

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING UNITED STATES AIR FORCE CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT MICHAEL R. VANDRIESSCHE AS APRIL 2026 VETERAN OF THE MONTH

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 13, 2026

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Chief Master Sergeant Michael R. VanDriessche for his distinguished military service and continued dedication to supporting our Nation's warfighters. It is my honor to recognize his decades of leadership and service by naming him our April 2026 Veteran of the Month.

Chief Master Sergeant VanDriessche enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1991, beginning his career working with aircraft weapons systems. He quickly demonstrated strong dedication and leadership, earning an accelerated promotion early in his service. In 2001, he continued his service with the Michigan Air National Guard, where, following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, he volunteered to support homeland defense efforts. In this role, he became a trusted trainer and mentor while helping ensure aircraft were mission-ready.

Throughout his career, Chief Master Sergeant VanDriessche held multiple operational and leadership roles focused on aircraft maintenance and mission readiness, including several overseas deployments in support of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, where he earned recognition for his service. In 2008, he was selected as a First Sergeant, advising commanders and supporting Airmen and their families. He later served in senior leadership roles, including a deployment to Kuwait, and in 2017 was appointed Group Superintendent, where he played a key role in guiding the organization and mentoring the next generation of Airmen.

Among his many honors, Chief Master Sergeant VanDriessche received two Meritorious Service Medals, three Air Force Commendation Medals, and three Air Force Achievement Medals. He was also selected as Weapons Technician of the Year twice, in 2006 and 2007.

Chief Master Sergeant VanDriessche concluded his distinguished military career in 2022, after more than three decades of service. He continues to support the warfighter today as a civilian employee working on behalf of the Department of War in Warren, Michigan. Chief Master Sergeant VanDriessche is married and the proud father of two children. He remains deeply involved in his community, coaching youth football and enjoying teaching, sports, physical fitness, hunting, and community service.

Mr. Speaker, Chief Master Sergeant Michael VanDriessche's career is a powerful example of dedication, leadership, and service to our Nation. It is my great privilege to recognize his

many contributions and to honor his remarkable commitment to our country and community as our April 2026 Veteran of the Month.

RECOGNIZING MR. ARTHUR J. "ART" FUXAN, JR.

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 13, 2026

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate an extraordinary American, Mr. Arthur J. "Art" Fuxan, Jr., on the occasion of his 100th birthday. His century of life reflects faith, service, devotion to family, and an enduring love of country. Born in New Orleans as the eldest of ten children, Art faced hardship early, helping raise his siblings after the loss of his mother while working to support his family. In 1944, at just 18, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps during World War II, serving as a Radio Operator Mechanic and Air Crewman in Guam, where he worked on B-29 aircraft and volunteered for a mission preparing for the invasion of Japan.

During his service, Art maintained a devoted correspondence with his future wife, Pat. They married in 1949, raised four children, and built a life grounded in faith and community, blessed with generations of descendants.

After the war, Art earned a business degree from Loyola University through the G.I. Bill and went on to a successful career in sales and industrial engineering. He also dedicated himself to service as an Eagle Scout, Scoutmaster, Eucharistic Minister, and Knight of Columbus. Art showed remarkable devotion caring for his wife during her battle with Alzheimer's and has continued to live a life of faith and fellowship. Even at 100, he remains an inspiration to all who know him.

Mr. Fuxan embodies the very best of the Greatest Generation. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring his lifetime of service and wishing him continued health and happiness on this extraordinary milestone.

CONGRATULATING LIEUTENANT GENERAL SEAN A. GAINEY ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. DALE W. STRONG

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 13, 2026

Mr. STRONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished leader, Lieutenant General Sean A. Gainey, as he concludes a remarkable career of service to our Nation. For the past several years, it has been our state's distinct honor to host him at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, where he has served as the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command.

Since his commission as an Air Defense Artillery officer in 1990, General Gainey has been a pillar of our Nation's defense. His ca-

reer has taken him from a platoon leader in Germany to the highest echelons of military leadership. He has commanded the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command in Hawaii and the 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade at Fort Bragg. He has also served with distinction in critical roles at the Pentagon, including as the first Director of the Joint Counter-UAS Office. Furthermore, his service in Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, and Southern Watch are a testament to his unwavering commitment.

