

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING ISABELLA WELLER ON EARNING THE GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Isabella Weller on earning the most prestigious award in Girl Scouting, the Gold Award. Isabella is a member of Girl Scouts of Michigan Shore to Shore, Troop 8686, and has exemplified extraordinary leadership, innovative problem-solving, and a demonstrated commitment to making a lasting, positive impact.

Gold Award Girl Scouts are recognized as trailblazers who are willing to tackle the most pressing challenges facing their communities and the world with measurable, sustainable, and far-reaching results. To earn the Girl Scout Gold Award, high school-aged Girl Scouts must identify and investigate an issue they care about, devise a plan, and then lead a team of experts and community members to implement a project that produces lasting change. Over the course of 1 to 2 years, Gold Award Girl Scouts demonstrate significant initiative, commitment, and leadership, distinguishing them from their peers. Through their resourcefulness and perseverance, they embody the Girl Scout Law to truly make the world a better place.

Isabella's project, the "Caring Closet," sought to help students in her high school who were not able to access clothing or Winter necessities. Isabella developed a clothing closet in partnership with the Northmen Den and Petoskey High School, allowing students to access essential items including shirts, pants, shoes, coats, and more in a safe and nonjudgmental environment. Amassing over 2,500 pounds of donated clothing, Isabella's closet served many students at her high school by creating a sustainable and reliable resource for those in need.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Michigan's 1st Congressional District, I congratulate Isabella Weller for achieving the highest distinction in Girl Scouts, the Gold Award. I thank Isabella for her leadership and the positive, lasting change she has made in our community.

RECOGNIZING CADET MAJOR ARTHI GOURAVELLI

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Cadet Major Arthi Gouravelli, an extraordinary young leader from Hillsborough County, Florida, whose achievements have brought tremendous pride to her school, her community, and our Nation.

Cadet Major Arthi Gouravelli, a junior at Middleton High School, has earned one of the most distinguished honors in Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps history. She has been named the national recipient of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution JROTC Award, making her the number one JROTC cadet among more than 600,000 cadets worldwide across all branches of service. This remarkable accomplishment is a testament to Cadet Gouravelli's exceptional leadership, unwavering discipline, academic excellence, and outstanding character. Her journey to this national recognition began with selection by the Tampa Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, followed by victories at the state level in Florida, before ultimately achieving the highest honor at the national level. In doing so, she distinguished herself among cadets from across the United States and Department of Defense Education Activity schools overseas. Her achievement places her at the pinnacle of more than 3,400 JROTC programs worldwide, representing every branch of the United States Armed Forces. These programs include approximately 1,700 Army JROTC programs serving more than 314,000 cadets, 878 Air Force JROTC programs serving over 125,000 cadets, 573 Navy JROTC programs serving nearly 100,000 cadets, and 278 Marine Corps JROTC programs serving approximately 50,000 cadets, along with additional Coast Guard and Space Force affiliated programs.

To rise above such an accomplished and competitive field is truly extraordinary. Cadet Major Gouravelli's success reflects not only her own determination and work ethic, but also the strength of the educational and leadership opportunities provided by Hillsborough County Public Schools and its dedicated JROTC instructors and mentors.

At a time when our Nation looks to the next generation for leadership, service, and integrity, Cadet Major Gouravelli stands as an inspiring example of what young Americans can achieve through hard work, commitment, and a dedication to serving others. Her accomplishments embody the very best values of the JROTC program: citizenship, character, leadership, and service before self.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I congratulate Cadet Major Arthi Gouravelli on this historic achievement and thank her for representing Florida's students and future leaders with such distinction. I wish her continued success in all her future endeavors.

COMMEMORATING 80TH ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY IN BOYLE HEIGHTS

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the Me-

morial Day Ceremony at the Mexican-American All Wars Memorial located in Boyle Heights.

