One thing Sam told me that I will never forget is: "No matter how difficult it sometimes is for you, please remember that many of us stand behind you and count on you." Sam was a true freedom fighter. Sam was the proud father of three children, a devoted grandfather to eight, and the loving husband of his wife, Laurie. Sam made his home with his family in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada, where his presence will be dearly missed but his impact will never fade.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Sam Paredes and extending heartfelt condolences to his family and friends.

HONORING KHADINE "MISS KITTY"
WILKINSON

HON. SHEILA CHERFILUS-McCORMICK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 2026

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Khadine "Miss Kitty" Wilkinson and include in the RECORD the following proclamation in celebration of Caribbean-American Heritage month:

Whereas, Khadine "Miss Kitty" Wilkinson is considered one of the most influential voices in the Caribbean, exemplifying excellence as an attorney-at-law, media personality, keynote speaker, and advocate for social change; and

Whereas, through her dynamic presence across radio, television, and live events, Mrs. Wilkinson has consistently used her platform to inform, educate, and uplift audiences, while promoting Caribbean culture, identity, and values on a global scale; and

Whereas, as a cultural ambassador and media icon, "Miss Kitty" embodies the vibrant spirit, resilience, and innovation of the Caribbean people, and serves as a beacon of inspiration to the Caribbean diasporic communities around the world; and

Whereas, through her philanthropic work, she has awarded scholarships to fourteen students at The University of the West Indies, promoting educational advancement and opportunity for the next generation of Caribbean leaders while also organizing critical health initiatives, particularly voluntary blood donation, that in turn provide high-impact support to public health in Jamaica and the wider region; and

Whereas, her contributions have earned her prestigious accolades, including the Governor General's 30th Anniversary Award for Community Development and The UWI 75th Anniversary Outstanding Volunteer Award, as well as the distinction of serving as Patron of the inaugural European Union-Jamaica 5K Road Race in 2023; and

Therefore, be it resolved that we, Florida's 20th Congressional District, in celebration of Caribbean-American Heritage Month, do hereby recognize and honor Khadine "Miss Kitty" Wilkinson for her unique contributions to the preservation, celebration, and elevation of Caribbean heritage, and commend her for her enduring service to culture, education, and community.

HONORING BILL SWEET ON BEING
NAMED VETERAN OF THE YEAR
BY THE GRAND TRAVERSE AREA
VETERANS COALITION

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 2026

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. Bill Sweet on being named Veteran of the Year by the Grand Traverse Area Veterans Coalition. This well-deserved distinction reflects his steadfast dedication to his fellow Servicemembers, the communities throughout Northern Michigan, and our Nation.

In May of 2025, Mr. Sweet embarked on an extraordinary 116-mile walk over the course of ten days to raise awareness for Veterans' mental health in partnership with Reining Liberty Ranch, a local Veterans nonprofit. Inspired by fellow Veteran, Travis Snyder, who was unable to complete his annual walk around Lake Michigan promoting awareness for Veterans' mental health and suicide prevention, Mr. Sweet chose to carry forward the mission by walking the M-22 stretch from Manistee County to Traverse City.

With a sturdy pair of walking shoes and an American flag resting on his shoulder, Mr. Sweet set out to accomplish what he humbly described as "a little bit of a selfish goal." Yet his journey was anything but selfish. As he traveled along the M-22 highway, he reflected on his family and friends and on the greater purpose of his walk: drawing attention to the challenges Servicemembers face long after their time in uniform has ended.

His efforts embody the very best of American values: selflessness, determination, and an unwavering commitment to community. His walk serves as a powerful reminder that service does not end with one's final military contract; it continues in our dedication to supporting those who have sacrificed for our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, let us all join in recognizing Mr. Bill Sweet for being named Veteran of the Year by The Grand Traverse Area Veterans Coalition. I thank him for his enduring commitment to our Veterans, his community, and our great country.

RECOGNIZING THE TRINIDAD
"TRINI" GARZA EARLY COLLEGE
HIGH SCHOOL AT DALLAS COLLEGE
MOUNTAIN VIEW CAMPUS

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 2026

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the ribbon cutting of the Trinidad "Trini" Garza Early College High School at Dallas College's Mountain View Campus.

This milestone represents an important investment in the future of our students and our community. Early College High Schools provide a powerful pathway for young people to earn both a high school diploma and college credit simultaneously, helping them graduate with the skills, experience, and confidence needed to succeed in higher education and in the workforce. Programs like this open doors

of opportunity for students across Dallas by reducing barriers to college access and creating new pathways to economic mobility.

The Trinidad "Trini" Garza Early College High School is named in honor of former Dallas City Councilmember Trinidad "Trini" Garza, a dedicated public servant and long-time advocate for education and opportunity in the Oak Cliff community. His leadership and commitment to uplifting young people and strengthening neighborhoods left a lasting legacy in Dallas. It is fitting that a school designed to expand educational opportunities bears his name and continues his vision of empowering future generations.

The partnership between Dallas College and the Dallas Independent School District demonstrates what can be achieved when educational institutions collaborate to support students and families. By expanding access to early college opportunities, this initiative will help students build strong academic foundations while preparing them for careers in the rapidly evolving economy of North Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the educators, administrators, community leaders, and partners who made this project possible and who continue to invest in the success of our students. Their dedication ensures that young people in Dallas have access to the tools and opportunities they need to thrive.

I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the ribbon cutting of the Trinidad "Trini" Garza Early College High School at Dallas College's Mountain View Campus and in recognizing the positive impact this institution will have on students and families for generations to come.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ELIJAH
BILES

HON. AARON BEAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 2026

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Elijah Biles, a young man whose life was only just beginning. At 22 years old, Elijah had earned his associate degree and was looking ahead with hope and determination toward the future. By day, he worked at UF Health Jacksonville. By night, he poured his heart into what he loved most: gaming, drawing, and streaming alongside his dad, uncles, friends, and the online community he was building.

He was a devoted son, an incredible big brother, and one of the most compassionate souls you could ever meet. Elijah found joy in the steady rhythm of work, family, creativity, and connection.

Then, in June of last year, everything changed. Elijah was diagnosed with Grade 4 glioblastoma, an aggressive and inoperable brain cancer. One of his earliest symptoms was the loss of use of his right arm, devastating for someone whose passion was art and gaming. As the cancer progressed, weakness spread, and he faced severe cognitive decline and difficulty communicating.

His father, Robert Biles, a Navy veteran of 24 years, set aside his own plans to become Elijah's full-time caregiver, rearranging his work, traveling for treatments, and standing by his son every step of the way.