

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING BEN FAHRMANN

**HON. MIKE EZELL**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

Mr. EZELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a special accomplishment by someone connected to my office—Ben Fahrman, the brother of my Director of Operations, Olivia Fahrman—on his graduation from the police academy on April 9, 2026.

Ben is returning to serve as a Patrol Officer with the Gulf Shores Police Department after previously serving as a detention officer. This is not just a career move, it's a calling. It takes dedication, commitment, and a strong work ethic to answer that call, and Ben has demonstrated all of those qualities. He is also known for being kind and caring, traits that are just as important in law enforcement as strength and discipline.

As a former law enforcement officer myself, I know the sacrifices that come with wearing the badge. Ben is stepping into a role that demands courage, integrity, and service to others.

We are proud of Ben. I thank him for his service, and may God keep him safe.

RECOGNIZING DR. MICHELLE E. RICHARDS IN HONOR OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

**HON. SHEILA CHERFILUS-McCORMICK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Michelle E. Richards in Honor of Women's History Month. I include in the RECORD the following proclamation:

Whereas, Women's History Month is a time to recognize and celebrate the extraordinary contributions of women who have shaped communities, inspired generations, and demonstrated unwavering leadership, compassion, and excellence; and

Whereas, Dr. Michelle E. Richards is a Jamaican-born evangelist, humanitarian, entrepreneur, and visionary leader whose life's work reflects a steadfast commitment to faith, service, and empowerment; and

Whereas, Dr. Richards received her early education at Holy Childhood High School and later earned a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Technology in Kingston, Jamaica, before relocating to the United States in 1999 and continuing a distinguished professional career in the banking industry; and

Whereas, answering her divine calling to ministry, Dr. Richards was baptized in 2003, ordained in 2006, and later established Visions International Ministries, a global ministry that has impacted lives through preaching, mentorship, humanitarian outreach, and purpose-driven initiatives across multiple nations; and

Whereas, through her humanitarian work and global outreach, Dr. Richards has provided food, clothing, school supplies, and essential resources to communities throughout the Caribbean, Africa, and beyond, while leading mission efforts that uplift individuals and families in need; and

Whereas, her influence as a preacher, motivational speaker, humanitarian, and community leader continues to inspire individuals around the world to pursue faith, purpose, and service while uplifting others through compassion and leadership; and therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That we, Florida's 20th Congressional District, proudly recognize and honor Dr. Michelle E. Richards during Women's History Month for her outstanding leadership, dedication, and service, inspiring others through her example of faith, compassion, and achievement.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF LAURA CANALES

**HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Ms. Laura Canales, a trailblazing Latina artist widely recognized as a pioneer of Tejano music.

Ms. Canales was born in Kingsville, Texas, where she emerged as a powerful force in Tejano music during a time when the industry was overwhelmingly male dominated. Through her early work with groups such as Los Unicos and El Conjunto Bernal, and later with Laura Canales & Encanto and Los Fabulosos Cuatro, she helped elevate the genre and expand opportunities for Latina artists. Her album No Regrets achieved notable success, and between 1983 and 1987, she earned multiple honors as Female Vocalist and Female Entertainer of the Year at the Tejano Music Awards.

Ms. Canales is often remembered as the "grand dame of Tejano music," a title which reflects both her musical excellence and her role as a mentor and inspiration to others. Among those she influenced was the late Selena Quintanilla, who would go on to achieve global recognition. Laura Canales helped pave the way for Selena and many other inspirational women, demonstrating that women could lead and thrive in Tejano music.

Beyond her musical accomplishments, Ms. Canales was deeply committed to education and personal growth. She earned a degree in psychology from Texas A&M University and continued her studies at the graduate level, embodying her belief in the importance of creating opportunities beyond the stage.

Mr. Speaker, Laura Canales's contributions to music and culture continue to resonate across South Texas and beyond. Her legacy lives on in the artists she inspired and the doors she helped open.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. KWEISI MFUME**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, April 14, 2026, I missed votes due to personal reasons.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 109, and YEA on Roll Call No. 110.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I missed two votes in the vote series on April 14, 2026. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 110, passage of H.R. 7613, the ALERT Act, and YEA on Roll Call No. 109, passage of H.R. 1011, the Emergency Conservation Program Improvement Act.

HONORING DAVID ROUSSEAU

**HON. GREG STANTON**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor David Rousseau on his retirement after nearly four decades of service to the Salt River Project, the Valley, and the State of Arizona.

Since 1903, the Salt River Project has provided reliable and affordable water and power to Arizona communities while safeguarding a stable water supply for future generations. Mr. Rousseau's leadership has helped carry forward that mission at a time of rapid growth and change across our state.

A proud fourth-generation Arizonan, Mr. Rousseau reflects a legacy of stewardship and public service deeply rooted in Arizona's history. His family's connection to SRP dates back more than a century—his great-grandfather served on the original council that helped bring the Theodore Roosevelt Dam to life, and his father later served on the SRP Board. Raised on a family farm in the West Valley, Mr. Rousseau learned early the values of hard work, responsibility, and commitment to community.

Mr. Rousseau's own service to SRP began in 1990, when he was elected to the SRP Council. After years of leadership on the Council and Board, he became Vice President in 2006 and President in 2010, a role he has held for more than a decade. Throughout his tenure, he has remained focused on ensuring that SRP continues to provide reliable, affordable, and sustainable water and power to the communities it serves.

• 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.