

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. GREG CASAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 21, 2026*

Mr. CASAR. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 19, H.R. 2262, Flexibility for Workers Education Act; NAY on Roll Call No. 23, H.R. 4593, SHOWER Act; NAY on Roll Call No. 28, H.R. 7006, Financial Services and General Government and National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2026; and NAY on Roll Call No. 31, H.R. 2988, Protecting Prudent Investment of Retirement Savings Act.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. DELIA C. RAMIREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 21, 2026*

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 32, and YEA on Roll Call No. 33.

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM “BILL” CASS, COMMISSIONER OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

#### HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 21, 2026*

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of William “Bill” Cass, Commissioner of the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT), and his retirement after 40 years of service to our state. As Commissioner of NHDOT, Bill has fostered a supportive work environment and spearheaded multiple major transportation projects to help improve Granite State roads, bridges, and infrastructure.

A lifelong Granite Stater, Bill grew up in Rollinsford, New Hampshire, and went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of New Hampshire. He began working at NHDOT early in his career in 1986 and has risen through the ranks of the department throughout his tenure. Before his role as NHDOT Commissioner, he served as the Final Design Supervisor, Preliminary Design Section Head, Chief Project Manager, Assistant Director of Project Development, and Director of Project Development at NHDOT.

As a distinguished leader, Bill has implemented large-scale transportation projects that have made a lasting impact in New Hampshire. Projects include: the Interstate 93 expansion from Salem to Manchester, the largest undertaken by the NHDOT; the Sarah Mil-

dred Long Bridge project; the Memorial Bridge Project; and many other projects that have and will continue to improve transportation in New Hampshire. Bill’s service extends beyond his commissioner title, with him actively involved on committees for the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) and the Northeast Association of State Transportation Officials (NASTO), bringing him to Washington, D.C. annually to advocate for nationwide transportation policy and solutions.

Bill is known as a leader who is an avid listener, a bipartisan solution finder, patient, diplomatic, and an individual from whom you could learn countless leadership skills. Through Bill’s leadership and decades of service, New Hampshire’s transportation system has greatly improved and has a clear plan for future success.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire’s 1st Congressional District, I thank Bill Cass for his commitment and dedication to helping improve New Hampshire’s transportation for the past 35 years and his 40 years of public service dedicated to New Hampshire. I would also like to thank Bill for his selfless service and for his leadership in the state. I wish him and his wife, Colleen, all the best in his retirement and future endeavors.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. ANN WAGNER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 21, 2026*

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was not present for Roll Call votes on January 20, 2026. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 32, and YEA on Roll Call No. 33.

RECOGNIZING MR. THOMAS L. PELISSERO FOR AUTHORIZING BRING ONE HOME

#### HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 21, 2026*

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Mr. Thomas L. Pelissero for his heartfelt tribute to his hometown of Bessemer, Michigan in his new book: *Bring One Home: A Memoir of Boyhood, Basketball, and Hometown Spirit*. His memoir serves as a salute to the town of Bessemer and speaks to the character of communities across Michigan’s Upper Peninsula when facing profound economic hardship from the decline of iron and copper mining industries throughout the 1960s.

On January 21, 1966, the Bessemer Speedboys basketball team ended a 42-game losing streak, at that time, the longest ever recorded in Upper Peninsula high school basket-

ball history. Even in the face of such an arduous stretch, A.D. Johnston gymnasium remained packed on Friday nights as the people of Bessemer cheered on their beloved high school basketball team. Their loyalty and perseverance serve as a true testament to the never-give-up spirit of this U.P. town. Mr. Pelissero’s story reminds us of how hard work, determination, and dedication can shape a community.

Much like the sense of community shown by the people of Bessemer during the days of the Speedboys losing streak, Mr. Pelissero’s book was released in front of a standing room only crowd at the Bessemer City Hall, helping raise over \$5,000 dollars for the Bessemer Public Library to support literacy in the community. Even 60 years after the Speedboys triumphant victory, the spirit of fellowship is still vibrant throughout Bessemer and communities across the Upper Peninsula.

