

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING CARLOS AND
ELIZABETH MUNOZ

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 20, 2026

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two outstanding members of our community, Carlos and Elizabeth Munoz, as our Constituents of the Month.

Carlos and Elizabeth are the founders of Jr's Trauma Care Initiative, a non-profit organization that connects individuals and families to mental health services. Jr's Trauma Care Initiative also provides critical outreach initiatives, including a mentorship for at-risk youth, camps to help children develop the skills they need to thrive, and response teams that provide peer-to-peer support and guidance to communities in the wake of a traumatic event.

Carlos and Elizabeth opened Jr's Trauma Care Initiative in memory of their son, Juan Carlos Munoz, Jr., who was killed in a random act of violence in 2015. He was an eighteen-year-old with a bright future. He aspired to become a mental health professional and help others.

After his death, his family found that services were not easily available. They created Jr's Trauma Care Initiative to be part of the solution and ensure that families and individuals seeking support and care have access to the resources they need.

Carlos and Elizabeth have made a lasting impact on our communities through their tireless work to connect individuals with trauma-informed care, mental health resources, mentoring programs, and a safe space to process, heal, and grow. They have made California's 52nd Congressional District stronger and touched so many lives.

It is a privilege to recognize Carlos and Elizabeth Munoz's service to our community as well as honor the life and legacy of their son, Juan Carlos Munoz, Jr. He will always be remembered.

CELEBRATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BUFFALO CHORAL ARTS SOCIETY

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 20, 2026

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the Buffalo Choral Arts Society, which is proudly celebrating its sixtieth anniversary. Founded in 1965 by Buffalo native, Mr. Robert F. Schulz, the society has spent six decades enriching the cultural life of the community through outstanding choral performances, artistic excellence, and a deep commitment to the power of music.

For six decades, the Buffalo Choral Arts Society has demonstrated unwavering dedication

to its students, the arts, and the Western New York community, highlighting the talents of one hundred and thirty vocal performers throughout the region by offering a diverse mixture of classical masterworks, contemporary compositions, and popular choral selections. Through its commitment to artistic excellence, music education, and community engagement, the society has inspired audiences and fostered a lasting appreciation for the choral arts across generations.

Through consistent instruction, performances, and mentorship, the society has supported generations of artists in developing discipline, confidence, and creative expression. Over the course of its distinguished sixty-year history, the Buffalo Choral Arts Society has benefited from the leadership and vision of four dedicated conductors: Mr. Robert F. Schulz, Mr. John Ricca, Ms. Marcia A. Giambrone, and currently, Mr. David Curtis. Each conductor has played an important role in shaping the organization's growth, musical excellence, and enduring legacy within the Western New York community.

Today, we honor 60 years of commitment to the arts and look ahead to the many years of entertainment still to come. The Buffalo Choral Arts Society's work has touched countless lives. The organization's commitment to excellence in vocal arts has not only elevated voices within our community but has created meaningful opportunities for students to grow both on and off the stage.

HONORING NEW BALTIMORE 2026
CITIZEN OF THE YEAR JOHN J.
DAILEY

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 20, 2026

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John J. Dailey, a longtime New Baltimore resident and the City of New Baltimore's 2026 Citizen of the Year.

For more than five decades, John has dedicated his time and talents to strengthening the communities he calls home. As a professional community planner, he has helped Macomb County plan for the future and grow, working with local governments, businesses, and residents on planning, zoning, and community development.

However, John's commitment to service extends well beyond his professional career. He has spent decades giving back to New Baltimore, serving on the Planning Commission, the Board of Review, and the Board of Zoning Appeals. He has also supported organizations throughout the community and has spent nearly 30 years coaching softball at Regina High School.

John's dedication to New Baltimore and his willingness to give his time, experience, and energy to others are exactly what make a community strong. His recognition as Citizen

of the Year is a fitting tribute to a lifetime of public service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating John J. Dailey on being named New Baltimore's 2026 Citizen of the Year and in thanking him for all he has done for the community he is proud to call home.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MAJOR
JEFFREY "JEFF" O'BRIEN

HON. ZACHARY NUNN

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 20, 2026

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Major Jeffrey "Jeff" O'Brien of Waukee, Iowa, who was killed on March 1, 2026, in an Iranian drone strike while deployed to Kuwait with the 103rd Sustainment Command. Jeff was 45 years old, and he left behind a life defined by service to his country, devotion to his family, and a deep and quiet faith.

