

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFICER MICHAEL MARKS' 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 20, 2026

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exceptional individual from my district, Officer Michael Marks of the Middletown Township Police Department. I proudly commend him on his well-earned retirement, following 3 decades of committed service to the people of Bucks County.

Officer Marks' exemplary career began in January of 1996, joining the Middletown Township Police Department after graduating from the Philadelphia Police Academy. He was primarily assigned to the Patrol Division, where he built a reputation as a hardworking, dependable, and highly respected officer.

Officer Marks also served the department and his fellow officers in several other important roles. He helped to mentor and serve as an example for the next generation of Middletown Township police officers as a Field Training Officer. He selflessly stepped up when he was needed, serving as the officer in charge when a sergeant was unavailable, letting his sound decision making and professionalism shine. Additionally, he served as a UAS operator, firearms instructor, and a K-9 handler to police dogs Usher and Bach.

Notably, Officer Marks received numerous commendations recognizing his stellar police work, thorough investigations, professionalism and commitment to his profession. He also made a number of notable arrests that were recognized throughout his time with the department. Beyond his assignments and accomplishments, Officer Marks is known throughout the department as a mentor, leader, and trusted colleague. He was always willing to take younger officers under his wing to ensure not only that they were doing a good job, but that they had someone to turn to for invaluable guidance and support. He offered them a voice of reason, his knowledge, and his approachability so that they could be the best officers they could.

Outside of the department, Officer Marks is a well-respected member of the Middletown community, having raised his family there. After a long and honorable career in law enforcement, Officer Marks looks forward to a well-deserved retirement.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Officer Michael Marks on his retirement and thank him for over 30 years of distinguished service to the citizens of Bucks County. His leadership and dedication will leave a lasting mark on the community he so faithfully served.

CELEBRATING THE ROTARY CLUB OF BOCA RATON'S 40TH ANNUAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR HONOREES

HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 20, 2026

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and acknowledge all the hard-working teachers being honored at the Rotary Club of Boca Raton's 40th Annual Teacher of the Year Awards Celebration for the Palm Beach County School District on March 26, 2026. As a father of two growing boys eager to learn, I know educators' lifelong impact on their students and families. Education is the foundation of our country's future, and as a community, we depend on our teachers daily to prepare the next generation of Americans.

We are thankful to be gifted with extraordinary teachers in Florida's 23rd Congressional District. As Teachers of the Year, they serve as an inspiration not only to their colleagues but also to educators across the region. These teachers serve as a shining example of the positive difference that teachers make in the lives of their students. Their passion, enthusiasm, and commitment to shaping the future leaders of tomorrow are truly commendable, and there is no doubt that they will continue to inspire and empower countless students in years to come.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating all the teachers being recognized at the Rotary Club of Boca Raton's 40th Annual Teacher of the Year Awards Celebration: Mrs. Ella Pillitteri, Kathryn Vecchio, Nicole J. Wallace, Mrs. Rachel Bennett, Dr. Kimberly Carlo, Lonnie Varela, Grace Marie O'Dowd-Curra, Cherise Chase, Dr. Michelle Stuart, Mrs. Heather Tully, Dr. Allison Nelson, Erika Dunlea, Ebony Harden, Joseph Ametrano, Marta Sjoval-Brihammar, Ms. Nathaly Ibarra-Rumsey, Mrs. Kerry Maione, Nicole Lee, Robyn Marcus, Chelsey Boothney, Michelle Wagner, Debra Rosenblum, and Mrs. Stacy-Ann Garbos.

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTINE OSBURN JACKSON

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 20, 2026

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of an extraordinary woman, Mrs. Christine Osburn Jackson, who entered eternal rest on February 25, 2026, at the age of 97. Mrs. Jackson's life was defined by courage, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to uplifting others. For more than three decades, she stood at the helm of the YWCA of Greater Charleston, transforming it into a beacon of hope, justice, and opportunity

for countless individuals across her community.

Born in Marion, Alabama, to Roland and Cornelia Scott Osburn, Christine Jackson was shaped early by faith, family, and a deep sense of responsibility to others. Her upbringing, rooted in church and community, instilled in her the values that would guide her life's work. She pursued higher education in home economics and carried those skills with her as tools for empowerment and service. Early on, Mrs. Jackson proved she was a trailblazer, yet another reminder of her resilience and perseverance as a Black woman of her generation.

