

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING KYNDALL BROWN AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

**HON. DARREN SOTO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 30, 2026*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Kyndall Brown as a Distinguished Leader in Central Florida for Women's History Month. Kyndall Brown is an agriculture educator and FFA advisor at Harmony Middle School in Osceola County, Florida. A lifelong member of the Osceola County community, Ms. Brown returned home after completing graduate studies to give back to the place that shaped her passion for agriculture, leadership, and education.

Ms. Brown teaches more than 200 middle school students each year through an agriscience curriculum aligned with Florida standards and enriched by hands-on learning experiences. Her program introduces students to plant science, animal science, and agricultural technology while helping them develop leadership, career readiness, and problem-solving skills through real-world agricultural projects.

Under her leadership, Harmony Middle School's chapter of the National FFA Organization has expanded significantly and was most recently recognized as a Premier Chapter, one of Florida's highest honors for agricultural education programs. The chapter provides students with opportunities to participate in statewide leadership and career development competitions. Ms. Brown has coached numerous students to success in FFA events, including multiple state finalist teams in Prepared Public Speaking and Horse Evaluation, as well as three state championship teams in Ornamental Horticulture.

Ms. Brown has secured grant funding through partnerships with the Florida Farm Bureau Federation and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to support hands-on agricultural and environmental learning opportunities. She also founded the Harmony Middle Fishing Club, which has grown into a schoolwide program that fosters inclusion, confidence, and connection among students.

In recognition of her dedication to education and community engagement, Ms. Brown was named Osceola County School District's Teacher of the Year and will represent the district in the Florida Department of Education's Teacher of the Year competition. She is currently working with community and district partners to expand agricultural education facilities at Harmony Middle School, including the development of a student livestock barn where animals raised by students will be exhibited at the Osceola County Fair and the Central Florida Fair.

Through her leadership in education and agriculture, Ms. Brown continues to inspire the next generation of leaders while preserving

the agricultural heritage and strengthening the future of her Central Florida community.

RECOGNIZING ELLEN FRANK

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 30, 2026*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary member of our community, Ellen Frank, whose compassion, resilience, and unwavering dedication to serving others make her a truly deserving recipient of the 2026 Heroes Among Us Congressional Award. Ellen Frank exemplifies the very best of servant leadership through her remarkable volunteer work with People Helping People (PHP) in Hernando County, Florida. As an active and hands-on volunteer, Ellen prepares meals, delivers food and essential supplies to individuals experiencing homelessness, and ensures that our most vulnerable neighbors are treated with dignity and care. What makes Ellen's service even more extraordinary is that she has continued her tireless volunteer efforts while undergoing cancer treatment, including chemotherapy. Even in the face of serious health challenges, Ellen has chosen to focus not on her own hardships, but on uplifting others. Her strength of spirit and steadfast commitment are nothing short of inspiring. In addition to her direct service in the field, Ellen serves on the Board of Directors for People Helping People. She plays a vital role in fundraising efforts, sorts donated items, packs care bags for those in need, and even drives the organization's vehicles to homeless outreach sites when necessary. She does whatever is required—quietly, faithfully, and without seeking recognition.

Through it all, Ellen remains upbeat and cheerful, offering encouragement to fellow volunteers and hope to those she serves. Her positive attitude in the midst of personal adversity is a testament to her character and her deep-rooted belief in helping others. Ellen Frank's selflessness, perseverance, and compassion have made a profound impact on Hernando County. She embodies the true meaning of community service and reminds us that even in life's most difficult seasons, we can still be a light for others. For her extraordinary dedication, her resilience in the face of adversity, and her unwavering commitment to serving those in need, I am honored to recognize her as a 2026 Hero Among Us. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ellen Frank for her outstanding service and example to us all.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF COLONEL JAMES E. MCCLOSKEY, USMC, RETIRED ON NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY

**HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 30, 2026*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Vietnam War Veterans Day to honor an extraordinary constituent from my district, Colonel James E. McCloskey, United States Marine Corps (Retired), who served with distinction and honor during the Vietnam War.

