

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 27, 2025

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to attend votes due to unforeseen flight delays. Due to my absence, I was not present to vote on Roll Call No. 172, Roll Call No. 173, and Roll Call No. 174.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 172. I support safeguarding the economy and the national security interests of the United States. Global trade must be protected against the rising threat of piracy.

Likewise, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 173. I support expanding the accredited investor eligibility requirements to include individuals with qualifying education and job experience to participate in private investment offerings.

Moreover, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 174. I support initiatives that promote capital-raising opportunities for underserved small businesses and businesses in rural areas.

CONDEMNING THE ATTACKS ON MINNESOTA LAWMAKERS IN BROOKLYN PARK AND CHAMPLIN, MINNESOTA, AND CALLING FOR UNITY AND THE REJECTION OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE IN MINNESOTA AND ACROSS THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 27, 2025

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, Minnesota and our Nation suffered an unthinkable tragedy in the early hours of January 14th, when our state's elected officials were attacked in politically-motivated shootings.

Minnesotans are devastated by the assassinations of Speaker Emerita Melissa Hoffman and her husband Mark and the attempted murder of Senator John Hoffman and his wife Yvette. These are shocking and heinous acts of targeted political violence against elected officials. They were clearly intended to instill fear in our communities.

The additional attempt that night to target Senator Ann Rest and Representative Kristin Bahner demonstrate that this tragedy could have been much worse without the swift actions of Minnesota law enforcement personnel. They deserve our deep gratitude for their coordinated actions to apprehend the suspect.

Minnesotans of all political backgrounds must unite to condemn this and all politically motivated acts of violence. In a democracy, we do not respond to acts of public policy with acts of violence motivated by extremism.

The entire House of Representatives—both Democrats and Republicans will stand united to unanimously pass a resolution condemning the politically motivated violence against Speaker Emerita Melissa Hoffman, her husband Mark, and Senator John Hoff and his wife Yvette. We will speak in one voice to unequivocally denounce acts of political violence.

But even as Congress stands together to oppose this attack on our democracy, Minnesotans continue to mourn the unbearable loss of one of our Nation's finest public servants.

I first Melissa Hortman in 1998 when we knocked doors together during her first campaign for public office. Back then, I was a member of the Minnesota House of Representatives and Melissa was a young, determined candidate running in a district that would be difficult for any Democrat to win—but she clearly shared our Minnesota values and demonstrated her ability to form a meaningful connection to her constituents.

She didn't win that race, or the next one, but six years later, in 2004 I was thrilled when she won a seat in the Minnesota House, and was delighted when she was elected Speaker of the House in 2019.

Thanks to the work of Speaker Hoffman, together with Governor Walz and DFL legislators during the 2023 legislative session, Minnesota's students have free meals in school. Families have access to paid family leave. Women's reproductive rights are protected. All Minnesota individuals and families are supported and protected—with no exceptions.

Melissa was the best of Minnesota. She cared about others, treated everyone with dignity and respect, and she knew how to listen and lead. As a public servant and as Speaker of the House, she left Minnesota better than she found it. I will miss her dearly.

As we mourn the loss of Melissa and Mark, our hearts are with their children, Sophie and Colin, and their entire family.

We wish Senator John Hoffman and his wife Yvette a full recovery.

As we come together as a community to heal, may we find comfort in the words of Melissa and Mark's children:

Hope and resilience are the enemy of fear.

INTRODUCTION OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMPLIANCE AND TRAINING ACT

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 27, 2025

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, today alongside my dear friend and colleague, Ranking Member of the Appropriations Committee ROSA DELAURIO, I introduced a new bill called the Appropriations Compliance and Training Act. Unfortunately, this Administration has repeatedly demonstrated their lack of understanding and respect for the direction provided through the Appropriations process.

The Power of the Purse rests with the Article I branch here in Congress. That is established quite clearly in the Constitution, and it has been repeatedly affirmed by the Supreme Court.

