

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING BOJANGLES BEING NAMED ONE OF THE TOP TEN FAST-FOOD RESTAURANTS IN THE COUNTRY

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Bojangles on being named one of the top ten regional fast-food restaurants in the country according to USA Today's Readers' Choice 2023.

Bojangles opened back in 1977 in Charlotte, North Carolina and has since spread nationwide, operating around 800 locations throughout the Midwest, South and up and down the East Coast. However, Bojangles has remained true to its Carolina roots and is a regional staple, specializing in perfectly seasoned fried chicken, biscuits and, of course, all the fixings.

I have been a big fan of Bojangles since I was a boy growing up in North Carolina. To this day, one of my favorite parts about going home after a long stint in Washington is being able to sit down and enjoy Bojangles with my family, friends, or staff.

Bojangles is a cultural icon and an esteemed member of our community in North Carolina. Its economic and community impact on our state is astounding and I look forward to continuing to work with them to see what they will accomplish in the future.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in recognizing Bojangles, its leaders, and employees on this momentous occasion and thanking them for all they do for our shared home of North Carolina.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF EASTERSEALS NEW JERSEY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of Easterseals New Jersey. Since its establishment on January 8, 1948, Easterseals New Jersey has upheld its mission to enrich the lives of individuals with disabilities and their families.

Easterseals New Jersey remains committed to advancing opportunities for children and adults with developmental disabilities and special needs and empowering them to achieve their goals. Each year Easterseals New Jersey serves over 5,000 people in this endeavor.

Easterseals New Jersey has striven to identify the unmet needs of individuals and their caregivers and provides direct, hands-on support and resources to the community. From its fully accessible camp to its community activities, Easterseals New Jersey provides safe environments for socialization and recreation.

Additionally, its employment services, vocational assessments, and residences, among many other programs, help individuals develop life skills and reach their goals.

In its 75th year, Brian Fitzgerald serves as President and CEO of Easterseals New Jersey and is supported by a dedicated and hard-working group of staff, volunteers, and a Board of Directors. Together, the organization shares a commitment and passion for helping people with disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, once again, it is my honor to recognize Easterseals New Jersey on its 75th anniversary. Their work to enhance the quality of life of those with disabilities is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IN UNION, SOUTH CAROLINA

HON. RALPH NORMAN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the rich history and 150th anniversary of Grace United Methodist Church in Union County—a testament to the enduring spirit of the faith and community among all its members.

Early Methodism found its roots in Union County thanks to the tireless efforts of the renowned Methodist missionary, Francis Asbury, who visited Union County between 1788 and 1802.

By 1826, a “new” Methodist church had already been established on North Enterprise Street. Regrettably, it was eventually demolished in 1893 to make way for the Union Cotton Mill facilities.

In 1871, the dream of constructing a stone church was realized, largely due to the generous donation of granite by Benjamin Dudley Culp. The church was fittingly renamed “Grace” in honor of this contribution.

Colonel John L. Young, a dedicated church member, businessman, and builder of the Union and Spartanburg Railroad, oversaw the construction. By 1873, the church had taken its current form.

In 1919, further expansion and renovation work transformed Grace United Methodist Church into its present appearance. The center tower on the front was removed, and the belfry tower was raised and given a lower roof. On the right side of the sanctuary, a new section of pews was added, complete with a full basement and rooms on the main floor for a parlor, choir room, and Sunday school classes.

The architectural integration of these changes was so skillful that the addition became virtually seamless. A significant milestone was achieved in 1968 when a new Casavant organ, boasting twenty-one stops, twenty-eight ranks, and 1,476 pipes, was dedicated to the church.

The stained-glass windows in the church add to its beauty and significance. Four unique windows on the left side of the nave are particularly meaningful. The first window features a crown and cross, symbolizing celestial light. The second window displays an anchor, representing hope and fundamental truth. The third window showcases tablets with the Ten Commandments, a reminder of moral laws. The fourth, known as the Holy Bible window, depicts an open book, symbolizing accessibility to all and honoring the memory of Mary Elizabeth Greer, made by her sister, Cornelia Greer Walker.

As I reflect on the history of Grace United Methodist Church, I want to recognize the profound impact it has had on the spiritual and social fabric of Union County. Grace United Methodist Church stands as a timeless testament to the enduring power of faith, community, and the unwavering dedication of its members. May it continue to inspire and uplift the hearts of those who gather within its hallowed walls for generations to come.

