

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOSÉ MANUEL PIZARRO MATOS

HON. JAMES R. WALKINSHAW

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2026

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Colonel José Manuel Pizarro Matos upon his retirement from the United States Army after 37 years of distinguished service to our Nation.

Throughout his remarkable and decorated career spanning nearly four decades, Lieutenant Colonel Pizarro Matos dedicated himself to advancing military medicine, protecting the health of our service members, and strengthening the Army Medical Department through scientific research and innovation. His work has directly contributed to the readiness and well-being of the men and women who serve our Nation.

A deeply respected scientist and Army officer, Lieutenant Colonel Pizarro Matos earned national recognition within his field through decades of research, mentorship, and professional achievement. His contributions include extensive scientific publications, oversight of major research programs, and expert guidance to countless military and civilian professionals whose work continues to benefit the Armed Forces and the broader medical community.

His service has been recognized through numerous military awards and honors, including the Order of Military Medical Merit, multiple Meritorious Service Medals, and designation as a leader in Army medical research and development. These accomplishments reflect a career defined by genuine excellence, integrity, and an unwavering commitment to serving others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Lieutenant Colonel José Manuel Pizarro Matos on his retirement and in thanking him for his extraordinary service to the United States Army and our Nation.

RECOGNIZING CLAY OSBORNE

HON. JOSEPH D. MORELLE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2026

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Caribbean American Heritage Month to recognize a dedicated leader from Rochester, New York: Clay Osborne.

Born in Panama, Clay Osborne has built a distinguished career characterized by leadership, service, and a commitment to helping others succeed. As Founder and President of True Insights Consulting, he has earned widespread respect for his expertise in executive coaching, leadership development, and organizational effectiveness. Drawing upon decades

of experience across the corporate and governmental sectors, Clay has devoted his professional life to empowering individuals and strengthening organizations.

Beyond his professional achievements, Clay has demonstrated an unwavering dedication to the Rochester community. His extensive civic involvement includes service as Chair of the Board of ESL Federal Credit Union and the Center for Governmental Research. He is also a founding member of the Sigma Pi Phi Foundation and a charter member of the Rochester Area Community Foundation's African American Giving Circle, reflecting his longstanding commitment to expanding opportunity and fostering community engagement.

Clay's leadership extends to numerous organizations dedicated to developing future leaders and promoting inclusive excellence. Through his service on the advisory board of the Parent Leadership Training Institute and as Chair of the Workforce Diversity Network, he has worked tirelessly to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion while creating pathways for individuals to thrive in their personal and professional lives.

Clay Osborne's contributions to the Rochester community exemplify the values of leadership, service, and perseverance that have enriched our Nation. His dedication to uplifting others and strengthening the institutions that serve our communities has left a lasting and meaningful impact. It is with great pride that I recognize Clay Osborne during Caribbean American Heritage Month and extend my sincere gratitude for his many contributions to Rochester and beyond.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF CARLISLE FLOYD

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2026

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today we celebrate the life and legacy of a remarkable South Carolinian, a true giant in American music, widely regarded as the Father of Modern American Opera, Carlisle Floyd.

Born in Latta, South Carolina, in 1926, Carlisle Floyd would have turned 100 on June 11. During his life, he carried with him the stories, sounds, and spirit of the American South throughout his extraordinary career. From those roots, he created operas that spoke not only to our region, but to the nation and the world.

His works—most notably *Susannah* and *Of Mice and Men*—redefined what American opera could be. They brought everyday people to the operatic stage, told deeply human stories in an unmistakably American voice, and made the art form more accessible, more relevant, and more enduring. In doing so, he inspired generations of composers, performers, and audiences.

Beyond his compositions, he was a dedicated educator and institutional leader, helping to build and elevate programs like the Houston Grand Opera Studio, where he mentored young artists and ensured the future of American opera would remain vibrant and innovative.

