

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

BILL (H.R. 7567) TO PROVIDE FOR THE REFORM AND CONTINUATION OF AGRICULTURAL AND OTHER PROGRAMS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE THROUGH FISCAL YEAR 2031, AND TO OTHER PURPOSES

SPEECH OF

**HON. DAVID ROUZER**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 2026*

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Chair, today, we are passing one of the most critical pieces of legislation to come before any Congress—the Farm, Food, and National Security Act, or the 2026 Farm Bill. This is the next step forward in strengthening America’s safety net for our farmers and safeguarding our Nation’s food security.

North Carolina is fortunate to be one of the most agriculturally diverse states in the country. Agriculture contributes more than \$113 billion to our state’s economy and remains our number one industry. However, its importance cannot be measured in dollars alone—a secure food supply is essential to our national security.

This bill protects North Carolina agriculture from crazy state-imposed laws designed to ultimately lead to the elimination of animal agriculture. Additionally, the bill expands support for specialty crops and enhances disaster assistance for hurricane-prone states. It also addresses pressing issues in our rural communities, such as water contamination challenges.

I would like to thank Chairman THOMPSON for his leadership and steadfast commitment to advancing a Farm Bill that supports the farm families who provide the safest, most abundant food and fiber supply in the world. I would also like to thank the very hard-working House Agriculture Committee staff for all of their work. This accomplishment would not have been achieved without them.

I urge my colleagues in the Senate to advance this legislation so that our Nation’s farmers can continue to farm and meet the food and nutritional needs of America and the world.

HONORING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ELBOW ROOM BAR AND GRILL

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 30, 2026*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a treasured landmark in California’s Central Valley, the Elbow Room Bar and Grill in Fresno, as it celebrates 70 years of culinary excellence, hospitality, and deep community connection.

Since opening its doors in 1955, the Elbow Room has been a beloved gathering place for generations of Central Valley families. What began as a humble neighborhood hangout quickly became known for its signature steak sandwich, warm service, and inviting atmosphere.

In 1994, restaurateur Mike Shirinian took the helm, ushering in a new era of growth while preserving the Elbow Room’s original charm. Under his leadership, the restaurant expanded and evolved, adding custom wine cellars, a marketplace, and a climate-controlled patio, all designed to enhance the guest experience while honoring its timeless roots.

For seven decades, the Elbow Room has remained committed to its core values: exceptional food, genuine connection, and a passion for doing things right. It has become far more than just a restaurant; it is a cherished institution and a symbol of the enduring spirit of Fresno.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Shirinian family, the Elbow Room team, and the entire Fresno community on this remarkable milestone. As we celebrate 70 years of tradition and innovation, we look forward to many more unforgettable meals and memories at this Central Valley icon.

RECOGNIZING LA GRAN PLAZA AND ITS SMALL BUSINESSES DURING NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

**HON. MARC A. VEASEY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 30, 2026*

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize La Gran Plaza de Fort Worth and the tremendous contributions of its small businesses in Fort Worth, Texas, as we celebrate National Small Business Week. La Gran Plaza stands as a vibrant economic and cultural hub for North Texas, home to a diverse array of family-owned businesses that embody the entrepreneurial spirit, resilience, and cultural pride of our community.

Among them, El Minero Restaurant, managed by Jorge Ortiz, reflects the power of multigenerational entrepreneurship. With the support of his family, the business has expanded its operations, including a remodeled kitchen and additional establishments within the Plaza—La Oruga and Marisqueria La Perla—demonstrating a strong commitment to quality and community. In addition, Texcal Artesanías, owned by Maria and her husband, preserves and promotes cultural heritage through handcrafted goods sourced from regions such as Michoacán, Jalisco, and Guanajuato, continuing traditions that span generations.

Furthermore, business owner Teresa Gutierrez exemplifies entrepreneurial vision through her four storefronts—Illusiones Liz, Alex Bridal, Keygen, and Little Angels Boutique—which

serve women and families across life’s milestones while also fostering the next generation of entrepreneurs through her daughters’ involvement. Similarly, Jobes Sanchez, founder of Jobes Hats, represents innovation and brand growth. From modest beginnings, his custom cowboy hat business has expanded beyond state lines and into Mexico, with recent ventures further diversifying his business.

These businesses are the backbone of our economy. They preserve cultural traditions and strengthen the fabric of our communities. As we recognize National Small Business Week, I am proud to honor La Gran Plaza and the hardworking individuals who make it a cornerstone of Fort Worth’s economic vitality.