Jeff was born on October 13, 1980, and grew up on a farm near Coggon, Iowa, the oldest of three brothers. He was a star athlete, served his church and community, and played saxophone in the jazz and pop bands. He was also a lifelong Cubs fan who, through every tough season but one, could always fall back on the same line: "Well, there's always next year."

After graduating from North-Linn High School in 1999, Jeff followed his interests to Iowa State University, where he earned a degree in Computer Engineering and built a career in cybersecurity. Ames is also where he met Roxane, the love of his life, whom he married in 2009. Together they spent the next sixteen years building a life and raising their three children, Samira, Nicolette, and Conor.

For all Jeff accomplished, nothing made him prouder than being a husband and dad. He coached Conor in track, cheered Niki on at her gymnastics meets, and became a proud music and theater dad to Sami, who followed in his footsteps and picked up the saxophone.

Whether the O'Briens were traveling, exploring the outdoors, or simply together at home, Jeff's favorite place in the world was at Roxane's side and among his kids.

Jeff brought that same devotion to the U.S. Army Reserve. After completing Federal Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, he was commissioned as a Signal Corps officer in 2012 and later served as an Information Systems Engineer. He deployed to Kuwait in 2019 and rose to the rank of Major with the 103rd Sustainment Command.

His service earned the Army Achievement Medal, the Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal.

Jeff dedicated his life to protecting others: through his work in cybersecurity, his service in uniform, and simply by being the husband, father, and friend people could count on. As

• 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.

someone who has served far from my own family, I know the quiet weight a soldier carries when duty calls him thousands of miles from home. Jeff carried it without complaint, and even half a world away, he never stopped finding ways to care for the people he loved.

Jeff is survived by his wife, Roxane; his children, Samira, Nicolette, and Conor; his parents, Dan and Helen; his brothers, David and Greg; and the many relatives, friends, and fellow soldiers who will carry his memory forward.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Major Jeffrey O'Brien—a devoted husband, father, soldier, and proud Iowan who gave his life in service to our Nation—and in keeping the O'Brien family and the families of every soldier lost in that attack in our prayers. Iowa will never forget his sacrifice.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOUTH BUFFALO DANCE ACADEMY

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 20, 2026

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the South Buffalo Dance Academy, which is proudly celebrating its golden anniversary in its fiftieth year. Founded in 1976 by Mrs. Eleanor Donovan Gilson with just one small dance studio and a handful of students, Mrs. Gilson offered a welcoming space for community members of all ages to discover a passion for movement, find their own beat, and express themselves.

For half a century, South Buffalo Dance Academy has demonstrated unwavering dedication to its students, the arts, and the Western New York community, highlighting the talents of performers throughout the region by offering a mixture of modern and contemporary dance training. Thousands of students have come through its doors, each contributing to the vibrant legacy of the academy. Many alumni have gone on to successful careers as professional dancers and choreographers and often return to the studio to visit and teach. South Buffalo Dance Academy has also earned numerous awards at competitions locally and nationally, recognizing the talent, technical ability, flexibility, and creativity showcased in its routines.

Through consistent instruction, performances, and mentorship, the academy has supported generations of young artists in developing discipline, confidence, and creative expression, while offering a welcoming space for community members of all ages to discover a passion for movement, find their own beat, and express themselves in a true “home away from home.”

Today, we honor 50 years of commitment to the arts and look ahead to the many years of entertainment still to come. The South Buffalo Dance Academy's work has touched countless lives. Their commitment to excellence in dance has not only elevated the arts within our community but has created meaningful opportunities for students to grow both on and off the stage.

HONORING QUEEN MOTHER DR. KATHLEEN HARMON

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 20, 2026

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary leader, humanitarian, and champion for justice, Queen Mother Dr. Kathleen Harmon, in celebration of her 95th birthday.

