

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING JOHN MURPHY ON HIS ACCEPTANCE TO THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY AT WEST POINT

### HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 7, 2026*

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my constituent and fellow Kentuckian, John Murphy, upon his acceptance to the United States Military Academy at West Point. Nominating young people to our service academies is one of my greatest honors as a Member of Congress.

As a future West Point cadet, he will soon embark on a life-changing journey, joining the greatest fighting force on the face of the earth, the United States military.

Throughout the entire application process, John showed himself to be a talented and well-rounded candidate. I do not doubt that he will succeed in his future academic and military career.

As a graduate of West Point, I can confidently say that the years I spent in a service academy were among the most transformative of my life. I am confident that John's time at this incredible institution will be similarly impactful for him.

Guided by the Army's motto of "This We'll Defend," the coming years will challenge John to grow in character, strengthen his leadership, and commit to a life of service to our Nation.

Again, I congratulate John Murphy on this impressive accomplishment. Our Commonwealth and the entire Nation thank him for his willingness to serve in uniform and wish him the best in this next chapter. Go Army.

HONORING THE LIFE OF  
REVEREND FELTON LAMAR

### HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 7, 2026*

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with to honor and celebrate the life of Reverend Felton Lamar, who peacefully transitioned from this life on May 1, 2026. A Homegoing service to celebrate his remarkable and dedicated life will be held on Friday, May 8, 2026, at the Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Albany, Georgia.

Born the fifth of nine children to the late William "Bosie" Lamar and Bertha Lamar, Reverend Lamar's life was rooted in faith, family, and service. At an early age he accepted Christ as his Lord and Savior and joined Pleasant Grove Baptist Church near Sylvester, Georgia. His faith guided every aspect of his life—his family life, his work, and the decades of ministry that followed.

Reverend Lamar received his early education in the public schools of Worth County

and later earned a Bachelor of Applied Science in Bible from Bethany Divinity College & Seminary in 1994. In 1962, he was united in holy matrimony to Elizabeth Roberts Lamar. From this loving union, three children were born—Gary, Harold, and Katrina—and they, along with fourteen grandchildren and twenty-four great-grandchildren, remain living testaments to his devotion as a husband, father, and grandfather.

Before answering the call to full-time ministry, Reverend Lamar worked faithfully at MacGregor Golf and Firestone Tire & Rubber Company and later served his community as a school bus driver in the Dougherty County School System until his retirement. After relocating to Albany, he united with Antioch Baptist Church, where his faithfulness, spirit of service, and leadership established him as a vital pillar of the congregation. He served in many capacities—Senior Choir President, Church Secretary, Sunday School teacher and was ordained a Deacon in 1971 by the late Reverend R.B. Smith.

Hearing the divine call to preach, Reverend Lamar was ordained as a Minister of the Gospel in 1982 by the late Reverend George Daniels. He pastored with humility, compassion, and steadfast devotion—leading Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Shellman, St. Peter Baptist Church in Pelham, Mt. Early Baptist Church in Albany, and, for thirty years beginning in 1984, First Bethesda Missionary Baptist Church, where he was affectionately known as "the Pastor who cares." Even after his retirement, he continued to serve faithfully at Mt. Zion Baptist Church until illness intervened.

Beyond the pulpit, Reverend Lamar's leadership extended throughout the larger religious community. He served as Moderator of the Bethesda No. 1 Association, County Coordinator for the Second District of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia and was an active member of the Albany Ministers' Conference. His life of service—quiet, persistent, and rooted in love—lifted countless lives.

As Charles H. Spurgeon wrote, "By perseverance the snail reached the ark." That image of steady, humble perseverance captures the essence of Reverend Lamar's ministry: not showy, but faithful to the end. He persevered in love, prayer, and service, and by that perseverance he sheltered and strengthened many.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife Vivian and me, along with the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's 2nd Congressional District as we mourn the passing of a faithful servant whose life exemplified the Gospel he preached. I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our deepest condolences to Reverend Lamar's wife, children, grandchildren, siblings, and all who were blessed by his ministry. May his legacy of love, humility, and perseverance continue to inspire and guide us.