I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating these outstanding small businesses and their invaluable contributions.

HONORING DIRK KEMPTHORNE

**HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 30, 2026*

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor and celebrate the extraordinary life and legacy of my dear friend of over 40 years, Dirk Kempthorne, who passed away this weekend.

Dirk’s public service stands as a model of dedication and integrity. From Mayor of Boise, to U.S. Senator, Governor of Idaho, and the 49th Secretary of the Interior, he led with principle, fiscal responsibility, and a steadfast commitment to Western values.

To me, he was never just “Mr. Mayor,” “Senator Kempthorne,” “Governor,” or “Mr. Secretary.” He was simply Dirk—a friend and someone who always put Idaho first. His wise counsel helped shape the principled conservative I strive to be, always reminding me that public service is about people, not politics. Together, we worked to deliver results for Idahoans on water rights, public lands, and smart conservation.

One effort especially close to our hearts was the Peregrine Fund’s World Center for Birds of Prey in Boise. Dirk was a champion for species recovery. Even in his final battle with cancer, Dirk showed the same courage that defined his life of service.

I thank his wife, Patricia, and their children, Jeff and Heather, for sharing him with Idaho and our Nation.

Mr. Speaker. Dirk will be so missed, and I am very grateful for the years of friendship. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a great Idahoan.

• 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 THE LAZAREX  
CANCER FOUNDATION

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 30, 2026*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary work of the Lazarex Cancer Foundation, which has announced it will conclude operations at the end of this calendar year after 19 years of remarkable service.

Since its founding in 2006, by my good friend Dana Dornsife, Lazarex has invested over \$30 million to support more than 13,000 patients in finding and participating in cancer clinical trials through its CARE and IMPACT Reimbursement Programs. It has also provided cancer education and equitable access to resources, services, and care to tens of thousands of people in underserved communities through its Cancer Wellness HUBs.

In Texas, Lazarex has worked extensively with the world-renowned MD Anderson Cancer Center, ensuring that financial barriers such as travel and lodging never stood in the way of patients seeking hope through clinical trials. Nationally, Lazarex has been a driving force for change, helping to pass legislation in California, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Wisconsin, Georgia, Massachusetts, and Texas affirming that reimbursement of patient travel expenses is not inducement but essential support. This has reshaped the clinical trial landscape, making travel reimbursement a standard practice and opening doors for more diverse and representative participation in research.

Lazarex has not only changed laws and policies—it has changed the conversation. By diminishing stigma and fear, Lazarex created space for honest discussions about cancer in homes, communities, and places of worship. Its work has inspired patients, families, and health systems alike to reimagine what equitable access to cancer care should look like.

Mr. Speaker, the decision to close was not made lightly. Shifts in the pharmaceutical funding landscape, the impact of the Inflation Reduction Act, cuts to research funding, and a broader retreat from diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives created economic headwinds that made continuation unsustainable. Yet even as it closes, Lazarex leaves behind a proud legacy—one of compassion, equity, innovation, and measurable impact.

On behalf of patients in Texas and across the United States, I want to express deep gratitude to Lazarex staff, community partners, sponsors, donors, and, especially the founder and heart and soul of Lazarex for the last 19 years, Dana Dornsife. Their belief in this mission has changed—and saved—lives.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the Lazarex Cancer Foundation for its 19 years of tireless advocacy and achievement in the fight against cancer.

CELEBRATING SIKH AMERICAN  
HISTORY MONTH

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 30, 2026*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, as a proud member of the American Sikh Congressional Cau-

cus, I rise today with deep pride and gratitude to celebrate Sikh History Month and to strongly support a resolution recognizing the history, culture, heritage, and immense contributions of the Sikh American community.

Sikhism, founded over 500 years ago by Guru Nanak Dev Ji, is built on three unbreakable pillars: meditating on the Divine; earning an honest living through tireless work; and sharing generously with others. These core principles of equality, social justice, selfless service (*seva*), and human dignity continue to guide Sikh Americans as they overcome adversity and strengthen our Nation.

In California's Central Valley, Sikh and Punjabi farmers proudly wearing the turban form the backbone of American agriculture. They produce more than 90 percent of our peaches, nearly two-thirds of our prunes, and vast harvests of almonds, walnuts, and other crops that feed America from coast to coast. From the fields to our military, boardrooms, classrooms, and humanitarian efforts, Sikh Americans exemplify entrepreneurship, civic leadership, and unwavering patriotism.

