

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE FRANCISCAN FRIARS ARRIVAL IN HEBBRONVILLE

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 2026

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Franciscan Friars of Hebronville as they celebrate their Centennial Anniversary in the region. For 100 years, the Franciscan Friars have faithfully served the people of Hebronville and neighboring communities through their enduring commitment to faith, education, and selfless service.

The Franciscan Friars first arrived in Hebronville on August 6, 1926, after fleeing religious persecution in Mexico during the Cristero Rebellion. Welcomed by the people of Hebronville and with the blessing of the Diocese of Corpus Christi, they established a ministry that has remained a spiritual cornerstone for South Texas for the past century.

Since their arrival, the Franciscan Friars have dedicated themselves to the spiritual, educational, and cultural needs of Hebronville and the surrounding communities. Through pastoral care, religious instruction, and community outreach, they have strengthened generations of families while preserving the rich traditions of faith that continue to unite the region.

Among their lasting contributions is SCOTUS College, a historic seminary that educated more than 250 men for the priesthood, several of whom later became bishops. Today, the building continues to serve the community as parish hall, retreat center, the Franciscan Museum of Hebronville, an office space, and the residence of the Franciscan Friars.

The centennial celebration is a testament to the enduring legacy of the Franciscan Friars and to the lasting partnership between the Friars and the people of Hebronville who welcomed them a century ago. Their witness of faith, sacrifice, and service has shaped the spiritual and cultural life of Hebronville and neighboring communities for generations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Franciscan Friars of Hebronville as they celebrate this remarkable milestone and recognize their enduring commitment to serving the people of Hebronville and South Texas while carrying forward their mission of faith, peace, and service for generations to come.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF WILL ROBERTS

HON. BARRY MOORE

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 2026

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, Will Roberts, who recently passed away due to

stage 4 osteosarcoma, was a brave and inspiring young man from Alabama, and I'm honored to take a moment today to recognize his life.

After being hospitalized for osteosarcoma at just 15 years old, Will entered into the presence of his Savior on Wednesday, July 22nd, surrounded by his loved ones. While we celebrate that his battle is over, and has been won in Jesus Christ, our hearts go out to Will's family in this devastating time. Will's condition might have affected him physically, but it could not take away the contagious joy he brought into every room. According to his mother, Brittney Battles Roberts, Will was "the funniest person in the room . . . (and) had a personality that could light up a hospital floor." This legacy of joy will not leave the hearts of the people who loved him or the community that he impacted so deeply.

Throughout his battle, Will actively fought for the children, teenagers, and young adults who are affected by the same disease, urging communities to help find a cure for his stage 4 cancer. Will's fight for a cure not just for himself, but also for others battling cancer, will remain a remarkable legacy that his family and friends can hold tight to in the times ahead.

No child should have to endure this kind of pain and no family this kind of loss. As Alabamians, we stand united in offering our prayers and condolences to the Roberts family and all other families who face a childhood cancer journey. Will shall forever be remembered as a light in his community, and his life is a testimony that will never be forgotten.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ANDREW "ANDY" D'ARRIGO

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 2026

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Andrew "Andy" D'Arrigo, whose vision, leadership, and dedication to agriculture helped shape the Salinas Valley into the agricultural heart of our Nation. His passing marks the loss of one of California's most respected agricultural leaders, whose influence will endure for generations.

Following his service in the United States Navy during World War II and graduation from the University of California, Davis, Andrew "Andy" D'Arrigo returned to D'Arrigo Bros. Company. As President of D'Arrigo Bros. Company of California, he led the business by transforming it into one of the world's premier grower-shippers of fresh produce. His leadership created thousands of jobs, strengthened the regional economy, and elevated California agriculture on the global stage.

Andrew "Andy" D'Arrigo believed that strong communities are essential to a thriving agricultural industry. Through the Andrew and Phyllis D'Arrigo Charitable Foundation and his personal philanthropy, he supported healthcare,

education, youth development, and community organizations throughout Monterey County, helping improve the lives of countless families and reinforcing the strength of the Salinas Valley.

Mr. Speaker, Andrew "Andy" D'Arrigo leaves behind an extraordinary legacy of agricultural innovation, economic leadership, and community service. His life's work strengthened the Salinas Valley, advanced California agriculture, and demonstrated the lasting impact of visionary leadership rooted in service to others.

