

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE TOWN OF YARMOUTH'S 250TH INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 18, 2026

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Town of Yarmouth as it celebrates its 250th Independence Day.

Throughout the Revolutionary War, patriots from Yarmouth played an important role in our country's fight for independence. In 1775, as tensions rose between the colonies and the British government, Yarmouth's militia rode to assist in the Battles of Lexington and Concord before receiving word of a British retreat, marking the start of the American Revolution. In the spring of 1776, patriots from Yarmouth served under George Washington at Dorchester Heights, fortifying the city and forcing British troops to evacuate Boston. Then on June 20, 1776, weeks before the United States of America formally declared independence from Britain on July 4, 1776, Yarmouth residents came together and took the brave step to declare their independence.

Ahead of the upcoming Semiquincentennial historians from the Towns of Yarmouth and Dennis led extensive research into Yarmouth's role in the Revolutionary War. Their research found that 447 men from Yarmouth fought for our country's independence, 53 of whom are buried in the Yarmouth Ancient Cemetery. To honor these patriots' bravery and dedication to our country, the town commissioned a monument to be built by the renowned Robert Shure and for official Sons of the American Revolution granite markers to be placed at each of the 53 graves.

On June 20, 2026, the Town of Yarmouth and nearby communities will gather for the unveiling and dedication of the Revolutionary War Monument in Thatcher Park, followed by a wreath-laying and grave marker dedication ceremony at the Yarmouth Ancient Cemetery.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to celebrate the Town of Yarmouth's 250th Anniversary of Independence, and I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the bravery of Yarmouth's patriots and their dedication to freedom, democracy, and our republic during the Revolutionary War.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF COLONEL FRANCIS "LEN" LEONARD LOVING

HON. AARON BEAN

OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 18, 2026

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, some people dedicate their lives to serving others. Few do so with the distinction, humility, and lasting impact of Colonel Francis "Len" Leonard Loving.

Today, I rise to honor the life and legacy of this remarkable American, whose service to our Nation, our veterans, and the Northeast Florida community spanned more than six decades.

Born in Richmond, Virginia, Len built a life defined by leadership, discipline, and commitment to others. After graduating Magna Cum Laude from Southern Benedictine College, he was commissioned into the United States Marine Corps, where he served honorably for 30 years. Rising to the rank of Colonel, he completed multiple tours in Vietnam and earned the Bronze Star with Combat "V" for valor. He also played a key role in establishing the Marine Corps Blount Island Command in Jacksonville, a lasting contribution to both our military and our region.

Following his distinguished military career, Len continued his service by leading the Five STAR Veterans Center, where he helped countless homeless veterans find stability, independence, and hope. His dedication to those who served reflected the compassion and character that defined his life.

Above all, Len was a dedicated husband, father, and grandfather. He was a devoted husband to his first wife Ruth before her passing, and shared 41 wonderful years with his beloved wife, Suzie. He was a source of strength, wisdom, and encouragement for his family and all who knew him.

Mr. Speaker, as we remember Colonel Loving, we celebrate a life of honor, service, and leadership. His legacy lives on in the veterans he helped, the Marines he led, and the family and community he loved.

May his memory be a blessing, and may his example continue to inspire us all.

RECOGNIZING KALPESH JOSHI FOR HIS LEADERSHIP IN HOSPITALITY AND COMMUNITY

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 18, 2026

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kalpesh Joshi, a respected hotelier, community leader, and advocate for entrepreneurs, for his contributions to the hospitality industry and his service to the Indian American community in the greater Chicago area.

Kalpesh Joshi is a seasoned hospitality professional who has operated hotels under the Motel 6 and Sonesta brands for nearly two decades. A self-made, first-generation hotelier, he has built a distinguished career through hard work, entrepreneurial spirit, and a commitment to supporting fellow business owners. He has served as the Upper Midwest Regional Director for the Asian American Hotel Owners Association (AAHOA) for the past three years and currently chairs its 2024–2025 FAIR Committee. In addition, he serves on AAHOA's Government Affairs Committee and has been

a member of the G6 Hospitality Owners Advisory Council since 2012.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Mr. Joshi has demonstrated a deep commitment to civic engagement and community service. He serves on the Illinois Governor's Asian American Employment Plan Advisory Council, contributes his leadership to SEWA International's Advisory Board, and has supported numerous community organizations and initiatives. A dedicated advocate for political engagement within the Indian American community, he has worked closely with local and state leaders to advance policies that strengthen businesses, expand economic opportunity, and support community development.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Kalpesh Joshi for his leadership, entrepreneurial success, and steadfast commitment to public service. His contributions to the hospitality industry and to the communities he serves reflect the values of hard work, civic engagement, and opportunity that help strengthen our Nation.

