

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING PARAMEDIC DEJA  
COLON

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 2026*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions of Citrus County Fire Rescue Paramedic Deja Colon for her exceptional clinical skill, decisive action, and unwavering commitment to patient care. Paramedic Colon consistently demonstrates a level of professionalism that exceeds expectations. Her dedication to serving the residents of Citrus County is evident in every call she answers. One particular response in July 2025 stands out as a powerful example of her ability to make critical decisions under immense pressure. On that day, she responded to a patient suffering from a ruptured abdominal aortic aneurysm—one of the most catastrophic medical emergencies, with an exceedingly low survival rate. Recognizing the severity, she immediately initiated aggressive, life-saving interventions and ensured rapid transport while continuing advanced care. Her swift actions stabilized the patient long enough to reach surgery. Despite overwhelming odds, the patient survived and has since made a meaningful recovery—now walking, talking, and spending time with loved ones.

Paramedic Colon's impact extends far beyond a single call. She has repeatedly demonstrated excellence in prehospital care, earning recognition from hospital partners. In one instance, she treated a 94-year-old patient experiencing supraventricular tachycardia with a heart rate exceeding 230 beats per minute, stabilizing the patient prior to arrival. The patient later improved and was discharged home, with hospital staff commending her care. In another case, she treated a patient in severe respiratory distress with oxygen levels in the 70s. By initiating CPAP and advanced airway support, she significantly improved the patient's condition before arrival. The patient was later stabilized and discharged, with hospital staff again expressing their appreciation.

These examples reflect not only her clinical expertise, but also her calm demeanor, quick thinking, and steadfast dedication. She represents the very best of our emergency medical professionals—those who stand ready to protect and preserve life. I commend Paramedic Deja Colon for her outstanding service to the residents of Florida's 12th Congressional District and proudly recognize her as a 2026 First Responder of the Year.

CELEBRATING THE 2026  
DOWNTOWNER OF THE YEAR,  
DAN LINDBLADE

**HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 2026*

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and congratulate an exemplary visionary in my district: Dan Lindblade, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce. I proudly recognize his most recent accolade of being named the 2026 Downtowner of the Year by the Chamber's Downtown Council and the Fort Lauderdale Downtown Development Authority. I also recognize and celebrate his retirement, effective June 1, 2026, following decades of distinguished leadership and service to the Fort Lauderdale community.

With nearly two decades of leadership at the helm of the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber, Dan Lindblade is a titan of the industry. By advocating for local businesses, fostering economic growth, and protecting the interests of the business community, Dan has become a central catalyst for the city's economic expansion.

Dan's strategic capabilities have equipped local enterprises with the tools needed to navigate both opportunities and challenges within the business environment. His transformative leadership is evidenced by numerous projects and strategic initiatives centered on advancing pro-business policies, empowering small businesses, and solidifying Greater Fort Lauderdale's reputation as a thriving hub for investment, innovation, and tourism.

Beyond his formal role at the Chamber of Commerce, Dan's enthusiasm and steadfast advocacy have fostered a culture of growth and vitality across the Greater Fort Lauderdale community. His efforts serve as a testament to his vision for a stronger and more prosperous Fort Lauderdale, both within the Chamber and throughout the broader community.

Through his stewardship, collaboration, and commitment to civic engagement, Dan has bridged gaps across the private, public, and nonprofit sectors, exemplifying a spirit of partnership and unity. His extensive experience in community relations, management, professionalism, and leadership development represents only a fraction of the qualities that make him deserving of this distinguished honor.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating Dan Lindblade as the recipient of the 2026 Downtowner of the Year award. His dedicated service and lasting contributions to the Chamber, the business community, and the Greater Fort Lauderdale area are deeply valued and greatly appreciated.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF JOHN  
"PHIL" LARSON

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 2026*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life of John "Phil" Larson, a devoted father, friend, and public servant, who passed away on April 23, 2026, at the age of 92.

