

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING JOHN COVERT

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Mr. John Covert of Aurora, Colorado, for over seven years of service as Chief Capital Campaign Officer to The Action Center and to congratulate him on his retirement.

John served for more than seven years on the executive board of The Action Center, a Lakewood-based non-profit providing family services and financial support to community members. Throughout his time on the board, John's dedication, expertise, and skilled leadership helped to provide financial stability for the organization by increasing funding to fulfill 75 percent of the Action Center's fundraising goal. With John's help, the Action Center supported thousands of community members with free clothing, food, family services, and financial coaching.

Before serving at The Action Center, John spent 25 years volunteering at other community organizations, including as Director of Marketing and Development at the Glory Center, Director of Development at Families of Character, and Divisional Director of Development of the Salvation Army. Throughout his years of service, John has improved the lives of thousands of Coloradans. Although his departure from The Action Center will be felt deeply by those he served, John's lasting contributions to the organization and our community are invaluable and will continue to impact Coloradans for years to come.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's 7th Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Mr. John Covert on his retirement and thank him for his service to our community.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MS. SAN JUANITA "JANE" GONZALEZ

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life and legacy of Ms. San Juanita "Jane" Gonzalez, who passed away on Saturday, March 28, 2026. A tireless advocate, Jane's commitment to the success of small businesses and underserved communities was celebrated by those who call San Antonio home. She is survived by her brothers, Rafael Gonzalez, Rogelio Gonzalez, and Rolando Gonzalez, her nephew Roland Gonzalez, and niece Brianna Gonzalez.

Born on February 16, 1960, to Marguerite and Rafael Gonzalez, Ms. Gonzalez was the oldest of four siblings. After graduating from Brackenridge High School, she continued her

studies in San Antonio and earned her bachelor's degree in accounting from Our Lady of the Lake University. She would later earn a master's degree in finance from St. Joseph's University.

After pursuing a career on the East Coast and Houston, Texas, she returned to San Antonio in 2005 and founded MEDwheels along with her brother, Rolando, with the goal of supplying medical equipment to those in need. In moments of need, she would organize for underserved communities in San Antonio to receive lifesaving equipment and services.

In addition to her invaluable work with MEDwheels, Ms. Gonzalez was a tireless champion for the success of small businesses within San Antonio. She sought to ensure that local businesses continued to grow past the start-up stage and continued to expand the local economy by entering more markets and creating new jobs.

Ms. Gonzalez was a fighter in life and did not let her cancer diagnosis stop her from helping others. I am grateful for her years of service to our San Antonio community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the incredible life and legacy of Ms. Jane Gonzalez. May her memory and commitment to serving others continue to inspire us all.

RECOGNIZING SARA MILLER FOR RECEIVING THE GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Sara Miller, an incredible Girl Scout from Girl Scouts of the Colonial Coast, for demonstrating extraordinary leadership, refreshing creativity, and a devotion to making a lasting impact by earning the most prestigious award in Girl Scouting, the Gold Award.

Gold Award Girl Scouts are innovative leaders who address the most pressing issues facing their communities and the world with measurable, dependable, and far-reaching results. To earn the Girl Scout Gold Award, high school-age Girl Scouts identify and investigate an issue they care about, create a plan, and then lead a team of experts and community members to implement a project that produces enduring change. Sara conducted a survey of teachers and students that found that 71 percent of survey participants felt underappreciated. To address this issue, Sara attached a piece of paper to crotched dragonflies that tells students, teachers, and faculty how much they are appreciated. Sara was able to pass out 775 dragonflies in one day alone, showcasing Sara's dedication to making those around her feel appreciated.

Ms. Miller's accomplishment serves as an inspiration throughout our Commonwealth and beyond, exemplifying the true spirit of servant

leadership. As Sara moves forward, I am confident she will continue to build on this strong foundation and achieve even greater success. We commend her contributions today and eagerly anticipate the many ways she will continue to make a positive impact on her community and our Nation.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Sara Miller of Troop 1004 for this outstanding accomplishment. On behalf of Virginia's 1st Congressional District, I commend her for achieving the highest distinction in Girl Scouts and thank her for making such a positive and lasting impact in our community.

