

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR PETE KOERNER ON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. ANGIE CRAIG**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2026*

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my friend, Public Safety Director Pete Koerner, on his retirement after 34 years with the city of Cottage Grove. Chief Koerner is a dedicated public servant and an outstanding leader in our community.

Chief Koerner began his career with the Cottage Grove Police Department in 1992, where he served as a community service officer. Throughout his tenure, Chief Koerner served in several roles including as a school resource officer, a detective, a Project D.A.R.E. officer and a crisis negotiator. He was first promoted to sergeant, then captain, and in 2018, he was named Director of Public Safety.

As Director of Public Safety, Chief Koerner strengthened community trust through his commitment to transparency and service. He was kind enough to facilitate a ride-along for me with his department, which provided me with new insight into the valuable work Cottage Grove police officers, like Chief Koerner, do every day. He was instrumental in advocating for the construction of the HERO Training Center in Cottage Grove which provides public safety personnel with access to critical educational resources. I had the privilege of touring this outstanding facility and am grateful for Chief Koerner's work to make it a reality.

Chief Koerner's community involvement extends beyond his official role. In his free time, Chief Koerner has coached baseball and basketball for the Cottage Grove Athletic Association. He also served as a board member for several community groups, including the Friends in Need Food Shelf, the Holiday Train Committee, the Strawberry Festival Committee and the Cottage Grove Lions.

I am deeply inspired by Chief Koerner's commitment to serving his neighbors. His leadership in public safety will have a lasting impact on Cottage Grove, and I am grateful for all he has done to protect and support our community. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Chief Koerner and in wishing him all the best on his well-earned retirement.

CONGRATULATING VICE ADMIRAL MICHAEL BOYLE ON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. AARON BEAN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2026*

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Vice Admiral Michael Boyle on his retirement.

When it comes to leadership in the Navy, Vice Admiral Boyle exemplifies vision, dedication, and integrity. Leadership in our armed forces is not just a role—it is a calling, a duty, and a profound responsibility. Vice Admiral Boyle has demonstrated these qualities at every level, whether guiding pilots in the air, advising commanders in strategic planning, or leading strike groups on complex operations. In the Navy, sailors are trained to weather storms, chart new courses, and serve without pause. Vice Admiral Michael Boyle has done all of that and more. Today, after decades of service, he finally reaches the safe harbor of retirement.

Throughout his career, he has flown into some of the most challenging missions of our time—from Northern Iraq and Bosnia to Kosovo and southern Iraq—always executing with precision and courage. Ashore, he has trained the next generation of naval aviators, managed officer assignments, advised senior leaders, directed international partnerships, and coordinated critical fleet operations. His command assignments include leading a strike fighter squadron, multiple carrier air wings, Navy Region Korea, carrier strike groups, and the U.S. Third Fleet. In August 2024, he assumed duties as Director of the Navy Staff, continuing to guide the Navy with the same dedication and skill that have defined his career.

A native of McLean, Virginia, and the son of a Naval Aviator, Vice Admiral Boyle graduated from Jacksonville University in 1987 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Management and later earned a master's degree in foreign affairs from the Air Command and Staff College.

Beyond his service, Vice Admiral Boyle's story is one of family and tradition. He met his wife, Tracy, at Jacksonville University in 1984. They married in 1990 and have two children: Daniel, who is pursuing a career in naval aviation in Kingsville, Texas; and Rachel, who works in New York City as a recruiter at "Mother."

Mr. Speaker, Vice Admiral Boyle is a true patriot and distinguished American who has devoted himself to the service of our Nation. It is appropriate that we honor him today by expressing our gratitude for his dedication and wishing him well on his retirement.

White was raised in a family deeply rooted in the Delta's culture and history, fostering her lifelong commitment to education and the preservation of local heritage.

She graduated from Greenville High School and earned dual bachelor's degrees in sociology/social work and computer science from the University of Mississippi, a master's degree in computer science from Jackson State University, and a Ph.D. in instructional systems from Mississippi State University. As a graduate student, she contributed to the JSU/NASA Project and later worked as a computer image analyst at the John C. Stennis Space Center.