Therefore, it is with profound respect that I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Andrew "Andy" D'Arrigo. On behalf of the people of California's 18th Congressional District, I extend our deepest condolences to the D'Arrigo family and celebrate a life whose enduring contributions will remain integral to the Salinas Valley's agricultural heritage and community for generations to come.

HONORING MR. ANTHONY C. BROOKS

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, from the 24th District of the great state of Florida, I rise today to recognize Mr. Anthony C. Brooks, a constituent and a respected educator who, after thirty-one years with Miami-Dade County Public Schools, is retiring.

Mr. Brooks has been a leader in improving access to quality education for students, improving working conditions for teachers and increasing parental involvement throughout the school district.

Mr. Brooks began his career with Miami-Dade County Public Schools in 1983 as a Language Arts teacher at Kinloch Park Middle School. He later taught Language Arts at Miami Douglas MacArthur North Senior High School. Mr. Brooks soon moved into a leadership role as assistant principal at Coral Gables Senior High School. It is a title he also held at Jose de Diego Middle School and Miami Jackson Senior High School. Mr. Brooks spent the last eight years of his tenure with Miami-Dade County Public Schools as a Language Arts teacher at Lake Stevens Middle School.

He is not only a staple in the classroom, but also in the community. He has held leadership roles in numerous organizations which include executive director of the South Florida Youth Film Workshop Incorporated, secretary of the Children's Services Council, executive council with the Miami-Dade County Juvenile Justice Council, advisor for the Youth Crime Watch School of the Year (Kinloch Park Middle School), and Language Arts Department Chair at Douglas MacArthur North Senior High School.

Mr. Brooks received his Bachelor of Science Degree in English from Kentucky State University and his Master of Science Degree from Barry University in Educational Leadership.

• 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.

Please join me in honoring Mr. Anthony C. Brooks for his commitment to education and our children and for his dedication to our community.

HONORING DAVIS FARMERS
MARKET

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to honor the Davis Farmers Market, a leader in local agriculture, sustainability, and community engagement, as it celebrates its 50th anniversary.

The Davis Farmers Market was founded in 1976 by University of California graduates Ann Evans, Martin Barnes, Annie Main, and Henry Esbenschade. While the farmers market began with a small group of vendors in Davis's Central Park, it quickly became a pioneer in California's direct-to-consumer agriculture industry, becoming the first Certified Farmers Market in the state in 1977. In 1994, the opening of the permanent Farmers Market Pavillion made the Davis Farmers Market the first structure of its kind in California.

Since its early years, the Davis Farmers Market has become a vibrant gathering place and essential Davis institution, connecting farmers and consumers while improving access to fresh, locally grown food. The Market launched community-centered programs such as a live music series, farm-to-school initiatives, hospital-based farmers markets, and the University of California Davis campus market.

The Davis Farmers Market has significantly contributed to the economic viability of small and regional farms, providing direct marketing opportunities and promoting sustainable agricultural practices and food education. It attracts over 500,000 visitors annually across its weekly markets, serving as a major economic and social hub for the region and supporting hundreds of farmers and vendors from numerous California counties.

The Davis Farmers Market is widely recognized as a national leader in the farmers market movement. In recognition of its community significance, the Davis Farmers Market was named "America's Favorite Farmer's Market" by the American Farmland Trust in 2009 and has received numerous other local and regional accolades for its variety and leadership.

The Davis Farmers Market's longevity and service as a model of community-centered food systems are celebrated today on its 50th anniversary. Today, the market celebrates with garden focused activities for children, live music, raffles, and photo booths along with the Saturday Farmers Market and the publication of a commemorative cookbook earlier this year.

Mr. Speaker, we thank the Davis Farmers Market for its five decades of dedication to supporting local food producers, environmental stewardship, education, and community connection. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor it here today.

CELEBRATING PRAIRIE VIEW A&M
UNIVERSITY'S 150TH ANNIVER-
SARY

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 2026

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Prairie View A&M University as it celebrates its 150th anniversary. Since its founding, this university has served countless individuals, bringing its historic legacy, academic excellence and enduring service to the nation.