RECOGNIZING LAWRENCE FAMILY FARMS

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 18, 2026

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lawrence Family Farms on being named the 2026 Tulare Dairy Family of the Year and to commend their outstanding contributions to California's dairy industry and the Central Valley community.

Founded by first-generation farmers Matt and Lisa Lawrence, Lawrence Family Farms has quickly made a meaningful impact, delivering some of the highest-quality dairy products in California. Each year, the Tulare Chamber of Commerce honors a local dairy family during its Annual Salute to Dairy celebration in recognition of National Dairy Month. This prestigious award recognizes dedication to the dairy industry, agricultural leadership, and community engagement, making the Lawrence family's selection especially well-deserved.

Matt Lawrence's story reflects the promise of the American Dream. His parents moved from a small community in the Azores, Portugal, to seek a better life here in America. From a young age, Matt was always interested in farming, finding any opportunity he could to immerse himself in agriculture. Through his involvement in FFA, he gained hands-on experience working with dairy cattle and developed the agricultural skills that would lay the foundation for his future career.

Matt continued pursuing his passion at Fresno State University, where he majored in Agricultural Education. During his time there, many of his professors encouraged him to become more involved. Following this advice, he

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took up the responsibility of running the college farm, which gave him the experience and industry connections needed to have a successful career in the agricultural sector. After graduating, he worked as a salesman for an artificial insemination company before quickly following his lifelong dream of running his own dairy. Partnering with former Dairy Family of the Year recipient Frank Mendonsa and his son Brandon, Matt and Lisa established a successful dairy operation in Visalia.

Building on that success, Matt and Lisa founded Lawrence Family Farms in 2020. In just six years, they have grown their operation into a thriving business that has already made a lasting mark on the Central Valley dairy industry and is undoubtedly on the path for many more years of success.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Lawrence Family Farms on being named the 2026 Dairy Family of the Year. Their contributions to the Central Valley will be felt for generations to come.

HONORING THE PATRIOTISM AND SERVICE OF JOHN KNOX BURTON

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2026

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the remarkable patriotism and service of John Knox Burton, a decorated Vietnam War veteran who resides in Virginia's 9th District.

In 1968, Mr. Burton made the honorable decision to answer his country's call and enlist in the military. He entered the military's ranks as a private, but following his stint at Officer Training School, he was a First Lieutenant for his deployment to Vietnam. In Vietnam, First Lieutenant Burton served as Assistant District Senior Advisor with a Republic of Vietnam Unit.

It was during this time that First Lieutenant Burton trained local personnel and helped advise district government officials. His help and coordination of joint U.S. and Republic of Vietnam military efforts advanced U.S. military objectives.

As a result of his service, First Lieutenant Burton earned high marks from military brass. His evaluating officers considered him to be one of the finest officers and commended his performance in combat in Vietnam.

Among the awards of his decorated service, First Lieutenant Burton received the National Defense Service Medal, the Sharpshooter Badge, the Vietnam Service Medal and the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with a Bronze Star. The Cross of Gallantry orders highlight Lieutenant Burton's brave service "side by side with his Vietnamese counterparts."

Virginia's 9th District is proud to be the home of this Vietnam War hero. After joining the Virginia Tech community in 1977, Mr. Bulton grew as a talented educator. He led numerous courses and initiatives, including his work for the Center for Instructional Technology Solutions in Industry and Education.

In recognition of his successful career in education, Virginia Tech awarded Mr. Burton the Alumni Award for Excellence in International Outreach and later conferred upon him the title of "Professor Emeritus."