Phil was born on September 5, 1933, in San Francisco, California, alongside his twin brother, Don Larson. He was raised on his family's farm near Kerman, California, where he developed his deep faith, humility, and tireless work ethic that would guide him throughout his life. After graduating from Kerman High School in 1951, he went on to further his education at Fresno State and Point Loma University.

In 1953, Phil answered the call to serve his country by enlisting in the United States Marine Corps. He served honorably until 1956, including two winters in Korea, and completed his reserve service in 1961. His time in uniform reflected his lifelong commitment to service and sacrifice.

Phil met his wife, Joyce Henriksen, through Fresno First Covenant Church. They were married on March 21, 1959, at Kingsburg Mission Covenant Church, beginning a 67-year marriage grounded in faith, partnership, and devotion. Together, they raised two children, Tim and Lisa, and built a life centered on family and community.

Phil dedicated much of his career to agriculture, beginning on his family's farm near Kerman before joining Wilbur-Ellis company in 1963. Spending over 38 years with the company, he built a reputation for integrity, expertise, and lasting relationships, retiring in 2000. Beyond his professional work, Phil's leadership in agriculture was widely recognized through his service on the Fresno County Farm Bureau Executive Board, including two years as president, where he advocated on critical water issues affecting California's Central Valley.

In 2002, Phil was elected to the Fresno County Board of Supervisors, representing District One. As a steady and principled leader, he expanded services in underserved communities, improved libraries, supported educational partnerships, and contributed to infrastructure projects like Veterans Boulevard. Even after he left the board in 2015, he remained committed to enhancing life across western Fresno County.

As a proud alumnus, Phil received the President's Medal of Distinction from California State University, Fresno, in 2014, for his lifetime of service.

Above all, Phil was a man of strong faith and unwavering dedication to his family. He is survived by his wife, Joyce; children, Tim and Lisa; grandchildren, Tanner, Haylee, and Lindsey; and five great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, Ben and Olive, and his brothers, Galen and Don.

• 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.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of John "Phil" Larson. His legacy of faith, service, dedication to agriculture and commitment to family and community will undoubtedly continue to inspire all who knew him.

RECOGNIZING OFFICER JOSEPH  
MARTARANA

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 2026*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions of New Port Richey Police Department Officer Joseph Martarana for his exceptional professionalism, leadership, and unwavering commitment to public service. Officer Martarana has consistently demonstrated a level of dedication that reflects great credit upon himself and the agency. His positive attitude, strong work ethic, and leadership by example set him apart as a valued member of the department and a trusted presence within the community he serves. His contributions extend far beyond his daily responsibilities.

Officer Martarana routinely goes above and beyond the call of duty, demonstrating initiative, reliability, and a genuine commitment to excellence in all aspects of his work. His willingness to step up when needed and support both his peers and the department as a whole has made him an invaluable asset to the New Port Richey Police Department. In addition to his operational performance, Officer Martarana is deeply committed to mentorship and fostering a strong team environment. He leads by example, encouraging professionalism and accountability while supporting the development of those around him. His dedication strengthens not only his immediate team, but the department as a whole. These qualities reflect not only his skill as a law enforcement officer, but also his character, integrity, and commitment to serving others. Officer Martarana consistently embodies the values of professionalism, service, and community engagement.

In recognition of his outstanding service, commitment to mentorship, and consistent high performance, I commend Officer Joseph Martarana and proudly recognize him as the 2026 First Responder of the Year for Florida's 12th Congressional District.

HONORING AND REMEMBERING  
THE LIFE OF SENATOR JAMES E.  
CARNES

HON. MICHAEL A. RULLI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 2026*

Mr. RULLI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Senator James E. Carnes, 84, of St. Clairsville, Ohio, who passed away on April 25, 2026. Born February 19, 1942, in Wheeling, West Virginia, he was the son of the late Edward A. and Avis E. Carnes.

A lifelong Belmont County resident, Carnes graduated from Flushing High School in 1960 and dedicated his career to the Ohio coal industry, rising to President and later President-Emeritus of Cravat Coal Company after 57 years of service. He also owned and operated the Plaza Motel and Carnes Mobile Home and Appliances.

