

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF HOLLAND TOWNSHIP

#### HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 6, 2024*

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Holland Township on its 150th Anniversary.

Bordered by the Delaware and Musconetcong Rivers, Holland Township exemplifies both natural beauty and a deep cultural history. It was officially founded in 1874 and has since grown into a vibrant center of agriculture, commerce, and recreation. Holland Township residents are protected by a dedicated police force that epitomizes resilience and selflessness, and its strong education system is helping prepare New Jersey's next generation to address the issues that continue impacting our communities.

I wish to extend my warmest congratulations to all of Holland Township's residents on this special occasion. I am proud to have such an exemplary town in the 7th District, and I have no doubt that it will continue to prosper over the next 150 years and beyond.

### HONORING EAGLE SCOUT JADEN FACTOR OF OZARK, MISSOURI

#### HON. ERIC BURLISON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 6, 2024*

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jaden Factor of Ozark, Missouri, who recently achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. Eagle Scout is the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouts of America program, and since its inception in 1911, only 4 percent of scouts have earned this rank after a lengthy review process.

Jaden is a junior at Ozark High School and a member of Troop 201 of the Ozark Trails Council of the Boy Scouts of America where he has held numerous leadership positions ranging from den chief and historian to outdoor ethics guide and senior patrol leader, the highest youth position in a scout troop.

Jaden also is a master sergeant in the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps at Ozark High. His Eagle Scout project combined his love of scouting with his military training. Jaden raised \$2,500 to refurbish a Conex storage container that was in poor condition, which was used to house the Ozark JROTC Raiders team gear. He hired a trucking company to transport the container from the junior high school to a sandblasting company which stripped and painted it, and it was then moved to a new home at the high school. Jaden and a team of fellow scouts prepped the site for the container at the school, touched up paint when it was returned and restored a retaining wall adjacent to the container.

Scouting has been teaching valuable lessons in leadership since it was established in February 1910, and achieving the rank of Eagle Scout is an important accomplishment. This young man deserves our applause for a job well done. I am proud to have him as a constituent.

### RECOGNIZING MR. GABE GUTIERREZ, OUTSTANDING CITIZEN OF THE 52ND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

#### HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 6, 2024*

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Gabe Gutierrez, an outstanding citizen who serves the blood donor community, both as a donor and a Board member of the San Diego Blood Bank.

More specifically, Mr. Gutierrez has donated more than 19 gallons of blood, and he continues to donate. He dedicates his time leading the San Diego Blood Bank's Community Advisory Committee, which aims to recruit and engage diverse donors throughout the region.

Mr. Gutierrez upholds a diverse professional background, including his service as a policy advisor and community liaison for former members of the San Diego Board of Supervisors, and his work for a local Fortune 500 company. Currently, Mr. Gutierrez is working within the Office of Strategy and Innovation at the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency.

Mr. Gutierrez possesses an array of knowledge and experience, spanning over fifteen years on various boards and commissions, including as former Chairman of the Chula Vista Planning Commission, and as former Chairman of transportation, land use and housing think tank, Circulate San Diego.

Mr. Gutierrez graduated from San Diego State University with a Master of Public Administration, and graduated from the National Urban Fellows, America's Leaders of Change program, through the University of Kansas. Through leveraging his experience as well as his relationships, Mr. Gutierrez has fostered positive change in the San Diego region.

Gabe lives in Chula Vista with his wife, Janice, and their two daughters, Mila and Ayla. He enjoys the natural beauty of San Diego, spending his spare time visiting the parks within the region.

Gabe Gutierrez was honored as the 52nd District Constituent of the Month in January 2024, when National Blood Donor Month is celebrated. He is commended for his dedication and tremendous commitment to our local community and the larger San Diego region.

