EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING SERGEANT KEVAN SIPLA

HON. JAKE ELLZEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2026

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize U.S. Army veteran, Sergeant Kevan Sipla of Ennis, Texas, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His unwavering commitment to our country and community is a shining example of honor and duty.

During his military service, Sergeant Sipla served as a Sniper Section Leader with Comanche Company, 1st Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment. His assignments included Fort Lewis, Washington, Germany, and his deployment to Iraq, where he participated in the Battle of Sadr City in the spring of 2008. As a sniper, Sergeant Sipla and his team were recognized for their expertise in countering improvised explosive device emplacement teams and their extensive knowledge of the area of operations. During combat operations in Sadr City, his team provided overwatch and suppressive fire in support of U.S. Navy SEALs. Sergeant Sipla's military decorations include the Purple Heart, two Army Commendation Medals, the Army Achievement Medal, and numerous other military honors and decorations.

Following his military service, he continued his commitment to serving others through leadership, financial mentorship, and efforts to combat food insecurity throughout Ellis County and surrounding communities. Under his leadership as Lead at Manna House Outreach in Midlothian, food waste decreased from approximately 50 percent to 2 percent, while the number of individuals served increased from just over 500 to more than 1,000 per month. These efforts helped Manna House become one of the top five food pantries among approximately 500 supported by the North Texas Food Bank. Sergeant Sipla also serves as a financial coach, helping individuals develop budgets, reduce debt, and build long-term financial stability. His community outreach extends through partnerships with organizations across the region, including The Heights, Cares Services in Waxahachie, North Ellis County Outreach, and the Midlothian Senior Center, among others

Sergeant Sipla's unwavering dedication to serving his Nation and community exemplifies the highest traditions of military service and civic leadership. I commend his remarkable contributions and extend my sincere appreciation for his steadfast commitment to our Nation, our veterans, and families throughout Ellis County and beyond.

HONORING THE ALPENA LIONS CLUB FOR 100 YEARS OF SERVICE TO NORTHERN MICHIGAN AND THE WORLD

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2026

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and recognize the Alpena Lions Club as they celebrate 100 years of dedicated service to the community of Alpena, Michigan and the humanitarian mission of Lions International.

The Alpena Lions Club's story is one of a community that has chosen, decade after decade, to show up for its neighbors. Since 1926, generations of volunteers have dedicated their time and effort to the club's mission of serving their community, meeting humanitarian needs, encouraging peace, and promoting international understanding. As a proud affiliate of Lions Club International, the global leader in community and humanitarian service, the Alpena Lions Club has demonstrated that the spirit of service knows no borders.

Currently led by President Audra Smith, the club has stayed true to their mission across all 100 years, working every day to improve the lives of Northern Michiganders. By providing free health screenings, organizing food drives, supporting the visually impaired, assisting families affected by childhood illnesses, and advocating for the responsible stewardship of our natural resources, the club embodies the Northern Michigan values of hard work, generosity, and looking out for your fellow man. From small acts of kindness to providing support in areas of disaster, the Alpena Lions Club is living proof that ordinary people can do extraordinary things, and that even one person, answering the call to serve, can make a difference.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the Alpena Lions Club for a century of dedicated service to Alpena, to the country, and to the world. On behalf of Michigan's 1st Congressional District, I thank President Smith and all the club's members for their tireless efforts, and wish them continued success in the years ahead.

RECOGNIZING PEYTON WEBB

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2026

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Peyton Webb for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Peyton has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Peyton, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Peyton's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Wheat Ridge High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Peyton Webb on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

CONGRATULATING BRYN KROSSE ON WINNING THE PENNSYLVANIA GIRLS' GOLF STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2026

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bryn Krosse of York, Pennsylvania, and congratulate her on winning the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) Class 3A Girls' Golf State Championship.

The Dallastown Area High School freshman capped off an outstanding season with her victory at the PIAA Class 3A State Championship in State College. Bryn completed an impressive sweep of titles this season, winning league and district championships before claiming the state title. With her victory, she became York County's first PIAA golf state champion in seven years.

Despite being just a freshman, Bryn has spent much of her life around the game of golf. Inspired by her older brothers, who are also golfers, she developed a passion for the sport at a young age. Bryn credits their guidance and encouragement with helping her develop the determination and mental toughness needed to succeed on the golf course.

Bryn's accomplishments extend well beyond high school competition. She regularly competes in junior golf tournaments across the country, gaining valuable experience against some of the nation's top young golfers. This past summer, she won the American Junior Golf Association's Junior Chicago All-Star Championship in Aurora, Illinois, adding another impressive achievement to her growing list of accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District, I congratulate Bryn on this remarkable achievement. Her state championship victory is a testament to her hard work, dedication, and commitment to excellence. I wish her continued success as she pursues her passion for golf and look forward to seeing all that she accomplishes in the years ahead.

● 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 PRIVATE CHARLES E. ATCHLEY

HON. JAKE ELLZEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2026

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize U.S. Army veteran, Private Charles E. Atchley of Waxahachie, Texas with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His unwavering commitment to our country and community is a shining example of honor and duty.

Private Atchley volunteered for military service the day he turned 18, reporting to the draft office in Lancaster, Texas. He served in the U.S. Army with Company A, 290th Regiment 75th Infantry Division during WWII. During his service, Private Atchley deployed to Europe and participated in the Battle of the Bulge and the Colmar Pocket campaign. Charles experienced combat for the first time during the German attack on December 16, 1944. Serving in severe winter conditions, he and his fellow soldiers held their position, helped drive back enemy forces, and supported the Allied advance toward the Rhine. After sustaining severe frostbite, Private Atchley was hospitalized in Marseille, France, and later received an honorary medical discharge.