He was a prominent figure in Ohio Republican politics for over five decades, serving as Belmont County GOP Chairman, on state and national party committees, and as a delegate to multiple conventions. He later served in the Ohio Senate from 1995 to 2004, representing southeastern Ohio and chairing key committees, including Energy and Finance.

Following his Senate service, he was appointed Deputy Director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and later served on the Ohio Liquor Control Commission until 2025. Known for his pragmatic leadership and ability to work across party lines, he was widely respected for his service to Ohio.

I invite my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring Senator James E. Carnes. He will be remembered as a devoted family man, a man of faith, and a lifelong public servant.

RECOGNIZING RAY MINERVINI FOR  
A LIFETIME OF SERVICE AND VI-  
SION IN TRAVERSE CITY

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 2026*

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Ray Minervini, an extraordinary Northern Michigan leader, on being named the 2025 Distinguished Service Award recipient by Traverse Connect, one of the region's most prestigious civic honors, which has been presented annually since 1929.

For decades, Ray Minervini has exemplified what it means to serve a community with vision, integrity, and purpose. Starting under the guidance of his father, Ray's career in construction and development has had a lasting impact on Traverse City and Northern Michigan. Ray began his career in residential construction in the 1960s, building his sister a cottage just outside of Kingsley, before transitioning to the commercial sector in the 1980s.

After relocating to Traverse City in the 1990s with his wife, Marsha, Ray could have chosen a quiet retirement. Instead, he chose to help redevelop the historic Traverse City State Hospital, a decision that would forever shape the future of the region. Through the Minervini Group, he acquired the property in 2002 and launched what would become the first redevelopment of a former asylum in the United States.

What followed was nothing short of remarkable—today, the once abandoned property has been transformed into a 500-acre property filled with trails, parks, and various community entities. His work has not only protected a vital piece of Northern Michigan's history, but also created jobs, expanded housing opportunities, and fostered a sense of community that con-

tinues to draw residents and visitors alike. His dedication has earned him numerous honors over the years, but what may be most meaningful is the gratitude of a community he has so faithfully served.

Mr. Speaker, let us all join in recognizing Ray Minervini for this well-deserved recognition. On behalf of Michigan's 1st Congressional District, I thank him for his enduring contributions to Traverse City and Northern Michigan.

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN MICHAEL  
TRAPP

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 2026*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions of Citrus County Fire Rescue Captain Michael Trapp for his exceptional leadership, clinical expertise, and unwavering commitment to public safety. Captain Trapp has consistently demonstrated professionalism and dedication that exceed expectations. Since joining Citrus County Fire Rescue in March of 2020, he has served with distinction as Driver Engineer, Lieutenant, and now Captain. Prior to his service in Citrus County, he gained valuable experience as a Firefighter/Paramedic with a neighboring agency, bringing a strong foundation to his work. Throughout his tenure, Captain Trapp has made significant contributions to both fire and emergency medical services operations. He is highly engaged in training and development and serves as an instructor for the Firefighter Minimum Standards program, helping prepare the next generation of firefighters. He is also widely respected as a mentor who sets a high standard of excellence and professionalism.

Captain Trapp's impact is evident in the field, where he consistently delivers exceptional patient care. In one instance, he responded to a critically ill patient in severe respiratory distress with dangerously low oxygen levels. Through rapid assessment and advanced interventions, he stabilized the patient prior to transport. The patient later required intensive care but ultimately recovered and was discharged. Hospital staff recognized Captain Trapp and his crew for their critical role in the patient's survival. In another case involving a patient with worsening altered mental status requiring immediate airway intervention and prolonged intensive care, Captain Trapp again demonstrated a high level of clinical skill. While the patient ultimately required end-of-life care, hospital staff expressed appreciation for the compassionate care provided.

These examples reflect Captain Trapp's clinical excellence, calm demeanor, and steadfast dedication. He represents the very best of the fire service. I commend Captain Michael Trapp for his outstanding service to the residents of Florida's 12th Congressional District and proudly recognize him as a 2026 First Responder of the Year. His leadership and commitment to excellence embody the highest ideals of public service.