Colonel McCloskey began his service in 1965 when he joined the United States Marine Corps and was an Honor Graduate from the Officer Candidate Course. In 1969, he began his first deployment to Vietnam, where he served in a Marine Reconnaissance Unit. During the war, Colonel McCloskey carried immense responsibility at a young age, being responsible for not only mission critical tasks such as training local militias, but also the lives of his own men. He made decisions under pressure that would shape the lives of those under his command, and in doing so earned their trust and respect. By the time he left Vietnam, he had been awarded two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star.

After completing his service with the Marine Corps, Colonel McCloskey transferred to the United States Army Reserve. During his time in the Reserve, he served in many significant positions including Battalion and Brigade Command. In 1999, he retired after over 30 years of service to our Nation. For his service, he was awarded the Legion of Merit Medal. His over three decades of service reflect not only personal bravery, but a deep commitment to the servicemembers he led and to each mission entrusted to him. In the face of uncertainty and hardship, Colonel McCloskey demonstrated the leadership and resolve that defines our armed forces.

Even after his service in country, Colonel McCloskey never forgot the Vietnamese people that he had grown close to. He has returned to Vietnam several times, often at his own expense, to act as a diplomat, volunteer, and teacher. He volunteered as a teacher at Vietnamese universities, teaching International Marketing. He made frequent trips to the State Department to help guide our diplomats in their understanding of the Vietnamese people. Most significantly, he helped found an orphanage run by nuns, which he spends the majority of his visits repairing, building additions, and serving as a mentor to the orphans. Through these efforts, Colonel McCloskey transformed the legacy of the war into one of reconciliation, education, and hope.

As we pay tribute to all of our Nation's servicemembers who bravely answered the call of duty in Vietnam, we thank Colonel McCloskey for his leadership, service, and enduring commitment to preserving the legacy of

• 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.

his fellow Vietnam Veterans. May we always remember the sacrifices of his generation, and may we remain forever grateful.

HONORING IRIS CHACÓN AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

**HON. DARREN SOTO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 30, 2026*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Iris Chacón as a Distinguished Leader in Central Florida for Women's History Month. Iris Chacón is an actress, dancer, singer, and producer. She was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and now resides in Kissimmee, Florida.

Her TV show, "El Show De Iris Chacón," conquered a worldwide audience. She has won two gold records and two platinum records in her recording career, and was the first Latin artist to perform at Radio City Music Hall in New York City. She also performed at Madison Square Garden and the Resorts International Hotel in Atlantic City and in Las Vegas.

Iris starred in three films and four soap operas, and was invited to "The David Letterman Show," "The Merv Griffin Show," "The Late Show," "The Morning Show," "Geraldo Rivera," and was featured as one of the best TV entertainers in the world in "The Joan Rivers Show." She was also featured in publications such as "Daily News," "The Face," "Interview," "GQ," "Cosmopolitan," "The Village Voice," "The New York Times," and "People." In addition, Iris was the first Latina to appear on the front page of the prestigious "Wall Street Journal."

With her own publishing company, she just launched the second edition of her bestselling book, "Yo Soy Iris Chacón," an inspirational autobiography that has received various awards and recognitions, and has been included as a study textbook in the University of Puerto Rico General Library.

In 2025, Iris was recognized as one of the top five most influential women in the City of Kissimmee. For the past 10 years, she has been the spokesperson for Advantage Medical Group, a conglomerate of clinics with doctors from Puerto Rico, based in Orlando and Kissimmee, and owned by the Puerto Rican philanthropist, Arcilio Alvarado, M.D. As the wellness director for all four clinics, she helps elderly locals, giving them joy and hope during challenging times. She visits many of the area's nursing homes, bringing them her music, health, and personal development presentations to her Golden Age audiences.

HONORING JAMIE MICK

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 30, 2026*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exceptional leader, volunteer, and advocate in our community, Jamie Mick, whose dedication and selflessness make her a truly deserving recipient of the 2026 Heroes

Among Us Congressional Award. Jamie Mick has been a cornerstone of the Lighthouse for the Visually Impaired & Blind (LVIB) since joining its Board of Directors in 2008. Her connection to vision loss is deeply personal, as both her grandfather and mother were legally blind due to age-related macular degeneration. This lived experience, combined with her passion and commitment, has guided her leadership across multiple roles, including Board President, a position she is slated to step into once again.