Since the release of his book on November 1, 2025, *Bring One Home* has received positive reviews from New York Times Best Sellers authors such as Seth Wickersham, been added to the Library of Congress, and recently won the North American Book Awards Bronze Medal for 2025. Despite such success, it has been the overwhelming support from the people of Bessemer that Mr. Pelissero finds most meaningful.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Mr. Thomas L. Pelissero for authoring *Bring One Home*, which captures the outstanding character of his hometown of Bessemer, Michigan, its people, its high school team, and their unwavering dedication to one another.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. PRAMILA JAYAPAL

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 21, 2026*

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I missed Roll Call vote No. 32 on January 20, 2026. Had I been present, my vote would have been Yea on Roll Call No. 32.

### HONORING NANCY WHELAN

#### HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 21, 2026*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of more than 45 years of extraordinary public transportation service by Nancy Whelan.

A lifelong public servant, Nancy has dedicated her career to innovating transportation infrastructure. Before landing in Marin, she served in roles with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority and the San Francisco Municipal Railway as well as provided technical and managerial services to

● 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.

agencies throughout the Bay Area, including Marin, as the founder of Nancy Whelan Consulting. She was unanimously appointed to the position of General Manager for Marin Transit by the Board of Supervisors in 2014.

Strategic and steadfast, Nancy skillfully navigated Marin Transit through a challenging 11 years, supporting community members through the pandemic and pushing the agency towards a greener future. Under Nancy's leadership, Marin Transit is well on its way to meeting its goal to transition to zero emission by 2040, with the introduction of battery-electric buses and its recent property acquisition in San Rafael for fleet maintenance and operations. Nancy always prioritized accessibility for all Marin residents, including expanding mobility services for people with disabilities and older adults through the Marin Access Mobility Management Center. Her many notable achievements include increasing ridership by 10 percent from pre-pandemic levels, securing and improving the Rush Landing Bus Operations Hub in Novato, and developing the Marin Access Operations Facility in San Rafael.

Nancy is known for her critical thinking and professional style, developing strong partnerships with community stakeholders and applying informed decision making. She has been a terrific mentor to the next generation of transit professionals and other local women leaders. A tireless champion for affordable, inclusive transit, her work has influenced strategic planning and projects beyond Marin County and the Bay Area. For her commitment to sustainable and equitable transit, Nancy was awarded the WTS Lifetime Achievement Award.

It was my privilege and honor to work with Nancy. She does not shy away from complicated projects, confidently rising to the occasion and embracing complex challenges. I appreciate her collaborative leadership style and strong work ethic.

Mr. Speaker, Nancy Whelan is a visionary transit leader, and her legacy cannot be overstated. I respectfully ask that you join me in expressing my sincere gratitude for her decades of good work and in sending her best wishes on her next endeavors.

HONORING UNITED STATES NAVY  
VETERAN JIM SHELTON

**HON. TONY GONZALES**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 21, 2026*

Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Jim Shelton, a true American hero whose courage, service, and devotion to duty continue to inspire generations.

Jim Shelton was born on November 21, 1926, in San Antonio, Texas. At just 15 years old, he left school to work at Kelly Field in the Reclaiming Department, contributing to the war effort at an early age. Determined to serve his country, he returned to school and graduated early, enabling him to enlist in the United States Navy at the age of 17 at Fort Sam Houston.

Mr. Shelton graduated in January 1944 and was assigned to the 96th Company. Drawing on his experience working with mechanical parts, he was stationed aboard the USS

*Endymion*, a Navy repair ship. His role was critical—keeping damaged vessels operational in the midst of war.

Mr. Speaker, Jim Shelton's naval career was defined by service to his fellow sailors and unwavering resolve. As a Coxswain and later a Boatswain's Mate, he and his shipmates repaired countless vessels and supported the fleet during the invasion of Okinawa. The *Endymion* itself came under enemy attack and was torpedoed off the island of Truk. Despite the danger and damage sustained, Mr. Shelton remained with the ship until the end of World War II.