CONGRATULATING AUSTIN ALLEN ON HIS ACCEPTANCE TO THE UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY

### HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 7, 2026*

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my constituent and fellow Kentuckian, Austin Allen, upon his acceptance to the United States Merchant Marine Academy. Nominating young people to our service academies is one of my greatest honors as a Member of Congress.

As a future midshipman, he will soon embark on a life-changing journey, joining our Nation's fourth arm of defense, the Merchant Marines.

Throughout the entire application process, Austin showed himself to be a talented and well-rounded candidate. I do not doubt that he will succeed in his future academic and Merchant Mariner career.

As a graduate of West Point, I can confidently say that the years I spent in a service academy were among the most transformative of my life. I am confident that Austin's time at King's Point will be similarly impactful for him.

Guided by the Merchant Marine's motto of "Acta Non Verba," the coming years will challenge Austin to grow in character, strengthen his leadership, and commit to a life of service to our Nation.

Again, I congratulate Austin Allen on this impressive accomplishment. Our Commonwealth and the entire Nation thank him for his willingness to serve in uniform and wish him the best in this next chapter.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. RASHIDA TLAI

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 7, 2026*

Ms. TLAI. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted: NO on Roll Call No. 155.

HONORING THE EDUCATIONAL SERVICE OF MRS. YVONNE BROWN

### HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 7, 2026*

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Mrs. Yvonne Brown for her commitment to educational excellence and for receiving the Teacher of the Year award at St. Patrick's School in Corpus Christi, Texas. Mrs. Brown was honored by the St. Patrick's community for over 19 years of service and dedication to its students.

• 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.

Her first role in education was at Marine Corps Base Quantico, serving as an elementary school English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) instructor, where she approached her students with patience, intentionality, and compassion. She has always been motivated by a desire to help others through learning just as her teachers once helped her.

Mrs. Brown currently serves as the computer and technology teacher at St. Patrick's School. In the computer lab, she has developed an innovative curriculum to teach elementary schoolers digital literacy, typing, coding, and robotics. These foundational skills will serve students for life in a world with rapidly developing technology.

Not only do these classes help students meet the growing technological demands of the 21st century, but they also inspire students to pursue advanced studies in areas such as computer science, artificial intelligence, and engineering.

In addition, Mrs. Brown serves as a leader of the St. Patrick's theater program, casting, directing, and producing multiple plays per year. This provides her students with the opportunity to express themselves creatively and faithfully in artistic outlets.

Outside of the classroom, Mrs. Brown has helped organize the school's Halloween Carnival, led her local Girl Scout Troop, and kept her community safe by coordinating a Watch Dog Program.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 34th Congressional District of Texas, I congratulate Mrs. Yvonne Brown on her many accomplishments and thank her for her continued service. Her leadership serves as a model for teachers to uplift communities across South Texas and the Nation.

CONGRATULATING ROCKFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ON BEING NAMED A LEADER IN ME LEGACY SCHOOL

**HON. BRETT GUTHRIE**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 7, 2026*

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Bowling Green, Kentucky's Rockfield Elementary School on being named a Leader in Me Legacy School. This distinction reflects years of commitment to building a culture where every student is empowered to lead, grow, and succeed.

The Leader in Me program, launched in 2008 by Franklin Covey and based on The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People, teaches students leadership and life skills through a schoolwide model. Schools that demonstrate sustained excellence can earn Lighthouse status, with the highest recognition, Legacy School, being awarded to those that embody and maintain a strong leadership culture over time.

Rockfield Elementary has demonstrated years of commitment to leadership development through empowering students to take ownership of their learning, fostering a positive school culture, and consistently building leadership habits in both the classroom and community.

This award rightfully highlights the school's efforts to support its students in developing the skills that will set them up for success in their futures.

