

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE OF NATHAN MATTHEWS

HON. JEFF HURD

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 17, 2026

Mr. HURD of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Nathan Matthews, a wildland firefighter who gave his life protecting western Colorado.

Nate was serving with the Rifle Helitack crew on June 28, 2026, when the Knowles Fire suddenly overtook his team during initial attack operations in Mesa County.

Three of his fellow firefighters—Emily Barker, Nick Hutcherson, and Sydney Watson—were killed that day.

Nate survived the burnover and fought for nearly a month, but on July 25, 2026, he succumbed to his injuries. He was 43 years old.

Wildland firefighters go toward danger when everyone else is trying to get away. Nate did that for people he had never met, in a community far from his own.

His courage, and the courage of those who served beside him, deserves our lasting gratitude.

May God bless Nate's family, his crew, and all who mourn him.

HONORING THE LIFE, SERVICE, AND LEGACY OF WORLD WAR II NAVY VETERAN AND USS *INDIANAPOLIS* SURVIVOR ROBERT P. GAUSE

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 17, 2026

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life, service, and enduring legacy of Robert P. Gause, a proud World War II Navy Veteran, survivor of the USS *Indianapolis*, and lifelong resident of the Tarpon Springs community. Robert P. Gause was a member of a generation of Americans whose courage, sacrifice, and devotion to country helped preserve the freedoms we enjoy today. A 1938 graduate of Tarpon Springs High School, Robert answered our Nation's call to service during World War II and served honorably in the United States Navy.

His service placed him aboard the USS *Indianapolis*, and his survival of one of the most tragic events in the history of the United States Navy forever made him part of an extraordinary brotherhood. In July of 1945, after completing a secret mission that played an important role in bringing World War II to an end, the USS *Indianapolis* was struck by Japanese torpedoes and sank in the Philippine Sea. Robert was among those who survived the

sinking and the harrowing days that followed. The courage required to endure such an unimaginable ordeal is difficult for those of us who were not there to fully comprehend. Yet, like so many members of the Greatest Generation, Robert returned home and devoted himself not to seeking recognition, but to building a family, strengthening his community, and helping others. Robert spent his life in the Tarpon Springs area, where he became known not simply for what he had survived, but for the kind of man he chose to be.

He was a man of deep faith, a longtime member of First United Methodist Church, and someone whose generosity left a lasting impression on those fortunate enough to know him. He was also a member of the Old Timers Club and remained connected to his fellow USS *Indianapolis* survivors. The memories shared following Robert's passing paint the picture of a man who quietly made his community better. Friends remembered a welcoming home, his kindness toward families who needed help, and his willingness to encourage young people as they pursued their futures. One particularly powerful story came from a young Navy Veteran who approached Robert in 1968 seeking help financing his college education. Robert provided him with a \$600 loan and never charged him a penny of interest. That young Veteran went on to graduate from the University of South Florida and never forgot the generosity Robert showed him. That story tells us a great deal about Robert Gause. His service to others did not end when he took off his Navy uniform. It continued throughout his life, through his family, his faith, his friendships, and the countless acts of kindness that often occurred without fanfare or recognition. Robert and his beloved wife, Norma Neal, shared 67 years of marriage and raised a wonderful family. At the time of his passing in 2008 at the age of 88, his legacy extended to four children, 12 grandchildren, and 19 great-grandchildren.

As someone who had been blessed to represent the Tarpon Springs community and who considers serving our Nation's Veterans one of the greatest honors of my life, I believe we have a solemn responsibility to ensure that stories like Robert's are never forgotten.

The history of the USS *Indianapolis* is not simply a chapter in a history book. It is the story of real Americans who answered the call of duty, endured unimaginable hardship, and demonstrated extraordinary courage in defense of our Nation. Robert P. Gause was one of those Americans. His life reminds us that the legacy of the Greatest Generation was not built only on what its members accomplished on battlefields and at sea. It was also built in the decades that followed, as they returned home, raised families, built businesses, strengthened churches and civic organizations, mentored younger generations, and quietly made their communities better places to live. Robert did all of those things. Although he has been gone for many years, his legacy remains alive in his family, in the Tarpon

Springs community he loved, and in the history of the USS *Indianapolis* and the United States Navy.

