

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COMMEMORATING THE INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST NUCLEAR TESTS AND THE CLOSURE OF THE SEMIPALATINSK NUCLEAR TEST SITE

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 27, 2026

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the International Day Against Nuclear Tests.

August 29, 2026, marks 35 years since Kazakhstan's historic decision to close the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site. In tribute to that decision, the United Nations General Assembly unanimously designated August 29 as the International Day Against Nuclear Tests in 2009, drawing global attention to the devastating human and environmental consequences of nuclear testing.

This milestone reflects Kazakhstan's sustained commitment to nuclear nonproliferation, international oversight, and practical security cooperation, including its close partnership with the United States.

The consequences of nuclear testing are deeply understood in both our countries. 1,054 U.S. nuclear tests, over 200 of which were atmospheric, exposed servicemembers, workers, and downwind communities to radioactive fallout. At Semipalatinsk, 456 Soviet nuclear tests between 1949 and 1989 exposed over 1 million people and left a lasting human and environmental toll.

The Nevada-Semipalatinsk Movement, which united citizens affected by nuclear testing in Kazakhstan and the United States, helped generate the public momentum necessary to end testing at the site.

After inheriting the world's fourth-largest nuclear arsenal, Kazakhstan voluntarily relinquished those weapons and chose security through diplomacy, international cooperation, and nonproliferation.

The United States was a close partner in this historic transformation. Through the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction Program, our countries eliminated weapons and delivery systems, dismantled nuclear infrastructure, sealed test tunnels, and secured dangerous materials. Project Sapphire alone removed nearly 600 kilograms of highly enriched uranium from Kazakhstan.

Kazakhstan has continued to put these principles into practice. It hosted two rounds of P5+1 negotiations with Iran in 2013, supported implementation of the 2015 nuclear agreement, and now hosts the IAEA Low Enriched Uranium Bank at the Ulba Metallurgical Plant.

Mr. Speaker, when a country takes responsible actions, we should ensure to highlight it as a good thing. The closure of the Semipalatinsk Test Site, Kazakhstan's efforts to denuclearize, and the creation of the International Day Against Nuclear Tests prove that nonproliferation is not an abstract aspiration, but a practical instrument of national security and diplomatic problem-solving.

HONORING AUGUSTUS "GUS" TART

HON. JIMMY PATRONIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 27, 2026

Mr. PATRONIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to early Northwest Florida pioneers who settled the land in the little spot of earth that would later become Shalimar, Florida. Augustus "Gus" Tart's story embodies a remarkable chapter of Florida history. His legacy from his humble beginnings to becoming a social and political force in the county will long be remembered.

Gus was born into slavery in South Carolina in 1840. By way of traveling through Andalusia, Alabama, he later made his home along Garnier's Bayou in Walton County, Florida, before his property became part of the newly created Okaloosa County.

Following the emancipation from slavery, he registered to vote in Walton County in 1867. He became a local farmer, was the chief cook for the T.C. Brooks family who founded Fort Walton Beach, and built a life as a respected outdoorsman, hunting and fishing guide, host, and community figure. In 1903 he made his land ownership a reality. After applying for a land grant under the Federal Homestead Act, he was awarded a 135.5-acre federal land patent by the United States Government. "Gus' Place" as it was the called, now includes important public and civic places in Shalimar, including areas associated with Meigs Middle School, the Shalimar Library, the Okaloosa courthouse annex and country administration building, and surrounding neighborhoods.

Gus and his life on the bayou were remembered as an important part of the community's history. His reputation extended far beyond the local fishing grounds, and he became known as a trusted adviser to politicians, community leaders, and those seeking success in business. People from across the region sought out "Old Gus" for his counsel, friendship, and approval.

Among those who spent time with Gus were governors, U.S. senators, congressmen, judges, and county and state leaders. Many considered it an honor to call him a friend. Visitors would often join Gus on his boat for a day of fishing, returning to shore to enjoy a meal as Gus prepared their catch. Through these gatherings, Gus became not only a respected figure in the community but also a beloved host whose knowledge, generosity, and character left a lasting impression. In the fall of 1915, Gus fell ill and had his last will and testament prepared. Although he raised two sons, he appreciated the Brooks family friendship so much, he left his entire property, all 135.5 acres, to T.C. and Emma Brooks.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and my colleagues in honoring the life of the founding father of Okaloosa County and Shalimar, Florida. His legacy and good work will be long re-

membered. It is my pleasure to support and join in requesting the State of Florida, Department of State, in placing a state Historical Marker at his gravesite so future generations will learn of the life of "Old Gus".