In 1963, she and her husband, the late Reverend Dr. Eddie L. Jackson, Sr., made their way to Charleston, South Carolina, where her journey with the YWCA began humbly with teaching a sewing class. What followed was nothing short of transformation. In 1966, she assumed leadership of a segregated institution during one of the most pivotal periods in our Nation's history. With quiet strength and steady determination, she helped guide the YWCA through the turbulence of the civil rights struggle, ensuring that the Y's mission aligned with the principles of equality and inclusion.

Under her visionary leadership, the YWCA of Greater Charleston became a cornerstone of the community. Mrs. Jackson championed programs that registered voters, supported young mothers, and provided educational and leadership opportunities for youth. She helped establish initiatives such as the Tribute to Women in Industry (TWIN), elevating the contributions of women across the region, and played a central role in creating Charleston's annual Martin Luther King, Jr., commemorations—ensuring that Dr. King's legacy would live on in both word and action.

Her influence extended far beyond organizational leadership. During the 1969 Charleston Hospital Strike, the YWCA served as a meeting place for those seeking justice, and Mrs. Jackson stood among those committed to advancing civil rights. She was connected personally and historically to this movement, sharing close ties to the family of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and carrying forward the spirit of service and sacrifice that defined that era.

Even in retirement, Mrs. Jackson remained a guiding force, ever hopeful and steadfast in her belief that "the good in people will always outweigh the bad." Her life's work was made possible not only by her leadership but also by her unique ability to bring people together in the service of a greater cause.

She leaves to cherish her memory her loving children, Moshe Rashad and Kim Jackson; her bonus son, Jeremy Lamar Jackson; and a host of grandchildren, family, and friends who will carry her legacy forward.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in honoring the remarkable life of Mrs. Christine Osburn Jackson. She was a trailblazer, a servant leader, and a pillar of her community. Her legacy of service, justice, and faith will continue to inspire generations to come.

• 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.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF ALFRED ESCALANTE

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 20, 2026

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Alfred Escalante, who has passed away at the age of 100.

Born in Texas, Alfred left for California as a young man in pursuit of more opportunities. He embarked on a career as a car painter, becoming a master of the trade and a lifelong resident of Santa Ana along the way. Years into his career, he went to work for his son's Custom Auto Service in Santa Ana, which is nationally renowned for servicing and restoring Packard cars.

Together with his beloved wife Lucy, Alfred created a lifetime centered around family and the importance of living together. Alfred instilled in his children the importance of integrity, humility, and perseverance.

He also served as a father figure to countless others in his community, teaching them life skills such as faith and manners while providing them with a second chance and lots of hope.

Alfred is survived by his children Alfred, Jr., Robert, David, Sandy, Steve, and Cynthia, as well as by his grandchildren.

As he said to his family shortly before he passed, "I did not leave you any money but I left you a clean name. Protect it because it's worth more than a pot of gold."

IN MEMORY OF COLONEL PHAN
VĂN HUẤN

HON. DEREK TRAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 20, 2026

Mr. TRAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with solemn remembrance that I rise today to pay tribute to a renowned commander, distinguished veteran, and principled hero, Colonel Phan Văn Huấn of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam. Colonel Huấn, a fixture in the Orange County Vietnamese American community, passed away on March 10, 2026, in Santa Ana, California at the age of 96.

Colonel Phan Văn Huấn was born in 1930 in Thừa Thiên, Huế, Vietnam. On October 1, 1953, following a national mobilization order, he enlisted in the military and attended Class 10 at the Vietnam National Military Academy in Đà Lạt. Following his graduation, he quickly established himself as a capable leader, eventually becoming commander of the 81st Airborne Ranger Group (Liên Đoàn 81 Biệt Kích Nhảy Dù). The 81st Airborne Ranger Group was one of the Republic of Vietnam's elite special operations formations, and specialized in small-team airborne insertions, reconnaissance, intelligence gathering, and deep-penetration missions behind enemy lines.

During Colonel Huấn's time as commander, the 81st Airborne Ranger Group earned a reputation as one of the most effective fighting units of the South Vietnamese military. The unit played important roles in several major campaigns, including the 1968 Tet Offensive, and at both An Lộc and Quảng Trị during the

North Vietnam's 1972 Easter Offensive. Colonel Huấn's courageous leadership at the siege of An Lộc earned him a promotion to the distinguished rank of Colonel.

Colonel Huấn was widely respected as an honest and principled officer who simultaneously placed great importance on discipline while caring deeply about the welfare of his soldiers. He was known for paying close attention to his soldiers' living conditions, morale, and recovery after combat operations, and it was his dedication that allowed the 81st Airborne Ranger Group to become known as a highly capable and battle-hardened unit.