HONORING THE REMARKABLE CAREER OF EMS PIONEER MICHAEL BENENATI

HON. PATRICK RYAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Michael Benenati for his long and distinguished career in the field of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in the Hudson Valley.

Michael's career began in 1977 when he certified as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) in New York State. While a full-time student at The Pennsylvania State University, he worked as a crew chief and medical receptionist for the University Ambulance Service, responding to emergencies on campus and in the surrounding community.

In 1987, Michael received his certification as a paramedic in New York State. He has worked part-time in Mobile Life Support and as Emergency Dispatcher for Ulster County ever since.

Michael has served as an important leader in EMS in the Hudson Valley. From 1998 to 2004, Michael worked as the Captain of New Paltz Rescue Squad. Since 2004, he has served as EMS Administrator for the LaGrange Fire District.

Michael has also been a tenacious and effective advocate for needed improvements to EMS in the Hudson Valley and across the country.

As leader of the New York State EMS Council Sustainability Technical Advisory Group, he spearheaded a review of challenges faced by EMS and potential solutions. The group's recommendations were compiled in the NYS 2023 Evidence Based EMS Agenda for the Future, a nationally recognized blueprint for the future of EMS.

• 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.

Michael has been lauded for his important contributions to the field of EMS. He has been recognized time and again by the State of New York, Ulster County, New York State EMS Council, Hudson Valley Regional EMS Councils, New York State Volunteer Ambulance and Rescue Association, and the EMS Councils of both Ulster and Dutchess Counties, among others.

Most recently, Michael received the Harriet C. Weber EMS Leadership Award from the New York State EMS Council in honor of his decades-long career serving Hudson Valley communities and advocating for fellow EMS workers. Michael is a true public servant who exemplifies the very best of our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of Michael Benenati. It is my privilege to rise in recognition of his extraordinary career.

HONORING BISCUITVILLE BEING
NAMED THE NUMBER ONE FAST-
FOOD RESTAURANT IN THE
COUNTRY

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Biscuitville on being named the number one top regional fast-food restaurant in the country according to USA Today's Readers' Choice 2023.

Biscuitville opened in 1966 in Burlington, North Carolina and has since spread nationwide, operating around 70 locations across the region. However, Biscuitville has remained true to its North Carolina roots and is a regional staple, best known for its famous fresh biscuits and biscuit sandwiches.

I have been a big fan of Biscuitville since I was a young boy in North Carolina. To this day, one of my favorite parts about going home after a long stint in Washington is being able to sit down and enjoy Biscuitville with my family, friends, or staff.

Biscuitville is a cultural icon and an esteemed member of our community in North Carolina. Its economic and community impact on our state is astounding and I look forward to continuing to work with them to see what they will accomplish in the future.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in recognizing Biscuitville, its leaders, and employees on this momentous occasion and thanking them for all they do for our shared home of North Carolina.

RECOGNIZING SPINA BIFIDA
AWARENESS MONTH

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, each October we recognize National Spina Bifida Month and pay tribute to the nearly 166,000 Americans living with Spina Bifida—the most common permanently disabling birth defect compatible with life—and to draw atten-

tion to the critical challenges we must address to ensure each and every American can achieve their full potential and attain the quality of life they deserve.

The federal government has an obligation to advance research into devastating diseases and disabilities to help find cures and therapies and to identify preventative strategies. Equally important is federal support for programs and initiatives that help patients and their families as they struggle to live with these conditions, such as Spina Bifida.

Literally translated as “split spine,” Spina Bifida is a condition that occurs when a baby's neural tube fails to develop or close properly. Typically occurring within the first 28 days of pregnancy while the neural tube is forming, Spina Bifida often develops before a woman even knows she is pregnant.

Sponsored by the Spina Bifida Association (SBA), National Spina Bifida Awareness Month is a time to highlight the needs of the community and recognize the importance of the work done year-round to advance research, programs, and policies aimed at meeting those needs.

As co-chair of the Congressional Spina Bifida Caucus, I've had the honor to work alongside SBA to advance Spina Bifida awareness, research, and public health efforts in Congress. Founded in 1973, SBA is the Nation's only organization solely dedicated to advocating for and assisting those living with and affected by this debilitating birth defect.