His strategic vision and deep expertise have been instrumental in shaping our Nation's air and missile defense posture for the modern era. His unwavering commitment to the mission and to his soldiers has left an indelible mark on the United States Army.

As General Gainey retires, we in Alabama are particularly proud of his most recent service as the Commanding General of the Army Space and Missile Defense Command at Redstone Arsenal. His leadership has been critical to our national security and a source of great pride for our state.

On behalf of a grateful Nation and the people of Alabama, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to General Gainey and his family, who have served alongside him with unwavering support and sacrifice. We wish him a long, healthy, and well-deserved retirement.

CONGRATULATING JIM DONOVAN ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 13, 2026

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Jim Donovan for his more than two decades of service to CBS 3 Philadelphia. As so many in our community know, Jim was an award-winning anchor of the CBS Philadelphia morning and noon newscasts. He has also been a dedicated philanthropist, and now is being recognized as the 2026 Autism Cares Foundation CARES Award recipient.

During his time with CBS 3, Jim has embodied the highest standards of journalistic integrity while being a warm inviting presence for all the viewers tuning in each morning and afternoon throughout the Philadelphia region. He is a 15-time Emmy Award winner in addition to being nominated an additional 20 times and has had a career in broadcast television that accolades alone cannot capture the magnitude of. Jim has reported from 55 countries across the globe, covered Pope Francis' visit to Philadelphia in 2015, and has earned both national recognition and the deep respect from colleagues and audiences alike.

Jim began his career in broadcasting in 1987 as an intern at WWOR-TV in New Jersey and later moved on to hold roles at CNBC in New York City along with WGHP in North Carolina and WBNS in Ohio. In 2004, he

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began his tenure at CBS Philadelphia as an investigative journalist. He later took the helm of the morning newscast, helping to relaunch it to one of the region's most-watched programs.

Outside of his outstanding career, Jim has been a community advocate since he planted his roots here in our community. He has advocated for several different groups, using his platform and his voice to bring awareness to a variety of causes. One such group is Bucks County's Autism Cares Foundation, which was founded in 2007 to focus on improving the life experiences of individuals with disabilities. Jim has been the emcee of many of their events including their annual CARES gala along with their Races 4 Resources annual charity 5k. He also has graced audiences and guests with his charming personality as the auctioneer for the gala's annual silent auction as well. Throughout his relationship with the Autism Cares Foundation, he has become a cherished member of their community, a strong voice and advocate, as well as a friend and role model to many of individuals the Foundation serves. It is without a doubt that he is a deserving recipient of the 2026 CARES Award.

As Jim begins his well-earned retirement, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to him on not just an incredible career, but for his tireless efforts to serve our community. May he have many wonderful and restful years ahead of him.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
LILIANA CALLAHAN

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 13, 2026

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Liliana Callahan, Staff Assistant and Constituent Advocate in my district office, and to thank her for the dedication and hard work she brought to serving residents throughout the 9th Congressional District of Illinois.

Liliana grew up in Maryland and came to Chicago to attend Loyola University Chicago, eventually deciding to put down roots here. Soon after graduating in 2023, she joined our team full time. Though she was the newest and youngest member of our staff, she quickly established herself as someone we could count on.

During her early time with our office, Liliana managed front-line constituent contact and oversaw all United States Postal Service casework across the 9th District. She also directed our district office intern program for several semesters, ensuring each group of interns had the resources and guidance they needed to succeed.

Over time, Liliana developed a specialization in immigration casework. She built a deep skill set and was an excellent advocate on behalf of constituents. Many people who reached out to our office feared for the safety and long-term security of their family members navigating our country's immigration system, and Liliana's compassion and expertise reassured them that we were on their side and ready to help.

Liliana worked extremely hard to help and advocate for constituents, while managing a

large workload. She made a difference in the lives of so many constituents. We heard from many of them who were grateful for her work, including the constituent who wrote to me: "I wanted to express my heartfelt gratitude for your instrumental role in securing my father's I-485 approval. Your dedication and expertise made all the difference, and we are overjoyed to share the news of his successful adjustment of status. Thank you for your outstanding work. We appreciate your dedication to making a difference in our lives and look forward to your continued leadership."