In 1975, when President Dương Văn Minh ordered the South Vietnamese Armed Forces to surrender, Colonel Huấn remained with his soldiers and was imprisoned for 13 years in hard-labor reeducation camps in Northern Vietnam. In 1988, he was released from prison in poor health due to the harsh conditions of imprisonment and lingering wounds from his military service. For the next four years, Colonel Huấn and his family lived in hardship in Ấp Tân Thái Sơn near Tân Phú, Tân Bình District, before resettling in the United States under the Humanitarian Operation program in 1992.

Colonel Phan Văn Huấn is survived by his wife, Le Thi Thanh Nguyen, and their children, Dinh Van Phan, Andy Loc Phan, Son Van Phan, My Van Phan, Kevin Phan, Mimi Phan, Ann Phan, and Kristin Thuy Phan. Colonel Huấn's life remains a testament to dedication, sacrifice, and leadership in the service of his country. He will be dearly missed by his friends and family, and his legacy and service will continue to live on in the minds of everyone who has met him.

HONORING MEMBERS OF THE
MACV-SOG

HON. MATT VAN EPPS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 20, 2026

Mr. VAN EPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam—Studies and Observations Group, also known as MACV-SOG, and to highlight an upcoming event honoring these brave veterans. On March 26, 2026, the Fort Campbell Historical Foundation will host a gathering to commemorate the extraordinary courage and sacrifice of MACV-SOG servicemembers and to preserve their stories for future generations.

This event will feature a panel of distinguished veterans who served in some of the most dangerous and secretive missions of the Vietnam War:

John Stryker "Tilt" Meyer, serving as the panel's moderator, is a U.S. Army Special Forces combat veteran of MACV-SOG. He served two tours from 1968 to 1970, running top-secret reconnaissance missions in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. Meyer signed a 20-year secrecy agreement and has since published three works about his experiences, including *Across the Fence: The Secret War in Vietnam*.

John L. Plaster, a Green Beret veteran, served three years with MACV-SOG, leading reconnaissance teams on 22 missions deep behind enemy lines in Laos and Cambodia. He flew over 350 aerial combat missions sup-

porting SOG operations and was inducted into the Air Commando Hall of Fame in 2004 and named a Distinguished Member of the Special Forces Regiment in 2008.

Randy Harrison, a U.S. Army Captain and Special Forces Green Beret, served with MACV-SOG in Cambodia. He survived a near-fatal reconnaissance mission in November 1968, during which he was rescued by Air Force "Green Hornets" under heavy enemy fire.

Roger Lockshier was a crew chief and door gunner with the 101st Airborne's Black Angels Huey helicopter gunships, providing combat support to the 101st Airborne and 5th Special Forces MACV-SOG. He returned to the U.S. in December 1968 and has written several books about his experiences in Vietnam.

Skip Ullyot served as an Army L-19/O-1 Birdog pilot for MACV-SOG from 1969 to 1971, providing forward air control, visual reconnaissance, and radio relay. He flew over 1,000 combat hours across 300 missions, earning a Distinguished Flying Cross and 20 Air Medals, and later flew OV-10s for the U.S. Marine Corps for 18 more years.

CSM(R) Mario Vigil, also serving as a moderator, served in Special Operations from E-4 to Command Sergeant Major level, including as CSM of the 5th Special Forces Group and CSM for Army Special Forces Command. As one of the initial teams on the ground in Afghanistan, Vigil arrived early on the night of November 2, 2001, as one of the "Horse Soldiers" who helped liberate Mazar-e-Sharif and Konduz.

This event will give attendees the opportunity to hear firsthand accounts of the dangerous missions undertaken by these remarkable servicemembers. Their courage, patriotism, and commitment to duty exemplify the very best of the American fighting spirit. I commend the Fort Campbell Historical Foundation for preserving their stories and ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the veterans of MACV-SOG.

CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY
OF AU PAIR IN AMERICA

HON. JAMES A. HIMES

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 20, 2026

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 40th anniversary of Au Pair in America (APIA), a program of the American Institute For Foreign Study (AIFS). A pioneering cultural exchange program, it has strengthened families, expanded educational opportunity, and advanced people-to-people diplomacy between the United States and nations around the world.

APIA is the longest serving au pair program in the United States, officially recognized in 1986. For four decades, the program has connected young people from abroad with American host families in a spirit of mutual learning and cultural understanding. The au pair program was made permanent when it was signed into law in 1997, reflecting its value to American families and its importance as a cultural exchange initiative.

APIA offers a flexible, dependable, and enriching childcare solution for American families. Au pairs become full-fledged family members, sharing a cultural exchange experience