

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. JOSEPH D. MORELLE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 2, 2026

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I regrettably missed Roll Call votes No. 191, No. 192, and No. 193 on July 14, 2025. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 191; YEA on Roll Call No. 192; and YEA on Roll Call No. 193.

### REMEMBERING THE LIBERATION OF AUSCHWITZ

#### HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 2, 2026

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following remarks submitted at the request of a Virginia Beach constituent, Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman of Temple Lev Tikvah, which reflect his views:

Dr. Marc Saperstein, distinguished author, rabbi, scholar and professor, taught at Harvard University (where he earned his doctorate), Washington University, George Washington University, and was principal of Leo Baeck College in London, England. Marc's late father, Rabbi Harold Saperstein, served Temple Emanu-El of Lynbrook, New York, from 1933 to 1980. He responded to Nazism early on in 1934 with his sermon, "Call to Battle." Marc's brother Rabbi David Saperstein was the illustrious Director of Reform Judaism's Religious Action Center, as well as the American Ambassador at large for International Religious Freedom. Dr. Saperstein's exhaustive and impressive tome (*Agony in the Pulpit: Jewish Preaching in Response to Nazi Persecution and Mass Murder from 1933 to 1945*) appealed to my searching and critical eye as a family member of the Holocaust's surviving remnant of European Jewry.

Saperstein states, "My book is a rebuttal to the accusation that American Jews in general, and their rabbinic leaders, in particular, remained silent; that they failed to speak out on behalf of the suffering Jews of Europe and were unresponsive to their pleas. It is also a rebuttal to the further accusation that if they had only spoken out, 'the slaughterer would not have succeeded in his task'."

Indeed, it does offer a measure of consolation that American rabbis representing American Jewry as spiritual leaders did not keep silent, raising their agonizing voices when their European brethren were being slaughtered on mass in "civilized" Christian Europe. Not to have spoken would have constituted not only a sin of omission but also one of commission. However, what remains disturbing and perhaps sinful if not unpardonable, is that the well-intentioned pulpit messages of swelling pain could not stop the vast tragedy from unfolding into the destruction of no less than two thirds of European Jewry and one third of world Jewry.

America, however, was silent to our bitter cry for help, which was denied and delayed, rendering it mere words blowing in the wind as if unspoken. We, who have elevated language to divine heights, discovered that Hitler's hateful rhetoric proved more persuasive. The voluminous pulpit sermons serve to glaringly highlight the inability to translate them into concrete action to save fellow Jews, so many, and they relied on us. The failure of rabbinic preaching in the absence of a corresponding successful political campaign to arouse American leaders and particularly FDR toward redemptive action as our people went up in smoke, cannot be eradicated from our collective consciousness and guilty conscience, nor from American colossal failure to stand by basic morality when assailed by barbaric forces aimed at subverting and uprooting the Judeo-Christian heritage of shared humane values that Nazism declared, with good reason, adversarial to Hitler's new "Chosen People" and "Aryan Commandments."

Rabbi Stephen S. Wise's lobbying efforts before FDR, his trusted "friend", and some organized mass rallies and appeals proved futile even as the Allies were aware of the "Final Solution" being actualized. While American anti-Semitism, anti-immigration/refugees and isolationism reigned and presented FDR with tough challenges, he failed to assert Presidential moral leadership allowing us to undergo a crippling genocide, threatening the future Jewish potential and even survivability. No less than a million and a half Jewish children perished in the Shoah. The SS *St. Louis* with its human cargo of mostly 937 Jewish passengers, including children, sailing from Hamburg, Germany, was turned away and back from these shores in May 1939 with disastrous consequences.

The State Department rejected an opportunity to save 1,000 children, arguing that they would become Jewish adults. Bombing the railroads leading to Auschwitz was deemed by FDR a diversion from fighting Nazi Germany even while the Allies, including American planes, were bombing chemical installations nearby. Davis S. Wyman's monumental classic, "The Abandonment of the Jews," (what an apt and shaking title) is a must-read. The New York Times, under Jewish ownership, buried Holocaust events in its back pages. There is a sense of a high conspiracy early on if not to deny the Holocaust, to diminish it.

Saperstein's book corresponds with the world-wide dangerous resurgence of anti-Semitism's alarming specter. It has opened a much-appreciated window to revisiting the costly shortcomings of response, Jewish verbal and American political, in our darkest times, along with hopefully, though not guaranteed, learning from them. The late incomparable Elie Wiesel wrote of his profound disappointment, along with other survivors, that the world failed to learn from the Holocaust given the genocides that followed. The organized American Jewish community is far more effective than it was before WWII, though there are even now limits to its power and influence, always begrudged and enlarged by our detractors. Dare we remember that in 2017 in Charlottesville, Virginia, white supremacists marched Nazi-like without bothering to cover their heads with hoods, shouting, "Jews will not replace us."

