

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING MY LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT, RUBY ZIMMERMAN, FOR HER EXCELLENT WORK ON BEHALF OF MINNESOTA'S THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

### HON. DEAN PHILLIPS

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 12, 2024*

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my Legislative Assistant, Ruby Zimmerman, for her work on behalf of every constituent in Minnesota's Third Congressional District.

Ruby is a Georgia native who moved to Washington D.C. after graduating from Georgia College and State University with a double bachelor's degree in political science and government and rhetoric. She started her career on the Hill as a Staff Assistant in Congressman DAVID SCOTT's office, working her way up to being his Legislative Aide before joining my team as my Legislative Assistant. Ruby was essential in introducing my American Dream Accounts Act, a legacy bill that would help kickstart the lives and careers of the next generation.

Ruby is full of life and puts a smile on everyone's faces with her energy, optimism, and dog Tillie. Despite being the most recent member of our team, she has made a large and lasting impression on the work we've been able to accomplish in the final months of my term. Ruby has been a steady hand during a time of major transition. On her first day, Ruby was ready with her sleeves rolled up and hit the ground running. She's been the epitome of a team player, and we're grateful for her tireless service in advocating for the people of our district.

The people of Minnesota's Third Congressional District were lucky to have her dedication and leadership, and she will be dearly missed. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors and thank her faithful service to this Nation.

RECOGNIZING BOB WEST FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPORTS AND SPORTSMANSHIP

### HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 12, 2024*

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Mr. Robert "Bob" West, a distinguished veteran, sports official, advocate, and community leader whose life and career exemplify a commitment to restoring the joy of sports through a renewal of good sportsmanship. His tireless efforts have impacted not only his hometown of Spokane Valley, Washington, but also the broader sports community across the Nation.

From the moment his eighth-grade teacher handed him a whistle, Bob West discovered a lifelong passion for officiating at sporting events. For more than thirty-five years, he officiated at national championships in the United States and abroad, earning respect for his fairness, professionalism, and trademark enthusiasm on the field. His animated calls and unwavering integrity became a hallmark of his officiating style, cherished by athletes and fans alike.

Tragically, Mr. West's officiating career was cut short in 1996 when he was assaulted by an athlete while officiating a high school wrestling match, an incident that underscored the growing issue of violence against sports officials. Despite enduring several surgeries and a long recovery, Mr. West transformed his pain into purpose. He became a relentless advocate for referee safety, launching legislative efforts to increase penalties for assaults on sports officials, which culminated in bipartisan support for bills aimed at creating safer environments for referees and athletes alike.

Mr. West also established the website UR-SAFE.org, a vital resource dedicated to educating the public about the importance of sportsmanship and advocating for the protection of sports officials. Through this platform, he has championed respect for those who ensure fair play, reminding us all of the critical role officials play in preserving the integrity of sports.

Beyond his contributions to sports, Mr. West is a proud veteran, having spent twenty years in the military, during which he officiated sports even while deployed overseas. Following his military service, he has continued to dedicate himself to public service in the Spokane area.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Bob West for his extraordinary dedication to restoring the joy of sports and promoting good sportsmanship. His life's work reminds us of the power of respect and integrity, both on the field and in our communities.

FAREWELL REMARKS BY HON. JAMAAL BOWMAN

### HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 12, 2024*

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the impactful Congressional service of Congressman JAMAAL BOWMAN.

Congressman BOWMAN came to Congress as a progressive activist—a father, a teacher, a principal, and an organizer.

He came to Congress ready to serve, fighting for a brighter future for his constituents in New York's 16th district.

With a career in education spanning two decades, Rep. BOWMAN has been a tireless advocate for the rights of teachers, students,

and families. He has organized and been an integral part of crucial movements that bring together communities from all different backgrounds fighting for equity in our education system.

While in Congress, he fought for hundreds of millions in Community Project Funding for his district, he stood with workers fighting for labor rights, advocated for the health and well-being of Black men and boys, and so much more.

He was a friend to all in our caucus, bringing a warm energy and a smile to every member he came in touch with.