We owe Robert and his fellow Veterans a debt that can never fully be repaid. But we can honor that debt by remembering their names, telling their stories, caring for their fellow Veterans, and ensuring future generations understand the tremendous price that has been paid for our freedom. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and legacy of World War II Navy Veteran and USS *Indianapolis* survivor Robert P. Gause. May his service and sacrifice never be forgotten, and may God continue to bless his family, our Veterans, and the United States of America.

CONGRATULATING JAMES HENSEL, 2026 FMI STORE MANAGER AWARDS GRAND PRIZE WINNER

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 17, 2026

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate and recognize James Hensel, store manager of Oregon Dairy in Lititz, Pennsylvania, as a 2026 FMI Store Manager Awards Grand Prize Winner.

The FMI Store Manager Awards, given by FMI, The Food Industry Association, recognize outstanding grocery store managers who generate sales growth, communicate effectively, lead strong teams, provide exceptional customer service, and contribute to their communities.

James Hensel was one of three American small retail managers chosen for this prestigious award. James has worked for the family-owned Oregon Dairy store for 35 years, beginning as produce manager and perishable manager before being promoted to store manager three years ago.

During his time with Oregon Dairy, James created a full-scale lawn and garden department, expanded Oregon Dairy's private brand program, helped launch their highly profitable sushi station, and implemented its loyalty program. With the knowledge and contributions that he provides, James is an integral member of the Oregon Dairy staff and is seen as a mentor by the rest of the team.

Having dedicated 35 years to making Oregon Dairy one of the premier retailers in the region, James is a fitting recipient of the 2026 FMI Store Manager Award. I am pleased that both the store and James are receiving nationwide recognition, and I look forward to his continued impact on our community.

● 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.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MINNESOTA VALLEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

HON. KELLY MORRISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 17, 2026

Ms. MORRISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, alongside my colleague Representative ANGIE CRAIG, to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge—an extraordinary conservation achievement in the heart of Minnesota. Established in 1976, the refuge has become a national model for habitat restoration, wildlife protection, and community engagement.

As noted in the RECORD ten years ago, the refuge “provides vital habitat for migratory waterfowl, fish, and other species,” and remains “a wonderful example of Minnesota’s commitment to conservation and the environment.” Those words continue to ring true.

Today the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge spans nearly 15,000 acres and stretches more than 70 miles along the Minnesota River from Bloomington to Henderson, Minnesota. Its wetlands, floodplain forests, prairies, and restored oak savannas support hundreds of species of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and pollinators. The refuge also manages more than 8,000 acres of Waterfowl Production Areas, providing a fertile nesting habitat for waterfowl and offering Minnesotans abundant hunting and fishing opportunities.

The refuge welcomes hundreds of thousands of visitors each year for wildlife observation, photography, hunting, fishing, environmental education, and interpretation. Its visitor centers in Bloomington and Carver serve as gateways to nature for families, community groups, and first-time public-lands users. The refuge also provides outdoor learning experiences for thousands of students annually, offering hands-on environmental education that connects young people to Minnesota’s natural heritage.

Conservation work at the refuge has expanded significantly over the past five decades. Staff use prescribed fire, invasive species control, biological monitoring, and large-scale habitat restoration to maintain and improve ecological health. They collaborate closely with private landowners, watershed districts, local governments, and state agencies, strengthening habitat across the entire Minnesota River Valley.

Equally essential are the refuge’s volunteers, who contribute tens of thousands of hours each year to habitat restoration, visitor services, trail work, wildlife surveys, and education programs. Their dedication reflects the deep stewardship ethic that defines Minnesota’s relationship with its natural resources.

Mr. Speaker, the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge stands as a testament to what federal, state, and local partners—working alongside committed volunteers—can accomplish together. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring 50 years of service by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the many community members who ensure that this remarkable refuge will continue to inspire future generations.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF SHERIFF FREDERICK W. BROWN’S CAREER IN LAW ENFORCEMENT

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 17, 2026

Mr. KEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sheriff Frederick W. Brown of Hunterdon County, New Jersey, as he marks the 50th anniversary of his distinguished career in law enforcement.