Dr. White returned home to the Delta, where she devoted more than 30 years to education as a tenured associate professor of computer science at Mississippi Valley State University, where she continues to teach part-time. She secured two NASA education grants totaling approximately \$1 million to advance STEM education in the region, with research presented nationally and internationally. She is especially remembered for preparing her students with discipline, confidence, and a strong foundation for success.

Beyond the classroom, Dr. White has played a vital role in preserving Civil Rights history in Sunflower County. She organized multiple Civil Rights Reunions, reconnecting Freedom Summer volunteers and local activists, and served on the National Fannie Lou Hamer Statue Committee and as Co-Chair of the Dr. Clinton Battle Mississippi Freedom Trail Marker Committee. She also helped develop the Indianola Civil Rights History Driving Tour.

Her service includes leadership roles with the Mississippi Blues Foundation, the Sunflower County NAACP, the Indianola Historic Preservation Commission, and the Sunflower County Civil Rights Organization.

An accomplished author, Dr. White has produced essays and historical works that honor the stories, resilience, and legacy of Delta communities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Stacy J. White for her outstanding contributions to education, history, and her community. Her legacy reflects a lifelong commitment to knowledge, service, and the preservation of our shared heritage.

HONORING DR. STACY WHITE

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2026*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Dr. Stacy J. White, a distinguished educator, scholar, and community historian whose work has made a lasting impact on the Mississippi Delta.

Born in Indianola, Mississippi, to Dorsey M. White, Jr. and Bernice Magruder White, Dr.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JAMES R. BAIRD**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2026*

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, April 20, 2026, I was unable to cast my vote due to family obligations in Indiana. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 125, Passage of H.R. 1681, and YEA on Roll Call No. 126, Passage of H.R. 5200.

• 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.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. KWEISI MFUME**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2026*

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, April 20, 2026, I missed votes due to a personal matter. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 125, and YEA on Roll Call No. 126.

## CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY, INC.

**HON. RUDY YAKYM III**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2026*

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate Manufacturing Technology, Inc. (MTI) of South Bend, Indiana, on its 100th anniversary.

Founded in 1926 by Conrad R. Adams as a small tool and die shop, MTI has grown into a global leader in advanced friction welding technologies, serving customers that include GE, Rolls-Royce, Pratt & Whitney, and NASA across six continents. From its earliest days supplying Studebaker Automotive to its current partnerships with some of the world's most critical aerospace and defense programs, MTI has consistently delivered practical engineering solutions to complex manufacturing challenges.

MTI's story is also a story about family. Now in its fifth generation of Adams family leadership, the company has expanded from a single Midwest shop into a global enterprise with operations in the United States, United Kingdom, Slovakia, and India, employing over 200 people worldwide. Each generation built on the last, pioneering new technologies including Inertia, Linear, Friction Stir, and Low Force Friction Welding, while remaining guided by the values Conrad R. Adams established at the company's founding.

As President and CEO Dan Adams said, "Friction Welding is where we lead today, but our strength has always been the ability to evolve alongside our customers." That mindset has defined MTI for a century and will carry the company through the next 100 years.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Adams family and the entire MTI team on this extraordinary milestone. Indiana is proud to call MTI home.

## RECOGNIZING THOMAS ATKINS

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2026*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Thomas Atkins, who served as a dedicated member of my staff for almost 20 years, where he worked tirelessly to advance my agenda for all residents of the District of Columbia.

Thomas has an extensive political background, having served as the National Volun-

teer Coordinator on the Jackson for President Campaign '84 and as a Political Director with the Campaign for Military Service. He also served as a leader in the environmental movement and the peace movement and has worked for justice on important political issues. He has made a positive impact on D.C. and the world.

