

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING ELGIN VINES' 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. HILLARY J. SCHOLTEN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 5, 2025

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of my constituent, Elgin Vines, who turned 90 years old on May 19, 2025. Through the segregation of the Jim Crow South, on stages big and small across the world, Mr Vines' career as a bassist continues to be a bridge in the jazz community—connecting worlds, hearts, and histories.

Born on May 19, 1935, in Suffolk, Virginia, at a time when the odds were not in his favor, Mr. Vines charted a course that was uniquely his own. As a student at Norfolk State University with a Biology/Medical Technology major, Mr. Vines paid his tuition and fees with gigs along the Virginia Beach “strip,” before graduating as an ASCP-certified medical technologist. During that time, he was also a member of the house trio on the daily “Morty Nevens Television Show” for three years. In his eight-year stint as a bassist for the touring group “The New Direction,” Mr. Vines was a guest on national programs like The Tonight Show. He has also played alongside giants like Frank Sinatra Sr. and Jr., the Mills Brothers, and toured on the same circuits as Ella Fitzgerald and Elvis Presley. What Mr. Vines remembers most is not the glitz of the spotlight, but the dignity of people who, like him, believed music could tear down walls.

Mr. Vines moved to West Michigan in 1972, where he married his wife of nearly 52 years, Jackie, and played bass for the Bennie Carew Trio—quickly becoming an indispensable member of our local music community. Mr. Vines has been a member of the Grand Rapids Symphony Orchestra Jazz Ensemble, played for the Grand Rapids Public Museum and the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum, and worked in many local trios. He has gifted his love of jazz to both neighbors and Hollyhock Lane parade-goers for decades. Mr. Vines is more than a bassist. He is a living example of compassion, resilience, and strength.

Mr. Speaker, once more, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Mr. Elgin Vines for his lifelong impact. His rhythm has carried generations, and his soulful steadiness has graced every room he's walked into. I wish him another happy, healthy, and fulfilling year ahead.

HONORING JULIE TENSEN AS SHE STEPS INTO RETIREMENT

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 5, 2025

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my longtime employee, Julie Tensen.

I have often said that a really good staff makes a decent Member of Congress look great—and I have the best staff. I've been fortunate to have outstanding individuals like Julie by my side.

Julie started working for me early in my career. She's had many roles since the beginning, including Education Outreach Coordinator, where she teamed up with the Lee Pesky Learning Center to create a program aimed at helping new mothers read to their babies and create healthy habits that we know are so important in today's tech world. I can honestly say that Julie was ahead of her time and got me involved in this important initiative back in 2002.

A Congressman's schedule is crazy at best. You have your Washington schedule full of hearings, votes, and thousands of meetings, and then you have the district schedule that consists of tours, site visits, office meetings, and so much more. Meeting with your constituents in their environment and the logistics that go with it are even more complicated. I could always count on Julie to dot every ‘i’ and cross every ‘t’.

People may also be unaware that every member of Congress receives an MRA, or a Member's Representative Allowance. This is your budget for running all of your offices. This includes staff salaries, rent, office supplies, computer equipment, subscriptions, travel expenses, and all other items that are purchased to run a congressional office. Julie was my Budget Director, overseeing the entire budget—a huge responsibility that she handled for me. Like everything that Julie did, she did well, and I never had to worry about a thing.

From helping tens of thousands of Idahoans navigate complex federal issues to managing my entire state schedule, to personally attending meetings and events representing me, Julie has been far more than an asset—she has been family.

As she enters retirement, Julie will enjoy some well-deserved time with her husband, and their children, Kris and Cole Anderson, Brad Tensen, Hannah Purdy, and their grandchildren, Max, Jacq, and Maggie.

I will miss Julie, the rest of my staff will miss Julie, and so will the Idahoans that she so faithfully served for the last two decades.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my sincere gratitude to Julie's husband, John, for sharing his amazing wife with Team Simpson for all these years. And I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking and honoring Julie Tensen for her decades of outstanding public service to the people of Idaho and this great Nation.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DIANE LUND-MUZIKANT

HON. MAXINE DEXTER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 5, 2025

Ms. DEXTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Diane Lund-

Muzikant—a fearless journalist, a tenacious truth-teller, and the founder of The Lund Report, Oregon's pioneering nonprofit dedicated to health care reporting. Diane passed away on Saturday, July 26, 2025, at the age of 86, leaving behind an indelible mark on Oregon's media and public health landscape.

Before I was elected to serve in this body, I spent more than two decades as a physician. I saw firsthand how opaque, inequitable, and profit-driven our health care system can be, and I also saw the vital role of journalists who were willing to peel back the curtain. Diane was one of those few. She understood that behind every headline about health care policy are real people—patients, families, and communities—impacted by decisions made in boardrooms and back rooms. She made it her mission to hold those in power accountable.

Diane began her reporting career covering local government and community issues before turning her focus to health care in the 1980's. Her work with the Medical Society of Metropolitan Portland helped illuminate the growing dysfunction in our health care system, a story too often ignored or misunderstood by the broader media.

She went on to found the Oregon Health Forum to convene critical dialogue around health policy, and then, at age 70, launched The Lund Report, a nonprofit news outlet that quickly became the gold standard for health care journalism in Oregon and across the Pacific Northwest. Relentless in her pursuit of truth, Diane asked hard questions, chased hard facts, and never shied away from hard truths. She built a legacy that will long outlive her.

Diane Lund-Muzikant embodied the best of what journalism can be: independent, courageous, and grounded in service to the public good. Her work strengthened Oregon's health care system and made our communities more informed, more compassionate, and more just.

As we continue to witness the erosion of local news and independent media, Diane's example reminds us why supporting journalists—and especially those committed to covering complex systems like health care—is essential to our democracy.

We owe her our gratitude. May her memory be a blessing, and may her legacy continue to inspire the next generation of truth-tellers.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEAL FIRST AID SQUAD

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 5, 2025

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Deal First Aid Squad as they celebrate their 75th Anniversary this year.

In 1950, residents of the Borough of Deal, New Jersey founded the Deal First Aid Squad to provide emergency medical services day

● This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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