Through its nearly 60 chapters in more than 125 communities, the SBA brings expectant parents together with those who have a child with Spina Bifida. This interaction helps to answer questions and concerns, but most importantly it lends much needed support, solidarity, inspiration, and hope.

Mr. Speaker, Spina Bifida is a birth defect that can happen to anyone. Every day, an average of eight babies are affected by Spina Bifida and approximately 3,000 pregnancies are affected by this birth defect each year.

We do not know the exact cause of this condition, but research has found that if a woman takes 400 mcg of folic acid every day before she becomes pregnant, she reduces her risk of having a baby with Spina Bifida or another neural tube defect by as much as 70 percent.

No two cases of Spina Bifida are ever the same and so this birth defect is commonly referred to as the “snowflake condition.” Children born with Spina Bifida typically undergo dozens of surgeries before they reach the age of 18. And during their lifetime, someone with Spina Bifida will face at least \$1 million in medical expenses, including multiple surgeries, and most can expect to spend much of their lives in a wheelchair or walking with braces.

Despite these challenges—and thanks to advances in research and medicine, along with policies supportive of children with disabilities—nearly two-thirds of Americans currently living with Spina Bifida have made it to adulthood. And while these strides are certainly worth celebrating, people with Spina Bifida—particularly adults—continue to face a crisis of care that could be largely prevented with the right resources and policies.

For instance, while we have a coordinated system of care designed to treat children with Spina Bifida in the U.S., there is no equivalent for adults. The result is that adults face a

“care cliff” and enter a very fractured medical system where they are unable to find physicians willing or even knowledgeable enough to provide treatment, as Spina Bifida is still largely taught in medical schools as a pediatric condition and education has failed to keep pace with the rapid rise in the adult Spina Bifida population.

Thousands of adults are left with few options other than to seek care in the emergency room or continue to see their pediatric care team until insurance will no longer cover their care because of their age. And to make matters worse, many of these adults rely on Medicaid as their insurance provider, so even if they have the means to travel to an adult specialist, if they are located in another state—as is often the case—their coverage is denied. Across the country, there are more than 100 pediatric clinics devoted to caring for children with Spina Bifida. There are only 20 whose focus is on adults.

At the federal level, we can and should make dramatic improvements in the ability of adults with Spina Bifida to access quality care by increasing the funding of the CDC's National Spina Bifida Program—the only federal program tasked with improving the care and outcomes for people living with Spina Bifida.

In 2008, the Federal Spina Bifida Program created a National Spina Bifida Patient Registry to collect the scientific data needed to evaluate existing medical services for Spina Bifida patients, and to provide clinicians, researchers, patients, and families, a window into what care models are effective and what treatments are not making a measurable difference.

Building on this in 2014, the Spina Bifida Program funded the development of a Spina Bifida Collaborative Care Network to identify and to disseminate best practices for the care of people with Spina Bifida at all ages.

However, with only \$7.5 million in annual funding—and this amount has been stagnant—there are only 11,000 patients in the national registry, limiting the ability of medical professionals to glean knowledge that would advance research in areas critical to improving quality of life. Even modest increases to this funding would make an enormous difference.

Additionally, we should urge NIH to work collaboratively across their many divisions to better understand Spina Bifida. As Spina Bifida can affect every organ and every system in the human body, a collaborative effort undertaken by NIH could result in research that would lead to better care for both this generation and future generations of Spina Bifida patients. Moreover, the new designation of those with disabilities as a health disparity creates a new opportunity to harness federal resources for the Spina Bifida community by ensuring their representation in NIH research and thereby recognizing those with this complex condition in a new and critical light.

We are so fortunate today that our country is benefiting from the talent and contributions of the first generation of adults living with Spina Bifida. Today, I honor and celebrate all of them, along with their care partners, and also remember those we have lost to this condition. And I urge my colleagues to not only increase funding for the National Spina Bifida Program, but to work together so that these Americans receive the care and treatment all of us want for our families and loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, with added federal support, more people living with Spina Bifida could receive assistance they need along their life's journey. I invite my colleagues to join me in this mission and join me in the Spina Bifida Caucus to broaden our efforts and advance the goal of a better future for people living with Spina Bifida.