Later in life, Mr. Shelton was honored with an Honor Flight to Washington, D.C., where he and his fellow crew members were formally recognized for their service. He received a letter from President Clinton honoring the crew of the *Endymion* for their dedication—repairing other ships even after their own vessel had been attacked and damaged.

Mr. Speaker, Jim Shelton's life is a testament to the strength, humility, and resilience of the Greatest Generation. His service to our Nation and his steadfast sense of duty stands as an enduring example of what it means to be an American.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF  
ISAIAH DAVIS

**HON. ZACHARY NUNN**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 21, 2026*

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and thank Isaiah Davis for his outstanding service as a Staff Assistant in my office. As he concludes his time with Team Nunn, I cannot speak higher of the dedication, professionalism, and patriotism he brought to serving the people of Iowa's 3rd Congressional District every day.

Over the past year, Isaiah was the first-person Iowans met walking in the office and was the man who welcomed me to Washington and sent me off to Iowa at the end of the legislative week. Whether navigating the fast pace of Capitol Hill or keeping us on schedule between meetings, events, and flights, Isaiah handled every responsibility with urgency, reliability, and good humor. His steady presence and positive attitude made even the longest weeks run smoothly.

Beyond the front desk, Isaiah played a vital role in the daily operations of the office. He supported logistics, prepared materials, assisted with research, and helped coordinate events, always approaching his work with focus and a team-first mindset. His dependability and attention to detail made him a valued and trusted member of our team.

Isaiah's strong sense of service is rooted in his upbringing as a military child. That experience taught him adaptability, discipline, and a deep respect for those who serve. This foundation is reflected not only in his work ethic, but also in his academic pursuits. While serving full-time in our office, Isaiah has been earning his master's degree at night at American University, with a focus on Cybersecurity and Foreign Affairs. His commitment to continuing public service at the highest level is clear.

Isaiah—referred to in the office as “Mr. Olympia” for his 400-pound weightlifting capa-

bilities and “Mario Andretti” for his speed navigating the perpetual obstacle course that is District of Columbia driving—delivered with skill, strength, and a champion's heart in the race to serve others well.

Mr. Speaker, Isaiah Davis strengthened our office, our team, and our ability to serve Iowans. I am deeply grateful for his contributions, and as he begins his next chapter, I am confident he will continue to lead with the same integrity, discipline, and purpose that defined his time with Team Nunn.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Isaiah for his service to Iowa's 3rd Congressional District and in wishing him continued success in the years ahead.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES MCAURTHUR  
ALSOBROOKS

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 21, 2026*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, Mac Alsobrooks is one of this region's most legendary pool players and hand dancers. As talented as he has proven to be there, he has had even more of an impact as a mentor to generations of young men and women.

As one of the founders of the Alliance of Concerned Men, and a dedicated participant in the Beyond the Walls Ministry at Ebenezer AME Church in Fort Washington, Maryland, Mac has reached many lives and instilled wisdom in so many the way that only he can.

In fact, “beyond the walls” describes how he sees education, as he's been known to use any possible environment and platform to teach. So many lessons were learned at Dog's Pool Hall over the years, where he would regularly take his elementary school-aged daughters, Angela and Kim, to play pinball while he honed his skills at the pool table. It was at that pool hall that he taught them a lot about people, and a lot more about life.

He showed them and many others what it means to be politically active, to be civically engaged, and to be spiritually connected—lessons that still resonate to this day, even on the floor of the United States Senate, where his daughter Angela represents the great State of Maryland. And even today, he's an example of how to be an uplifting part of the community, and how to have fun while doing it. The hundreds that have been blessed by his mentorship over the years will agree.

I ask that you join me, and the residents of Maryland, in offering well wishes and a happy 78th birthday to James McAurthur Alsobrooks—a billiards legend, a renowned hand dancer, and a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. We're grateful for all he's done for Maryland and for the Capital region.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MARK POCAN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 21, 2026*

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for two Roll Call votes on Tuesday, January 20, 2026. Had I been present, I would have