REMEMBERING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DALE GRIFFIN

HON. DONALD G. DAVIS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 27, 2026

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Nash County EMS Director Dale Griffin, who passed away on August 8, 2026. I join the Nash County community in mourning Dale's passing and in remembering his decades of dedicated service to the people of Nash County.

Dale dedicated nearly four decades of his life to emergency medical services and to caring for the people of Nash County. He joined Nash County EMS as a paramedic in 1988 and went on to serve as a training program manager and operations officer before becoming EMS Director in 2023. Throughout his career, Dale demonstrated an unwavering commitment to his profession and to the people he served.

Dale was much more than a dedicated EMS professional. He was a leader, mentor, and friend to generations of emergency medical professionals. He believed in those he worked alongside, invested in their growth, and stood beside them through some of their most difficult moments. He was known for his leadership, kindness, humor, and genuine love for others, which left a lasting impression on Nash County EMS and the broader emergency services community. The careers he helped shape, the patients he served, and the colleagues he mentored are a lasting part of his legacy.

Dale's passing is deeply felt in Nash County and by all those who had the privilege of knowing him. I extend my deepest condolences to his wife, Julie; his daughters, Harlee and Grace; his entire family; and his Nash County EMS family during this difficult time. I hope they find comfort in knowing that Dale's life of service touched countless lives and that his legacy will continue through the people and community he served so faithfully.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and legacy of Dale Griffin and in keeping his loved ones, colleagues, and friends in their thoughts and prayers. His commitment to serving others will not be forgotten, and his legacy will continue to live on in the Nash County EMS community he devoted so much of his life 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.

HONORING COLONEL BRUCE
BREDLOW

HON. BRAD FINSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 27, 2026

Mr. FINSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Col. Bruce Bredlow for more than 30 years of dedicated service to our country. As Col. Bredlow enters retirement, I want to personally thank him for all he has done and sacrificed in service to the American people throughout his decorated military career.

Born and raised in Champlin, Minnesota, Col. Bredlow enlisted in the Army in 1991, and graduated from the Mankato State University ROTC program as a Distinguished Military Graduate. In 1997, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Air Defense Artillery.

At Fort Bliss, Texas, Col. Bredlow served as a platoon leader and battery executive officer in 3-2 ADA, 31st ADA Brigade and later commanded Delta Battery, 1-7 ADA, 108th ADA Brigade and Headquarters, and Headquarters Battery, 108th ADA Brigade.

Throughout his career, Col. Bredlow served the United States at bases around the world, including Japan, Saudi Arabia, Italy, and Germany. His roles included Air and Missile Defense Commander, Joint Operations Center Watch Officer, and Brigade Commander. He is now retiring as ADA Assistant Commandant for the Army at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

He was recognized for this distinguished service with numerous awards and decorations, including the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Army Basic Space Badge, and the parachutist badge.

I wish all the best to Col. Bredlow in his retirement and many happy years to come with his loved ones. Our state and Nation will forever be grateful for his service and dedication to his fellow Americans.

HONORING DR. AMIRA GOHARA
FOR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE IN
ACADEMIC MEDICINE

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 27, 2026

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Dr. Amira Gohara as she, along with our entire Northwest Ohio community, celebrates a remarkable 50 years of service to the University of Toledo and to the greater world of medicine and pathology.

Dr. Gohara's medical and scientific training spans three continents. She earned her Doctor of Medicine at Cairo University in Cairo, Egypt, and completed residencies in clinical pathology with Egypt's Ministry of Health, Oldham General Hospital in the United Kingdom, and with the Medical University of Ohio in Toledo. With special training in immunology from the Medical University of Ohio and in renal pathology at the University of Chicago, she is triple board certified in anatomic pathology, clinical pathology, and immunopathology.