RECOGNIZING FORMER COCONUT CREEK CITY OFFICIAL MIKKIE BELVEDERE

HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize former Coconut Creek City Official Mikkie Belvedere for her many years of public service.

Born in Tel Aviv to German parents who fled Nazi persecution, Mikkie emigrated to the United States as a teenager. Elected to the Coconut Creek City Commission at 72, she has a long history of serving her community in Coconut Creek. Mikkie served three four-year terms, during which her fellow commissioners elected her Vice-Mayor and then Mayor of Coconut Creek.

Her public service extends far beyond city government, becoming active in various local groups, from helping establish and grow the Coconut Creek Multicultural Circle to serving as President of the Wynmoor Democratic Club. She is also an active member of her synagogue congregation. In her retirement, Mikkie remains intent on staying positive and helping her community, encouraging everyone she meets to "Keep Smiling."

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in recognizing former Coconut Creek City Official Mikkie Belvedere for her outstanding service to the people of Coconut Creek in Florida's 23rd Congressional District.

SPINA BIFIDA AWARENESS MONTH

HON. KEVIN HERN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Mr. HERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Day, as well as October as National Spina Bifida Month.

Spina Bifida impacts families across these United States, my own included. My sister and niece have lived with Spina Bifida since childhood.

Spina Bifida is a birth defect which results from a hole in the spiral cord that fails to close properly, which allows nerves and fluid to form a sac outside the body. This defect means that a child must undergo dozens of surgeries before adulthood, and even then, they face a multitude of mental and physical health issues. Each condition is unique, and no two children will be affected the same way.

In a testament to the innovation and research of our American scientific ingenuity, we now have the first generation of adults who are living with Spina Bifida. However, there is still much work to do.

It is our obligation to ensure proper funding for Spina Bifida care and research so that treatment and quality of life can improve for all Americans with this condition.

COMMEMORATING OCTOBER AS
NATIONAL SPINA BIFIDA
AWARENESS MONTH

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate October as National Spina Bifida Awareness Month, to recognize the approximately 166,000 Americans living with this condition, and to draw attention to the critical challenges we must address to ensure that each and every one of these individuals can achieve their full human potential and have the quality of life they deserve.

According to the Spina Bifida Association of America, Spina Bifida is the most common permanently disabling birth defect compatible with life. Literally translated as "split spine," Spina Bifida occurs when a baby's neural tube fails to develop or close properly. Typically occurring within the first 28 days of pregnancy while the neural tube is forming, Spina Bifida often develops before a woman even knows she is pregnant.

Children born with Spina Bifida typically undergo dozens of surgeries before they reach the age of 18. And during their lifetime, someone with Spina Bifida will face at least a \$1 million in medical expenses, including multiple surgeries.

Despite these challenges—and thanks to advances in research and medicine, along with policies supportive of children with this condition—nearly two-thirds of Americans currently living with Spina Bifida have made it to adulthood. And while these strides are certainly worth celebrating, people with Spina Bifida—particularly adults—continue to face a crisis of care that could be largely prevented with the right resources and policies.

While we have a coordinated system of care designed to treat children with Spina Bifida in the U.S., there is no equivalent for adults. The result is that adults face a "care cliff" and enter a very fractured medical system where they are unable to find physicians willing or even knowledgeable enough to provide treatment, as Spina Bifida is still largely taught in medical schools as a pediatric condition and education has failed to keep pace with the rapid rise in the adult Spina Bifida population. Thousands of adults are left with few options other than to seek care in the emergency room or continue to see their pediatric care team until insurance will no longer cover their care because of their age. And to make matters worse, many of these adults rely on Medicaid as their insurance provider, so even if they have the means to travel to an adult specialist, if they are located in another state—as is often the case—their coverage is denied. Across the country, there are more than 100 pediatric clinics devoted to caring for children with Spina Bifida. There are only 20 whose focus is on adults.

