

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING FIRE CHIEF KRISTIAN
CONCEPCION

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Fire Chief Kristian Concepcion, as he retires after 35 years of dedicated commitment to the fire service, including 10 years leading our Vacaville Fire Department.

Chief Concepcion was born in Cavite, Philippines, and moved with his family to Southern California at a young age. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Economics from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1986 and earned his Master of Business Administration from Pepperdine University in 1989. He graduated from the Executive Fire Officer Program at the National Fire Academy in 2016. Chief Concepcion and his wife, Peggy, have been married for 38 years and have called Vacaville home for the past 10 years. They are the proud parents of four adult daughters and two sons-in-law.

Chief Concepcion's commitment to public safety is clear from his distinguished career. He began his service in 1991 as a firefighter with the Orange County Fire Authority. Over the next 25 years, he rose through the ranks, serving as a paramedic, hazardous materials specialist, public affairs chief, administrative officer, and Division Chief. In 2016, he became Fire Chief of the Vacaville Fire Department, where he has led the department with vision and compassion for the past decade.

Chief Concepcion has rightfully been recognized for his leadership and innovation. Under his direction, the Vacaville Fire Department experienced remarkable growth and progress. Daily staffing increased from 19 to 29 firefighters, two new fire stations were opened, and the number of staffed ambulances expanded from three to five. He launched the city's Ready, Set, Go! Wildfire Preparedness Program, strengthened fire prevention and code enforcement staffing to keep pace with community growth, and served as Interim City Public Information Officer for nearly two years during the COVID-19 pandemic. He also helped establish the Firefighter Apprenticeship Program, creating pathways for aspiring firefighters and ensuring a well-trained workforce for years to come.

Chief Concepcion's dedication extends beyond the fire department to community service. He served as Treasurer of the Solano County Fire Chiefs Association from 2015 to 2021 and as President from 2021 to 2023. He also served as President of the Vacaville Christmas Fund, a nonprofit organization that supports local victims of severe fire incidents and families in need during the holidays. He actively serves on the California State Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Advisory Council and was an Honorary Commander for the 60th Operations Group at Travis Air Force Base. He

was also a longtime member of the Orange County Fire Authority Pipes and Drums and has spent many years as a high school and college football referee.

Mr. Speaker, we thank Chief Kristian Concepcion for his dedicated service to our community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today as he retires after 35 years of service.

HONORING THE WORK OF CODY
MCCARTY

HON. GABE VASQUEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2026

Mr. VASQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my Deputy District Director, Cody McCarty, for his many years of public service to New Mexico, as he continues his pursuit of higher education. His tireless work and strong leadership were critical in delivering results every day for New Mexico's 2nd District.

Cody is a fifth generation New Mexican raised in Reserve in Catron County. He is a two-time graduated Aggie and has earned two degrees from New Mexico State University—also my alma mater. He is a proud veteran and previously served in the United States Marine Corps as a Sergeant in the 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion. During college, he worked for NMSU Military and Veterans Programs and advised military and veteran students on their education benefits.

Cody's Congressional public service is extensive and began when he interned for Senator MARTIN HEINRICH's office in 2018, followed by his work as a Field and Constituent Services Representative for Congresswoman Xochitl Torres Small. Most recently he served as the Deputy District Director out of my Las Cruces office and worked on veterans, military, public safety, agriculture, and LGBTQ+ issues.

While working for New Mexico's 2nd District, Cody established invaluable relationships with veterans across the state and enjoyed getting to work with groups like the Marine Corps League, El Perro Diablo, and the Lincoln/Otero County Veterans Leadership Council. His expertise and dedication played a critical role in the introduction of legislation that has improved the lives of veterans, such as the New Mexico Rural Veteran Health Care Health Access Act. He is truly dedicated to supporting veterans both inside and outside of his work schedule, and since my first term, he has volunteered with a local veterans group in Las Cruces, placing flags at a local cemetery to honor veterans on Memorial Day. Cody is a true public servant and represents the best that New Mexico has to offer.

Cody is leaving his role with my office on January 20, 2026, to pursue a third degree from NMSU, and while it is bittersweet to say goodbye to him, I am excited to soon call him Dr. McCarty.

On behalf of the people of New Mexico's 2nd Congressional District, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to Cody for his continued work for New Mexicans and our veterans. He has been an integral member of our team who will be dearly missed, and I look forward to seeing what he accomplishes next.