I join 9th District communities in honoring and celebrating the military service of Mr. Burton. His sacrifice to protect American life and liberty is to be fiercely commended. I hope that American military personnel continue to embody the same courage, values and service that Mr. Burton demonstrated to his country.

CELEBRATING THE UCLA WOMEN'S BEACH VOLLEYBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2026

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Women's Beach Volleyball team from the University of California, Los Angeles. The Bruins Women's Beach Volleyball team took home the 2026 NCAA Women's National Collegiate Beach Volleyball National Championship on May 3, 2026. UCLA defeated the No. 1 seed Women's Beach Volleyball team from Stanford University in Gulf Shores, Alabama.

This year's championship secured UCLA's 3rd national title win in program history. It also marks the 127th overall NCAA title win by a UCLA Bruin team in any sport.

The UCLA Women's Beach Volleyball team should be proud of their achievement in earning the distinction of national champions, competing amongst the more than half a million student-athletes who participate in NCAA events each year. With guidance from Coach Jenny Johnson Jordan, the team's championship season culminated in a thrilling 3-0 win against Stanford in the final match.

I would like to congratulate the UCLA Women's Beach Volleyball team once again on winning the national championship for the first time since 2019 and wish them the best of luck next season. This win is a special moment in the collegiate athletic careers of each individual UCLA player and marks an exceptional accomplishment and historical achievement for the UCLA community. Go Bruins.

HONORING CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 5 MITCHELL K. TAGGART ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. MATT VAN EPPS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2026

Mr. VAN EPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Warrant Officer Five Mitchell K. Taggart of Ashland, Missouri, upon his retirement from the United States Army in June 2026, following more than three decades of extraordinary service to our Nation.

As a veteran myself, I know that no words fully capture what a life in uniform costs, or what it means. But I also know that CW5 Taggart's career represents the very best this Nation's military has to offer.

Mitchell Taggart enlisted in 1992 as a Light Infantryman, earning his Green Beret after completing Special Forces Assessment and Selection in 1996 and serving with the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) at Fort Car-

son, Colorado. When he briefly left service in 2000, he continued serving his community as a corrections officer in Sumter County, Georgia, and as a firefighter and first responder in Americus, Georgia. In 2003, he returned to the Army, commissioned as a Warrant Officer in 2007, and never looked back.

CW5 Taggart deployed twelve times in support of combat operations to Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria, and served across AFRICOM, CENTCOM, and EUCOM in support of theater security cooperation. He led at every level of Special Forces, from the SFOD-A, company, battalion, and group levels, and earned a Master of Arts in Military Studies and Strategic Leadership along the way.

His wife, Special Agent Chief Warrant Officer Four Melissa Taggart, is a proud defender of this Nation in her own right. Together, they have raised three sons, Stephen, Rex, and Cash, who have watched their parents model sacrifice and service every day of their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body to join me in thanking CW5 Mitchell Taggart for a lifetime of service to this country. This country is safer, stronger, and more worthy of its own ideals because Mitchell Taggart chose to serve.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH IRAN

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2026

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, President Trump's reckless decision to take the United States to war with Iran without Congressional authorization has been a disastrous failure. Not only has the president's war of choice utterly failed to deliver on his own shifting military goals, it has cost the American people directly: increasing costs for many necessities like groceries, housing, health care, utilities, gasoline, and more. The war has also left the U.S. and the world in a more precarious geopolitical position.

In the first hours of the war, President Trump spoke of eliminating the Iranian regime through U.S. military strikes and a popular uprising of the Iranian people. Not only did no popular uprising against the regime materialize, but President Trump's war has had the opposite effect on Iran. The Iranian regime is emboldened, and it is more tightly controlled by hardliners and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps than it was prior to the war. This will make the prospects for long-term peace with Iran more difficult.

The war has failed to achieve other key military goals that the President laid out. First and foremost is the failure to eliminate or secure the Iranian nuclear program's strategic materials. Iran's nuclear program has not been destroyed, and the United States and our allies now have far less visibility into the program than we did while President Obama's Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action with Iran was in effect. The war has also depleted U.S. stocks of critical munitions, creating a vulnerability for the U.S. military in other theaters.

The war has also resulted in considerable economic disruptions in the United States and around the world. On average, gas prices have risen by over \$1 per gallon since the