Rockfield Elementary joins a growing list of Warren County Public Schools to be named a Leader in Me Legacy School. I congratulate them again, and go Raiders.

CELEBRATING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF GANADO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

**HON. MICHAEL CLOUD**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 7, 2026*

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 125th anniversary of Ganado Independent School District, a proud pillar of education and community in South Texas.

Established on June 8, 1900, Ganado ISD has upheld a long-standing commitment to excellence. For over 125 years, the district has shaped generations of students, guided by a passionate community that puts kids first.

Ganado ISD has achieved remarkable success both inside and outside the classroom. The district has earned eight team state championship titles in athletics, along with numerous individual state championships across athletics and other extracurricular activities. Its award-winning band, known as "The Pride of the Tribe," has been recognized as a state marching medalist. Additionally, Ganado ISD consistently produces high achievers at the state and regional levels in UIL academic contests, art, cheerleading, One Act Play, and FFA.

Under the leadership of Superintendent Dr. Jonathon Szymanski, the district continues to build upon its strong foundation while preparing students for the future.

As the community gathers to celebrate this historic milestone, we congratulate Ganado Independent School District on 125 years of excellence and wish them continued success in the years ahead.

CONGRATULATING STEPHEN LEPRELL ON HIS ACCEPTANCE TO THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

**HON. BRETT GUTHRIE**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 7, 2026*

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my constituent and fellow Kentuckian, Stephen LePrell, upon his acceptance to the United States Air Force Academy. Nominating young people to our service academies is one of my greatest honors as a Member of Congress.

As a future Air Force cadet, he will soon embark on a life-changing journey, joining the greatest fighting force on the face of the earth, the United States military.

Stephen has shown himself to be an exemplary candidate, securing offers from not only

the Air Force Academy but also the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Throughout the entire application process, he showed himself to be a talented and well-rounded candidate. I do not doubt that he will succeed in his future academic and military career.

As a graduate of West Point, I can confidently say that the years I spent in a service academy were among the most transformative of my life. I am confident that Stephen's time at "the Zoo" will be similarly impactful for him.

Guided by the Air Force's motto of "Aim High... Fly-Fight-Win," the coming years will challenge Stephen to grow in character, strengthen his leadership, and commit to a life of service to our Nation.

Again, I congratulate Stephen LePrell on this impressive accomplishment. Our Commonwealth and the entire Nation thank him for his willingness to serve in uniform and wish him the best in this next chapter.

HONORING KATHERINE GETTY KOOHMARAIE AND HER SERVICE TO VIRGINIA'S 1ST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 7, 2026*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Katherine Getty Koohmaraie and her service and contributions to Virginia's 1st District and the Nation.

Katherine joined my team in March of last year from Emergent BioSolutions, where she was head of federal affairs, after serving at the NRCC for two cycles. Before her campaign experience, she pursued her master's degree in public administration at George Washington University and worked at Akin Gump, where she helped health-care clients achieve their objectives. Katherine is also a proud alum of the University of Florida.

Katherine served as a mentor and leader for the legislative team and the entire office, sharing her expertise and knowledge with the rest of my team. Her counsel and guidance have shaped my staff into the most effective and successful team on Capitol Hill. Katherine was highly motivated, thoughtful, and kind. In a role that demands precision, flexibility, and the ability to delegate responsibilities thoughtfully, she consistently rose to the occasion. Above all, Katherine's willingness to teach and mentor other staff in the office allowed her to foster a positive and collaborative environment that will be missed. Through her tireless work she leaves behind a legacy of excellence.

I would like to thank Katherine for her many contributions and dedicated service over the last year. She has been an invaluable member of my team, and I wish her the best of luck as she moves on to the next chapter of her professional career with Representative Neal Dunn in the Florida Delegation. May God bless her as she embarks on a new challenge, and I look forward to seeing her continued success in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing Katherine Getty Koohmaraie for her service to Virginia's 1st District and the Nation.