

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING JAMIE HARDEN

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2026

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the visionary leadership of Jamie Harden, President and CEO of Creative Sign Designs, as the company celebrates its 40th anniversary, which is a remarkable milestone in the Tampa Bay area. Four decades ago, this journey began with a simple mission focused on quality mailboxes. Today, thanks to Jamie's direction, Creative Sign Designs has evolved into a national leader in architectural signage, operating out of a massive 50,000-square-foot facility right here in the bay area. With a dedicated team of over 150 professionals, the company manages everything from complex fabrication to ADA compliance with absolute precision.

Jamie's impact extends far beyond the walls of his headquarters. A proud Florida State Seminole, he has dedicated himself to our community, serving as Past Chairman of the Tampa Bay Chamber and the CEO Council of Tampa Bay. His commitment to excellence is reflected in the company's staggering list of accolades, including seven consecutive years on the INC. 5000 and the Governor's Business Ambassador Award.

Mr. Speaker, we know behind every great leader is a strong foundation. Jamie has shared over 30 years of marriage with his wife, Melanie, and they are the proud parents of Battle, Ellee, and Turner.

Jamie Harden's transition from a local business owner to an international award-winner is a testament to his visionary leadership. I congratulate him and the entire Creative Sign Designs family on 40 years of excellence. We look forward to seeing the signs of his continued success for decades to come.

RECOGNIZING TAYLOR HEISE

HON. BRAD FINSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2026

Mr. FINSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Olympic gold medalist and southern Minnesota native, Taylor Heise, on her remarkable performance at the 2026 Winter Olympic Games in Milano Cortina, Italy.

In her very first Olympic appearance, Taylor not only helped lead Team USA to a gold medal but delivered at the biggest moments—including the assist on the game-winning overtime goal that secured victory over Canada.

Earlier this year, Taylor's hometown of Lake City declared February 19th as "Taylor Heise Day," recognizing her historic achievement, the years of perseverance, early-morning practices, and the family and mentors who helped her reach this moment. Her grand-

father Kenny, who once drove her to Red Wing every day so she could play, said it best: "Taylor, you work hard and it paid off."

Taylor's grit, talent, and heart have inspired fans at home in Minnesota and across the country. She reminded all of us what it means to pursue a dream with unwavering determination.

I congratulate Taylor on her extraordinary 2026 Olympic performance. Her family, friends, teammates, and fellow southern Minnesotans could not be prouder of her.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2026

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes on May 12, 2026, due to a family health issue.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 156, and YEA on Roll Call No. 157.

HONORING ALAN BLACK

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2026

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Alan Black on the occasion of his retirement from the Naval Surface Warfare Center Dahlgren Division (NSWCDD), where he served as Director of Strategic Communication and Public Affairs. Over more than forty years, Alan Black gave this Nation a career of consistent, consequential public service.

Alan spent 20 years on active duty in the United States Air Force. He led public affairs operations during Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Noble Eagle, and supported humanitarian relief communications following the earthquake in Haiti, Hurricane Katrina, and the tsunami in East Asia.

Since joining NSWCDD in 2015, he has been responsible for all communication and engagement programs at a \$1.4 billion research and development command supporting naval surface warfare, cyberspace defense, and emerging technologies. He managed media and legislative relations, developed branding strategy, led STEM outreach with regional schools and universities, and advised senior leadership on strategic communications across the organization.

Alan Black is known for his professionalism and his investment in the people he worked with. He mentored public affairs professionals throughout his career, built strong relationships with media and community leaders, and was a reliable advisor to the organizations he served.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Alan Black for more than 40 years of service to the United States Air Force and the Department of the Navy, and in wishing him and his family well in retirement.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ROBERT A.
"BOBBY" CLAY, JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2026

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable Georgian—Dr. Robert A. "Bobby" Clay, Jr.—who passed away peacefully on May 6, 2026, at the age of 98. Dr. Clay was a man of extraordinary character whose life of service left an indelible mark on Lee County, Georgia, and on the generations of students, families, and neighbors who were blessed to know him. A funeral service to celebrate his remarkable life will be held on Saturday, May 16, 2026, at the Leslie City Cemetery in Leslie, Georgia.