Equally impressive is Dr. Gohara's dedication to teaching and mentoring the next generation of medical professionals at the University of Toledo's College of Medicine and Life Sciences. She has served as Program Director of the Pathology Residency Program, Director of the Medical Student Fellowship, Director of the Pathology Medical Student Clerkship, and Medical Director of the Pathologists' Assistant Program, among other roles guiding students through their medical education. One measure of her impact is her 36 Golden Apple Awards for Teaching Excellence, an unprecedented number of recognitions for her commitment to shaping her students' futures. As her students and mentees continue in their careers, they carry forward Dr. Gohara's enduring legacy.

Dr. Gohara has also taken on significant leadership roles within the University of Toledo, including Dean and Provost of the former Medical College of Ohio (MCO), Interim President of MCO, Dean Emerita of MCO, Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, and Chair of the Department of Pathology. Beyond her institutional leadership, she has been a steadfast champion for medical education, a dedicated advocate for the health of our Northwest Ohio community, and a trailblazer for women in medicine. These roles reflect not only her professional excellence but also her authentic investment in the wellbeing of her students and colleagues alike.

This month, the University of Toledo's College of Medicine and Life Sciences and its Department of Pathology hosted a Festschrift Symposium in her honor. A Festschrift is considered among the highest honors in academia, bringing together distinguished colleagues, former students, and scholars to celebrate the lasting influence of a respected educator and leader—and certainly, Dr. Gohara is deserving of such distinction.

As a physician, pathologist, and educator, Dr. Amira Gohara has shaped the lives of countless individuals—from patients and students to fellow medical professionals and academics—and has left an indelible mark on the culture of academic medicine in Toledo and beyond. She is a remarkable woman and a humanitarian in every sense of the word, quietly, faithfully, compassionately pursuing change.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO
AMEND TITLE 38, UNITED
STATES CODE, TO EXTEND ELI-
GIBILITY FOR SURVIVORS' AND
DEPENDENTS' EDUCATIONAL AS-
SISTANCE TO THE DEPENDENT
PARENT OF A PERSON WHO DIES
OF A SERVICE-CONNECTED DIS-
ABILITY OR HAS A TOTAL AND
PERMANENT SERVICE-CON-
NECTED DISABILITY, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 27, 2026

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce a bill to expand eligibility for the Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program, commonly referred to as Chap-

ter 35 benefits, to dependent parents of servicemembers.

The idea for this bill came from one of my constituents. Currently, the spouses and children of servicemembers who die or become disabled are eligible for Chapter 35 benefits. However, dependent parents of servicemembers are not eligible.

Parents of servicemembers often fill the role of caregiver for the children of servicemembers while they are overseas. Such time commitments make it challenging for these parents to pursue post-secondary education, making it difficult for them to enter the workforce if their child is killed or becomes disabled in service of their country.

This bill would expand the definition of "eligible person" in Chapter 35 to include dependent parents of servicemembers. Granting dependent parents of servicemembers access to Chapter 35 benefits will allow them to gain the necessary skills to enter the workforce and support themselves and other surviving family members.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING THE PLUMSTEAD
TOWNSHIP FIRE AND RESCUE
COMPANY

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 27, 2026

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an important new chapter in the proud tradition of service in Plumstead Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

Last week, Plumstead Township welcomed its first career firefighters: Rachel Brick, Benjamin Morris, Daniel Pfeiffer, and Harley Turner, as the community takes an important step toward strengthening its fire and rescue services.

For generations, Plumstead residents have relied on volunteer firefighters who answered the call to protect their neighbors. The addition of a career crew does not replace that tradition, it builds upon it, giving the community another layer of dependable emergency response while working alongside the Township's dedicated volunteers.

This moment also held personal significance, as lifelong Plumstead resident Judge Jeffrey G. Trauger administered the oath. His late mother, Lois Hunsberger Trauger, served with the Plumsteadville Volunteer Fire Company Auxiliary.

Mr. Speaker, moments like this remind us that public safety is ultimately about people willing to step forward and serve others. I congratulate Plumstead Township's first career firefighters and thank them, Chief William Weigman, Public Safety Director David Mettin, and the Township's volunteer firefighters for their commitment to keeping their neighbors safe.

I also want to recognize the Plumstead Township Board of Supervisors for their leadership and commitment to strengthening public safety, including Chair Matthew Given, Vice Chair Kenneth Lichtenstein, Members Jennifer Moroney, Daniel Hiefert, and Gregory Bankos, as well as Township Manager Stacey Mulholland. Their leadership, along with the dedication of the Township's public safety professionals and volunteers, has helped make this important milestone possible.