Congressman BOWMAN's dedication to service, advocacy, community, and meaningful change has made him a powerful force for justice and equity in Congress and I wish him well in his next chapter.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 12, 2024*

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present in the chamber on Wednesday, December 11, 2024, due to a family medical emergency. Unfortunately, the final version of the FY2025 NDAA includes a misguided provision preventing the dependents of service members from receiving the medical treatment they need and deserve. Further, the bill callously stripped provisions that would have given more service members and their partners the ability to start a family through IVF. However, as the Ranking Member of the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee, I fight every day to improve the quality of life of our service members and their families and on balance, this bill does that. Among many meaningful investments, it includes a 14.5 percent pay raise for junior enlisted and a 4.5 percent pay raise for all other service members while eliminating contraceptive copayments for TRICARE beneficiaries. I will continue to fight for all service members and their families to receive the benefits and care they deserve.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 499 and YEA on Roll Call No. 500.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. SUSIE LEE

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 12, 2024*

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, my vote was not recorded on Wednesday, December 11. Had it been recorded, I would have voted YES on Roll Call No. 499.

● 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.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT  
COLONEL JOSEPH D. HENDERSON

**HON. ED CASE**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 12, 2024*

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize and say a special thank you to a truly exceptional U.S. Army officer, Lieutenant Colonel Joseph D. Henderson.

Lieutenant Colonel Henderson has served admirably as a Congressional Budget Liaison for the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Financial Management and Comptroller, for the past four years. Over that time, I have come to appreciate Joe's work as he served as a fellow supporting my office and other Members of our Appropriations Committee. He helped my staff better understand the Department of Defense through his years of experience as an Army officer, and led countless oversight and factfinding visits for staff across the globe providing them invaluable firsthand knowledge, doing so with a level of skill and professionalism that has left a lasting impression on me and my staff.

Lieutenant Colonel Henderson graduated from the University of Texas at El Paso in 2004, earning a Bachelor of Arts in History. He commissioned as a Transportation Officer, completing Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia.

Lieutenant Colonel Henderson's first assignment was as a platoon leader with the Alpha Company, 302d Brigade Support Battalion at Camp Casey, South Korea. Lieutenant Colonel Henderson attended U.S. Army Airborne School enroute to his assignment as 99th Movement Control Team Mobility Officer in Italy. He deployed in this role to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2007. Lieutenant Colonel Henderson took command of the 99th MCT from 2008 to 2010 deploying again to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Lieutenant Colonel Henderson served as the Assistant Brigade S4 for the 16th Combat Aviation Brigade at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington. He took command of Echo Company, 2-158th Assault Helicopter Battalion from 2011-2013.

Lieutenant Colonel Henderson served as an Assistant Professor of Military Science at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma from 2013-2015. He was assigned to Fort Bragg where he held positions at the 82nd Airborne Division as the Division Transportation Officer and Deputy G4, the Support Operations Officer for the 189th Combat Sustainment Support, and as the Brigade Operations Officer for the 82nd Airborne Division Sustainment Brigade.

As a Congressional Budget Liaison, Lieutenant Colonel Henderson has been the Army's conduit to several Congressional offices and committees. In the course of this service, he has built a reputation of trust, respect, and competency. His efforts have been widely respected and have shown great credit to the Army.

Lieutenant Colonel Henderson's wife, Annie, and children, Harper and Hudson, have supported him throughout his career. Their sac-

rific and love make everything he does possible.

Joe's extraordinary career is a testament to his hard work and unyielding desire to make himself, his organizations, and his fellow Soldiers the best they can be. Our Nation has been enriched by his leadership, thoughtful judgement, and exemplary work.

On behalf of the U.S. House and a grateful Nation, I join my colleagues today in recognizing and commending Joe on his service to our Nation. We wish Joe, Annie, Harper, and Hudson all the best.

RECOGNIZING JIM SHENEP

**HON. J. FRENCH HILL**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 12, 2024*

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary Arkansan, my friend, Jim Shenep.

It is unbelievable that three decades after we started working together, it is time for him to retire.

I want to say how thankful I am for our three decades of friendship, and Martha and I treasure our relationship with him and his family.

It has been such a privilege to watch his continued success, starting when we were at First Commercial, then Regions, then Delta Trust, and now at Simmons.

