

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE CHICAGO INDO-US LIONS CLUB FOR ITS OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO COMMUNITIES ACROSS ILLINOIS

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 6, 2026

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Chicago Indo-US Lions Club for its outstanding service to communities across Illinois and for continuing the proud legacy of Lions Clubs International. Founded in Chicago in 1917 by Melvin Jones, Lions Clubs International has grown into the world's largest service club organization, guided by a mission of community service, humanitarian assistance, and the promotion of peace.

The Chicago Indo-US Lions Club exemplifies this legacy through its dedicated volunteerism and commitment to addressing critical community needs. The Club has played a vital role in supporting vulnerable populations, particularly through its focus on public health initiatives, including vision, hearing, and diabetes care.

Through its fundraising and outreach efforts, the Chicago Indo-US Lions Club helps bridge these gaps by providing essential medical equipment, including vision and hearing screening tools and A1C testing kits, to underserved communities.

On February 28, 2026, members of the Chicago Indo-US Lions Club and their partners will gather to reaffirm their commitment to service and to support future health and environmental initiatives across Illinois. I am proud to recognize the Chicago Indo-US Lions Club and thank them for their dedication to service and for fostering connections that help Illinois communities thrive.

HONORING THE HEROISM OF PENNDEL BOROUGH RESIDENT JUSTIN RITORTO

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 6, 2026

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend a constituent from the 1st District of Pennsylvania, Mr. Justin Ritorto, for his selfless actions and willingness to assist during a residential fire in Penndel Borough.

In the early morning hours of December 11, 2025, a dwelling fire placed residents of a Penndel Borough home in immediate danger. Amid this unfolding emergency, Mr. Ritorto stepped forward to assist Officer Sean Peck of the Penndel Borough Police Department as urgent efforts were made to alert occupants and facilitate their safe evacuation.

At moments of crisis, the actions of individuals can make a profound difference. Mr.

Ritorto's readiness to help, his calm presence, and his concern for the safety of others contributed meaningfully to the successful response that morning. His actions reflect the values of compassion, civic responsibility, and community-mindedness that strengthen public safety and bring neighbors together in times of need.

While much attention is rightly given to the bravery of first responders, it is equally important to acknowledge those private citizens who choose to act in support of others without expectation of recognition or reward. Mr. Ritorto's conduct serves as a reminder that heroism is often found in ordinary individuals who rise to extraordinary circumstances.

Mr. Speaker, acts such as these embody the spirit of service and solidarity that define strong communities. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Justin Ritorto for his actions.

HONORING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF HILDA GUTIERREZ

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 6, 2026

Mr. KEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th birthday of Hilda Gutierrez in Millburn, New Jersey.

On August 17, 1925, Hilda Gutierrez was born in Bogota, Columbia. Ms. Gutierrez immigrated to the United States of America from Columbia in 1951. Hilda lived in the Bronx in New York City when she first arrived at our Great Nation. After that, she moved to East Orange, New Jersey and spent a few wonderful years there. In 1958, Hilda moved to her final location in Millburn, New Jersey, where she still resides today. She worked as a beautician for 40 years and made a lasting impact on her community. Hilda is a devoted wonderful mother, exemplifying the hardworking and dedicated spirit of an immigrant who came to the United States for a better life. Hilda has shown her resilience, courage, and unwavering strength. I am deeply proud of the achievements of Ms. Hilda Gutierrez.

Mr. Speaker, as Hilda Gutierrez celebrates her 100th birthday, I am pleased to commend her for being an integral part of the Millburn area. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring this determined woman truly dedicated to faith, passion, and the pursuit of a brighter future.

HONORING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE BILTMORE HOTEL

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 6, 2026

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of South Florida's most treasured

landmarks, the Biltmore Hotel of Coral Gables on the occasion of its centennial anniversary, as well as the extraordinary Prescott family, whose vision and leadership have only elevated its legacy in our community.

For a century, the Biltmore has stood as a symbol of beauty, resilience, and service. Conceived by Coral Gables founder George Merrick and opened in 1926, its Mediterranean architecture, soaring tower, and lush gardens established a new standard of elegance in South Florida. Its storied past includes hosting presidents, world leaders, celebrities, and generations of families—even serving as a military hospital during World War II, when its grand halls became a place of healing for our Nation's wounded servicemembers.