### TRIBUTE TO ANNA MAE WILSON ROBERTSON

#### HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 6, 2024*

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, ten years ago, I had the honor and the esteemed privilege of addressing this body in honor of Anna Mae Wilson Robertson's 90th birthday. Today, it is with great pleasure and reverence that we gather once more to commemorate the extraordinary life of Anna Mae Wilson Robertson as she celebrates her centennial birthday. Anna Mae Wilson Robertson is a cherished mother, devoted volunteer, and esteemed veteran. Mrs. Robertson, a cherished figure in the community of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, marks a century of life on March 8, 2024.

Anna Mae Wilson Robertson embarked on a Journey of resilience and service, exemplified by her marriage to John Robertson, a partnership that spanned 33 years and blessed them with eight children. Throughout her career, she made meaningful contributions as an employee of Marquette University and St. Camillus Health Center, leaving a lasting impact on the hearts and lives of those she encountered.

However, Mrs. Robertson's unyielding spirit and dedication to duty truly distinguished her. In 1945, amidst the backdrop of World War II, she answered the call to serve her country, enlisting in the Army and joining the Women's Army Corps (WAC) ranks. Notably, she became a member of the illustrious 6888 Central Postal Directory Battalion, fondly known as the Six Triple Eight.

Comprised of 855 courageous women, the Six Triple Eight achieved remarkable feats, blazing trails as the first African American all-female battalion and the sole all-women battalion deployed overseas. Their mission was clear: to address the logistical challenges hindering mail delivery to troops stationed across Western Europe. Mrs. Robertson and the Six Triple Eight surpassed expectations and demonstrated exceptional efficiency by overcoming logistical difficulties in just three months.

Navigating treacherous waters plagued by German U Boats and facing the threat of enemy bombardment, the Six Triple Eight persevered, establishing a groundbreaking mail distribution system that became a lifeline for over 7 million military personnel and civilians. Despite adverse conditions, Mrs. Robertson and her comrades processed an astonishing 65,000 pieces of mail per shift, seven days a week.

Yet, their triumphs were muted by the harsh realities of discrimination as they confronted the barriers of "dual segregation" based on gender and race. Undeterred, they forged ahead, creating their support systems, and achieving their objectives in record time. Following their valiant service abroad, Mrs. Robertson and her fellow soldiers returned home as unsung heroes.

● 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.

On February 11, 2021, I was honored to introduce H.R. 1012, The 'Six Triple Eight' Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2021, to recognize the service and sacrifice of Mrs. Robertson and her fellow heroes for their service. That long awaited recognition was passed in the 117th Congress and became Public Law No: 117-97 on March 14, 2022.

Today, as we reflect on Mrs. Robertson's centennial birthday, let us also honor the legacy of the 6888 Central Postal Directory Battalion—a legacy of bravery, resilience, and unwavering dedication to duty. Let us pledge to uplift and celebrate the untold stories of individuals like Mrs. Robertson, whose contributions have long been overshadowed by the passage of time.

Mr. Speaker, on this auspicious occasion, let us pin in celebrating Anna Mae Wilson Robertson's 100th birthday and expressing our profound gratitude for her exemplary service to our nation and her enduring impact on the community of Milwaukee. May her remarkable life continue to inspire generations to come.

RECOGNIZING JOHN D. MCCARTHY, JR., THE GREATER WILKES-BARRE FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK'S 2024 MAN OF THE YEAR

### HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 6, 2024*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize John D. McCarthy Jr., a resident of Shavertown, PA, whose entrepreneurial spirit, dedication to selfless service and passion for philanthropy personify the soul of our community. These qualities have earned him the distinguished honor of being recognized as the Greater Wilkes-Barre Friendly Sons of St. Patrick's 2024 Man of the Year.

As the member of the House representing Shavertown, in Luzerne County, I am grateful to have this opportunity to recognize John D. McCarthy, Jr.'s lifelong devotion to serving the NEPA region. A third-generation family business owner at McCarthy Tire Service, John continues his family's multigenerational commitment to ensuring the economic success of our local economy.