HONORING AMIE FRALEY'S DEDICATED SERVICE TO HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2026

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Amie Fraley for her dedicated service to Habitat for Humanity of the North Carolina (NC) Sandhills, and to congratulate her on her new role with Habitat for Humanity International.

After nearly sixteen years as executive director of Habitat for Humanity of the NC Sandhills, Amie announced she would be transitioning to a new role with Habitat for Humanity International, as an organizational development consultant. Throughout her many years of service, Amie played an immeasurable role in the growth of the nonprofit. Under her leadership, Habitat for Humanity increased its homebuilding pace from 10 to almost 13 houses per year. In addition, the nonprofit increased its focus on its Aging in Place repair program, providing more repairs for the disabled and over 55 populations in the region. Her efforts and collaboration significantly contributed to the growing influence of Habitat for Humanity across the state of North Carolina, acquiring a 103-acre property in Aberdeen to create a community called Sandhills Station, made possible by a \$3 million dollar grant. I am honored to represent Amie, who has worked so diligently to improve our district and the state of North Carolina.

It is my honor to take this opportunity to recognize Ms. Amie Fraley for her incredible service to Habitat for Humanity. I wish her all the best in her new role and hope she continues doing what she loves while also helping our community and country.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in honoring Ms. Amie Fraley for her nearly 16 years of dedicated service to Habitat for Humanity and the continued impact she will have in her new role with Habitat for Humanity International.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2026

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I inadvertently voted YEA on Roll Call No. 31. My intent was

• 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.

to vote NAY on Roll Call No. 31, passage of H.R. 2988, Protecting Prudent Investment of Retirement Savings Act.

RECOGNIZING THE MADDY
INSTITUTE

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2026

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Maddy Institute on its 25th anniversary and to thank them for their significant contributions to the Central Valley.

Established in 1999 by the California Legislature, the Maddy Institute honors the life and service of Senator Kenneth L. "Ken" Maddy. Senator Maddy's integrity, legislative expertise, and commitment to bipartisanship left a lasting legacy—one that the Maddy Institute continues to uphold.

Since its founding, the Maddy Institute has inspired citizens of all ages to learn about the democratic process and engage in civil dialogue. Through partnerships with four universities, it has offered young adults hands-on opportunities to participate in civic engagement, serve their communities, and develop strong leadership skills. Nearly 600 alumni now serve in business, government, and the nonprofit sector, which is a testament to the Maddy Institute's impact.

My District and Washington, D.C. offices have welcomed interns from the Maddy Insti-

tute throughout my time in Congress. Their local expertise and interest in government make the interns invaluable members of my team. I'm proud to support a program that promotes the next generation of public servants.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Maddy Institute on 25 years of service. By educating, engaging, and empowering young people, the Maddy Institute is helping shape the next generation of leaders in the Central Valley and across our Nation.

HONORING JENNIFER A. GOEDKE

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jennifer A. Goedke, who is retiring from Congress after 25 years of public service.

Jennifer comes from a hard-working family in Illinois. Her father, Richard A. Goedke, was a member of IBEW and PATCO, and she walked the picket line with him to fight for better labor conditions. Her mother, Dolores, was a working mom who successfully ran a medical practice while raising two children. Jennifer was the first in her family to earn a college diploma. It was there, at Monmouth College, where Professors Ira Smolensky and Stacy Cordery inspired her to spend a semester in Washington, D.C. as an intern for Congressman Lane Evans.

After graduation, Jennifer's love of the institution led her back to Congress where she has spent 25 years working for distinguished Members, including Representatives Henry Waxman, Lane Evans, MARCY KAPTUR, Lynn C. Woolsey, and myself. She capped her career as Chief of Staff for Congressmen JARED HUFFMAN and GEORGE WHITESIDES.

In her time on Capitol Hill, Jennifer has championed landmark gun safety legislation, including H.R. 8, the Bipartisan Background Check Act. As my lead staffer on the Gun Violence Prevention Taskforce, she sat with countless families as they worked through their grief and fought for solutions to end gun violence. She also helped to negotiate the USMCA trade agreement, expanded FMLA for military families, and shepherded countless community district projects to improve education, transportation, and wetlands restoration.

Public service is in Jennifer's DNA. She finds practical solutions to problems and works across the aisle without reservation. Though she never forgot her Midwestern roots, she dedicated most of her career to California. In that time, she changed the landscape of Northern California policy and redistricting.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in recognizing the noteworthy career of Jennifer A. Goedke, her 25 years in Congress, and her dedication to the institution. It is my pleasure and honor to congratulate her on her years of service. I wish her the best in her next adventures.