

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING NURSE JESSICA PALMER

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 25, 2026*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of my outstanding constituents, Nurse Jessica Palmer, a dedicated registered nurse whose skill, warmth, and dependability enrich our community through her volunteer work at the Free Senior Health Clinic.

Nurse Palmer volunteers her time with remarkable consistency and a joyful spirit, ensuring that every patient she sees feels seen, heard, and understood. A bright and compassionate professional, she brings both expertise and empathy to every encounter, providing care that is thorough, insightful, and deeply reassuring. The volunteer physicians with whom she works value her diligence, professionalism, and commitment to gathering the information necessary to guide the best possible patient care.

For her unwavering dedication, compassionate heart, and meaningful impact on our community, I am proud to recognize Nurse Palmer as a 2026 Hero Among Us. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring her exceptional commitment, her remarkable skill, and the lasting, positive influence she has on the lives of the patients she serves.

HONORING DAVID J. SALMONSEN

**HON. GLENN THOMPSON**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 25, 2026*

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor a dedicated servant to the agricultural industry, David J. Salmonsens, who is retiring after nearly three decades of dedicated service to the American Farm Bureau Federation and the American farmer and rancher.

David's journey did not begin in the halls of Congress, but on the soil of his family's diversified dairy and crop farm in Manlius, New York. That upbringing instilled in him a fundamental understanding of the challenges facing our producers—an understanding he carried with him through the University at Albany and the Washington College of Law.

For 29 years, David has been a steady hand and a trusted authority for the Farm Bureau. As Senior Director of Government Affairs, he became one of the Nation's preeminent experts on international trade. From the WTO Doha talks to the implementation of the USMCA and Phase One agreements with China and Japan, David was consistently at the table, ensuring that the voice of the American farmer was heard in every corner of the globe.

His expertise was so highly regarded that he served as a cleared advisor for the USDA

and USTR for over two decades, providing critical Counsel on the Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee. Yet, despite his global reach—leading delegations to Geneva, Brussels, and London—David never forgot his roots. He brought a practical, farm-grown perspective to the most complex international negotiations, never losing sight of the producers he represented.

Mr. Speaker, David Salmonsens leaves behind a legacy of expanded markets, fairer trade, and a stronger future for American agriculture. We thank him for his 29 years of tireless advocacy, and we wish him and his family the very best in a well-deserved retirement.

HONORING DANEÉ WILLIAMS

**HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 25, 2026*

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during Women's History Month to honor and recognize Daneé Williams, a remarkable entrepreneur and community leader from Ave Maria, Florida, whose dedication to service and business excellence has left an indelible mark on Collier County. As the owner of two beloved local businesses—Oil Well Craft Beer and The Secret Ingredient—Daneé embodies the spirit of American entrepreneurship. Her commitment to quality and hospitality was recently recognized by Gulfshore Life, with her businesses securing four "Best of the Gulfshore" awards, including being named the best Brewery in Collier County and taking top honors in the Women's Apparel category. Beyond her commercial success, Daneé is a pillar of community engagement. Ten years ago, she founded the Ave Maria Trunk or Treat, an annual tradition that has grown from a local brewery event into a massive town-wide celebration for hundreds of families. During the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, she demonstrated her adaptability and commitment to her neighbors by expanding her business operations to ensure residents continued to have access to essential services and dining.

Daneé's true legacy, however, is her tireless philanthropy and her "community-first" mentality. She consistently utilizes her business platforms to host fundraisers and support a vast array of noble causes, ranging from healthcare and support through the Cancer Alliance Network and the Alzheimer's Support Network to education and youth initiatives with Ave Maria University, The Guadalupe Center, and Our Lady of the Rosary Orphanage. Her advocacy extends to critical community needs, including supporting Path2Freedom in their work with child trafficking survivors, aiding local veterans' organizations, and participating in the Christmas Angel Tree program to help children in need. Daneé, alongside her husband Matt and their children Cole, Peyton, and Reese, has proven that a small business with

a big heart can shape the soul of a town. Her efforts have helped transform Ave Maria's Town Center into a vibrant gathering place where neighbors become friends. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to honor Daneé Williams today for her leadership, generosity, and unwavering dedication to the people of Florida's 26th District.

