

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE REEVES FAMILY AND REEVES CAKE SHOP

HON. EMILIA STRONG SYKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 10, 2026

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Reeves family and Reeves Cake Shop as Ohio's 13th Congressional District's Champion of the Week on August 7. This recognition honors their remarkable 50-year legacy of serving the Akron community and preserving a family baking tradition that spans more than a century.

Dolores and her late husband, Robert Reeves opened Reeves Cake Shop in 1976, and it has been a cherished part of countless celebrations across Summit County for the past five decades. Working alongside her son, Rick Reeves, and supported by members of the Reeves family, Dolores built not just a successful small business, but an institution in Akron's Kenmore neighborhood.

Dolores' love for baking began at home, watching her parents, Ada and William Bachtel, operate Bachtel's Bakery beginning in 1916. When she opened Reeves Cake Shop 60 years later, she carried that same passion forward, bringing those traditions to generations of Akron families.

For decades, the Reeves family has helped support life's biggest moments, from weddings and birthdays to graduations and holidays. Their dedication to making each order with care and attention to detail helped Reeves Cake Shop become a trusted part of the community.

After 50 years of service, Dolores and the Reeves family are retiring and closing Reeves Cake Shop on Christmas Eve. Their commitment to service reflects the spirit of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, proudly known as the "Birthplace of Champions."

Congratulations to Dolores, Rick, and the entire Reeves family on an incredible 50 years of Reeves Cake Shop, and I wish them a well-deserved retirement.

HONORING MOUNT OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH ON 155 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. EUGENE SIMON VINDMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 10, 2026

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mount Olive Baptist Church of Culpeper, Virginia, as it celebrates 155 years of faithful service, steadfast leadership, and unwavering commitment to the people of Culpeper and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Since its founding in 1871, Mount Olive Baptist Church has served as a cornerstone of faith, hope, and compassion for generations of

families. For more than a century and a half, this church has demonstrated that ministry extends far beyond its sanctuary walls through a deep and enduring commitment to serving its community. From feeding the hungry, and clothing those in need, to supporting local shelter services, and organizations assisting survivors of domestic and sexual violence, Mount Olive has consistently answered the call to care for its neighbors with grace and generosity.

The church's annual Fitness Witness 5K has become a meaningful tradition, raising support each year for nonprofit organizations dedicated to improving the lives of Culpeper's most vulnerable residents. Through this effort and countless other acts of service, Mount Olive continues to strengthen the community while inspiring others to serve.

In 2023, the congregation marked a historic milestone with the installation of its first female pastor, Reverend Dr. Tracey Dawkins Holley. Under her visionary leadership, Mount Olive Baptist Church has continued to grow in ministry, deepen its community partnerships, and build upon its remarkable legacy of service and spiritual leadership.

This year, Mount Olive Baptist Church was recognized as the "Most Respected House of Worship" in the Culpeper Times Best of the Best 2026 awards—a well-deserved honor that reflects the congregation's enduring impact, trusted leadership, and unwavering dedication to serving others.

On behalf of Virginia's Seventh Congressional District, I extend my sincere congratulations to Reverend Dr. Tracey Dawkins Holley, the church leadership, and every member of the Mount Olive Baptist Church family on this remarkable 155-year milestone. May this anniversary serve as both a celebration of an extraordinary, enduring legacy, and an inspiration for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mount Olive Baptist Church for its enduring faith, exceptional service, and profound contributions to the Culpeper community.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DON PATCHEN

HON. AARON BEAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 10, 2026

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Donald "Don" David Patchen, a decorated Vietnam veteran, longtime law enforcement officer, and devoted public servant, who passed away on April 21, 2026, at the age of 79.

Don lived a life defined by courage, service, and a commitment to others. From 1966 to 1969, he served our nation in the United States Army, including combat duty in the Vietnam War. He was wounded twice in service to his country—a reflection of the sacrifice

he willingly made in defense of our nation and the freedoms we cherish.

Following his military service, Don joined the Tallahassee Police Department, beginning a distinguished 27-year career in law enforcement. For 17 of those years, he was a homicide detective, including serving as the lead investigator in the Ted Bundy case.

Later in his career, Don served as a Field Training Officer, where he passed on his experience and hard-earned knowledge to the next generation of officers.

Don served for several years as president of the Optimist Club of Tallahassee, continuing his lifelong dedication to community and supporting others.