HONORING THE WORK OF JOHN PELLER

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate John Peller's 12 years of service as CEO of the AIDS Foundation Chicago (AFC). As he transitions to the next step in his career, we look back at a career of committed service to AFC.

After receiving a Master of Public Policy from the University of Chicago, Mr. Peller joined AFC in 2005 and served at state and national levels as vice-president of policy, before becoming CEO in 2014. He led advocacy efforts, campaigning for those with HIV to be supported through federal and state healthcare systems. Additionally, Mr. Peller led the Getting to Zero Illinois initiative, a plan to end the statewide HIV epidemic by 2030.

Mr. Peller has strived to amplify AFC's impact, expanding the scope of their services to include underrepresented factors that can prevent access to HIV treatment, including housing instability, racial inequalities, insurance, and dental care. He has overseen a truly transformational period for AFC and LGBT rights in Chicago. Over the course of his leadership, AFC's budget increased by 68 percent and staff increased by over 50 percent. AFC is now able to reach and serve over 9000 people annually. Mr. Peller has also helped advance federal reforms, including the Affordable Care Act.

As a result of his longstanding and dedicated service, Mr. Peller was inducted into the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame in 2024 and will leave a legacy of unwavering service. He has greatly improved the quality of life and safety of healthcare across the country and especially in Chicago. His work will have a lasting impact on every community he has served over his career.

Mr. Speaker, I ask everyone to join me in congratulating John Peller on his two decades of service and his commitment to ending the HIV epidemic.

• 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.

RECOGNIZING DR. WALTER COPAN

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Dr. Walter C. Copan for his years of service to our state and country and to congratulate him on his retirement.

Dr. Copan began his distinguished career in the mid-1970s, spending nearly three decades in private-sector research and technology leadership. From 2003 to 2005, he advanced America's energy innovation efforts at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, where he served in key technology transfer and commercialization roles. In 2017, he was unanimously confirmed by the United States Senate as Under Secretary of Commerce and Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, where he worked tirelessly to strengthen America's innovation and technology transfer policies.

In 2021, he joined the Colorado School of Mines as Vice President for Research and Technology Transfer, helping the university grow as a leading public research institution. Known for his warmth and generosity, Dr. Copan has often reminded colleagues that "it's a great day to be an Oredigger."

Though he is retiring from his formal role at Mines, Dr. Copan will continue his long-standing commitment to public service and scientific advancement through his leadership with a number of national medical and scientific research organizations.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's 7th Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Dr. Walter G. Copan on his retirement and thank him for his service to our country and our community.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MAJOR PAUL
S. DELLER

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to Major Paul S. Deller, United States Marine Corps. For the past four years, Major Deller has served with honor and distinction as a Congressional Fellow and Appropriations Liaison Officer for the Department of the Navy Appropriations Matters Office, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Financial Management and Comptroller), representing the needs of our Marine Corps before the United States Congress.

I had the distinct privilege of hosting Paul in my office during his time as a Congressional Fellow. During this time, he gained an immersive, behind the scenes understanding of the legislative process and critical work of funding our Nation's defense. His sharp intellect, dedication, and deep understanding of national security and budgetary policy were immediately apparent and proved to be an invaluable asset to my team.

Upon completion of his fellowship, Major Deller seamlessly transitioned to one of the most strategically consequential billets for the Marine Corps, serving as an Appropriations Li-

aison Officer. In this role, he conducted daily engagement with members and staff, ensuring that the Marine Corps' concepts, programs, and requirements were widely understood. His expert navigation of the congressional appropriations process and his steadfast advocacy ensured vital funding for our Marines across multiple fiscal years. His work was instrumental in supporting the largest budget in Marine Corps history, securing over \$57 billion in annual resources. This funding was essential to advancing the Marine Corps Force Design initiatives, enhancing operational readiness, and ensuring our Marines have what they need to meet any challenge.