Founded in 1926 by John's grandfather Joseph, the first McCarthy Tire Service store was opened on Main Street in Wilkes-Barre in 1930. John's father, John "Jack" D. McCarthy, Sr., a former Man of the Year honoree, began working in the family business at age 12 as an oil bottle cleaner, and he rose through the ranks to become president in 1957. In 1962, Jack moved McCarthy Tire to its current site at 340 Kidder Street, added services for his customers and increased the workforce.

From a young age, John understood the value of teamwork and a fair deal as he, much like his father, worked in the family business in multiple roles from gas attendant to scrap tire removal. John believes that each role has made him a better leader. Since 1997, John has served as the President of McCarthy Tire Service and has overseen considerable growth of the company without altering his core values of hard work, honesty, and handshake deals.

Under John's leadership, McCarthy Tire Service has become the fifth-largest inde-

pendent commercial tire dealer in the U.S. with over 75 locations and 1,500 teammates in eight states. In under three decades, John has added over 1,200 employees to the ever-growing company and plans to add more in the future—helping to ensure the economic success of NEPA while providing good-paying jobs and benefits for our residents.

John also knows the value of being an integral part of our community. He currently serves on the Board of Highmark Inc., AllOne Health Resources, AllOne Charities and AllOne Foundation. He has also served on past boards, including the Ecumenical Enterprises, Earth Conservancy, Villanova Business School, and Landmark Bank, along with serving on numerous tire industry councils.

In addition to these important roles, John continues to promote philanthropy throughout the communities in which McCarthy Tire Service operates, as his company has generously given to over 100 charities. John has continually expressed his intent on keeping McCarthy Tire Service headquartered in Wilkes-Barre and remains dedicated to giving back to the community that helped his grandfather start McCarthy Tire Service.

I congratulate John D. McCarthy, Jr. on being honored as the Greater Wilkes-Barre Friendly Sons of St. Patrick's 2024 Man of the Year. John's entrepreneurial spirit, dedication to selfless service and passion for philanthropy distinguish him. His character represents the very best of Pennsylvania's 8th Congressional District, and I am proud to be his Representative in Washington.

### HONORING MARK HINDMAN

### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 6, 2024*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the professional achievements and service of Mr. Mark Hindman, City Manager for the City of North Richland Hills, Texas. Mr. Hindman is retiring following forty years of exemplary service to the public.

Upon graduation from Geneva College in Pennsylvania with a B.S. in Sociology, Hindman began his public service in 1983, working for U.S. Senate Finance Committee in Washington, D.C. Following two years on Capitol Hill, he completed management internships at the City of Olathe, Kansas and the City of University Park, Texas. Along the way, he earned his Masters of Public Administration from the University of Kansas. In 1987, he was hired by the City of Lubbock, TX as a Budget Analyst, and over the next eight years, he advanced through the ranks to be named Director of Finance/Support Services. The City of Mesquite, Texas hired him as Assistant City Manager in 1995, and for the next fourteen years, he provided oversight for multiple municipal departments. Mr. Hindman was named City Manager of North Richland Hills, Texas in 2009.

Under Mr. Hindman's capable direction, the quality of life for North Richland Hills has been enhanced through implementation of numerous community improvements, including expansion of the city's park and trail system, construction of the NRH Centre, Grand Hall, Senior Center, Animal Shelter, and a new City

Hall. He's made a priority of excellent public service and fiscal responsibility, and under his sound financial leadership, the City has seen a reduction in its tax rate to the lowest since 2016.

In the fourteen years that Hindman has helmed the City of North Richland Hills, he has spearheaded efforts to revitalize older, owner-occupied residential properties and the reuse of vacant commercial properties. He guided new development and redevelopment in North Richland Hills to ensure a vibrant economy and an attractive place for its citizens to call home.