For the past 80 years, this Ceremony has stood as a sacred tradition of remembrance, unity, and gratitude. What began in the aftermath of World War II, has become a living testament to the enduring spirit of a community that honors the sacrifice of its servicemen and women with dignity and pride. Generation after generation, families, veterans, neighbors, and civic leaders have gathered here to reflect on the cost of freedom and to ensure that those who gave their lives in service to our Nation are never forgotten. This milestone anniversary is not only a celebration of history, but a reaffirmation of the values of courage, service, and community that define Boyle Heights.

As we commemorate the 80th anniversary of this cherished ceremony, we pay tribute to the veterans whose bravery shaped our Nation and to the organizers and community members who have preserved this meaningful tradition for decades. Memorial Day reminds us that remembrance is a collective responsibility; by honoring the past, we must also remind future generations to uphold the ideals of sacrifice, compassion, and unity.

May this 80th anniversary serve as both a solemn remembrance and a proud celebration of a community whose patriotism and resilience continue to shine through the decades.

RECOGNIZING 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG IN SOMERSET COUNTY

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

Mr. KEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Borough of Watchung in Somerset County as it celebrates its 100th anniversary, an extraordinary milestone marking a century of community, history, and civic pride.

Established in 1926 and formally incorporated by an act of the New Jersey Legislature, Watchung began its journey in self-governance when its first Borough Council convened on May 24, 1926. From that moment, the Borough has fostered a proud tradition of civic leadership rooted in dedication to public service and community betterment.

Nestled within the scenic Watchung Mountains, the Borough's natural landscape has long defined its character. Watchung Lake and Best Lake, beloved treasures of the community, serve not only as serene landmarks but also as environmental, recreational, and historical assets cherished by residents and visitors alike.

The very name Watchung, derived from the Lenni Lenape language meaning "high hills," reflects the Borough's roots and the geography that has shaped its identity for centuries. Settled in the early eighteenth century, the area played a notable role in the American

• 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.

Revolution. In 1777, General George Washington used the ridge as a vantage point from which to monitor British troop movements, an enduring reminder of Watchung's place in our Nation's early history.

Throughout the past century, Watchung has been distinguished by a remarkable tradition of volunteerism. Its residents have consistently embodied the values of civic engagement, service, and community spirit. The Borough's commitment to preserving its heritage through institutions such as the Texier House Museum and the dedicated efforts of the Watchung Historical Committee have ensured that its rich past continues to inform its vibrant present.

As Watchung reaches its Centennial Jubilee in 2026, we honor a community that has grown with resilience, preserved its natural beauty, and upheld a strong civic identity. This milestone stands as a testament to generations of residents whose contributions have shaped the Borough's legacy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating the Watchung Centennial Jubilee, recognizing 100 years of history, community, and shared purpose. We extend our warmest congratulations to the Borough of Watchung and its residents on this momentous occasion and celebrate the strength and spirit that define this exceptional community.

CELEBRATING AND HONORING THE
HOPKINTON-FT. JACKSON FIRE
DEPARTMENT ON THEIR 75TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor the Hopkinton-Ft. Jackson Fire Department on the 75th anniversary of its founding and thank them for their tremendous dedication to protecting and serving the Town of Hopkinton as well as the neighboring communities in St. Lawrence County.

Since its founding in 1950, the Hopkinton-Ft. Jackson Fire Department has been at the forefront of combating disasters across the North Country. In addition to fighting fires, the Department protects Hopkinton and its surrounding communities by responding to medical emergencies, motor vehicle accidents, rescue calls, and natural disasters. These brave men and women have gone above and beyond to ensure the safety and stability of not only their community, but the North Country as a whole. For seventy-five years, they have faced challenges with unwavering resolve and compassion embodying the true spirit of civic virtue.

Since their inception, the Hopkinton-Ft. Jackson Fire Department has grown tremendously to help answer the call in their community. Starting with the station's purchase for one dollar from the old Hopkinton School in 1950 and their first F-700 Ford Firetruck in 1957, they have expanded massively gaining their own St Lawrence County Central Dispatch system in 1987 and extending medical assistance to Tri-Town Rescue Squad starting 1995. The Department's growth has continued to its current size, boasting seven vehicles with capable fire engines, tankers, and specialized emergency response vehicles which

are ready to answer the call at a moment's notice. These expansions have dramatically increased the Department's role and have allowed them to go above and beyond to serve their community.