He has always put his customers first, and that was at the heart of what we tried to build at Delta Trust, and I know it is at the heart of Simmons Trust Company.

I wish him well in his retirement and I wish I could be there with him in person to celebrate, but I wanted to thank him for his dedication to his customers and our friendship.

CONGRATULATING JANET WILLIAMS ON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE CITY OF SAVAGE, MINNESOTA

**HON. ANGIE CRAIG**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 12, 2024*

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Janet Williams on her retirement as Mayor of the City of Savage. Janet was born and raised on a dairy farm in Savage, Minnesota. She attended Burnsville High School, where she graduated as the valedictorian. After completing her undergraduate degree at the College of St. Teresa in Winona, Minnesota, she came back home to Savage. For 30 years, Janet served as Scott County's Library Director. In this role, she was responsible for running all Scott County libraries while supporting library expansion projects.

In 2004, Janet was elected as a Savage Councilmember and just four years later, Janet became the first woman Mayor of Savage. She has held this office for over 17 years. As Mayor, Janet pushed for investments in mental health programs, including those offered to first responders. She founded

the Dan Patch Historical Society and championed various local projects, including key redevelopment projects and infrastructure improvements. Under her leadership, she also promoted the importance of partnering on key initiatives with nearby community leaders and partners.

I'm proud to have worked with Janet since I first came to Congress in 2019. Her commitment to the community of Savage is unparalleled and I have greatly appreciated her partnership and guidance, especially with concern to local priorities.

I thank Janet for her years of service to our community.

HONORING KAY GRANGER

SPEECH OF

**HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 10, 2024*

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize the incredible legacy of my colleague, and friend, Congresswoman KAY GRANGER.

I have had the pleasure of working alongside many dedicated public servants, but few have shown the consistent leadership, integrity, and commitment to their constituents that KAY has demonstrated over her incredible career in public office.

She has represented the Twelfth Congressional District of Texas with unwavering dedication in her nearly three decades in Congress.

From being the first woman elected to represent Texas' Twelfth District, to her trailblazing work as the first woman to chair the House Appropriations Committee, KAY has always set new standards of excellence in her time in Washington.

I not only serve with her as a fellow member of the Appropriations Committee, but I also had the privilege of being elected in the same class as KAY. During that time, I have witnessed the skill and dedication KAY displays first-hand. A staunch supporter of our Nation's military, a champion for infrastructure, and a force behind national security efforts, her goal has always been to advance the interests of the American people.

KAY's legacy will go far beyond the legislation. Her mentorship of countless members of this body will outlast even her biggest legislative accomplishments. Through her deep understanding of the issues, and willingness to work with both sides of the aisle, she will be remembered for putting service to the American people before partisanship.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people in Alabama's Fourth Congressional District, I want to thank Congresswoman GRANGER for her service to this Nation, her invaluable contributions to Congress, and most importantly, her friendship. She will leave a legacy that will be felt for generations to come.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 12, 2024*

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes on the House floor. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 122; NAY on Roll Call No. 124; YEA on Roll Call No. 125; YEA on Roll Call No. 126; YEA on Roll Call No. 127; NAY on Roll Call No. 283; NAY on Roll Call No. 285; NAY on Roll Call No. 406; YEA on Roll Call No. 407; NAY on Roll Call No. 408; NAY on Roll Call No. 420; YEA on Roll Call No. 432; YEA on Roll Call No. 436; NAY on Roll Call No. 437; NAY on Roll Call No. 438; YEA on Roll Call No. 439; and YEA on Roll Call No. 479.

HONORING KEIRSTEN LYONS FOR HER DEDICATION TO AMERICA'S FALLEN HEROES

**HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 12, 2024*

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Keirsten Lyons, Director of the Washington State Fallen Heroes Project, a woman whose life's mission exemplifies the enduring power of love and remembrance. Her dedication to her son's memory and to the families of our Nation's Fallen Heroes is a profound testament to the enduring sacrifices made in defense of our freedoms.

Keirsten's journey is one of love, resilience, and a mother's unyielding commitment to ensure her son's sacrifice is never forgotten. On January 1, 2014, her beloved son, Marine Sergeant Jacob Michael Hess, gave his life during a deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Sgt. Hess was a dedicated Marine, a cherished husband, son, brother, and friend who embodied the highest ideals of service and honor. Though her loss is unimaginable, Keirsten has transformed her grief into a powerful force for good, ensuring that the legacy of her son and so many others lives on.