Mark Hindman has been an outstanding public servant to the residents and businesses of North Richland His professional leadership will be missed throughout his community and all of North Texas. On behalf of the 26th District, I wish him all the best in his next stage of life.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. ROBERT GARCIA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 6, 2024*

Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on Tuesday, March 5. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA Roll Call No. 60 and YEA on Roll Call No. 61.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. LIZZIE FLETCHER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 6, 2024*

Mrs. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to attend votes because of an unavoidable conflict in Houston. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 61 and YEA on Roll Call No. 60.

RECOGNIZING HURON VALLEY PACE'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF SERVICE

### HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 6, 2024*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I use today to recognize Huron Valley PACE on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of their founding. Their contributions over the past ten years to improving the lives of the elderly in Washtenaw County are worthy of commendation.

Huron Valley PACE was founded in 2014 in Ypsilanti, Michigan to provide medical and supportive services for the elderly in the greater Washtenaw County area. Their all-inclusive care, which is covered by Medicare and Medicaid, provides coverage for primary and specialty care, prescription drugs, medical transportation, hospital visits, dental care, medical equipment, home care, and physical, occupational, and speech therapy. Their extensive range of services have notably helped support hundreds of low-income adults with housing,

living, and medical expenses, and their dedication to serving their community is admirable.

Over the past decade, Huron Valley PACE has been a proactive member of the local community, setting up events such as Super Bowl watch parties, heart disease awareness drives, and Martin Luther King Jr. Day community service projects in partnership with other local organizations. In addition to caring for the elderly in Washtenaw County, Huron Valley PACE also works to instill a commitment to public service in local high school and university students by offering hands-on volunteer opportunities for students. Volunteers distribute hot meals to underserved communities, lead food drives, and raise awareness about senior care.

Part of Huron Valley PACE's proactive approach to providing exceptional care for the elderly includes advocating for expanding comprehensive senior care services like the PACE Expanded Act. At the state level, Huron Valley PACE works with the Michigan State Legislature to reduce the cost of medical care and to find innovative ways to help elderly people remain living in their homes. This advocacy is yet another example of how Huron Valley PACE continues to demonstrate their commitment to providing and advocating for quality and affordable elderly care.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the founding of Huron Valley PACE on their 10th anniversary. They have had a tremendous impact on the Washtenaw County area and continue to find exciting ways to continue improving their services to their community, and I cannot wait to see what they accomplish over the next decade.

#### HONORING DENNIS JOHN BENIGNO

### HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 6, 2024*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the inspiring life of Dennis John Benigno. A resident of the City of Clifton, Dennis John was debilitated by a traumatic brain injury when he was fifteen years old. The injury that befell Dennis John would have crushed weaker spirits. But instead of shrinking, Dennis John and his family used it to change the world.

Back in 1984 when Dennis John suffered his injury, few people anywhere knew about Traumatic Brain Injury. Information was sparse, even among doctors. The knowledge gap was enormous. Dennis John helped change all of that. The Benigno family drive was tireless, the founding of the Coalition for Brain Injury Research a watershed.

I first met Dennis John when I was running for Congress in 1996. His story inspired me to learn more about the issue and advocate for people with brain injuries. It is thanks to Dennis John's inspiration that I founded, alongside my friend Former Representative Jim Greenwood (R-PA), the bipartisan Congressional Brain Injury Task Force in 2001. At first, you could fit our caucus members into a phone book. Now, there are dozens of members on our task force.

For 23 years, the task force has brought together thousands of families, advocates, and

doctors. We have enacted laws, created policies, won hundreds of millions of dollars in funding, made important connections and told countless stories. These are people who would have never met and laws that would have never passed had it not been for Dennis John Benigno. Other accident victims, military servicemen and women in Iraq and Afghanistan, those participating in youth sports, and millions of people across the spectrum helped because the Congress was aware and ready to support our TBI victims.