Yet Don was far more than his uniform or badge. He embraced life with energy and curiosity. He was a judo champion, a skilled pilot, a motorcycle enthusiast, and a competitive dog trainer.

He is survived by his wife, Diane Bean Patchen; his daughter, Dr. Kim Al-Mayyah, and her husband, Hayder; his son, Bubba Carver, and his wife, Jenna; his daughter, Ragan Simpson, and her spouse, Paige; and his niece, Angela Reynolds.

Mr. Speaker, as we mark 250 years of American independence, we are reminded that our nation's story is carried forward by men and women like Don Patchen—those who answered the call to serve and who continued that service long after their formal duty ended. Because of lives like his, our nation is stronger, and our gratitude is deeper.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF STEVEN DUANE WALLACE

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 10, 2026

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life and legacy of Steven Duane Wallace of Brandon, Mississippi. Steven was a lifelong resident of Rankin County and graduated from Mississippi State University in 1998. Following graduation, he taught and coached basketball at Pelahatchie and Simpson Academy before venturing into the insurance industry. In 2001, he opened Insurance Associates of Rankin County where he began his career of more than twenty-five years devoted to providing his insureds with personal, committed, and exceptional service.

Steven was dedicated to his wife Charity and his children Reagan and Wilkes. Whether with soccer, t-ball, baseball, football, or basketball, Steven was always eager to assist in coaching teams, especially recreational football for his son. He had no greater pride than watching his sons compete.

I was honored to have Steven as my landlord for my Brandon District Office. It was a joy to work with him. I am thankful for the legacy of faithfulness to his family that Steven leaves for others to see. He is missed.

• 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.

HONORING BARRY E. BOYER

HON. VICTORIA SPARTZ

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 10, 2026

Mrs. SPARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Barry E. Boyer, a remarkable Navy and Vietnam War veteran and long-time resident of Marion, Indiana. His life is defined by his patriotism and service to both our community and nation.

At just nineteen years old, Mr. Boyer enlisted in the United States Navy on July 5th of 1966. His service took him to the Great Lakes Naval Station where he completed nine weeks of basic training. Mr. Boyer was then assigned to the USS *Pickaway* (APA 222) and began his four-year tour of duty around Southeast Asia.

Following his promotion to Second Class Petty Officer, Mr. Boyer received orders to serve as a replacement for one of the twenty-five US Navy personnel that heroically lost their lives aboard the USS *Westchester County* (LST-1167). The ship was anchored in the Saigon River Basin in Vietnam, when Viet Cong frogman placed deadly mines on the ship's hull. The explosions marked the single greatest loss of Navy personnel during the Vietnam War.

Mr. Boyer spent his final sixteen months on two tours of duty in and out of enemy waters in South Vietnam. He served with the US Navy until March 13th of 1970, carrying the memory and honor of those that sacrificed their lives. Following his honorable discharge, Mr. Boyer returned to Marion, Indiana. He went on to serve at the United States Postal Service, continuing his passion for public service.

It was in Marion that Mr. Boyer met Reta Painter Boyer of Fairmount, Indiana, and married her. Together, they have raised two daughters, Jennifer and Janelle, and built their family based on the ideals of both faith and service. Mr. Boyer retired from the United States Post Office in 2003, after years of dedicated service. As described by his loved ones, Mr. Boyer has continued to be a patriot and humble servant of the Lord.

On behalf of Indiana's 5th District, I commend Mr. Boyer for his courage and commitment to others. His contributions reflect true American patriotism.

RECOGNIZING THE UNITED WAY
OF ST. FRANCOIS COUNTY

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 10, 2026

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise The United Way of St. Francois County for working to help its neighbors in need for 30 years.

Established in 1995 as the "Farmington United Fund," the group expanded its reach in 1996 and changed its name. Since then, The United Way of St. Francois County has brought hope and help by funding local agencies that meet basic needs. From food pantries and senior centers to homeless shelters and backpack programs, the United Way has

met the most basic human needs of food, shelter, health, education and social welfare services.

The United Way raises money through local fundraisers like Derby Day and Dine Out for United Way. The annual bell-ringing campaign brings the community together for more than 900 hours to ring bells at wishing wells throughout the county, drawing attention to the organization's mission and taking donations during the holiday season. This year, The United Way of St. Francois County provided more than \$98,000 in grants to 24 local non-profit groups.

