

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING SERGEANT LUIS LARA

**HON. ADAM GRAY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 9, 2026*

Mr. GRAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my long-time friend Luis Lara, Sergeant for the California Highway Patrol in Atwater, California, for his service and accomplishments as he retires after almost three decades of public service.

Sergeant Lara, born and raised in Merced County, received his AA in Administration of Justice from Merced College and his bachelor's degree in criminal justice at CSU Stanislaus in 1997. He first planned to pursue a career with the FBI, but a job fair organized by the California Highway Patrol changed his mind. After successfully going through the CHP Academy, his first post was in the Bay Area's Redwood City.

In 2001, Sergeant Lara transferred to the Merced CHP office. He worked for a decade as a field officer and was then promoted to field sergeant in the Los Banos CHP office. Next, he served as a recruitment sergeant out of Fresno and was responsible for hiring applicants in the Central Valley from Bakersfield to Modesto. Finally, he returned back home to be an administrative sergeant.

With dedication and professionalism, Sergeant Lara has also shared his talents with the community by being a part of the Cal Fire Incident Management Team for the CHP as well as his appointment to the Merced County Fair Board by Governor Gavin Newsom.

He has also served on the Merced School Employees Federal Credit Union Board, the Merced County Department of Public Health Emergency Medical Care Committee, the McSwain School Board, the Merced County Spring Fair Board, and the Merced College Foundation Board. Sergeant Lara was also an adjunct instructor at Merced College and volunteered as a Merced County/City of Atwater Firefighter.

Sergeant Lara's commitment to his community is seen through his character, integrity, judgment, loyalty, courtesy, honor and knowledge—the core values in the California Highway Patrol's seven-point star.

It is my privilege to recognize my dear friend Luis who has improved the lives of countless community members through his selfless public service. Please join me in honoring Sergeant Luis Lara for almost 30 years of his dedication, diligence and devotion to the people Merced County.

RECOGNIZING KARLA HEATH-SANDS ON HER GEORGIA BROADCASTERS HALL OF FAME INDUCTION

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 9, 2026*

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate a remarkable Georgian and beloved broadcaster, Karla Heath-Sands, upon her induction into the 2026 Georgia Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame on March 27, 2026, at the Emory Conference Center in Atlanta, Georgia.

Karla's journey began in Brunswick, Georgia, the daughter of Martha Heath Johnson. A bright and determined student, she attended St. Athanasius Episcopal Church Kindergarten, Sidney Lanier Elementary School, Glynn Middle School, and Glynn Academy High School before earning her B.A. in English from Mercer University. From those small coastal-town beginnings, Karla set forth on a life of purpose, poise, and public service.

For more than three decades the people of Middle and Southwest Georgia have welcomed Karla into their homes—at noon, in the evening, and in the quiet of reflection—because she brought more than headlines and weather reports; she brought heart. Beginning her broadcasting career in 1989 at WMAZ-TV and joining WALB in 1997, Karla became a steady, compassionate voice on the air: anchor of the noon newscast and host of "Dialogue," a program that lifted up community concerns, brought neighbors together, and reminded us that every person's story matters.

Karla's career has been one of many stages and many calls to serve. She has sung on stages from Six Flags to international festivals, competed in pageants with dignity, appeared on national programs, and lent her talent to music and ministry alike. Her gifts earned her the Georgia Association of Broadcasters' "GABBY" award for Best On-Air Personality and now, a rightful place in the Hall of Fame. Yet the awards tell only a small part of the story.

Behind Karla's public presence is a life rooted in faith, family, and community. She is a devoted member of Bethel AME Church, a former board member of Girls, Inc. of Albany and Albany Technical College, a life member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and an active member of the Albany chapter of The Links, Inc. Karla's work has inspired young women, uplifted civic life, and strengthened the cultural fabric of our region.

Through every accomplishment, Karla has been sustained by family. She is the loving wife of W. Louis Sands, Senior Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Georgia, and a proud mother of two. Their partnership has been one of mutual support—a marriage that has shown our community what it means to balance public responsibility with private devotion. The care and en-

couragement they give one another are as much a part of Karla's legacy as her voice on the air.