A true San Diego icon, Queen Mother Dr. Harmon has devoted her life to service and uplifting our neighbors. Queen Mother Dr. Harmon has worn many hats—nurse, social worker, and advocate, but community is always at the heart of everything she does.

Queen Mother Dr. Harmon is the founder and guiding force behind the San Diego Peace Coalition. Through this work, Queen Mother Dr. Harmon has brought together community leaders, faith organizations, educators, elected officials, young people, and advocates to collaborate on addressing our most pressing challenges. She has worked tirelessly to advance initiatives to promote peace, combat gun violence, increase educational opportunity, and foster dialogue across diverse communities.

Queen Mother Dr. Harmon is also a respected spiritual leader who has touched many lives. Her guidance has helped shape community initiatives, inspired civic engagement, and encouraged others to dedicate themselves to lives of purpose and compassion.

On this milestone occasion, we celebrate Queen Mother Dr. Kathleen Harmon and her unwavering commitment to bettering our communities. Her remarkable journey stands as a testament to the enduring power of faith, perseverance, and selfless service.

I am honored to recognize her for her incredible work and the indelible mark she's left on San Diego, California, and beyond.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BERLIN TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. LISA C. MCCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 20, 2026

Mrs. MCCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Berlin Township Fire Department on its 50th anniversary. For five decades, the department has proudly answered the call whenever its neighbors need them most.

This milestone is a well-deserved opportunity to recognize the excellence and dedication that have defined the department throughout its history. From responding to emergencies to supporting families in times of need, Berlin Township firefighters have worked tirelessly to keep their community safe. I thank the firefighters, officers, and staff for their bravery in the face of danger and their unwavering commitment to those they serve.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Berlin Township Fire Department and recognizing its outstanding record of service. I congratulate

late them on this important milestone, and wish them the best in many more years of protecting and serving Berlin Township.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SERGEANT DECLAN COADY

HON. ZACHARY NUNN

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 20, 2026

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Sergeant Declan Coady of West Des Moines, Iowa, who was killed on March 1, 2026, in an Iranian drone strike while deployed to Kuwait with the 103rd Sustainment Command. Declan was just 20 years old. In a life cut far too short, he showed a rare devotion to service, to his country, and to the family he loved.

Declan was born on May 5, 2005, in Manassas, Virginia, the third child of Andrew and Katherine Coady. He grew up in West Des Moines alongside his siblings, Aidan, Keira, and Rowan. The Coady's spent their time camping in our national parks, hiking, rafting, and exploring the outdoors. Declan and his brothers all earned the rank of Eagle Scout, but ever competitive, he set out to earn the most merit badges—and finished with 56.

After graduating from Valley High School in 2023, Declan enrolled at Drake University to study information systems, cybersecurity, and computer science. He also enlisted in the Army Reserve, completing Basic Combat Training at Fort Sill in March 2024 and Advanced Individual Training that July.

At Drake, Declan joined ROTC and faced a choice that says more about his character than any words could. He could have signed an ROTC contract and stayed home when his unit deployed. Instead, he chose to go with the soldiers he had trained beside. In August 2025, he deployed to Kuwait with the 103rd Sustainment Command.

His family could hear in every call home how much his service meant to him. Even from halfway around the world, he made time to play video games with Aidan and to talk with his parents, Keira, and Rowan about their lives and their plans for the future. He dreamed of becoming an officer, talked about extending his deployment and going on to active duty, and stayed enrolled at Drake the whole time—studying online from Kuwait, an ocean away from campus.

Declan had his whole life ahead of him. Yet at just 20, he had already made a choice generations of Americans before him had made: when his country called, he answered, and when his fellow soldiers deployed, he chose to stand beside them. I have served beside men and women who made that same choice, and it tells you everything about the kind of person Declan was.

Declan is survived by his parents, Andrew and Katherine; his siblings, Aidan, Keira, and Rowan; his grandparents, Larry and Sandra Coady; and the many relatives, friends, classmates, and fellow soldiers who will carry his memory forward.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Sergeant Declan Coady, a devoted son and brother, a soldier, and a proud Iowan who gave his life in service to our Nation. May we keep the Coady family and all