The Hopkinton-Ft. Jackson Fire Department has faithfully served the community, and their achievements stand as a testament to their hard work and dedication. Their presence is both an asset and a comfort to the citizens they serve in their time of need. They are fully staffed by volunteers who meet the demands of the job and perform them to the highest level, going above and beyond the call of duty in exemplary fashion making themselves available at any time for any situation.

This year, Hopkinton-Ft. Jackson Fire Department will celebrate its 75th anniversary. On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, it is an honor to recognize the generations of brave men and women who have volunteered with the Department and those currently answering the call. These extraordinary individuals have sacrificed their time and wellbeing to protect the North Country, and I am proud to recognize their historic accomplishments and service.

RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY
OF GOUT AWARENESS DAY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, National Gout Awareness Day will occur on May 22, 2026. This marks the 20th anniversary that patients, care partners, advocates and the medical community around the United States raise awareness of the crucial needs of people suffering from this chronic and painful form of arthritis.

Gout is a chronic form of inflammatory arthritis affecting more than 12 million Americans. Gout occurs due to a buildup of uric acid in the body. When excess uric acid builds up in the body, it deposits around joints and can lead to swollen joints and sudden, intensely painful attacks that can be debilitating.

It is a chronic medical condition that, left untreated, can result in more frequent or painful attacks and joint damage. It can also increase patients' risk for other severe medical conditions such as kidney disease, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and stroke.

While gout is not currently curable, it is treatable if patients have access to care that manages acute gout flares and addresses the root cause of chronic gout. Continuous and timely access to care is critical to ensure gout patients can successfully manage their disease.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me and rise in commemoration of Gout Awareness Day, honoring those committed to helping alleviate the suffering of people with gout and those people dealing with this chronic inflammatory condition.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH
BIRTHDAY OF TRINIDAD CASILLAS

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Trinidad Casillas' 100th birthday.

Mr. Casillas was born in Los Angeles on May 23, 1926, as the fifth child among ten children. When he was 28, he married Delia Casillas. The two have shared 72 years of marriage and have spent 60 years in the Inland Empire.

In 1966, Trinidad and Delia purchased a home in my hometown, Pomona, California. The two have called Pomona home for more than fifty years.

Mr. and Mrs. Casillas have built a remarkable family, consisting of their five children, 22 grandchildren, 43 great-grandchildren, and six great-great-grandchildren.

For 30 years, Trinidad served as a metal finisher for a government contractor, specializing in airplane parts. His contributions to this crucial industry enhanced its ability to support our Nation's infrastructure and national defense.

Beyond his impactful service as metal finisher and as a beloved family-member, Mr. Casillas has been an active member of the Washington Senior Center in the City of Pomona for 26 years. At the Senior Center, he joins his neighbors in recreational activities including dominoes and billiards.

Trinidad has a particular passion for pool, which he has played for 94 years. He has brought his passion to the Senior Center and beyond, earning several trophies that showcase his skills and love for the game.

In celebration of Trinidad Casillas' 100th birthday, it is my privilege to honor a remarkable family member and community member. His impact on our community is worthy of the highest commendation.

CELEBRATING DR. MARIA OZUNA

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary woman whose life embodies perseverance, compassion, and public service: Dr. Maria Ozuna.

Dr. Ozuna is a proud Dominican-American healthcare professional, public health advocate, mentor, mother, aunt, sister, and role model who has dedicated her life to improving the well-being of others. A medical doctor in the Dominican Republic, she continued her pursuit of knowledge here in the United States and recently earned her Master's Degree in Public Health from George Washington University at the age of 60, proving that it is never too late to achieve new dreams.

Throughout her career, Dr. Ozuna has worked with some of New York City's leading hospitals and currently serves as a Safety Officer, protecting both patients and healthcare workers. Beyond her profession, she is deeply committed to community service, diabetes prevention, breast cancer awareness, HIV/AIDS advocacy, and educational opportunity.