Born in 1928 in Lee County, Bobby Clay was the son of Robert A. Clay, Sr. and Eddy Hooks Clay. He was raised during the Great Depression on Clay Spring Farms, a family homestead recognized as a Centennial Farm, having remained in continuous operation by the same family for 121 years. From his earliest days, Bobby Clay learned the virtues that would define his life: hard work, humility, stewardship, and perseverance. The red clay of Lee County ran deep in his veins, and the values instilled on that farm never left him.

Even as a young man, Dr. Clay demonstrated an uncommon sense of responsibility. At just 15 years old, while still a student at Leesburg High School, he served as a school bus driver for the Lee County School System—an early sign of the leadership and commitment to community that would characterize his entire life. He graduated with the Class of 1945, a year that marked both the end of a world war and the beginning of a remarkable personal journey.

Dr. Clay went on to attend North Georgia College before earning his bachelor's degree from the University of Georgia. His hunger for learning did not stop there. With a lifelong dedication to education, he earned both a master's degree and a doctorate in education—credentials that reflected not only his intellectual achievement but his profound belief that education was the great equalizer and the foundation of a just and flourishing society.

For more than three decades, Dr. Clay devoted himself to the Lee County School System. He served on the Lee County Board of Education and then as superintendent for an extraordinary 32 years. During a time of tremendous challenge and change in American public education, he provided the steady hand of a leader who understood that doing the right thing was more important than doing the easy thing.

• 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.

Under his leadership, the Lee County School System navigated the complexities of desegregation with integrity and compassion. He opened the schoolhouse doors wider—welcoming students with disabilities into the public school system, expanding educational opportunities for all children regardless of background, and guiding the district through a period of significant growth. The school system he helped shape stands today as one of Georgia's most respected—a living testament to his vision and his values.

But to speak of Dr. Clay only in terms of policy and administration would be to miss something essential about the man. He was, at his core, a farmer who loved the land. He spoke fondly of childhood days spent swimming in Choakee Creek, fishing, and working alongside his family. Clay Spring Farms was not simply a place he lived—it was an expression of who he was. He understood that the health of a community is rooted in the health of its families, its land, and its traditions.

On June 13, 1954, Bobby Clay married the love of his life, Betty Ann Pace Clay. Their partnership spanned 67 years—a union of faith, devotion, and shared purpose that endured until Betty Ann's passing in 2021. Together they built a home known for its warmth, its hospitality, and its deep love of family. They were faithful members of DeSoto Baptist Church, where they served for many years and where their faith was as much a part of daily life as the Georgia soil beneath their feet.

In addition to his work in education, Dr. Clay served his community through longtime membership on the Board of Health, demonstrating that his commitment to public service extended beyond the schoolhouse. He was honored as a member of the Lee County High School Distinguished Alumni Program—a recognition that only scratched the surface of what he meant to the people of that county. His truly lived his life by the words: "To educate a man is to educate a citizen. To serve your community is to serve your God."

Dr. Clay was preceded in death by his beloved wife Betty Ann; his son, Robert A. Clay, III; grandson Zachary Clay Peak; and son-in-law Sidney Clinton Peak. He is survived by his daughters, Carol Ann Clay Peak of Lee County and Melody Clay Sheffield of Albany; his grandson James Clay Sheffield; his sister Evelyn Clay Hicks of Marietta; and a wide circle of nieces, nephews, extended family members, and friends who carry his memory forward.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representative to join my wife Vivian and me, along with the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's 2nd Congressional District in honoring that life and legacy of Dr. Robert "Bobby" Clay, Jr. His is the biography of rural Georgia at its best. He was a man who never forgot where he came from, never stopped working for the people around him, and never wavered in his conviction that every child deserved a good education and every community deserved good leadership. He lived 98 years, and he used every one of them well.

He was an educator, farmer, public servant, husband, father, and devoted son of Lee County, Georgia. May his family find comfort in the knowledge that his work endures, and that the State of Georgia, the Nation, and the world is better because of him.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DAVID
PAUL BONNER

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2026

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. David Paul Bonner, who recently passed away at the age of 73. Dave was a beloved member of the Concord, New Hampshire community, and he will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Dave was born and raised in Concord, where he chose to live his entire life alongside his wife and closest friend, Paula. Countless individuals in the community came to know him over the years, and he was known by many as the "unofficial mayor" of Concord. He carried himself with an infectious personality and a genuine love and care for others, paired with a witty spirit and a remarkable gift for storytelling.