Mr. Speaker, the Biltmore is iconic not only because of its history, but because of the extraordinary stewardship that has safeguarded that history. Since 1992, under the leadership of Gene Prescott and his son Tom, the Biltmore has enjoyed its longest continuous period of operation since its opening. Their commitment restored the hotel from decades of deterioration and helped reintroduce it to the world as a signature symbol of South Florida's heritage.

During Gene Prescott's early years at the helm, one pivotal moment propelled the Biltmore back onto the global stage: hosting the 1994 Summit of the Americas, where nearly every head of state from the Western Hemisphere stayed within its walls. Just two years after Hurricane Andrew devastated the region, this event reaffirmed the Biltmore's resilience and reestablished it as one of the most important historic hotels in the Nation.

Mr. Prescott's devotion to hospitality extends far beyond the Biltmore itself. His decades of service earned him the title of Chair Emeritus of the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau, a recognition of his tireless work to elevate South Florida's tourism industry. His guiding principles—hard work, integrity, and unwavering focus—have shaped not only the hotel's success, but the culture of the hospitality community throughout Miami-Dade County.

Working alongside him is his son, Tom Prescott, whose experience in hospitality, law, and public policy has brought a modern and innovative approach to the family business. Together, father and son form a unique leadership team—one that blends tradition and forward-thinking vision. Tom's dedication to service excellence is evident in the hotel's acclaimed guest experience, supported by the Biltmore's "Passion Program," an onboarding process that instills team-oriented values and fosters employee longevity. Many members of the Biltmore staff have been with the hotel for twenty or even thirty years—a remarkable testament to the positive culture the Prescotts have nurtured.

Their leadership is not merely business-oriented—it is deeply personal. Gene speaks proudly of watching Tom grow into his role, calling him not only a partner but a teacher.

● 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.

Tom, in turn, attributes much of his professional compass to Gene's mentorship and example. And now, a new generation has begun to emerge. Tom's nephew, Royce Prescott, has already begun building his foundation in hospitality, working at the Biltmore before earning a position at the St. Regis in Aspen. Tom's own sons, too, have spent their youth learning the values of service and responsibility within the hotel's halls. The Prescott legacy is not only enduring—it is expanding.

Mr. Speaker, the story of the Biltmore is a story of South Florida itself: a story of resilience, reinvention, and community. It is also a story of family—of a father and son whose shared commitment has ensured that this historic landmark not only survives but thrives. Their leadership has transformed the Biltmore into an award-winning destination for tourism, culture, and community engagement, while preserving the historic integrity that makes it beloved by generations.

As the Biltmore Hotel marks its centennial, we recognize not only its architectural grandeur and historical significance, but the Prescott family's profound contributions to safeguarding its legacy. Because of their vision, dedication, and stewardship, the Biltmore continues to stand as a source of pride for Coral Gables, for South Florida, and for our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to celebrate the Biltmore Hotel on its 100th anniversary and to commend Gene, Tom, and the entire Prescott family for their extraordinary role in shaping its past, present, and future. May this landmark, and the legacy behind it, continue to inspire generations to come.

RECOGNIZING NANA KWAME DWOMOH OF SOUTH DAKOTA FOR WINNING THE 2025 CONGRESSIONAL APP CHALLENGE

HON. DUSTY JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 6, 2026

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Nana Kwame Dwomoh of Brookings, South Dakota, for his achievement as the 2025 Congressional App Challenge winner for South Dakota.

Nana Kwame developed an innovative app called WorkWellness, designed to promote healthier routines in the workplace. The app runs timed workout and stretch sessions, provides notifications to encourage movement, and suggests targeted stretches. His app features an AI-powered wellness assistant that offers guidance on posture, healthy habits, and other wellness-related questions.