At the federal level, we could make dramatic improvements in the ability of adults with Spina Bifida to access quality care by increas-

ing the funding of the CDC's National Spina Bifida Program—the only federal program tasked with improving the care and outcomes for people living with Spina Bifida. In 2008, the Spina Bifida Program created a National Spina Bifida Patient Registry to collect the scientific data needed to evaluate existing medical services for Spina Bifida patients, and to provide clinicians, researchers, patients, and families, a window into what care models are effective and what treatments are not making a measurable difference. Building on this in 2014, the Spina Bifida Program funded the development of a Spina Bifida Collaborative Care Network to identify and to disseminate best practices for the care of people with Spina Bifida at all ages. However, with only \$7.5 million in annual funding, there are only 11,000 patients in the national registry, limiting the ability of medical professionals to glean knowledge that would advance research in areas critical to improving quality of life. Even modest increases to this funding would make an enormous difference.

Additionally, we should urge NIH to work collaboratively across their many divisions to better understand Spina Bifida. As Spina Bifida can affect every organ and every system in the human body, a collaborative effort undertaken by NIH could result in research that would lead to better care for both this generation and future generations of Spina Bifida patients. Moreover, the new designation of those with disabilities as a health disparity creates a new opportunity to harness federal resources for the Spina Bifida community by ensuring their representation in NIH research and thereby recognizing those with this complex condition in a new and critical light.

We are so fortunate today that our country is benefiting from the talent and contributions of the first generation of adults living with Spina Bifida. Today, I honor and celebrate all of them, along with their care partners, and also remember those we have lost to this condition. I urge my colleagues to not only increase funding for the National Spina Bifida Program, but to work together so that these Americans receive the care and treatment all of us want for our families and loved ones.

RECOGNIZING THE 10TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY OF PASTOR CONWAY C. JOHNSON

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pastor Conway C. Johnson as he celebrates his 10th Pastoral Anniversary at Sharon Baptist Church of New Brunswick, New Jersey. Pastor Johnson continues to provide outstanding spiritual leadership and fellowship to the greater New Brunswick community.

Elected as pastor of Sharon Baptist Church on June 8, 2013, Pastor Johnson brought with him a wealth of experience when he began leading the congregation on August 4, 2013. Pastor Johnson entered the ministry at 18 and began his pastoral ministry at 28. Prior to his call to serve Sharon Baptist Church, Pastor Johnson led New Hope Baptist Church of Manitou Park for 10 years.

Under his leadership, the membership of Sharon Baptist Church has grown immensely. He has encouraged his congregants to practice faith in action, serving the needs of people through several worship and outreach ministries.

Pastor Johnson is married to his loving wife Nakia, and together they are blessed with five children. Supporting his spiritual and charitable journey, he holds a Master of Arts degree in Human Services from Lincoln University of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in celebrating the 10th Pastoral Anniversary of Pastor Conway C. Johnson. His leadership, service, and dedication to the church and community are truly deserving of this body's recognition.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL GIFT SHOP TAX ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Federal Gift Shop Tax Act, which would allow state and local governments to impose a sales tax at gift shops on federal property. These governments would be able to generate millions of dollars in new tax revenue.

When the federal government engages in activity that is not inherently governmental, such as operating a gift shop, there is no reason to exempt customer purchases from a sales tax. The items sold at federal gift shops, such as jewelry, apparel, accessories, games and books, are subject to a sales tax if sold on private property. Customers are often unaware of the exemption from a sales tax at gift shops on federal property, so the introduction of a sales tax is unlikely to have a significant impact on gift shop sales. It would, however, create a valuable revenue stream for state and local governments. In addition, state and local governments often provide uncompensated services on federal property, such as fire service, and allowing them to impose a sales tax at gift shops on federal property would allow them to recoup some of these costs.

This bill is of particular importance to the District of Columbia, which is home to a number of gift shops on federal property, such as at the Smithsonian Institution and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VAN RAALTE FARMHOUSE

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Van Raalte Farmhouse. The Van Raalte Farmhouse has been a staple of our West Michigan community for generations,

and we thank the City of Holland for preserving not only this site but the legacy of the Van Raalte family.

The farmland was purchased by the founder of Holland, Reverend Albertus Van Raalte, in 1847. The Reverend split the land between two of his children, Albertus and Benjamin, as a gift for their valiant service during the Civil War. Benjamin, a soldier in the Union Army who served in Michigan's 25th Infantry, purchased his brother's half of the land and constructed a beautiful neoclassical farmhouse on the property in the early 1870s. Benjamin cultivated the land for the remainder of his life, producing peaches and peony flowers. The farm became known as "The Maples" due to the large sugar maples grown on the property.