We set policy, we provide direction, and we allocate funds. Then, based on those policies, directions, and allocations, the Article II branch, the Executive branch, can Execute what we, the Congress, dictate on behalf of We the People.

Instead of recognizing our authority, DOGE, Elon Musk, Russell Vought and the rest of the Executive Branch have ignored the will of the people. They withhold funds and cancel projects, they move money from one purpose to another without legal authority, and they just spend the money however they want, regardless of what Congress has directed.

Our legislation requires senior executive branch employees to complete yearly trainings on appropriations law. These trainings would include essential legal topics including: the Purpose Statute, the Antideficiency Act, and the Impoundment Control Act.

The trainings will also include a review of the direction provided by Congress in the annual Appropriations Act regarding each employee's agency so that they are unambiguously instructed of their responsibilities vis-à-vis Congress.

We must ensure that the Executive Branch follows the law and ensures Appropriated and obligated funds are used for their intended purpose.

I urge our colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this commonsense legislation.

HONORING RAYAN MALIK

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 27, 2025

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Rayan Malik for his work as an intern serving in my D.C. office. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his hard work and recognize the meaningful contributions he has made to the office this summer.

Rayan is from Islamabad, Pakistan and attends the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Rayan is entering his third year at Wisconsin where he is studying Data Science.

Interns work with staff to serve constituents in North Carolina's 11th Congressional District. Rayan was chosen from a competitive pool of applicants and exceeded every expectation with his positive attitude and impressive work ethic. It was a pleasure to work with Rayan, and I am so proud to have had such an intelligent and ambitious intern representing my office.

Rayan exemplified the spirit of public service and represents the best that our Nation has to offer. I congratulate Rayan on the successful completion of his internship, and thank him on behalf of the people of Western North Carolina.

• 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.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 27, 2025

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I was delayed in arriving to the first vote of the vote series on June 10, 2025. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 162, H.R. 2096.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PAUL TONKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 27, 2025

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 183, and NAY on Roll Call No. 184.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAKE AUCHINCLOSS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 27, 2025

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call Vote number 183 on H.R. 875, I mistakenly recorded my vote as YES when I should have voted No.

RECOGNIZING BARBARA COLLURA,
PRESIDENT AND CEO OF RE-
SOLVE: THE NATIONAL INFERTILITY ASSOCIATION

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 27, 2025

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Barbara Collura, a long-time advocate for family-building equality, who is stepping down after more than 20 years of leadership with RESOLVE: The National Infertility Association.

During her tenure, Barbara's leadership was key to furthering RESOLVE's missions: lifting up the voices of millions of Americans struggling with infertility and fighting to ensure that everyone, regardless of background, income, or geography, can access the care they need to build their families.

Her work included testifying before Congress, meeting with lawmakers and federal agencies, organizing advocates, and working toward a world where infertility is recognized as a disease that deserves attention, compassion, and coverage.

Her tenure has been marked by meaningful policy progress, including expanded insurance coverage for fertility care at the state level, and increased protections for IVF.

As someone who relied on access to IVF to have my twins, I know personally how important it is to raise more awareness about infertility and expand access to fertility treatments. I have been proud to work with RESOLVE under Barbara's leadership to push for com-

mon sense legislation that would offer hope to millions of families struggling with infertility.

At a time when reproductive freedom is under attack, Barbara has stood firm in defense of all paths to parenthood—because infertility is not only part of the reproductive health conversation, but central to it.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Barbara Collura for her extraordinary contributions to the infertility community. Her legacy is one of hope, progress, and an unwavering commitment to the idea that everyone deserves the chance to build a family.

CONGRATULATING DON JOHNSON
ON HIS RETIREMENT AS THE
CEO OF GOODWILL INDUSTRIES
OF CENTRAL ILLINOIS

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 27, 2025

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Don Johnson for his decades of dedicated service in the nonprofit sector and his impactful tenure as President and CEO of Goodwill Industries of Central Illinois. In this role, Johnson led the organization to expand workforce development efforts and launched new initiatives aimed at supporting some of the most vulnerable populations in Central Illinois.