Prairie View A&M University's rich history begins in 1876 when the Texas Constitution created an agricultural and mechanical college that would then turn into Texas's oldest public HBCU. In spring 1878, the university would welcome its first eight students. Originally designed to be a teaching college, the university expanded its curriculum to include agriculture, nursing, arts, sciences, and mechanical arts by 1887. Furthermore, as the university continued to grow and succeed, it became a land-grant institution by 1890, offered baccalaureate degrees in 1919, and finally added graduate studies in various academic fields by 1937, as a testimony to its achievements.

The university's longstanding history of supporting the higher education of Black students has played a transformative role in fostering academic excellence, civic engagement, and postgraduate employment for historically underrepresented communities. This institution has time and time again demonstrated its commitment to teaching and service, strengthening communities and improving lives throughout the state of Texas and beyond.

With President Dr. Tomikia P. LeGrande leading the university forward with its "Journey to Eminence" plan, the university plans to further establish itself as a premier HBCU and blueprint for other universities across the country. As a Carnegie-classified high-research (R2) university, it has further cemented itself as a distinguished research institute and is home to the National Center for Infrastructure Technology and the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center.

As a member of the NCAA Division I Southwestern Athletic Conference, students can compete in a high-sports level environment which in turn, can enable future athletic careers. With more than 170 student-led organizations, students have a wide range of interests and topics to engage with in addition to the academic opportunities available.

Since its inception, this university has not only developed a reputable history in the state of Texas but in the country as a whole. With generations upon generations of educated graduates, Prairie View A&M University has helped bring educators, engineers, military leaders, elected officials, scientists and public servants at all levels of government into the world. Notably, this institution leads in graduating Black students with degrees in architecture and engineering and is highly ranked for increasing the number of Black nursing graduates in Texas through its clinical training. The access to quality education is key to a thriving community and this institution delivers this opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Prairie View A&M University's 150th anniversary. This is an accomplishment

deserving of recognition in our Nation's Capital, and I am honored to extend my congratulations as the university celebrates this milestone. I anticipate many more monumental anniversaries, for I know this university will continue to be a fountain of knowledge and joy for our community, continuing its outstanding contributions to higher education for generations to come.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SPECIALIST
LARISA DICKERSON (RETIRED)
ON RECEIVING THE PURPLE
HEART

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 2026

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary American patriot, Specialist Larisa Dickerson (Ret.), whose courage, resilience, and unwavering devotion to our Nation embody the very best of the United States Army and the American spirit. Born in Chicago, Illinois, and raised in Tampa, Florida, Larisa answered our Nation's call to service immediately after graduating from high school. At just nineteen years old, she enlisted in the United States Army in 2002 and completed Basic Combat Training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, before being assigned to the 410th Military Police Company of the 89th Military Police Brigade at Fort Hood, Texas. In April 2004, Specialist Dickerson deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. During that deployment, she and her fellow Military Police Soldiers carded out some of the most demanding and dangerous missions of the war. They protected U.S. government dignitaries, secured vital supply convoys, established checkpoints to safeguard Coalition Forces, and trained Iraqi police officers, helping to lay the foundation for stability and security in a volatile region. Their professionalism and determination contributed to hundreds of successful missions under extraordinarily difficult conditions.

Specialist Dickerson also made history while deployed. She became the first female service member in the United States Armed Forces to train on the Common Remotely Operated Weapon System (CROWS), an innovative weapons platform that allowed operators to engage threats from within the protection of an armored vehicle. Her willingness to embrace new technology and break barriers demonstrated not only exceptional skill but also remarkable leadership and courage, paving the way for countless women who would follow in her footsteps. On November 7, 2004, while returning to Forward Operating Base Falcon in southern Baghdad, Specialist Dickerson's convoy was struck by a devastating roadside bomb. She suffered severe injuries as a result of enemy action and was evacuated first to the 31st Combat Support Hospital in Baghdad's Green Zone before being transferred to Germany for advanced medical treatment. Just four days later, on November 11—Veterans Day—she spent her twenty-first birthday recovering in a military hospital, surrounded by the sacrifices that define the true cost of freedom. For the wounds she sustained in combat, she was awarded the Purple Heart, one of our Nation's most revered military decorations.