Regrettably, Dennis John passed away on January 24, 2024. It is true that we have yet to find the TBI cure we have prayed for, and I have deep regret for that. But when people cynically say no one person can make any difference in our world, they are wrong. They did not know Dennis John Benigno. So, while we mourn a life lost, we celebrate something even bigger a life that lifted up so many others by sheer power and love.

Today, we are hosting Brain Injury Day on Capitol Hill. Hundreds of brain injury victims, advocates, and caregivers from across the nation have come to Washington to educate Congress on the steps we can take to fund and support care for brain injury victims as we fight for a cure. This year's Brain Injury Day is in honor of Dennis John Benigno's life. I do not know if I would be here fighting for this worthy cause if not for Dennis John's inspiration.

The House sends its condolences to Dennis John's parents, Dennis and Rosalind Benigno, his sister Kim Lyons, her husband William, as well as his aunts, uncles, nephews, and cousins. May God bless Dennis John Benigno. God bless his entire family. And God bless America.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF RAYMOND "RAY" L. CORDOVA

### HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 6, 2024*

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues, Representatives LEVIN, SÁNCHEZ, and NAPOLITANO, and rise today to honor the life of Raymond "Ray" L. Cordova, a renowned labor leader who leaves behind a legacy of service.

Ray cut his teeth as an organizer in the early 1960s as part of the Freedom Summer Movement in Mississippi for almost two years. A proud veteran of the U.S. Army Airborne, his service to his country continued after the Vietnam War when he returned home to build up his community. He was always a dapper dresser and treated everyone with respect. In a short time, Ray began making his name known as one of the most effective and impactful labor leaders in Orange County.

No matter what or who you believed in—if you were a Republican, Democrat, or something in between—Ray was a champion of all people. When working men and women across America had no seat at the table, Ray fought tirelessly to make room through his leadership in the Communications Workers of America Union and as a labor organizer in Orange County.

Ray's influence and impact extends beyond his labor work. He educated and prepared the next generation of the labor movement, and

helped redefine politics in Southern California. It is because of his mentorship that so many of the leaders of today are prepared to make the changes they envision, in California and beyond.

Not only was he a deeply loved member of our community, but my colleagues and I are lucky that Ray was also a dear friend. I have personally had the pleasure of knowing and learning from him over the last 25 years.

I ask my colleagues to join me and Representatives LEVIN, SÁNCHEZ, and NAPOLITANO in celebrating the extraordinary life and legacy of Raymond "Ray" L. Cordova. I thank Ray for setting an example of leadership and service that we all may aspire to and learn from.

#### RECOGNIZING MS. ADEL SCHNEIDER

### HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 6, 2024*

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a young Wisconsinite I have had the pleasure of meeting with throughout my time in Congress, Ms. Adel Schneider.

At nine months old, Adel was diagnosed with a severe dairy allergy. This diagnosis transformed the Schneider family's daily life. Oftentimes, Adel had to be careful with cake at birthday celebrations or at holiday events, where a main focus is food. While this could have been isolating, Adel was inspired by her allergy; she began raising awareness in her hometown of Appleton.

Adel and her mother, Kara, are seen on local television, sporting events and at schools in Northeast Wisconsin, fundraising and informing others about food allergies. Adel has been successful in her fundraising efforts, raising over \$50,000 for FARE, a non-profit that promotes food allergy awareness and research. In 2018, Adel was the recipient of the FARE Teen Achievement Award following her involvement in the annual Milwaukee Food Allergy Heroes Walk. In 2020, the Schneider family donated allergy-friendly food to Paul's Pantry in Green Bay after receiving a grant from FARE. She has partnered with Appleton's Minor League Baseball team, the Wisconsin Timber Rattlers, to share information with the community on food-allergies. She is a Red Sneakers for Oakley Ambassador, where she creates social media content centered on food allergy awareness. Most recently, Adel ran her annual Teal Halloween Skate, which is a community Halloween event that provides allergy-safe treats.