The farm stayed in the family for multiple generations until it was sold in the 1980s to the city of Holland, Michigan. Holland helped transform the farmhouse and its land into a beautiful park. In 1989, Van Raalte Farmhouse was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Today, community members continue to enjoy hikes and picnics as well as cross-country skiing and sledding in the winter at the park.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commemorating 150 years of history at the Van Raalte Farmhouse as the Van Raalte family's story and the farmhouse's beauty continue to inspire the people of Michigan's Fourth District.

ISRAEL AT WAR

HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS

OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Mr. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following message I shared on October 11 at a meeting of Jewish leaders with Governor Glenn Youngkin of Virginia at the offices of the United Jewish Federation of Tidewater in Virginia Beach.

Thank you Governor Youngkin for your initiatives to fight the precipitous rise of anti-Semitism in these United States and around the world. Your very timely visit with us so shortly after the October 7 terrorist Hamas vicious attacks on Israel's innocent civilians near the Gaza border is deeply appreciated along with ordering the lowering of the flag throughout the Commonwealth. We turn to our shared one God of life's blessings who always brings us together to be one caring family, gratefully united and gloriously diverse, ever harkening onto the divine commandments of loving-kindness.

At this painfully trying time of excruciating anguish and an over-whelming sense of violation by heartless enemies of humanity and civilized society, evoking terrifying images of the Holocaust deeply seared within us and to which I can personally testify as son of Polish survivors who lost hundreds of murdered relatives, and one who spent his early childhood in Europe's transit and DP Camps, later growing up in Haifa, Israel and serving in the IDF in the 1960s.

Just as we did not allow ultimate victory to Nazism rooted in historical anti-Semitism, so we shall defeat, whatever the cost, those who now shamefully delight in the barbaric slaughter of Jewish babies and their shocked parents, mowing down hundreds of youth celebrating peace at a music festival along with rape and torture; dragging to cruel captivity the young as well as frail

Holocaust survivors who had found refuge in the world's only sovereign Jewish state and the Middle-East's only democracy. We shall never abandon our beloved Israeli sisters and brothers heroically fighting for the very survival of their ancestral homeland which they have already honored with remarkable accomplishments benefiting all humanity.

We are uplifted and reassured at this fateful hour of existential threat to Israel's very well-being by the incomparable Israeli-American alliance of shared values and interests that, no doubt, makes a critical difference for the defense of the entire free world. The Ford and Eisenhower strike groups whose homeport is Hampton Roads are truly a source of swelling pride. The recent historic strides toward lasting Middle East peace with the major inclusion at last of Saudi Arabia, likely pushed Iran and its proxies—the enemies of peace who glorify death and dying while the West sanctifies life and living—to this inhuman cowardice massive assault on a holy Jewish day—50 years and a day since the other traumatic surprise of the Yom Kippur War—with total disregard for basic human norms.

They will be held accountable. Perhaps it was also a failed attempt of divergence from the Ukraine tragedy. Restoring Israel's damaged deterrence is a must priority. The internal Israeli bitter divisions around misguided Judicial Reform were perceived to reflect a weakened society, though Israel unites in a national security emergency, but a heavy price is nonetheless exacted by an enemy tragically neglecting and sacrificing its own Palestinian people.

Oh God sustain our sacred resolve to face evil and subdue it with Shalom's eternal blessings that we shall not compromise over, of healing, hope and harmony. Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman is founder and spiritual leader of Temple Lev Tikvah in Virginia Beach.

HONORING WHITNEY ANDERSON'S APPOINTMENT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FEDERALLY-INSURED CREDIT UNIONS

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Whitney Anderson on her recent election to the Board of Directors of the National Association of Federally-Insured Credit Unions (NAFCU). Credit unions play a vital role in our nation's banking ecosystem allowing more people to access capital, obtain mortgages, and receive other financial tools that are otherwise difficult to obtain. Additionally, I've seen firsthand in my district, how credit unions provided vital services during the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure that the smallest of businesses received the necessary aid to assist during such trying times.