Pittsburgh's Tree of Life synagogue was the scene in 2018 of the worst crime against Jews committed on American soil with 11 Jewish worshippers murdered on Shabbat. The Gaza War following the October 7, 2023, ghastly Hamas attack triggered antisemitism on American campuses. The massacre at Bondi Beach, Australia, during the Festival of Chanukah, painfully attests that no place anywhere is safe.

The dreadful "Auschwitz" does not shockingly resonate to an American public's large segment only seventy some years following such grave historical events, despite multiple Holocaust Museums, Holocaust education and world history are essential tools in the never-ending struggle against forgetfulness, ignorance, and prejudice with new genocides rising, each unique and the same. Democracy, any democracy, is but a fragile institution as we witnessed, and its essential safeguards are demanding. The State of Israel, the world's only sovereign Jewish country, built on the Holocaust's ashes, has become a target for those attacking us when powerless and now resenting a measure of Jewish defensive power that we were so tragically lacking when abandoned by the world.

Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman is founder and spiritual leader of Temple Lev Tikvah as well as Honorary Senior Rabbi Scholar at Eastern Shore Chapel Episcopal Church, both in Virginia Beach. His Polish family lost hundreds of members during the Holocaust. He spent his early childhood among Jewish refugees in Kazakhstan, where he was born in 1945, Poland, Austria and Germany before moving to Israel in 1949.

### HONORING THE 70TH BIRTHDAY OF COMMISSIONER RHONDEL B. RHONE

#### HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 2, 2026

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a lifelong public servant and Alabama native, Commissioner Rhondel B. Rhone, who celebrated his 70th Birthday on January 31, 2026.

In 1992, motivated by the pursuit of justice and a deep, abiding love for the people of his community, Commissioner Rhone sought public office with a clear purpose: to serve and uplift the people of Clarke County. Through his immense talents, vision, and work ethic, he was elected to represent District 5 on the Clark County Commission, a role he has carried out with distinction and dedication. From the outset of his tenure, Commissioner Rhone established himself as a steady and principled leader, earning widespread respect for his integrity, sound judgment, and deep commitment to community development.

A dedicated advocate for economic development and empowering underserved communities, Commissioner Rhone has fought tirelessly to ensure that all residents of Clarke County have access to the resources and opportunities they need to succeed. In pursuit of his mission, he became extensively involved

• 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.

with the Association of County Commissions of Alabama (ACCA). Within ACCA, Commissioner Rhone held numerous executive leadership positions, including 2nd Vice President in 2004, Vice President in 2005, and President in 2006. He also served multiple terms on the ACCA Board of Directors, the ACCA Legislative Committee, and the Workers' Compensation Board, where his leadership and insight helped shape policies that impacted countless lives across Alabama.

A true public servant and pillar of the Clarke County Community, Commissioner Rhone has played a key role in numerous regional and community organizations in addition to his work on the Clarke County Commission. Throughout his tenure, he served as Past Chairman and Board Member of the Alabama Tombigbee Regional Board and was an active member of the Ala-Tom Resource Conservation and Development Council, where he served as Secretary and Treasurer. In addition, he served as Chairman of the Board of the Southwest Alabama Community Action Agency, where he further demonstrated his commitment to economic development and support for underserved communities.

On a personal note, I am blessed to be close friends with Commissioner Rhone and his family. As we celebrate Commissioner Rhone on his 70th birthday, we also celebrate his legacy, which is defined by service, leadership, and an unwavering dedication to others. His decades of work have strengthened communities, expanded opportunities, and inspired those who have had the privilege of working alongside him. Commissioner Rhone's impact reaches far beyond titles and offices—it is reflected in the countless lives he has touched. On this special occasion, may we honor not only another year of life but a lifetime of meaningful contributions. I congratulate him on a life well led and happy 70th birthday. Here's to many more years.

On behalf of Alabama's 7th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 70th birthday of an exceptional public servant, Commissioner Rhondel B. Rhone, for his service to Clarke County and the State of Alabama.

CONGRATULATING COACH DAN HOGAN AND COACH LYNN PARMER ON COACHING HONORS

### HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 2, 2026*

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate Cocalico High School's girls' soccer coach, Mr. Dan Hogan, on receiving the 2025 W. Gene Davis Memorial Award as Class 3A girls Coach of the Year by the Pennsylvania Soccer Coaches Association (PSCA). I am equally pleased to recognize his colleague, Mrs. Lynn Parmer, for being named the Assistant Coach of the Year by the PSCA.

The Cocalico Eagles soared under Hogan and Parmer's leadership. During their stellar 20–2–3 season, the girls' soccer team won the Lancaster-Lebanon League section title and advanced to the District Three 3A championship. Beaten in the finals in the previous two years, the Eagles defeated their opponents 3–1 for their first District Three Class 3A title.