As the Director of the Washington State Fallen Heroes Project, Keirsten has committed herself to a sacred mission, to honor those who raised their hand to serve and made the ultimate sacrifice, to support the families who carry the weight of their loss, and to engage communities in never forgetting the price of freedom. Her work serves as a rallying call to all of us, reminding us that the freedoms we hold dear were secured through unimaginable sacrifices.

Under Keirsten's leadership, the Project has expanded its reach and impact. Events such as the March for the Fallen, Ruck, Run, or Walk have created spaces for families and communities to come together in shared remembrance. For Keirsten, these gatherings are deeply personal. By sharing their stories, families transform grief into connection, ensuring their loved ones remain alive in the hearts of those who learn their stories.

Through initiatives like the Illuminating Courage Memorial and the Heroes Garden, Keirsten has built a legacy of remembrance in

the Eastern Washington community that will endure for generations. Her tireless efforts have provided comfort and healing to Gold Star families, creating a community where grief is shared, and the sacrifices of the Fallen are eternally honored. She reminds us that behind every Fallen Hero is a family who has borne the cost of freedom.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives and the citizens of Washington's Fifth Congressional District, I extend my deepest gratitude to Keirsten Lyons for her extraordinary devotion. May her work continue to remind us that the legacy of a hero does not end on the battlefield—it lives on in the stories we tell, the memories we preserve, and the gratitude we hold.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. PAUL TONKO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 12, 2024*

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call Vote number 500 on H.R. 5009, I mistakenly recorded my vote as YES when I should have voted NO.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF DIANA GOMEZ

**HON. J. LUIS CORREA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 12, 2024*

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the career and professional achievements of Diana Gomez, who spent over 36 years as an electrical engineer and contributed to our community as part of the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans).

Born in Fresno and raised in the City of Parlier, Ms. Gomez graduated from Parlier High School and was named as the first member of the Parlier Unified School District Hall of Fame. She earned her bachelor's degree in electrical engineering at California State University, Fresno.

Ms. Gomez developed more than 36 years of transportation experience with Caltrans in various positions, including Senior Transportation Electrical Engineer and Chief for the offices of Traffic Management and Systems Management Operations. In 2011, Ms. Gomez was appointed as the Deputy District Director of Operations in Los Angeles, making her the highest-ranking Latina engineer within the California State Employees, a title she still holds.

Her last assignment with Caltrans was serving as District 6 Director with responsibility for the State Highway system in Fresno, Madera, Kings, Tulare and Kern counties. From the time she filled the role in July 2020 up to her retirement, she helped secure more than one billion dollars for the district and local partner projects.

Prior to her appointment as District 6 Director, Ms. Gomez was appointed by Governor Brown in 2012 to serve as the Central Valley Regional Director of the California High-Speed Rail Authority. As the Regional Director, she worked to build strategies and maintain rela-

tionships with local advocates, residents, consultants, and policy makers to ensure the high-speed rail project in the Central Valley continued on-time and on budget.

Ms. Gomez is an active member of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) and was even named one of the "100 Most Influential Hispanics" by the Hispanic Business magazine for her role as SHPE's National President. She served in this role for six years, having also occupied several other leadership positions with the organization. Under her leadership, SHPE grew exponentially in its membership and revenue.

Ms. Gomez has maintained her roots in Fresno County and is a member of the Fresno State School of Engineering Advisory Council, Vice Chair of the Fresno State Alumni Association, and Board Member for the Fresno State Transportation Institute. Her other professional affiliations include serving on the Board of Directors for the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, and she is a member of Women in Transportation (WTS) and founder of the WTS Central Valley Chapter.

I call on my colleagues to join me in celebrating the exceptional career and lifetime achievements of Diana Gomez, and to congratulate her on her well-deserved retirement.