Whitney currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer of Elements Financial, headquartered in Indianapolis, Indiana. She previously served as Chief Community Development Officer at Michigan State University Federal Credit Union, served as President of the Desk Drawer Fund, and President of Ever Green 3C. Additionally, Whitney has had significant community involvement on boards such as the African American Credit Union Coalition (AACUC) National Board, MLK Commission of Mid-Michigan, and United Way. Her

years of leading a broad range of teams, projects, and responsibilities provide a solid foundation and will add a unique perspective in her new role.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Whitney Anderson and wishing her the best of luck in her new role on the NAFCU Board of Directors. I look forward to working with her and NAFCU members to better serve our constituents across Indiana's 7th Congressional District.

HONORING THE REMARKABLE
LIFE AND LEGACY OF ELVIRA
"VERA" TAMARGO GARCIA

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Elvira "Vera" Tamargo Garcia, who passed away at the age of 88 on August 8, 2023. She was a lifelong Tampa native and devoted teacher who dedicated her life to civic service. Vera's contributions and tireless dedication to the Tampa Bay community will forever be remembered.

Vera embodied the true spirit of public service, exemplifying the values of compassion, dedication and mentorship. Throughout her 48-year career as a teacher at Broward, Ballast Point and Mendenhall elementary schools, she left a mark on hundreds of students she taught, their parents, and new teachers she mentored. Throughout her career, Vera taught in every elementary grade. Her passion was for early childhood education, and she played an important role in launching kindergarten instruction in Hillsborough County schools. Her talent and experience as an educator were evident in the numerous accomplishments she achieved. Vera's recognitions included Florida's Outstanding Young Educator in 1966 and was ranked fourth at the national level.

She attended the University of Tampa for her bachelor's degree and subsequently earned a master's degree from the University of South Florida. In her classroom, Vera strived to teach her students the values of respect and friendship along with phonics and counting, and her selfless service is manifested in the good principles of my Tampa Bay neighbors. Her tenacious determination as an instructor to future generations shaped much of her perspective and identity, but her work as a caregiver extended beyond the classroom.

Many knew Vera for her work advocating for Tampa's Latino heritage, protecting and preserving the Centro Asturiano de Tampa's original cemetery and its 121-year-old building. Vera took the role of president for the historic social club for immigrants and their descendants, making her the first woman to hold that position at the "Centro." She and her husband, attorney William F. "Willie" Garcia, devoted their later years to the preservation of the "Centro." Earlier in their lives, Vera and Willie were active in state and local politics, running campaigns, attending rallies and always supporting Democratic candidates at the local, state and federal levels. At home, they would adorn Christmas gifts with handmade themed ornaments that they would spend

months creating. Their marriage was filled with love and support for each other, accompanied by humor that made their bond stronger.

The eldest of three girls, Vera was born to Francisco "Pancho" and Honorina "Nora" Tamargo. She and her two sisters, Junis and Sandra, shared a room as children and their lives as adults. Her devotion to her family was shown in her commitment to spend Christmas together with her two sisters and cousin Mary Louise. Vera was beloved by her many nieces, nephews and cousins who could call or stop by her home to say hello, help with a chore, or take her to a family gathering.

For her two sons, William and Joseph, Vera was that unshakable support who got them where they needed to pursue their interests from swim meets to Scouting camping trips. Her grandchildren called her "Bueli", and they will remember her love and the way she lit up just hearing their voices.

Vera is survived by her sons, daughters-in-law, grandchildren and many loved ones to whom I extend my deepest sympathies. She will be remembered not only for her many years of selfless service, but also for her genuine compassion and kindness.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my sincere condolences to Vera's family and friends. She impacted the lives of countless members of the Tampa Bay community and her steadfast leadership and patient mentorship undeniably enhanced the lives of my neighbors. Tampa Bay is grateful for her contributions and the legacy she leaves.

HONORING COOK OUT BEING
NAMED ONE OF THE TOP TEN
FAST-FOOD RESTAURANTS IN
THE COUNTRY

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Cook Out on being named one of the top ten regional fast-food restaurants in the country according to USA Today's Readers Choice 2023.

Cook Out opened in 1989 in Greensboro, North Carolina and has since spread nationwide, operating more than 300 locations across the Southern United States. However, Cook Out has remained true to its Carolina roots and is a regional staple, best known for its famous tray combos and delicious milkshakes.

I have been a big fan of Cook Out since I was growing up in North Carolina. To this day, one of my favorite parts about going home after a long stint in Washington is being able to sit down and enjoy Cook Out with my family, friends, or staff.