As his colleagues will attest, Thomas works with commitment and passion. In my office, his deep dedication to the arts and education were invaluable when he served as the Coordinator of the D.C. Congressional Art Competition Committee. His leadership, enthusiasm and commitment ensured successful competitions, which brought together locally, nationally and internationally renowned educators and artists to serve as committee members and jurors. Through his leadership, the committee was able to offer mentorship to aspiring young artists and facilitate scholarships to esteemed institutions like the Savannah College of Art and Design (Savannah, Georgia) and the Corcoran School of the Arts & Design (Washington, D.C.). The committee also hosted grand receptions and student art exhibits at prestigious venues, including the Smithsonian Institution, the National Building Museum, the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport and notable galleries throughout D.C.

Thomas has held several professional roles. He worked in the entertainment industry, where he served as the Personal Representative of Hal Jackson, a founder of Inner City Broadcasting Corporation (ICBC), and his daughter Jane Jackson Harley, Talent Coordinator of the Apollo Theater and the Founder of Kemit Productions in New York City. He is an avid art collector and has traveled extensively around the world. His collection, the TERA Gallery, has been exhibited in the United States and abroad.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to recognize Thomas Atkins for his service and dedication. We all wish him the best in his well-deserved retirement.

## CELEBRATING THE NAVY JROTC AT DOHERTY HIGH SCHOOL IN COLORADO SPRINGS

**HON. JEFF CRANK**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2026*

Mr. CRANK. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to celebrate the Navy JROTC Program at Doherty High School of Colorado Springs for their academic rigor and dedication to preserving our rich naval history.

NJROTC commander Captain Greg Thomas started to collect historic naval vessel plaques years ago, obtaining most of these plaques through online sellers. Now, with the collection boasting over 315 plaques and still growing, it has become the largest collection of naval plaques in the country.

Doherty High School has supported Captain Thomas' passion for naval history and pride by mounting the plaques along The Wall of Honor in the JROTC academic hallway. This hallway, alongside the Hall of Honor Murals, serves as a daily reminder of the prestige, honor, and sacrifice of our seamen who have bravely fought to defend our freedoms since 1775.

Doherty High School stands as a beacon of the courage and grit exemplified by our naval service members as they protect and patrol the waters, projecting power and strength across the globe.

Today, I stand to honor and thank Captain Greg Thomas and the cadets of the Doherty High School NJROTC program for preserving and honoring the history of our great United States Navy.

## HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF LOS ANGELES OPERA MUSIC DIRECTOR JAMES CONLON

**HON. JIMMY GOMEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2026*

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the retirement of James Conlon, the Richard Seaver Music Director of the Los Angeles Opera located in the community of Downtown Los Angeles.

Since 2006, James Conlon has served as Music Director of the Los Angeles Opera. Conlon has led the most operas in company history, including conducting over 500 performances and 70 operas. In this role, Conlon has prioritized uplifting works by composers who were silenced by the Nazi regime. His efforts led to the creation of the Los Angeles Opera's Recovered Voices series and the Ziering-Conlon Center for Exiled and Suppressed Composers at the Colburn School. Both programs champion composers whose works were nearly eliminated from history.

Over the last 20 years, James Conlon has received countless awards and honors, including the Vienna-based Zemlinsky Prize for his efforts to revive the composer's music, which had been suppressed by the Nazi regime. Additionally, Conlon's recordings of John Corigliano's *The Ghosts of Versailles* and Kurt Weill's *Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny* performed by the Los Angeles Opera, earned four Grammy Awards. Above all, Conlon's work with the Los Angeles Opera has had a profound impact on Los Angeles and the global community that will be felt for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring James Conlon for 20 years of service as Music Director of the Los Angeles Opera.

## RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF CONSTANCE "CONNIE" BUTLER

**HON. AARON BEAN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2026*

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Constance "Connie" Butler.

A lifelong resident of Green Cove Springs, Florida, Connie's family roots in Clay County stretch back more than a century. Born at Clay Memorial Hospital, she grew up immersed in service, from Girl Scouts and NJROTC to 4-H, where she would later give back by founding the New Horizons 4-H Club. That spirit of service never left her.