Sheriff Brown began his journey in 1976 as a patrolman with the Raritan Township Police Department, following his service in the U.S. Naval Reserve. Sheriff Brown rose through the ranks, serving the department for more than 30 years and ultimately leading as Chief of Police for seven years. His dedication has inspired all four of his sons to pursue careers as Police Officers.

A lifelong resident of Hunterdon County, Sheriff Brown was elected as Hunterdon County Sheriff in 2010. Throughout his five decades of law enforcement service, he has consistently exemplified what it means to serve and protect. In office, Sheriff Brown has embraced a philosophy of “doing more with less,” tirelessly focusing on community service and maintaining accessibility, as reflected in his commitment that “his door is always open, and his phone is always on.”

Beyond his law enforcement duties, Sheriff Brown has served his community in many other roles, including as a member of the Raritan Township Planning Board, Emergency Management Coordinator, and as a member of the Flemington Rotary Club. He is a current member and former President of the Hunterdon County Association of Chiefs of Police and the State Chiefs Association.

Sheriff Brown also belongs to the Constitutional Officers Association of New Jersey, the Sheriffs Association of New Jersey, and the National Sheriff’s Association, and serves as chairman of the Hunterdon County Youth Services Commission.

Throughout his tenure as Sheriff, he has championed and expanded numerous public service programs, including Project Lifesaver, the Special Needs Registry, scam alert presentations, and the Child ID program. Recognizing the importance of student safety, he established seven Special Law Enforcement Officers who provide security in seven schools across the county.

Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Sheriff Frederick Brown’s 50 years in law enforcement, I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring his dedication, leadership, professionalism, and public service. We extend our heartfelt congratulations on this remarkable milestone and wish Sheriff Brown continued success.

CELEBRATING SHANTANU NARAYEN’S ESTEEMED CAREER

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 17, 2026

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Shantanu Narayen on his 18-year

tenure as CEO of Adobe, one of the largest software systems in the world, which is proudly headquartered in San Jose, California.

Born in Hyderabad, India, he came to the United States to earn his master’s degree in computer science from Bowling Green State University and later an MBA from the UC Berkeley Haas School of Business. He held leadership roles at Apple and Silicon Graphics before co-founding Picta, an early photo-sharing startup, in 1996.

In 1998, Mr. Narayen joined Adobe as Senior VP of Worldwide Product Development. He rose through the ranks, becoming President and Chief Operating Officer in 2005 and Chief Executive Officer in 2007.

During Mr. Narayen’s tenure as CEO of Adobe, the company has become massively successful, being named to Forbes’ Most Innovative Companies list and joining the Fortune 500 for the first time ever in 2018. Adobe also expanded its mark on San Jose in 2023, opening the 18-story Founders Tower, the first all-electric building of its size in Silicon Valley. Adobe has also invested in San Jose through the Adobe Foundation and its Hometown Commitment, donating millions of dollars and thousands of volunteer hours to San Jose nonprofits.

Mr. Narayen has received high praise for his executive leadership, being listed among Barron’s World’s Best CEOs and one of the Top CEOs on Glassdoor based on employee feedback. Additionally, he received the Padma Shri award in 2019, one of the highest civilian honors in India.

In addition to his leadership in the tech industry, Mr. Narayen is vice chairman of the United States-India Strategic Partnership Forum.

I am grateful for his service, his vision, and his commitment to San Jose and the United States’ technological leadership. I congratulate Shantanu Narayen on 18 remarkable years at the helm of Adobe, and I wish him continued success as he begins this next chapter.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF REPRESENTATIVE KAY GRANGER

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 17, 2026

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life and legacy of The Honorable Kay Granger of Texas. Representative Granger was a trailblazer. She was the first Republican woman elected to Congress from Texas and the first woman to chair the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense. During her tenure as the first Republican woman to chair the House Appropriations Committee, she also made history as part of the first all-female four-corners of Appropriations leadership. Her legacy will be measured both by the historic barriers she broke and the many bipartisan agreements she led.

I had the privilege of serving alongside Chairwoman Granger on the Appropriations Committee for many years, including during her time leading the Defense Subcommittee. Kay was a fierce advocate for our men and women in uniform. She understood that funding the Department of Defense was a direct