MS. THERESA BILLINGS

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 25, 2026*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of my outstanding constituents, Ms. Theresa Billings, a dedicated volunteer whose diligence, precision, and tireless commitment strengthen the operations of the Free Senior Health Clinic and ensure that every aspect of its work runs smoothly.

Ms. Billings demonstrates extraordinary effort each and every day, ensuring that all documentation is accurate and timely. Her careful attention to detail, dedication to gathering statistics, and meticulous preparation of reports guarantee that the clinic's outputs are reliable and on point. Always willing to go above and beyond, she consistently does whatever it takes to remain on task and meet deadlines, supporting both staff and patients with quiet efficiency and unwavering dedication.

For her exceptional commitment, tireless work ethic, and meaningful impact on our community, I am proud to recognize Ms. Billings as a 2026 Hero Among Us. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring her extraordinary service, her steadfast reliability, and the lasting difference she makes every day.

HONORING THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA EARLY ACADEMIC OUTREACH PROGRAM

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 25, 2026*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the University of California Early Academic Outreach Program (EAOP) for their 50 years of dedication to making education more accessible to first-generation, socio-economically disadvantaged, and English-language learning students. The organization celebrated their anniversary on February 28, 2026 on the campus of the University of California, Davis.

The Early Academic Outreach Program was established in 1976 by the University of California in response to the California State Legislature's recommendation to expand post-secondary opportunities to every student. EAOP is the University of California's largest academic preparedness program. The program

• 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.

partners with middle and high schools to guide students through academic preparation, college admission requirements, and financial aid processes. EAOP focuses on increasing college preparatory course completion, college application submissions, and enrollment rates among underrepresented students.

The Early Academic Outreach Program is celebrated for its decades of dedication to serving our community by expanding access to education. This program ensures college readiness for underrepresented students by serving over 40,000 students at over 250 K–12 public schools throughout the state each year. Seventy-nine percent of EAOP 12th-grade participants are completing college preparatory coursework compared to forty-nine percent of all California public high school seniors. Sixty-seven percent of EAOP 12th-grade participants complete the SAT or ACT, compared to sixty percent of non-participants at the same California public high schools. The Early Academic Outreach Program has supported more than 450,000 students throughout its existence and, as a result, has diversified and strengthened enrollment in both California's higher education institutions, and in the workforce. Today we recognize the EAOP for being one of the University of California's largest and most successful Student Academic Preparation and Educational Partnership programs.

Mr. Speaker, we thank the Early Academic Outreach program for their dedicated service to our underrepresented student community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor them here today.

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HONORING MARGI STERN

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 25, 2026*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Margi Stern. I have named Mrs. Stern as the California 4th District's Woman of the Year for Solano County. This honor recognizes women who have made important contributions to California's 4th Congressional District in Arts and Culture, Professional Achievement, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, or Community Service.

Mrs. Stern was born in Brooklyn, New York. She earned a Bachelor of Science in speech and language pathology from Whittier College, as well as a master's degree in communication disorders from St. Louis University. She is the grandniece of Arthur Garfield Hayes, a lawyer, civil rights champion, and the co-founder of the ACLU. She is also the niece of Robert L. Stern, a well-known authority in California Campaign finance, the President of Center for Governmental Studies in Los Angeles, and a recipient of the Democracy Hero award by Common Cause.

Mrs. Stern has devoted her career to the betterment of her community. She worked as a Speech Language Pathologist for 37 years, 25 of which were in the Early Intervention Program, for the Solano County Office of Education. After retirement, she volunteered to lead support groups for the parents of children with special needs and worked to teach Parent Communication Skills at the Adult School. Throughout her life, Mrs. Stern has advocated

tirelessly for our special needs community. At Vacaville High School, she created the Anya Elizabeth Janoski Special Education Scholarship, to provide funds to seniors interested in pursuing a career in Special Education. She also participated in the creation, fundraising, and promotion of the Play 4 All Park in Vacaville, and volunteers for Together Everyone Always Matters (TEAM) Vacaville, an organization that provides monthly activities for children with special needs.

In addition to being an incredible advocate for our special needs community, Mrs. Stern is also passionate about eradicating injustice and promoting political participation. She is honored for her work uplifting the women in her community. As a member of the Women's Action Network, she promotes women's participation in city council meetings, campaigns, and local political events. She also serves on the Committee to Establish the Solano Commission for Women and Girls.