CELEBRATING OUR 2024 FALL INTERNSHIP CLASS FOR THEIR SERVICE TO CALIFORNIA'S 20TH DISTRICT

**HON. VINCE FONG**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 12, 2024*

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the outstanding interns who have dedicated their time and talents to serving the 20th District of California this fall. These bright and committed young people, working from both our Washington, D.C., and Clovis, California offices, have brought fresh perspectives, unwavering enthusiasm, and a shared passion for making a difference. At a time when many young people are questioning the role of public service, their dedication inspires confidence in the leaders of tomorrow.

As their fall internships come to a close, I want to express my deepest gratitude to Grace Lee Delgado, Elijah Lidgett, and Tristan Wertanzl for their contributions to our Washington, D.C., office and to Jake Dowell for his service in our Clovis, California office. Their hard work has been instrumental to our efforts, and I trust that the skills and educational experiences they have gained will guide them toward continued success in their future endeavors in public service.

FAREWELL REMARKS BY HON. CORI BUSH

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 12, 2024*

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the impactful service of my friend and colleague, Congresswoman CORI BUSH.

Congresswoman BUSH came to Congress making history as the first Black woman elected from Missouri.

Her work as a faith leader, nurse and community organizer at the frontlines of the Black Lives Matter Movement prepared her to fight for the people of St. Louis in the halls of Congress.

Since coming to Congress, Congresswoman BUSH has made her mark as an outspoken voice for racial, social and reproductive justice.

Rep. BUSH fought to address systemic inequities in healthcare, policing and housing. She has been a consistent champion for policies that uplift and empower every community in St. Louis.

Representative CORI BUSH is and will continue to be a fearless voice for justice and equity.

Her advocacy for working families, Black and brown people, the LGBTQ+ community, and all marginalized groups has made a lasting impact on her constituents not only on her district but our Nation.

Her commitment to her values has shaped the direction of this Congress and inspired others to join the movement for change.

I thank her for her incredible service and leadership, and I wish her well in this next chapter.

RECOGNIZING MY LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR, GRIFFIN WONG, FOR HIS EXCELLENT WORK ON BEHALF OF MINNESOTA'S THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

### HON. DEAN PHILLIPS

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 12, 2024*

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my Legislative Director, Griffin Wong, for his work on behalf of every constituent in Minnesota's Third Congressional District. I am thrilled that the end of my time in Congress will not be the end of Griffin's service to the district, as he will now become the Legislative Director for my successor, Congresswoman-elect Kelly Morrison. I could not be more proud or grateful for his service.

Hailing from Montgomery County, Maryland, Griffin had an early introduction to life on the Hill. His mother worked for Congressman Bill Lipinski of Illinois when he was young, laying the groundwork for him to live a life of service. After graduating from Boston College in 2017, he set off to Phoenix, Arizona to teach at Brophy College Preparatory. In addition to teaching there he also coached tennis and ran their immigration advocacy program.

Griffin started his work in government in the Massachusetts State Senate before moving over to the U.S. Senate for Senator CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, and then to the U.S. House of Representatives in my office. Griffin has spent most of his career working on banking and small business issues. During his tenure as

my Legislative Assistant, he guided my role as the Vice-Ranking Member of the House Committee on Small Business as well as co-chair of the House Entrepreneurship Caucus and House Stakeholder Capitalism Caucus. Griffin took over as my Legislative Director during a pivotal moment in our office and has shown strong initiative in directing my entire legislative agenda.

Griffin has grown into a valuable team leader during his time in the office. From tackling particular legislative issues to now directing the legislative agenda, he has done so with a sense of humor and practicality that is admirable. He stepped up when the office needed him the most. As a Legislative Director, Griffin brings a calm and collected energy, giving staff a sense of ease and confidence that the job will be accomplished. Griffin is one of the hardest workers I know. No matter how busy he might be, he will take the time for a phone call from a colleague or a meeting with a constituent because he cares so deeply about this work. His instincts, critical thinking, and thoughtfulness have made him a strong leader and manager. He is a trusted advisor, a fierce advocate for his team, and a committed public servant for our constituents.

The people of Minnesota's Third Congressional District were lucky to have his dedication and leadership, and I'm extraordinarily happy that he will continue to do this work and serve the Nation and people of Minnesota's Third Congressional District. I wish Griffin all the best in his future endeavors and thank him for six years of faithful service to this Nation—and many more to come.