Their gurdwaras serve as beacons of compassion, offering free meals to every person in need proving that no one eats alone and no one goes hungry. This month is an opportunity to highlight Sikh identity and articles of faith, promotes education and cultural events, and reaffirms America's sacred commitment to religious liberty and pluralism for all.

I congratulate our Sikh brothers and sisters on Sikh History Month.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF LLYWELLON EDWIN "VAL-  
LEY/LEW" MOHR

**HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 30, 2026*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and extraordinary legacy of Llywellon Edwin Mohr, known to his family as "Valley" and to his community as "Lew," who passed away on April 20, 2026, at the age of 96. Lew was a proud resident of Morrisville, Pennsylvania, a devoted family man, a veteran, and one of the most dedicated servants to his community that Bucks County has ever known.

Lew was born in Upper Saucon Township, Pennsylvania, beneath the Bethlehem Star atop Lehigh Mountain. He was the beloved husband of the late Isabelle C. Mohr, with whom he shared more than 55 years of marriage. Together, they raised two children, Duane Llywellon Mohr and Debra Kay Pigott, and Lew was blessed to see his family grow to include six grandchildren and more than a dozen great-grandchildren.

Lew was a proud graduate of Pennsbury High School, a member of its very first graduating class, and served as its first-ever Student Council President. Just days after graduating on June 13, 1949, he enlisted in the United States Air Force on June 16, 1949, and left home on June 20, 1949. He served 28 months of active duty in Germany during the Korean Conflict, returning home in 1952 after completing 40 months of total service to his country.

Following his military service, Lew built a distinguished career with New Jersey Bell

Telephone Company, later Bell Atlantic, and now Verizon, where he served as an Assistant Manager for 38 years before retiring. He remained deeply engaged in the telecommunications community as Secretary of the Telecom Pioneers of the Trenton/Burlington Life Member Club and was honored with the Pioneer of the Year Award in 2001. He was a devoted member of the Morrisville Presbyterian Church for more than 65 years, serving as a Deacon for 15 years and an Elder for 6 years, and was also a proud Mason with the Newtown Lodge No. 427 F.&A.M. and a life member of American Legion Post No. 0834.

Perhaps no chapter of Lew's life speaks more powerfully to his character than his more than sixty years of service to the Boy Scouts of America. He began as Scoutmaster in 1954 with Troops 3 and 46 in Morrisville, and over the decades, he shaped the lives of countless young people through the Playwicki District and Bucks County Council, now the Washington Crossing Council. The honors he earned in Scouting are a testament to a life of selfless mentorship: the Silver Beaver, Wood Badge, Scoutmaster's Key, Scouter's Key, the James E. West Fellow Award, the Luther Lord Award, the Commissioner's Arrowhead, the Vigil Honor of the Order of the Arrow, the Masonic Daniel Carter Beard Award, the Legion of Honor Award of the Chapel of the Four Chaplains, and many others. In 1991, the Bucks County Commissioners proclaimed November 1st as "Lew Mohr Day" in recognition of his extraordinary contributions.

Lew Mohr lived ninety-six years of purposeful and faithful service to his country, his family, his faith, and the young people whose lives he helped shape. He leaves behind a legacy that stretches across generations, and our community is a better place because of him.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF THE HONORABLE MARY JO  
HAYWOOD

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

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 30, 2026*

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart and the deepest respect to honor the life and legacy of the Honorable Mary Jo Haywood of Camilla, Georgia—a servant-leader whose faith, courage, and tireless work transformed a community and lifted countless lives. A funeral service to celebrate her remarkable and dedicated life will be held on Saturday, May 2, 2026, at the Open Door Church of Praise in Camilla, Georgia.

Mayor Mary Jo Haywood's story is the story of this Nation at its best: a life shaped by faith and duty, tested by hardship, and fulfilled through relentless service. Born in 1948, she carried the values of Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church into every role she embraced—as a devoted Sunday School teacher, a mentor, a paralegal advocating for the most vulnerable, a civic leader, and a history-making mayor. Her faith was not private sentiment but public action: she taught, organized, wrote, counseled, and stood watch so that others might find justice and dignity.

She was a daughter who bore loss with courage, a single mother who raised a brilliant daughter, Dr. Chanta M. Haywood, and a loving grandmother whose pride in Jordan,