For more than a decade, Jamie has chaired the Chasco Coronation Ball, LVIB's signature fundraiser. Beginning as co-chair in 2010, she has led the event independently, cultivating a strong, diverse committee and implementing a fair, balanced evaluation process for nominees. Her vision ensures that both nonprofit organizations and individual honorees are celebrated, preserving cherished traditions while keeping the event relevant and impactful. Through her leadership, the Ball has raised nearly \$738,000 in support of LVIB's mission, complementing her personal contributions exceeding \$20,000. Jamie's devotion extends to LVIB's youth programs, particularly the Lighthouse Prom. From coordinating dance lessons to personally donating and assembling corsages and boutonnieres, she has shaped the event into a beloved celebration for nearly 60 teens from six Lighthouse organizations. Her attention to detail, enthusiasm, and encouragement help ensure each participant feels seen, celebrated, and supported. Her generosity is matched by her approachability and steady guidance. Jamie shares hundreds of volunteer hours, inspires committees, and uplifts staff and clients alike, making a profound and lasting impact on the organization and the broader community. Beyond LVIB, Jamie's commitment to service resonates throughout Pasco County. She actively supports Leadership Pasco, Rotary Club of Trinity, and Rotary District 6950, serving in leadership roles that range from Public Image Director to Rotary Youth Exchange Officer. Across every organization she touches, Jamie's leadership, generosity, and encouragement create meaningful, lasting change.

Jamie Mick's dedication, vision, and selfless service exemplify the spirit of community and the power of one person to make a lasting difference. For her extraordinary contributions to LVIB and her broader impact across Pasco County, I am honored to recognize her as a 2026 Hero Among Us.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ENSURING CHILD HEALTH COVERAGE COMPENSATION IN DIVORCE ACT OF 2026

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 30, 2026*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Ensuring Child Health Coverage Compensation in Divorce Act of 2026. This bill would require all health insurers to directly reimburse a custodial parent for any out-of-pocket medical expenses for a child incurred by such parent if a court directs a noncustodial parent (including a stepparent) to provide health insurance for the child.

In a divorce, one parent is typically court-ordered to provide health insurance for a child. However, the other parent may pay for out-of-pocket medical expenses for the child that are reimbursable by the insurer. Under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, group health insurers are required to directly reimburse a parent who pays for reimbursable out-of-pocket medical expenses when the other parent has been court-ordered to provide health insurance for a child. However, other health insurers are not required to do so. This bill would require all health insurers to do so.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING AMANDA CLAVIJO AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

**HON. DARREN SOTO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 30, 2026*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Amanda Clavijo as a Distinguished Leader in Central Florida for Women's History Month. Amanda Clavijo serves as the Assistant County Manager for Osceola County, Florida, where she plays a vital leadership role in shaping the county's economic future and improving the quality of life for its residents. She is known for her humility, tireless work ethic, and deep commitment to public service. She aspires to be a role model for women and actively supports their growth and success.

Throughout her career, Mrs. Clavijo has demonstrated a steadfast belief that public service can positively impact communities and expand opportunities for residents. She began her career with Osceola County, working in Special Assessments. Following the Great Recession, she served as the Office of Management and Budget Director and Comptroller, where her steady leadership and fiscal discipline helped guide the county through challenging economic times and establish early investments in the Center for Neovation, a cornerstone of what would become NeoCity, an internationally recognized semiconductor and advanced manufacturing hub.

Now as Assistant County Manager, Mrs. Clavijo oversees multiple departments, while also helping lead the county's transformative work at NeoCity. Her work is key to advancing the Board of County Commissioners' bold vision for NeoCity and supporting partnerships that are bringing high-wage jobs, innovation, and long-term economic prosperity to the region.

Her efforts were integral to the County's award and implementation of state and federal government contracts and grants, totaling over \$500 million.

Raised in South Florida by a hardworking single mother who instilled the values of perseverance and service, Mrs. Clavijo embodies the promise of public education and opportunity. Yet despite her many professional accomplishments, she is most proud of her family—her husband, Luis, and their two children, Jack and Sophia. She is deeply devoted to them and is known for being at every field trip, game, and milestone, determined not to miss a moment. Through leadership, dedication,