On behalf of the residents of the 9th Congressional District of Illinois, I thank Liliana Callahan for her service. She did not grow up here, but she showed up, did the work, and made a real difference for the people of this district. I am proud of her accomplishments and confident she will continue to build on what she started here.

RECOGNIZING SAWYER ROSS AS
CASS CITY'S 2026 JUNIOR CITIZEN
OF THE YEAR

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 13, 2026

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sawyer Ross, recipient of the Cass City 2026 Junior Citizen of the Year Award, whose leadership, dedication, and commitment to excellence have made a lasting impact on his school and community.

Sawyer has distinguished himself as a well-rounded student and accomplished athlete, participating in track and field, cross country, swimming, and soccer. His discipline and perseverance have led to significant success in track and field, where he has earned numerous medals. As a team captain for both track and field and cross country, he leads by example, demonstrating a strong work ethic and a consistently positive attitude.

In addition to his athletic achievements, Sawyer excels academically and is a member of the National Honor Society. His academic accomplishments include earning an economics academic pin, a GPA-based academic letter, and a Spanish I Certificate of Excellence.

Sawyer's involvement extends beyond the classroom and athletic field. He is an active member of the Saginaw Striders Track Club, American Marriage Ministries, and Youth for Christ Bible Study, where he also serves on the leadership committee team. He has further demonstrated his commitment to leadership through his work at Bay Shore Camp, where he served as a group leader and was recently promoted to activities coordinator, earning recognition for his contributions and being honored with the Best Cabin Leader Award.

Through his participation in school and community activities, Sawyer has shown a strong 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 Sawyer Ross for his outstanding accomplishments and for the leadership he has demonstrated as a representative of the Cass City community.

RECOGNIZING CHRISTINE SMITH

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 13, 2026

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the extraordinary contributions of one of my constituents, Christine Smith, who has devoted nearly five years of service to Habitat for Humanity of the Nature Coast. Over that time, Chris has volunteered more than 1,200 hours—an incredible commitment that has helped countless Habitat partner families receive the keys to their new homes. Many of our regular customers fondly know her as the "Book Lady," as she continues to volunteer in the media department at the Inverness ReStore, carefully organizing books by author and genre. Chris approaches every task with passion and dedication, often staying late or arriving early to ensure the work gets done.

Even in retirement from a long career in school administration, Chris continues to serve her community, supporting her peers and sharing her talents. She is also an active member of a local chorus, bringing joy to others through her music. Chris is not only a committed volunteer but also a cherished member of the Habitat family.

It is clear that Christine Smith has made a profoundly positive impact on our community. I am deeply grateful for her dedication and service, and I am proud to recognize her as a 2026 Hero Among Us for Florida's 12th Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING UNITED STATES
ARMY SGT. MICHAEL DEBONIS
FOR HIS PUBLIC AND MILITARY
SERVICE

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 13, 2026

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exceptional individual from my district—Bucks County's own, Sgt. Michael DeBonis. A courageous U.S. Army veteran and dedicated public servant, Sgt. DeBonis assisted thousands of veterans in our community in receiving the benefits they earned, organized trips to war memorials, and led seminars with local law enforcement to better assist veterans in crisis. I proudly commend him, following decades of committed service to not only the people of Bucks County, but to our Nation as well.

Drafted into the U.S. Army on May 7, 1968, Michael served in Vietnam, specializing as a Military Policeman. Through his resolute dedication to our Nation, he earned the Army Commendation Medal with 2 Overseas Bars, the Vietnam Campaign Medal with a Silver Star for five campaigns, and the Good Conduct Medal. Returning home to his wife Lynne in December of 1969, Michael devoted his career to serving the brave veterans who served alongside him.

As Senior Commander of VFW Post 6393 and Member of the VA Advisory Board for the Horsham, Pennsylvania Clinic, Sgt. DeBonis provided strategic guidance, advisory services,