Cook Out is a cultural icon and an esteemed member of our community in North Carolina. Its economic and community impact on our state is astounding and I look forward to continuing to work with them to see what they will accomplish in the future.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in recognizing Cook Out, its leaders, and employees on this momentous occasion and thanking them for all they do for our shared home of North Carolina.

RECOGNIZING COVENANT
COMMUNITY CARE

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize Covenant Community Care, a well-known and trusted healthcare provider, as they celebrate the grand opening of their newest health clinic on Joy Road in Detroit in the 12th Congressional District.

Covenant Care grew from humble beginnings in southwest Detroit when a doctor and pastor joined forces to with the simple idea of providing free healthcare access to the uninsured. The doctor delivered on her promise to provide free healthcare to the uninsured and many more rallied behind the cause, creating Covenant Community Care in 2000. The need for more resources was evident, and Covenant Community Care has been steadfast in its mission to remove barriers to high quality healthcare services. Over the years, Covenant Community Care has leveraged partnerships with other medical service providers and now has several locations across metropolitan Detroit.

I had the honor of securing House-appropriated Community Project Funding for Covenant Community Care in FY2023 to support the construction of their newest clinic to provide critical services to our community. Covenant has operated a small health clinic at 18917 Joy Rd in Detroit for nearly eight years that has limited their ability to expand services. This project will be impactful not only tripling the clinical footprint in the community but providing accessibility to essential care like primary medical, dental, and behavioral health services to the Cody-Rouge neighborhood and surrounding communities.

I am always incredibly honored to serve as a partner for the Covenant Community Care team and appreciate the ongoing high level of care and compassion you provide to our communities across the district and region. We offer congratulations and wish them well on the opening of their new clinic.

HONORING MRS. LORI DOBRATZ

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Mrs. Lori Dobratz on more than 37 years of service to our country.

Lori's career with the federal government began in February 1986 with the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington, D.C., where she worked as the Secretary to the Division Chief in the medical unit. In May 1995, Lori joined Capital District Contracting Center, which later became the Fort Belvoir Mission and Installation Contracting Command. Throughout her 28 years there, Lori has played a critical role as a Management Support Assistant.

As part of the U.S. Army Contracting Command, Lori supported efforts to ensure Army readiness at all times. Her hard work and contributions in service to the U.S. Army have not

gone unnoticed—as evidenced by the four performance awards Lori has received over the last five years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Mrs. Lori Dobratz for her hard work, dedication, and service to our country, as well as in celebrating her career, accomplishments, and retirement.

SUPPORTING H. RES. 771, STAND-
ING WITH ISRAEL AS IT DE-
FENDS ITSELF AGAINST THE
BARBARIC WAR LAUNCHED BY
HAMAS AND OTHER TERRORISTS

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, due to a family matter, I was not present to vote on Roll Call No. 528. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 528. I stand firm in my support for our ally, Israel, and the Jewish community amidst the ongoing conflict. I condemn the atrocities committed by Hamas and other terrorists and support additional appropriations so that Israel may defend itself.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and

any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, October 26, 2023 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

OCTOBER 31

- 9:30 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
To hold hearings to examine the national security supplemental request. SD-106
- 10 a.m.
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety
To hold hearings to examine AI and the future of work. SD-430
- Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine threats to the homeland. SD-562

NOVEMBER 1

- 10 a.m.
Committee on Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings to examine the science of extreme event attribution, focusing on how climate change is fueling severe weather events. SD-406
- Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine pending nominations. SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship
To hold hearings to examine small businesses and America's outdoor recreation economy. SR-428A

3 p.m.

Committee on Rules and Administration
To hold hearings to examine ongoing threats to election administration. SR-301

3:30 p.m.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine research at the Department of Veterans Affairs. SR-418

NOVEMBER 2

- 10 a.m.
Committee on Finance
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Martin O'Malley, of Maryland, to be Commissioner of Social Security. SD-215
- Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Harry Coker, Jr., of Kansas, to be National Cyber Director, Jeff Rezmovic, of Maryland, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security, and Suzanne Elizabeth Summerlin, of Florida, to be General Counsel of the Federal Labor Relations Authority. SD-562

NOVEMBER 7

- 2:30 p.m.
Committee on Environment and Public Works
Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure
To hold hearings to examine causes of roadway safety challenges and possible interventions. SD-406