Johnson earned his Bachelor of Science from Eastern Illinois University and a Master of Science from Western Illinois University. Before joining Goodwill in 2016, he served as Executive Director of the Hult Center for Healthy Living and as Vice President of Community Investments at the Heart of Illinois United Way. In those roles, he championed data-driven community investments, built expansive volunteer networks, and led public health and education initiatives, including 211, Success by Six, and Supporting Student Access.

During Johnson's tenure at Goodwill, the organization broadened its mission beyond traditional job training and donation-based stores. Under his leadership, Goodwill introduced innovative programs that supported children and families at risk of violence and created a new job placement program for neurodivergent young adults. One of his biggest projects being the expansion of the General Wayne A. Downing Home for Veterans, which helped raise nearly \$1.5 million for the strengthening of services for local veterans.

Don Johnson's tireless leadership and commitment to the non-profit sector has left a lasting impact on Central Illinois. His work has advanced economic opportunity, human dignity, and community well-being. I congratulate Don on his retirement and wish him, his wife Kim, and their two daughters all the best in this next chapter of life.

HONORING PASTOR WARREN
STEWART, SR.

HON. GREG STANTON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 27, 2025

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a remarkable public servant, leader, and civil

rights trailblazer, Pastor Warren Stewart, Sr., on the occasion of his retirement as Senior Pastor at Arizona's First Institutional Baptist Church.

God called Pastor Stewart to Arizona 48 years ago, and he has been speaking truth to power in the state ever since. Each Sunday, Pastor Stewart's sermons and service work inspired Arizonans to better their community and uplift their neighbors. From the helm of Phoenix's oldest African American Baptist church, Pastor Stewart used his platform to advance justice and civil rights across our state. His guiding principle: Jesus and Justice work together.

His advocacy is well illustrated by the battle to establish Martin Luther King, Jr. Day as a state holiday. By 1992, Arizona was the last state refusing to recognize MLK Day, despite the federal holiday being signed into law nearly a decade prior. Pastor Stewart fought to correct this, leading multiple movements to get the holiday initiative on the ballot. He mobilized coalitions across political spectrums, religions, and cultural backgrounds to come together to win this historic, long overdue vote.

As the longest-serving leader of the First Institutional Baptist Church, Pastor Stewart has traveled extensively, preaching in 39 states and territories and 60 countries, and has received many accolades for his contributions to our community and beyond. Following the teachings of the Gospel, his work always focused on the poorest and neediest: immigrants, unsheltered people and veterans, and those suffering from mental health issues.

Pastor Stewart and the Church turned Christian values into action. FIBCO Family Services, Samaritan House for Homeless Families, Ujima House for Unwed Teenage Mothers and their Infants, and the Broadway House, all created under Pastor Stewart, minister to those most in need of compassion and care. FIBCO has become a hallmark in Phoenix's nonprofit scene and has even taken their mission abroad, expanding across Africa.

Pastor Stewart's impressive academic and public service record led to roles as Chair of the National Immigration Forum and President of American Baptist Churches of the Pacific Southwest. He was proclaimed a "State History Maker" by the Arizona Historical Society. Under unanimous direction of the Phoenix City Council, the street in front of the First Institutional Baptist Church was renamed "Dr. Warren H. Stewart Way".

Today, all of Arizona congratulates our very own "living legend" on his well-deserved retirement. Pastor Stewart's career and contributions have cemented him as one of Arizona's greatest religious leaders.

I have personally been blessed to know him as a friend and trusted advisor. He'll be the first to tell you he couldn't have enjoyed such a long career without the love and support of his wife, Reverend Dr. Karen Stewart, and their children and grandchildren. We thank the entire Stewart family for sharing him with us.

I thank Pastor Stewart for his decades of service to our community, and may your quest for moral justice continue in your next chapter. Godspeed.