Dave was a proud veteran of the United States Army and spent time stationed in Germany. He was also a beloved mail carrier for the USPS in Concord and worked as a taxi driver, a Hampton Beach nightclub bouncer, and a corrections officer over the years. His hard work and resilience came from a passionate commitment to serve his community and provide for his family.

Aside from his work, Dave was always passionate about sports and proved to be a versatile, multi-sport athlete, trying his hand at skiing, football, hockey, and much more. He was a fixture at the Green Street Community Center in Concord every Sunday, and was an avid basketball player and referee for much of his adulthood. When not playing or officiating, he was often in the stands watching games ranging from the youth to the collegiate level.

He also had a genuine passion for the arts, especially theatre and music. He frequented the Ogunquit Playhouse for productions in the summer and would often listen to music by the likes of Led Zeppelin, Jimi Hendrix, and Tom Rush. Much like his strong work ethic and tender compassion, his diverse interests endeared him to his many friends and loved ones.

Dave leaves behind his wife, Paula, and their three children, Matt, Becky, and Luke. His children shared his passion for sports and were incredible athletes and students, earning college scholarships for basketball. He also leaves behind seven grandchildren. Those who knew Dave understood that he was immensely proud of his family and cherished them every day of his life. They shared that same love and affection for him.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's 1st Congressional District, I send my deepest condolences to the Bonner family and all of Dave's loved ones. As they grieve their loss, we know that Dave's abounding love, passion for sports and the arts, hard work, and service to his country and community are an inspiring example for all of us to follow. Although he will be dearly missed, his memory lives on in our communities through all the people whose lives he touched over the years. The stories he told and the memories he shared with those around him will endure for many years to come.

RECOGNIZING VALLEY PRESCRIPTION
AND COMPOUNDING PHARMACY'S
100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. ADAM GRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2026

Mr. GRAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Valley Prescription and Compounding Pharmacy in Merced, California, on the occasion of their 100th Anniversary of service.

Founded by George P. Keller and William E. McDermott of Martinez, and joined by Ernest Green of Merced and Pharmacist Stanley Thomas, The Valley Drug Company was more than just a pharmacy. They were best known for the cameras and camera equipment they provided to visitors to Yosemite National Park. Their fountain and lunch counter was a local favorite, where Erma Porter made her delicious and popular sandwiches, pies, and old-fashioned sodas.

After Ernest retired in 1970 and Thomas passed away, the Valley Drug Store was renamed Valley Prescription Pharmacy and relocated next to the County Hospital. Since then, the pharmacy has maintained its reputation for quality service, first with owner Ron Krein in 1981 and now with owner Jeff Hill, who has continued the tradition of keeping the drug store family owned.

It is my privilege to recognize Valley Prescription and Compounding Pharmacy as they enter their second 100 years with dedication, diligence, and devotion to the people of Merced County.

RECOGNIZING FIREFIGHTER/
INSPECTOR JOHN BEEBE

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2026

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions of Port Richey Firefighter/Inspector John Beebe for his exceptional dedication, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to public safety and municipal service.

Firefighter/Inspector Beebe has consistently demonstrated a level of initiative and work ethic that reflects great credit upon himself and the City of Port Richey. In addition to his core responsibilities, he plays a vital role in ensuring the safety and reliability of the city's fire protection infrastructure through the testing and maintenance of every fire hydrant within the municipal water system. Beyond these essential duties, Firefighter/Inspector Beebe actively supports emergency operations, assisting with everyday calls for service, brush fires, and emergency boat responses in the Gulf. His willingness to respond wherever needed underscores his deep commitment to protecting both residents and visitors alike.

Firefighter/Inspector Beebe has also elevated the city's fire inspection program by ensuring that every business is inspected annually, strengthening public safety and compliance across the community. In coordination with the building department, he further assists in tracking business tax receipts, helping to ensure that local businesses remain properly