Today, we celebrate a life that has used platform for purpose. Karla Heath-Sands has taught us how to tell stories with compassion, to ask the right questions with humility, and to amplify the hopes of those whose voices might otherwise go unheard. Her induction into the Georgia Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame is not only an honor of a career well done—it is an affirmation of a life spent lifting others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife Vivian, and me along with the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's 2nd Congressional District in congratulating Karla Heath-Sands on this distinguished recognition and in giving thanks for her unwavering commitment to truth, service, and community. May her example continue to light the way for young broadcasters and public servants across our state and Nation.

RECOGNIZING LUKE JOSLYN AS CARO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S 2025 JUNIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

**HON. LISA C. McCLAIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 9, 2026*

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Luke Joslyn, recipient of the Caro Chamber of Commerce 2025 Junior Citizen of the Year Award, whose leadership, service, and dedication have made a meaningful impact on the Caro community.

Luke has demonstrated a strong commitment to service through a wide range of volunteer efforts in his community. He has supported initiatives such as the Special Olympics, local food banks, and 4-H events, while also dedicating his time to youth programs, church activities, and community improvement projects. Whether assisting at school events, helping with seasonal projects, or engaging with community members, he consistently shows a genuine willingness to serve others.

In addition to his service, Luke has built an impressive record as a student-athlete. A multi-sport competitor in football, basketball, track & field, skeet & trap, and wrestling, he has earned numerous honors at the conference, regional, and state levels. He has also served as a team captain, demonstrating responsibility and commitment to his team.

Beyond athletics, Luke has been actively involved in student leadership and extra-curricular activities. Through his roles in student council, including serving in executive positions, as well as his participation in youth leadership programs and school organizations, he has shown a deep commitment to leadership and civic engagement.

Through his participation in school and community activities, Luke has shown a strong

● 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.

sense of community spirit and engagement. His character, work ethic, and willingness to serve others truly set him apart as a role model among his peers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Luke Joslyn for his accomplishments and for the leadership, integrity, and dedication he has shown as a representative of the Caro community.

---

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF  
THEODORE "TED" WROBLESKI

**HON. MIKE QUIGLEY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 9, 2026*

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Theodore Wrobleski on his retirement from the Sheffield Neighbors Association after 50 years of dedicated service to his community.

Theodore "Ted" Wrobleski is a son of Chicago's south side, known to everyone as "Ted," growing up in West Lawn Neighborhood and lawyer of fifty-five years. He moved to the Sheffield Neighbors community in 1975, first renting, then buying his home in 1977, and began volunteering for Sheffield Neighborhood Association's ("SNA") Sheffield Garden Walk in 1976.

He continued as a committed volunteer and elected board of directors in 1981. He rolled up his sleeves, sharing his talents to further the group's work in the community. His passion for his neighborhood, Chicago history, and its architecture led to hosting architectural tours of the Sheffield Neighbors from 1985 to 2020. Introducing the extraordinary, unique craftsmanship of his neighborhood to tens of thousands of visitors.

Ted's steady and thoughtful demeanor negotiated many longstanding large agreements with some of the largest developers and employers on the near north side of the city, in an effort to make certain that the neighborhood was being looked after.

Ted Wrobleski has been valued by business owners and neighbors far and wide, he has served on the DePaul University Neighborhood Advisory Council since 1990, continuing that service today; Ted co-founded the Lincoln Park Community Research Initiative in 1998; and served as a founding board member of the Armitage-Halsted Landmark District Committee; served as Treasurer of the Lincoln Park Conservation Association, the Children's Memorial Hospital Advisory Committee and Saint Teresa's of Avila Parish.

Mr. Speaker, I ask everyone to join me in congratulating Ted Wrobleski on his retirement and 45 years of service to the Sheffield Neighborhood Association's Board of Directors. Ted is a prime example of a community leader, and his work will outlive us all.

---

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF JACK'S WESTERN & OUTDOOR WEAR

**HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 9, 2026*

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jack's Western

& Outdoor Wear on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary of serving the people of Cullman County, the State of Alabama, and customers from across the region.

Founded in 1976 by Mr. Larry Allred, Jack's Western & Outdoor Wear began as a modest venture rooted in hard work, vision, and a desire to better serve the local community. After graduating from The University of Alabama in 1969, Mr. Allred returned home to work in his family's business, Jack's Truck Stop. With an entrepreneurial spirit and a clear sense of opportunity, he expanded the business beyond its original scope by building a 1,000-square-foot western wear store alongside the truck stop restaurant. What began as a small addition would, over time, grow into one of the premier western apparel destinations in the State of Alabama.