And through it all, he remained a proud son of South Carolina—earning recognition including the Order of the Palmetto, our state's highest civilian honor.

As we mark the centennial of his birth, we celebrate more than his achievements—we celebrate his impact. His music continues to be performed on stages across the country and around the world, reminding us that great art has the power to connect, to challenge, and to endure.

Carlisle Floyd's legacy is a testament to the richness of American creativity and the profound contributions that can come from a small town in South Carolina.

I am grateful to honor his life, his work, and his lasting imprint on American culture.

RECOGNIZING THE FAIRFAX CONNECTOR MAINTENANCE TEAM'S STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JAMES R. WALKINSHAW

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2026

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievement of the Fairfax Connector maintenance team and to congratulate them on securing first place at the 2026 Virginia State Bus Rodeo.

Technicians Jerry Salgado, Matthew Bender, and Martin Lopez earned top honors at this year's statewide competition, marking the fifth consecutive year that Fairfax Connector has claimed the championship. The Virginia State Bus Rodeo brings together transit professionals from across the Commonwealth to test their skills in real world scenarios, including vehicle inspection and troubleshooting challenges.

This continued success speaks to the high level of expertise, preparation, and consistency demonstrated by this team. Their performance reflects both the technical knowledge and attention to detail required to maintain a safe and reliable public transit system.

As a result of their first-place finish, the Fairfax Connector maintenance team will represent the Commonwealth of Virginia at the American Public Transportation Association International Bus Rodeo this month in Salt Lake City, Utah. This event brings together top transit maintenance teams from across North America for a premier showcase of technical skill and precision.

While their work often takes place behind the scenes, the impact of their efforts is felt every day by the thousands of riders who rely on Fairfax Connector. This achievement offers

• 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.

a well-earned opportunity to celebrate their skill, dedication, and the vital role they play in keeping our community moving.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Jerry, Salgado, Matthew Bender, and Martin Lopez on their state championship and in wishing them continued success as they represent Virginia on the international stage.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF BENJAMIN SWAN, SR.

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2026

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable life and legacy of Benjamin Swan, Sr., a son of the Civil Rights Movement, a champion of our great Commonwealth, and one of the most consequential figures western Massachusetts has ever produced.

Born in 1933, Ben spent the next 92 years proving that one person, committed to justice and rooted in community, can change the arc of a city. From the marches of the 1960s, where he proudly stood alongside Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to the great halls of the Massachusetts State House, where he served the people of Springfield for more than two decades, Ben Swan never stopped pushing and never stopped believing that this country could live up to its great promise.

When Ben came to Springfield, he made it his own. He led the Greater Springfield NAACP. He championed desegregation in schools. He fought for police reform. He stood up for the homeless, the working poor, and every constituent who walked through his door or stopped him on the street. He served in the Massachusetts House of Representatives from 1995 to 2017, and during that time, he became not only a good legislator but also a mentor. Elected officials across this region trace their path to public service back to a conversation with Ben Swan. He gave people the courage to run, the wisdom to serve, and the living example of how to do it with grace.

Springfield named a street for him. Springfield named a school for him. Those are extraordinary honors, and yet no honor will ever adequately reflect his legacy. The truest monument to Ben is the generations of leaders he inspired and the constituents whose lives he forever changed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in recognizing the extraordinary life and service of Benjamin Swan, Sr. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and loved ones during this difficult time. Ben Swan gave everything he had to this community, and it is this community that will carry his legacy forward.

RECOGNIZING THE DERBY SMOKE
ON THE PLAINS BBQ AND MUSIC
FESTIVAL'S 15TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RON ESTES

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2026

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 15th anniversary of the Derby Smoke on

the Plains BBQ and Music Festival. This weekend, the residents of Derby, in my home district of Kansas, will be celebrating their 15th annual Smoke on the Plains BBQ and Music Festival.

This event is more than just good food and good music, though that would be reason enough to celebrate. It is an event that brings together the local community and BBQ masters from across the region, with families and friends of all ages finding various ways to enjoy life together.