Through her participation in local government, Mrs. Stern established the Backyard Hens of Vacaville Group, rewrote the Vacaville city policy to allow hens in the city limits, hosted "meet and greets" for local candidates in Solano County government, and strengthened the Northern Solano Democratic Club. Mrs. Stern consistently shows up for her neighborhood, serving as the Chair of Neighborhood Watch and organizing Neighborhood Night Out among other neighborhood functions. She also speaks every year at the Ernest Kimme Charter School Graduation Ceremony and participates in their Ernest Kimme Service Day.

Mrs. Stern was married to her late husband, Ernest Kimme, a teacher, city council member, and community philanthropist who passed away in 2015. Her son, Stefan Janoski, is bronze sculptor, short film director, and a world-famous skateboarder with a signature Nike shoe that has "Vacaville, California," inscribed on the tongue. Her late daughter, Anya Janoski, was a powerful mentor who contributed to Mrs. Stern's understanding of how to make a difference in the world. Anaya passed in 2017 at age 32; she was diagnosed with Cornelia de Lange Syndrome which affected her physical size and her developmental growth.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Margi Stern's passion, leadership, and determination have profoundly impacted our Solano County community. It is with great honor and deep appreciation that we recognize her invaluable contributions here today.

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CONGRATULATING CHIEF HUGO SEARLE ON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. ANGIE CRAIG**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 25, 2026*

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my friend, Chief Hugo Searle, on his retirement after 34 years with the fire service. Chief Searle is a dedicated public servant and an outstanding leader who has served Minnesotans with courage and commitment.

Originally from Wales, Chief Searle made Minnesota his home and devoted his career to protecting our communities. He served 19 years with the St. Louis Park Fire Department

and 10 years with the Brooklyn Park Fire Department before being appointed Chief of the Eagan Fire Department in 2021.

During his tenure as Chief, he strengthened community relationships, invested deeply in personnel and guided the department through a period of growth and change. His leadership enhanced emergency response capabilities and fostered a culture grounded in professionalism, compassion, and service. Chief Searle has earned the respect of his colleagues from across the state and is widely regarded as a leader within Minnesota's fire service community.

Chief Searle's commitment to excellence extends far beyond the state. In his free time, Chief Searle serves as a high-altitude mountain guide and has summited Mount Everest.

I am deeply inspired by Chief Searle's commitment to public service and exceptional leadership. His career in the fire service will have a lasting impact in Eagan and across the state of Minnesota and I am grateful for all he has done to support our community. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Chief Searle and in wishing him all the best on his well-earned retirement.

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RECOGNIZING MS. LISA WRIGHT

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 25, 2026*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize one of my constituents, Ms. Lisa Wright for her tireless service to our community. Lisa has been an invaluable volunteer at the Pregnancy & Family Life Center (PFLC) of Citrus County since 2022, contributing over 1,300 hours of service across multiple roles. Every Monday morning, Lisa uses her own truck to drive to the Food Bank in Homosassa, where she picks up and delivers a pallet of food to stock the Center's pantry. She checks donations for freshness, organizes them, and ensures they are stored properly. In 2025, the Center distributed 83,000 pounds of food to clients. Affectionately known as the "workhorse", Lisa's strength, resilience, and work ethic are unmatched. No task is too large—she tackles mountains of donations, food boxes, and diapers with remarkable efficiency. Even after a significant surgery, Lisa quickly returned to volunteer work, demonstrating her deep love and dedication to the Center.

Lisa also plays a key role in client interactions, ensuring that every woman who visits the Center feels seen, valued, and cared for, and that each family receives the food and personal items they need. Together, Judy, Lisa, and Wanda embody the heart of the PFLC mission—compassion, service, and unwavering support for women and families. Their dedication ensures that every client who walks through the door receives not only essential resources, but also dignity, hope, and encouragement for the future.

Together, with two other exceptional volunteers, Judy and Wanda, Lisa embodies the heart of the PFLC mission—compassion, service, and unwavering support for women and families. Their dedication ensures that every client who walks through the door receives not only essential resources but also dignity, hope, and encouragement for the future. For