

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## RECOGNIZING OMAR LAUTENBACH

### HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 2, 2025*

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

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

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

## RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF RAJIV MALHOTRA AND THE INFINITY FOUNDATION

### HON. SHRI THANEDAR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 2, 2025*

Mr. THANEDAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rajiv Malhotra and the Infinity Foundation for their contributions to Hindu American Civil Rights, interfaith dialogue, and intellectual diversity.

The Infinity Foundation, established by Rajiv Malhotra thirty years ago, has played a pivotal role in championing the rights of Hindu Americans, advocating against biases and Hinduphobia, and ensuring their equal protection under civil rights laws. It has contributed significantly to intellectual diversity in the United States by fostering rigorous academic inquiry, research, and dialogue on Indian philosophy, dharmic traditions, and Hindu contributions to world civilization, thereby enriching America's multicultural fabric.

I applaud the efforts made by Rajiv Malhotra and the Infinity Foundation in strengthening the bridge between Hindu Americans and other faith communities, fostering goodwill, collaboration, and mutual respect. The Infinity Foundation's tireless work aligns with the American ideals of justice, equality, and religious freedom, serving as an exemplary institution that strengthens the Nation's commitment to these values.

Rajiv Malhotra and the Infinity Foundations efforts can be seen in their upcoming "Global Dharma Renaissance" event, planned for April 2025. This event marks a historic milestone in recognizing the intellectual and cultural revival of Dharma traditions in the United States and globally, solidifying its role as a forerunner and a guiding force akin to a banyan tree that sup-

ports and nurtures other Hindu organizations in the country.

Rajiv Malhotra's scholarship and leadership have significantly contributed to the empowerment of Hindu Americans, providing them with a voice in academia, media, and policy discussions. His advocacy has ensured that Hindu American heritage is accurately represented in public discourse.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hindu community, I commend Rajiv Malhotra and the Infinity Foundation for their outstanding contributions to Hindus around the world. I thank them for their exceptional work. We wish them continued success in their quest to foster better understanding and goodwill between Hindu Americans and other faith communities.

## RECOGNIZING ALICIA MONTOYA

### HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 2, 2025*

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

Alicia 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 Alicia, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Alicia's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Arvada High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

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

## RECOGNIZING PETE RAPA

### HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 2, 2025*

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

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

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

## REMEMBERING PATRICIA FARRIS

### HON. VINCE FONG

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 2, 2025*

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and enduring legacy of Patricia Marie Farris, a caring mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and entrepreneur who dedicated her career to our communities. Patricia passed away March 5, 2025, at the age of 94.

Born on April 29, 1930, in Blue Eye, Arkansas, Patricia moved west in 1941 during the Dust Bowl and was raised in the Indian Wells Valley of California. Through the Great Depression and World War II, Patricia grew up alongside her six siblings and parents. Together, they became one of the first families to put roots down in the area prior to the establishment of the Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, home of the U.S. Navy's premier weapons development program. Following her graduation from Burroughs High School, Patricia attended college in Missouri, where she would meet her husband, Fred Stanley Farris. They soon fell in love and were married on December 1, 1948.

In 1969, Patricia and Fred Farris returned to the Indian Wells Valley with their children, after spending years living around the country. Patricia Farris, alongside her husband, managed a service station and café within the town of Inyokern, and worked many community events such as air shows and parades. For decades, she successfully contributed to community events and productions while simultaneously managing the family-run businesses. In 1980, Patricia was hired as publisher for the News Review, a local newspaper that informed thousands of community members on events affecting the Indian Wells Valley. It was in this role that Patricia became a strong advocate and voice for the Indian Wells Valley. Always seeking to keep her community and its leaders aware of important stories and events, Patricia served in this role for 44 years, until retiring in 2024.

Patricia is preceded in death by her husband Fred, with whom she shared a 52-year long marriage, her daughter, Patti Cosner, grandson, Kenny Farris, and great-grandson, Joshua Farris. She is survived by her children, Paul, Bill, and Laura, her 32 grandchildren, and other relatives.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in remembering the life of Patricia Farris, a valued member of our community who has left a lasting impact on countless individuals.

• 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.