Located in High Park, the festival also showcases a premier gathering place for Kansas families. It truly represents an active city with amenities that improve the quality of life for its residents.

I am honored to have this exciting festival in Kansas, and celebrating their 15th year in 2026 is extra special. As Derby celebrates the 15th annual Smoke on the Plains, our Nation is preparing to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. A lot has changed over the past quarter of a millennium, but I imagine that our Founding Fathers would be pleased to see the patriotism and community pride that is taking place in Derby.

While this year is sure to be exciting, I look forward to seeing this festival grow for many years to come. I encourage all Kansans to celebrate the 15th anniversary of Derby Smoke on the Plains as we prepare for America's semiquincentennial in less than a month.

RECOGNIZING THE 2026 FAIRFAX
COUNTY VOLUNTEER SERVICE
AWARDS RECIPIENTS

HON. JAMES R. WALKINSHAW

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2026

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Volunteer Fairfax and express my sincere appreciation to recipients of the 2026 Annual Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards.

Established 50 years ago, Volunteer Fairfax matches the skills and interests of thousands of volunteers with the needs of local non-profit organizations. The success of this model and its impact on delivery of the services needed is beyond question; Volunteer Fairfax has been rated as one of the most effective community service organizations in the Nation.

Each year, Volunteer Fairfax selects a few exceptional individuals, groups, or organizations to receive special recognition. I include in the RECORD the following names of the 2026 Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards honorees:

Barbara Pearson: Braddock District Champion

Great Falls Trailblazers: Dranesville Community Champion

Leah Lamba-Skidmore: Franconia District Champion

Rosa Simon: Hunter Mill District Champion

Nancy Moy: Mason District Champion

Mary Paden: Mount Vernon District Champion

Greater Oakton Community Association: Lauren Crum & Shelley Deutch: Providence District Champion

Arnie Daxe: Springfield District Champion

Evan Braff: Sully District Champion

Craig Dubishar: Gerald E. "Gerry" Connolly Lifetime Achievement Award

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending Volunteer Fairfax for its decades of outstanding community service. I congratulate the recipients of the 2026 Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards and thank them and the thousands of other local volunteers for their incredible contributions to our community. Their selfless dedication is worthy of our highest praise and is one of the main reasons that our community is often ranked as one of the best places in the country to live, work, and raise a family.

RECOGNIZING CRAIG DEMMIN

HON. JOSEPH D. MORELLE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2026

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Caribbean American Heritage Month to pay tribute to an outstanding athlete and leader from Rochester, New York: Craig Demmin.

Born in Trinidad and Tobago, Craig Demmin distinguished himself through an exceptional soccer career that spanned both the national and international stages. As a member of the Trinidad and Tobago National Senior Team, he earned more than twenty-five international caps, representing his country with pride and distinction. His professional career took him across the globe, from Scotland to Tampa, before ultimately bringing him to Rochester, where he would leave a lasting impact both on and off the field.

During his tenure with the Rochester Rhinos, Craig established himself as one of the most respected players in franchise history. A former team captain and four-time Team Most Valuable Player, he exemplified leadership and excellence in competition. His achievements earned the admiration of teammates, coaches, and fans alike, while his character and sportsmanship made him a role model throughout the Rochester community.

Beyond his athletic accomplishments, Craig has remained deeply committed to serving others. He has devoted countless hours to mentoring young athletes and supporting local soccer programs, sharing his knowledge and experience with the next generation. His generosity extends far beyond the soccer field. For more than a decade, Craig has sponsored numerous families during the holiday season and throughout the year, providing support and encouragement to those in need.

Craig Demmin's dedication to athletics, mentorship, and community service exemplifies the values of generosity and perseverance that have long enriched the Rochester community. It is with great pride that I recognize Craig Demmin during Caribbean American Heritage Month and thank him for the lasting impact he continues to make on the lives of others.