Over the years, Mr. Allred steadily grew the business through determination and a commitment to excellence. The store expanded to 3,000 square feet in 1987 and then to 7,500 square feet in 1996, reflecting its increasing popularity and strong customer base. Following the sale of the restaurant in 1996, Mr. Allred devoted his full attention to the western wear business, further strengthening its reputation for quality products and exceptional service. In 2013, Jack's Western & Outdoor Wear moved to its current location at 114 Schwaiger Road, where it now operates in a 25,000-square-foot facility featuring unique additions such as a "bargain boot porch" and an "Ariat Annex," further enhancing its appeal as a destination store.

Today, Jack's Western & Outdoor Wear stands not only as a successful business but also as a proud symbol of family heritage and community roots. The land on which the current store sits holds deep personal significance, as it was once part of Mr. Allred's great-grandfather's farm and the site of his family home. This connection reflects the enduring values of faith, family, and hard work that have defined the business for generations.

Jack's Western & Outdoor Wear has earned widespread recognition for its excellence, including being voted by readers of The Cullman Times as the "Best Place to Buy Boots," the "Best Western Wear," and the "Best Place to Buy Men's Clothing," honors it has received for several consecutive years. These accolades are a testament to the trust and loyalty the business has built within the community.

As a true family enterprise, Jack's Western & Outdoor Wear continues to thrive with the involvement of Mr. Allred's daughters. His oldest daughter, Sara, has played a key role in the operation of the business since 2007, while his youngest daughter, Kristin, recently returned to lead marketing and e-commerce efforts after a distinguished 20-year career as a television meteorologist. Together, they are helping to carry forward the legacy established by their father while preparing the business for continued success in the years ahead.

Equally important to Jack's success are its dedicated employees and loyal customers, many of whom have longstanding relationships with the business. For five decades, Jack's Western & Outdoor Wear has remained committed to providing quality goods, outstanding service, and a welcoming environment that reflects the character of the community it serves.

Reaching a 50-year milestone is a rare and remarkable achievement, especially for a family-owned small business. It speaks to resilience, adaptability, and a deep connection to the people it serves. Jack's Western & Outdoor Wear exemplifies the vital role that small businesses play in strengthening local economies and preserving the unique identity of communities across our Nation.

On behalf of the people of Alabama's 4th Congressional District, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Larry Allred, his family, and the entire team at Jack's Western & Outdoor Wear on this significant anniversary. I commend them for their decades of service and wish them continued success for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Jack's Western & Outdoor Wear for 50 years of excellence, dedication, and unwavering commitment to the community.

---

HONORING THE XI EPSILON CHAPTER OF ZETA PHI SORORITY, INC.

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 9, 2026*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a truly exceptional organization, the Xi Epsilon Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated.

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, was founded on January 16, 1920, at Howard University and is grounded in the principles of Scholarships, Service, Sisterhood, and Finer Womanhood. Chartered on June 16, 1988, the Xi Epsilon Zeta Chapter in Natchez, Mississippi, continues to uphold these ideals through impactful community engagement and collaborative service initiatives.

During the 2025–2026 sorority year, the chapter supported youth empowerment and voter registration drives; raised awareness for breast cancer and bullying prevention; conducted highway cleanups; and made donations to the Guardian Shelter for Domestic Violence, the VA Clinic, the Stewpot, and the Senior Citizens Center, among many other community service efforts.

Holiday and annual service activities included participation in Wreaths Across America, Salvation Army bell ringing, Global Day of Service, the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade, the Autism Awareness Walk, Mary Bird Perkins Live Well Cancer Screening, and support for Relay for Life, reflecting the chapter's continued commitment to meaningful service and community impact.

The leadership of the Xi Epsilon Zeta Chapter includes:

Dr. Stacie N. C. Grant, International President and CEO, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated

Marilyn Alexander-Turner, President  
Dr. Hazel Washington, First Vice President  
Dr. Jennifer Williams, Second Vice President

Dewana Strauder, Third Vice President and Historian

Detrica Berry, Treasurer  
Venessia King, Secretary