

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### RECOGNIZING GABRIEL GRIESS

#### HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 13, 2026*

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of a grateful Nation and the citizens of the 24th Congressional District of Texas. The 2025 Congressional Veteran Commendation is hereby presented to Lieutenant Colonel Gabriel Griess, United States Air Force, of Grapevine, Texas, for his honorable service in the Armed Forces of the United States of America and for his continued service to his community.

Lieutenant Colonel Griess served with distinction in the United States Air Force from 1991 to 2015, holding command and leadership positions across the globe, including during Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Over his 24-year career, he demonstrated exceptional skill, courage, and integrity in both combat and peacetime operations. His leadership ensured mission success and the safety of his personnel, and his mentorship inspired countless Airmen to excel in service. For his outstanding contributions, he received numerous decorations, including the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters, and Air Force Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters, among many others.

Following his military career, Lieutenant Colonel Griess has continued to exemplify service before self through his civic and volunteer leadership. He serves as Secretary of the Tarrant County College Foundation and as a member of the Fort Worth Air Power Council. He is active in numerous Grapevine community organizations, including the Grapevine Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce, and the City of Grapevine Building Board of Appeals. He has also served as a commissioner on the city's Planning and Zoning Commission, a PTA board member, youth coach, and advocate for civic engagement across Tarrant County.

Lieutenant Colonel Griess' exemplary record of military and civic service reflects the highest traditions of the United States Air Force and brings great credit upon himself, the State of Texas, and the United States of America.

### HONORING MAYOR FREDDY PUZA

#### HON. SYDNEY KAMLAGER-DOVE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 13, 2026*

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the new mayor of Culver City in my district, Freddy Puza.

First as a Councilmember and most recently as Vice Mayor, Freddy has relentlessly fought for a more inclusive, vibrant, and equitable

Culver City. His unwavering leadership and compassion are exactly what Culver City deserves in its next mayor.

His accession to Mayor represents visibility, dignity, and hope that extend far beyond the boundaries of my district. As the first openly gay Mayor in Culver City's 108-year history, he paves the way for future generations of LGBTQ+ youth to see themselves reflected in public service and civic life.

I look forward to working alongside Mayor Puza as we serve the Culver City community together in the year ahead.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. GREG CASAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 13, 2026*

Mr. CASAR. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 12, H.R. 5184.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. HILLARY J. SCHOLTEN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 13, 2026*

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on January 12, 2026. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 15.

### RECOGNIZING FELIX JIMENEZ GARCIA

#### HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 13, 2026*

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of a grateful Nation and the citizens of the 24th Congressional District of Texas. The 2025 Congressional Veteran Commendation is hereby presented to Sergeant Felix Jimenez Garcia, United States Army, of Fort Worth, Texas, for his honorable service in the Armed Forces of the United States of America and for his continued service to his community.

Sergeant Garcia served in the United States Army and the Texas Army National Guard for thirteen years, including a twelve-month combat deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. As a squad leader with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 144th Infantry Regiment, he led and completed more than one hundred combat missions in Iraq demonstrating courage, composure, and devotion to his fellow soldiers. For his valor and leadership in combat, he was awarded the Army Commendation

Medal with "V" Device, along with the Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Expert Infantry Badge, and Combat Infantry Badge.

Following his military service, Sergeant Garcia has continued to exemplify service before self through his work in the North Texas community. He volunteers with Catholic Charities of Fort Worth, serves on the Board of Directors for the Greater Keller Chamber of Commerce, and dedicates his time to helping fellow veterans navigate the Department of Veterans Affairs benefits process. Recently certified as an Onward Ops Sponsor, he mentors transitioning service members as they adjust to civilian life offering guidance, encouragement, and support. A husband, father of four, and small business owner, Sergeant Garcia continues to live a life of purpose, leadership, and compassion, strengthening both the veteran community and his local neighborhood.

Sergeant Garcia's courage in combat and his lifelong commitment to serving others reflect the highest traditions of the United States Army and bring great credit upon himself, the State of Texas, and the United States of America.

### CONGRATULATING THE GARDEN SPOT FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA

#### HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 13, 2026*

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate and recognize the Garden Spot Future Farmers of America chapter (Garden Spot FFA), affiliated with Lampeter-Strasburg High School in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, on their success at the 98th National FFA Convention & Expo.

The Garden Spot FFA represented themselves well during the 98th National FFA Convention & Expo, which was held from October 24, 2025, to November 1, 2025, in Indianapolis, Indiana. At the Farm and Agribusiness Management event, which tested students on their economic and agricultural knowledge, the Garden Spot FFA Team placed second. Each student on the team—Antonio Franco, Will Gajecki, Rex Giberson, and Jack Ross—earned silver for their individual performance.

Five Garden Spot FFA alumni also received American FFA Degrees in 2025, the highest honor bestowed to FFA members, and were recognized at the convention. These individuals were Gracie Albright, Sydney Albright, Kayla Frey, Jaclyn Martin, and Katelyn Ranck.

With their success at the 98th National FFA Convention, the students at Garden Spot FFA demonstrated their remarkable work ethic and devotion to agriculture—making all of Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District proud. I congratulate the Garden Spot FFA on their accomplishments, and I wish them continued success.

• 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.

CONGRATULATING BISHOP MARIO  
AVILÉS ON HIS INSTALLATION

**HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 13, 2026*

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Most Reverend Mario Alberto Avilés, C.O., on his appointment by Pope Leo XIV to serve as the ninth Bishop of Corpus Christi.

In his previous role as Auxiliary Bishop for the Diocese of Brownsville, he served our region and uplifted those in need through his faith and compassion.