Furthermore, Major Deller played a central role in preparing Marine Corps senior leaders for congressional testimony, official visits, responded to hundreds of congressional inquiries, and coordinated and led over 15 congressional and staff delegations. These visits allowed my colleagues and me to see Marine Corps capabilities firsthand and gain a deeper appreciation for the resource requirements of the force.

Mr. Speaker, Major Deller's performance has been characterized by the utmost professionalism, strategic insight, and steadfast commitment to his duty. He has personally strengthened the Marine Corps' credibility on Capitol Hill and ensured the Corps' priorities were clearly communicated. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing and commending Paul for his service to our country and wish him and his family the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING PARENTSCAN FAMILY
CENTER

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor ParentsCAN Family Center for its twenty years of service to children with disabilities in Napa County and to recognize the work it has done as the sole Family Resource Center of Napa Valley. This celebration honors the hard work of the staff, volunteers, and supporters that have helped transform countless lives across the Napa Valley.

ParentsCAN was founded in 2005 by Joan Lockhart and a group of Napa parents, who had disabled children. These parents helped each other access services for their children by sharing information and referrals amongst themselves. Frustrated that our community did not already have an organization dedicated to the needs of disabled children in Napa, they decided to start their own. The organization gave high-quality, in-person support that was not available anywhere else in the Napa Valley. Beginning as a small group of concerned parents, they quickly grew into a large-scale organization that provided training, support groups, and community events tailored to the unique challenges faced by families in Napa County.

ParentsCAN has provided critical support, education, and advocacy to ensure families have access to resources necessary for their children to thrive. They also work with local community-based organizations, like healthcare providers or social services, to en-

sure their clients receive high quality healthcare, education, and support structures. Families across the county have felt more confident navigating the complex services that are needed to provide for their children after working with ParentsCAN. Aside from connecting parents with resources, ParentsCAN actively works with the local government to improve institutions serving children with disabilities, making the Napa Valley a safer and more accessible place to live. ParentsCAN is unique and especially well-qualified due to its "parents supporting parents" model. This structure means that all trained staff are parents or close family to children with needs, ensuring that staff are knowledgeable, experienced, and able to easily help parents or caregivers.

ParentsCAN is a federally funded Community Parent Resource Center and the only one of its kind in Napa Valley. It also represents the young disabled population of Napa in several local organizations like the Community Leaders Coalition, Voters Choice Napa, Napa Valley Committee on Disabilities, First 5 Napa County, Napa County Community Organizations Active in Disaster, and the Local Childcare planning Council.

Mr. Speaker, ParentsCAN has had a tremendous impact on the well-being of children across our Napa community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor the organization's twentieth anniversary here today as they celebrate this milestone.

CELEBRATING OUR 2026 SPRING
INTERN CLASS

HON. VINCE FONG

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the incredible interns who dedicated their spring to serving the people of California's 20th District. From my district offices in Bakersfield and Clovis, to my office in Washington, D.C., these students exemplified a commitment to public service, working tirelessly for the good of the office and our constituents. From the beginning, they were willing to learn and proved to be both diligent and intelligent throughout their internships. Every time we interacted, it showed me what we have to look forward to from the next generation. At a time when many young Americans are avoiding politics, these interns chose to face it head on and came out stronger for it, with knowledge and experience that will carry them forward.

As their spring internships wind down, I want to sincerely express my gratitude to Christian Salyers and Sophie Newfield for their service in my Bakersfield, California office, to Rayne Hardy for her service in my Clovis, California office, and to Trinity Gregg, William MacLean, and Bode Gower for their contributions to my Washington, D.C. office. The work done by each of them has helped my team's efforts more than I can say, and I trust that the skills and educational experiences they have gained will guide them toward continued success in their future endeavors. I look forward to seeing where their paths lead, and hope those paths include a continued dedication to serving others.