Since its founding, the United Way has been governed by a board of community leaders, which now includes its president, Leigh Ragsdale, and Executive Director, Ken Curfman.

It is my privilege to congratulate The United Way of St. Francois County as it celebrates 30 years of serving the needs of its neighbors and reflecting the best in community spirit today before the United States House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
OF REAR ADMIRAL RICHARD S.
LOFGREN, UNITED STATES NAVY

HON. JAKE ELLZEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 10, 2026

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize a proud son of Texas and an exceptional leader, Rear Admiral Richard S. Lofgren, on his retirement from the United States Navy. For over three decades, he faithfully served our Nation, first as a surface warfare officer and eventually as the Acting Chief of Navy Reserve and Acting Commander, Navy Reserve Force.

Commitment to service runs deep in his family. A proud 1993 graduate of The University of Texas at Austin, Rear Admiral Lofgren earned his commission through the Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps and followed in the footsteps of his father and grandfather, who were both Naval Aviators. His career can be characterized simply: he answers the call.

Rear Admiral Lofgren began his active-duty career assigned to the USS *WASP* (LHD-1), where he completed critical deployments in support of Operation Uphold Democracy in Haiti and Operation Joint Resolve in the Balkans. These missions, undertaken far from home, reflect our Nation's commitment to safeguarding liberty wherever it is threatened.

On September 11, 2001, a day that forever changed our Nation, he answered the call by affiliating with the Navy Reserve, embarking on a distinguished career of strategic leadership and operational excellence across the fleet. Like so many patriots moved by that tragic day, he chose service over comfort, and duty over ease, proving once again that America's strength lies in those willing to defend her.

Throughout his time in the Navy Reserve, he commanded at numerous levels, excelling in maritime expeditionary, coastal riverine, and surface warfare missions. When asked to assume the immense responsibility of Acting Chief of Navy Reserve, Rear Admiral Lofgren did so with characteristic selflessness. Once again, he answered the call.

Leaving behind his civilian career as a Managing Director in Assets and Wealth Management at Goldman Sachs with merely one day's notice, he moved from Dallas, Texas to the halls of the Pentagon.

Like many who don the cloth of the Nation, he never imagined he would still be serving thirty years after first joining the Navy. Each new tour was an opportunity to demonstrate servant leadership and continue upholding an oath to the Constitution. In reflecting on his final uniformed leadership role, he regarded the time as a humbling opportunity to shine a light on the incredible teammates who serve alongside him. His service reflects the enduring strength of the American spirit and the unwavering belief that our Nation's ideals are worth defending.

A successful career never occurs in a vacuum, absent of support and sacrifice. His rapid transition to Washington, D.C. combined with decades of continued service, stands as a profound testament to his wife, Jennifer. Her steadfast support, resilience, and dedication have been the foundation of his career, reminding us all that military service is a true family commitment.

That proud legacy of service now continues with the next generation—a fourth generation of Navy service. Their son, Lieutenant Junior Grade Richard J. Lofgren, recently qualified in submarine warfare and is on active duty with the silent service, stewarding the most critical and survivable part of our nuclear arsenal, and demonstrating our Nation's commitment to peace through strength.

Mr. Speaker, Rear Admiral Lofgren's career reflects a sustained commitment to operational excellence, to the defense of the United States, and to freedom writ large. On behalf of a grateful Nation and my fellow Texans, I extend my deepest gratitude to Rear Admiral Richard S. Lofgren and his family for their unwavering dedication, leadership, and decades of sacrifice for the United States of America.

As they conclude this remarkable chapter of their lives, I wish him, Jennifer, and their entire family fair winds and following seas. May their legacy continue to inspire future generations to serve, protect, and cherish the ideals that make our Nation exceptional.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
RAMIRO "RAM" CHAVEZ

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 10, 2026

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable life and service of Mr. Ramiro "Ram" Chavez, a decorated Vietnam War veteran, educator, musician, and pillar of the Corpus Christi community.

Mr. Chavez proudly served in the United States Army from 1967 to 1969. As a combat medic with the 199th Infantry Brigade in Vietnam, he treated wounded soldiers during intense fighting, including the Tet Offensive. Among his many military honors, he earned the Combat Medical Badge, the Silver Star, the Bronze Star with "V" for valor, and the Purple Heart.

Upon returning home to Corpus Christi, Texas, Mr. Chavez remained deeply committed to his community. He earned a bachelor's in music education from Texas A&M—