Nana Kwame's accomplishment reflects his talent, dedication, and initiative, as well as the growing strength of STEM education in South Dakota. His success highlights the importance of fostering innovation and providing young people with opportunities to explore technology and coding.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Nana Kwame Dwomoh on this well-deserved honor and in wishing him continued success in his future academic and professional pursuits.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA TRANSPORTATION FUNDING EQUALITY ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 6, 2026

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Transportation Funding Equality Act. This bill would make the District of Columbia eligible for three federal programs that support the development and revitalization of public transportation systems in the same manner as states are eligible for these programs. It would also make D.C. eligible in the same manner as states are eligible for a transportation program that would support the replacement and removal of infrastructure that damages the ecosystems of the Anacostia and Potomac rivers. D.C. residents pay the same federal taxes as residents of the states and therefore D.C. is almost always treated as a state in federal programs.

First, this bill would treat D.C. as a state in the High-Density States Formula for certain grants from the Mass Transit Account of the Highway Trust Fund. Currently, only states are eligible for these grants. Second, this bill would treat D.C. as a state under the Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program. Under the formula grants for this program, each state is authorized to receive a minimum of \$4 million per year, while D.C. is authorized to receive a minimum of only \$1 million per year. Third, this bill would treat D.C. as a state under the National Culvert Removal, Replacement, and Restoration Grant Program. Currently, only states and units of local government are eligible for these grants, and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has held that D.C. is ineligible, even though D.C. operates as the functional equivalent of a city, county and state. Fourth, this bill would treat D.C. as a state under the Safe Streets for All Program. Cities, counties and political subdivisions of a state are eligible for this program, but DOT has held that D.C. is ineligible.

The programs in this bill fund the modernization of bus and rail fleets, the purchase of zero-emission transit vehicles, the improvement of transit station accessibility for all users, the extension of transit services to new communities, the replacement and repair of culverts and the implementation of roadway safety improvements for all road users.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF JANUARY 6, 2021

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 6, 2026

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition of the 5th anniversary of a day that shook our Nation—the violent assault on the United States Capitol. On January 6, 2021, an armed mob stormed the people's house in an assault on our democracy, the rule of law, and the peaceful transfer of power.

On January 6, 2021, insurrectionists targeted Congress and our country's leaders. This included me, when a man drove across

the country to the Capitol and was eventually brought to justice for his crimes. He was indicted, convicted and imprisoned on 17 gun and ammunition charges after police found an arsenal of explosive devices, firearms, and other weapons in his truck, along with a hit list of targets, which included my name and the notation “one of two Muslims in the House of Reps.” Rioters also targeted my fellow Hoosier, Vice President Mike Pence, erecting a noose and gallows on Capitol grounds with calls to “Hang Mike Pence.”

That hellish day, the Capitol Police and first responders put their lives on the line to save ours, and they deserve our endless thanks. Today, my Democratic colleagues and I proudly display a plaque outside our offices that memorialize those who fought for our capitol and were injured or lost their lives.

But simply honoring those officers with words is not enough. We must honor them with our actions—rejecting misinformation, upholding the integrity of our elections, and ensuring no one is above the law. As soon as President Trump was sworn in the second time, he took the unprecedented action of pardoning all January 6 rioters, including the man who was convicted and imprisoned after targeting me. Since their release, at least 23 individuals have re-offended and committed crimes that include plotting the murder of FBI agents, violent assault, strangulation, possession of child sexual abuse material, and reckless DUI homicide.

Despite the clear evidence of crimes committed by these individuals—on January 6, 2021, and after—President Trump continues to defend insurrectionists but demonize immigrant neighbors who have committed no violent crimes and are being denied due process. Immigration arrests under the Trump administration average 30,000 a month—and yet, less than 5 percent of those individuals have been convicted of a crime.

This sober anniversary is a moment of reflection, especially for those of us who were working at the Capitol that day. It is also a day of resolve and rededication—to make sure nothing like this happens again. We must defend our democracy and our democratic institutions, protect the rights of due process, and create peace through justice for every American.

HONORING THE HEROISM OF PENNDEL BOROUGH POLICE OFFICER SEAN PECK

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 6, 2026

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend Officer Sean Peck of the Penndel Borough Police Department for his extraordinary bravery, selfless service, and unwavering dedication to the safety of his community.

Officer Peck has served as a law enforcement officer for six years, including the past two and a half years with the Penndel Borough Police Department. Prior to joining Penndel Borough, he honorably served for three years with the Philadelphia Police Department. In addition to his distinguished law enforcement career, Officer Peck is a combat