Following his honorable discharge, he continued his commitment to serving and supporting the veteran community. Private Atchley remained actively involved with the 75th Infantry Division Association, regularly attending reunions and maintaining lasting connections with fellow veterans. He also continues to participate in veteran events throughout Ellis County, helping preserve the history, memories, and legacy of those who served alongside him during World War II.

Private Atchley's unwavering dedication to serving his Nation and community exemplifies the highest traditions of service and sacrifice. I commend his remarkable contributions and extend my sincere appreciation for his steadfast commitment to honoring and supporting our Nation's service members and veterans.

RECOGNIZING SERGEANT FIRST CLASS ANGELO WINFIELD

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2026

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of a grateful Nation and the citizens of the 24th District of Texas, the 2026 Congressional Veteran Commendation is hereby presented to Sergeant First Class Angelo Winfield, United States Army, of Hurst, Texas, for his honorable service in the Armed Forces of the United States of America and for his continued service to his community.

Sergeant First Class Winfield served honorably in the United States Army and Army Reserve for more than twenty-two years, from 1981 to 2003. Rising through the enlisted ranks, he held leadership positions in medical administration, operational readiness, training, and personnel support. His assignments included the 351st Surgical Hospital, the 877th Quartermaster Company, and overseas service in El Salvador. He also assumed responsibilities in unit mobilization, safety, and family readiness, demonstrating versatility and dedication to his fellow soldiers.

At the 351st Surgical Hospital, Sergeant First Class Winfield earned recognition for improving patient administration, strengthening readiness, and contributing to outstanding command inspection results. His decorations include multiple Army Achievement Medals, the Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, and the Army Overseas Service Ribbon, alongside numerous commendations. He also received recognition for his volunteer support of soldiers and families through the Family Readiness Group.

Following retirement, Sergeant First Class Winfield continued serving others as an information technology consultant and business owner, donating networking equipment to local nonprofits. He served on a homeless shelter's executive board, volunteered as a Big Brother mentor, and welcomed children into his home as a foster parent. He also coached YMCA basketball, supported Scouting, mentored high school students, and helped secure a playground grant for a charter school, where he assisted with construction.

His dedication continues through longtime volunteer service at Union Gospel Mission of Tarrant County, where he serves meals and supports individuals experiencing homelessness. As a church elder, he also provides leadership and mentorship through his church's men's ministry. His compassion and willingness to serve continue to strengthen families and communities across North Texas.

Sergeant First Class Winfield's honorable military service and lifelong commitment to supporting fellow service members, strengthening families, and uplifting those in need reflect the highest traditions of the United States Army and bring great credit upon himself, the State of Texas, and the United States of America.

HONORING GARY KAI'S SERVICE TO HAWAII'S BUSINESS COMMUNITY

HON. JILL N. TOKUDA

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2026

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Gary Kai as he concludes his 17 years of dedicated service as Executive Director of the Hawaii Business Roundtable. His departure marks an important milestone for the Roundtable and offers an opportunity to recognize a career defined by leadership, service, and a lasting commitment to Hawaii's economic and community well-being. Since joining the Hawaii Business Roundtable in 2009, Gary has helped bring business leaders together around a shared vision for a stronger, more resilient, and more prosperous Hawaii. Through his leadership, he has encouraged thoughtful dialogue and built bridges, realizing that the challenges facing our state require a willingness to work together and create opportunities for generations to come. His contributions have strengthened the Roundtable and reinforced the important role Hawaii's business community plays in the well-being of our state.

Gary's impact on Hawaii, however, extends well beyond his years at the Business Roundtable. Before taking on this role, he built a distinguished career in banking, finance, and real estate development serving as Vice President of Towne Development of Hawaii Inc., General Manager of HomeStreet Bank, Senior Vice President at First Hawaiian Bank, and President and Chief Operating Officer of Finance Factors Ltd. Across these positions, Gary developed a deep understanding of Hawaii's economy, its local businesses, and the people whose livelihoods depend on them. His experience and leadership have made him a trusted voice in Hawaii's business community and a valued contributor to the state's economic progress. Beyond Gary's professional accomplishments, his legacy also includes the relationships he has built, the colleagues he has supported, and the spirit of collaboration he has encouraged throughout his career. His contributions reflect a deep appreciation for the people and communities that make Hawaii unique and a belief that our state's long-term success depends on investing in both its economic vitality and the well-being of its people.

As Gary concludes his tenure with the Roundtable, his contributions will continue to be felt through the work of the organization, the relationships he has fostered, and the broader businesses community he has helped strengthen. His legacy is one of meaningful service and a sustained commitment to a better future for Hawaii.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Gary Kai for his 17 years of dedicated leadership and service to the Hawaii Business Roundtable and for the broader contributions he has made throughout his distinguished career. He has our sincere gratitude for his service to Hawaii and our aloha, for continued success, happiness, and fulfillment in the years ahead.

RECOGNIZING OLDE TOWN PICKIN' PARLOR

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2026

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Olde Town Pickin' Parlor of Arvada, Colorado for receiving the 2026 Outstanding Retailer Award from the Arvada Economic Development Association. Each year, this award recognizes an Arvada retail business that stands apart in their job growth, innovation, community involvement, outreach, and more.

Since its founding in 1991, Olde Town Pickin' Parlor has been one of the most beloved independent music shops in Colorado and a destination for acoustic instrument enthusiasts from across the region. For more than three decades, Olde Town Pickin' Parlor has welcomed musicians and instrument enthusiasts from across the region with exceptional service, expertise, and warm hospitality. Owner Kit and his knowledgeable staff take the time to help every customer, while the shop's luthiers have earned a reputation for performing remarkable work restoring and repairing instruments. I am grateful for their contributions to the Arvada music and retail community.