His recent appointment is a testament to this leadership and the humility with which he serves. Bishop Avilés has consistently upheld the values of integrity and compassion that the Catholic church is proud to represent.

This calling comes at a time when our Nation is facing hardship, and our people are divided. I can think of no better servant of God to provide ministry to our community.

As South Texas continues to grow and navigate these complex challenges, Bishop Avilés' leadership has been essential in fostering hope, stability, and moral clarity for our community.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful South Texas, I wish to congratulate Most Reverend Mario Avilés, C.O., for his appointment as Bishop of Corpus Christi. I also wish to thank him for his service to the Rio Grande Valley.

RECOGNIZING AMERICAN PATRIOT  
PENNY JUSTICE

**HON. JOHN H. RUTHERFORD**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 13, 2026*

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and congratulate Penny Justice on her selection as the winner of the Patriot of the Year Award. This annual award ceremony celebrates our great American servicemembers, first responders, and citizens, and recognizes men and women who, through their actions and words, exemplify servant leadership and patriotism.

Mrs. Justice has made exceptional contributions in support of service members, veterans and their families in Northeast Florida, and has demonstrated extraordinary patriotism and dedication to our Nation's ideals.

On this historic occasion, I congratulate and recognize Penny Justice. I thank her for her dedication and leadership. May God bless her and congratulations to her.

RECOGNIZING MS. MARTHA ELIAS

**HON. DAVID G. VALADAO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 13, 2026*

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Martha Elias for her well-earned retirement from Nueva High School and for her decades of dedicated service to the Lamont community. Shortly after completing her

education in Mexico, Ms. Elias immigrated to the United States and began her professional career as a bilingual secretary at a printing company. Determined to further her education, she attended Brigham Young University in Utah, where she earned a bachelor's degree in Spanish Teaching and Latin American Studies. In 1991, Ms. Elias continued her commitment to education by earning a teaching credential in Bakersfield, going on to serve students at both Arvin High School and Highland High School. Since 2010, Ms. Elias has been a trusted counselor and dedicated English Language Development Coordinator at Nueva High School.

Through her compassion, professionalism, and deep cultural roots, she built meaningful relationships with students and families alike. She made it her mission to ensure every student felt supported, confident, and prepared with the skills needed to succeed beyond graduation. Ms. Elias' impact extends far beyond the classroom. She has been a mentor to colleagues, a trusted partner to parents, and a pillar of the greater Kern County community. As the Master of Ceremonies for academic award assemblies, she brought families together to celebrate student achievement, often receiving heartfelt thanks from parents whose children's lives she helped shape. Under her leadership and guidance, Nueva High School achieved significant milestones, including the highest graduation rate in alternative education, increased scholarship attainment, and record participation in ROTC programs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Ms. Martha Elias for her extraordinary career, her lasting impact on generations of students, and her unwavering dedication to the Lamont community. Her service exemplifies the difference one committed educator can make, and she leaves behind a legacy that will be felt for years to come.

HONORING EULESS JAIL  
SUPERVISOR ALISHA JOHNSON

**HON. BETH VAN DUYNE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 13, 2026*

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of Jail Supervisor Alisha Johnson of the Eulesse Police Department, who is retiring after twenty-five years of dedicated service.

Alisha joined the City of Eulesse in November 1999 as a Public Service Officer, after previously serving as a Correctional Officer with Correctional Service Corporation in Fort Worth. Through her commitment to public service, she was promoted to Jail Supervisor in October 2023. She is an expert in the Live Scan fingerprinting system and has completed new supervisor school and other job-related training courses.

Alisha graduated from Kofa High School in Yuma, Arizona, pursued accounting and business at Arizona Western University, and earned an Associate Degree in General Studies from Tarrant County College. She is a member of the Eulesse Peace Officers Association and has received numerous awards, including the Blackie Sustaire Award, Employee

of the Month in 2006, Civilian of the Year in 2013, the Distinguished Service Civilian Award in 2020, and a Unit Citation in 2022.

She enjoys traveling, reading, outdoor activities, and spending time with her family.

I would like to thank Jail Supervisor Johnson for her exemplary service to the Eulesse community and congratulate her on her well-deserved retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JAMES A. HIMES**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 13, 2026*

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 334.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. J. FRENCH HILL**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 13, 2026*

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I was in discussion with another Member on the floor. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 8, H.R. 504.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF COUNCILWOMAN DOROTHY  
"MS. DOT" GLENN NICHOLS

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 13, 2026*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the extraordinary life, service, and legacy of Councilwoman Dorothy "Ms. Dot" Glenn Nichols, a devoted public servant, community leader, educator, and compassionate advocate for the people of Greenwood, Leflore County, and the State of Mississippi.

Councilwoman Glenn Nichols was born on October 16, 1957, in Leflore County, Mississippi. From an early age she demonstrated a steadfast commitment to faith, service, and education. She was a lifelong member of New Foundation Missionary Baptist Church in Greenwood, Mississippi, where she faithfully served in numerous leadership roles and lived out her Christian values through service to others.

A proud graduate of Greenwood High School, Class of 1976, Councilwoman Glenn Nichols pursued higher education with purpose and determination. She earned an Associate of Arts Degree in Education from Mary Holmes Junior College and later a Bachelor of Science Degree in Early Childhood Development, with a minor in Business Administration, from Tougaloo College. Her educational foundation became the cornerstone of a distinguished career devoted to improving the lives of children and families.

For decades, Ms. Glenn Nichols served in the Head Start and Early Start programs at the local, state, and national levels. Beginning