The Eagles then made it to the PIAA tournament quarterfinals before falling in overtime to the eventual tournament champions.

Having served as head coach for the last 26 years, Coach Hogan developed a history of success that culminated in their historic 2025 run. The PSCA's W. Gene Davis Memorial Award cements his legacy and marks him as one of the best soccer coaches in the state.

Equally deserving of commendation is Cocalico's Assistant Coach Lynn Parmer. Her significant role in Cocalico's success merited statewide recognition as PSCA's Assistant Coach of the Year for 2025. I congratulate the Cocalico girls' soccer team on their accomplishments in 2025 and coaches Hogan and Parmer, for their well-deserved recognition. I wish them continued success both on and off the field.

### INTRODUCTION OF THE GOLDEN THIRTEEN CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

#### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 2, 2026*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Golden Thirteen Congressional Gold Medal Act. This bill would award a posthumous Congressional Gold Medal to the 13 men who became the first African American commissioned and warrant officers in the United States Navy.

In 1944, the Navy began officer training for 16 African American men. At that time, there were no African American officers in the Navy. These 16 men were expected to complete their officer training in eight weeks, even though officer training was normally 16 weeks.

These 16 men supported each other, including by placing blankets over their windows and studying as a group by flashlight at night. Each brought to the group his own expertise to help the others.

When their officer training was completed, all 16 passed their exams. With some claiming that the group must have cheated, the group was forced to retake certain exams, and the group scored even higher. The average grade for the group was 3.89 out of 4.0, the highest average of any class in Navy history at that time.

Even though all 16 men passed their exams, the Navy commissioned only 12 of the men, and a 13th was made a chief warrant officer. Three returned to the enlisted ranks, with no reason given by the Navy.

During the men's careers, they oversaw all-Black units or the training of Black recruits. One would go on to make his career in the Navy after World War II, with the rest returning to civilian life. In the 1970s, Captain Edward Secrest, a former instructor, gave the group the name the "Golden Thirteen."

I urge my colleagues to support this bill to honor the first African American officers in the Navy: Jesse Walter Arbor; Phillip G. Barnes; Samuel Edward Barnes; Dalton Louis Baugh, Sr.; George Clinton Cooper; Reginald Ernest Goodwin; James Edward Hair; Charles Byrd Lear; Graham Edward Martin; Dennis Denmark Nelson; John Walter Reagan; Frank Ellis Sublett, Jr.; and William Sylvester White. The three men who passed their exams but were

not made officers were Augustus Alves; J.B. Pinkney; and Lewis "Mummy" Williams.

### RECOGNIZING OSCAR LEROY WADE

#### HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 2, 2026*

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Oscar Leroy Wade of Farmington, Missouri. He died January 2, 2026, at the age of 97, and was among the last of the veterans from Farmington who served in World War II.

Mr. Wade's military service in the U.S. Navy became a cornerstone of his life. He enlisted at the age of 17 on August 6, 1946, and received an honorable discharge on April 29, 1948. He served in the South Pacific on the USS *Whiteside*. He earned the China Service Medal, the World War II Victory Medal and the Navy Occupation Service Medal. Leroy served in the South Pacific on the USS *Whiteside*. He took great pride in collecting Navy memorabilia and telling stories of his time at sea.

Leroy was a member of Farmington VFW Post 5896 and when he was able, frequently attended veterans' events. In his later years, he would rise from his seat, hold onto his walker to stand at attention and salute when the colors were presented or when Taps was played. In 2015, he joined a group of local veterans on an Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. to visit veterans' memorials. His room at Maplebrook Assisted Living was decorated in tribute to his naval service.

Leroy was born August 2, 1928, in Farmington and is survived by his sister, Barbara Cornellson, and his children, Cathy Mana, Mary LeTourneau, Nancy Rariden, Greg Wade, Diane Byrd and stepdaughter Kellie Grief. He is also survived by 12 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

It is my great privilege to acknowledge Mr. Wade's patriotic pride and celebrate his military service today before the United States House of Representatives.

### HONORING THE SERVICE OF JANITA R. STEWART TO THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

#### HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 2, 2026*

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of the U.S. Small Business Administration Mississippi District's Director Janita R. Stewart. Janita is retiring after 51 years of federal government service and 41 years with the U.S. Small Business Administration. With years of knowledge, experience, positive leadership, and devotion to the small business community, Janita will be greatly missed across Mississippi and the Small Business Administration. She was primarily responsible for supervising the activities of team members in the Mississippi District and Gulfport Branch Offices. In addition, since March 2025, Janita has served as the Acting District Director for the SBA Alabama District Office, overseeing the activities of the team members