As Adel became more vocal in the community, her advocacy spread to Congress. I first met Adel in 2020 to discuss the FASTER Act, which requires food companies to include sesame as an allergen on their labels. After successfully passing this legislation, I have continued to meet with Adel to discuss future legislation on food allergies. Most recently, Adel and I discussed the ADINA Act, a bill I introduced in 2023. This legislation would require pharmaceutical companies to be more transparent about their allergy risks on drug labels. I always look forward to meeting with Adel and hearing about her community events in Northeast Wisconsin. I value her perspective and commend the work she is doing on food-allergy awareness.

Adel has inspired many, including myself, with her advocacy for individuals with food allergies. I take comfort in knowing there are young citizens stepping up in their communities. Adel has a long list of accomplishments, and I look forward to watching her accomplish even more.

HONORING NICHOLAS NESSLAGE,  
EAGLE SCOUT

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 6, 2024*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nicholas Charles Nessler. Nicholas is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 495, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Nicholas has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Nicholas has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Nicholas has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Nicholas created a gravel water runoff area at his local park in Weatherby Lake to combat flooding.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Nicholas Charles Nessler for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ABILITIES OF NORTHWEST NEW JERSEY

### HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 6, 2024*

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Abilities of Northwest Jersey on their 50th Anniversary.

Over 50 years ago, a group of 14 grassroots advocates, including parents and members of the New Jersey community, came together to incorporate Abilities of Northwest Jersey as an organization fulfilling the vocational needs of adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities. Starting as a small workshop serving 13 individuals in Washington, NJ and partnering with local companies, this group of advocates had a mission to improve the employability and quality of life for people with disabilities, leading to their sense of self-worth and independence. Thanks to their efforts, Abilities was legally incorporated in 1974.

Since that time, Abilities have grown exponentially, serving individuals of all levels of abilities, through the expansion of various programs and services. Abilities now serves over 375 individuals and their families throughout the northwest region of the state. They are not only the disability employment experts for this region, but the professional staff also support those who are significantly challenged with medical or behavioral needs. Their services

are both exemplary and accredited by CARE International. They have also opened a variety of Social Enterprises that offer vocational training opportunities as well as a valued service to our community—PrintAbilities, SustainAbilities Electronics Recycling and PossAbilities Thrift Boutiques.

I am so proud of their accomplishments, the positive impact they have made on thousands of lives, and the exciting future that lies ahead.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. JASMINE CROCKETT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 6, 2024*

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, on March 5, 2024, I was absent during the time of votes. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 60, H.R. 3391, Gabriella Miller Kids First Research Act 2.0, and YEA on Roll Call No. 61, H.R. 3838, Preventing Maternal Deaths Reauthorization Act of 2023.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF  
CAPTAIN KEVIN MITCHELL

#### HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 6, 2024*

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent Captain Kevin Mitchell of the Kingsport Fire Department in Kingsport, Tennessee, who is retiring after more than 26 years of dedicated service to our community.

Captain Mitchell began his Journey with the Kingsport Fire Department on September 2, 1997. Over the span of his illustrious career, he has not only served as a firefighter, but also advanced to become a paramedic serving in this capacity for over two decades. His dedication to continued education extended far beyond his immediate duties as a respected instructor in both fire service and medical fields, where he taught crucial lifesaving techniques such as CPR, Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS), Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS), and more.

Beginning his career as a firefighter, Captain Mitchell was soon promoted to the position of engineer, where he was responsible for driving and operating complex firefighting vehicles. He continued to rise through the ranks in recognition of his exceptional service, culminating in his promotion to Captain, a role he held until his retirement. His commitment to safety and excellence led him to join the Kingsport Fire Department Technical Rescue Team, where he specialized in Search & Rescue, Swift Water Rescue, Confined Space, High & Low Angle Rope Rescue, Trench Rescue, and Structural Collapse. His leadership and expertise in these areas earned him the role of Technical Rescue Team Leader.

In addition to his remarkable service at the Kingsport Fire Department, Captain Mitchell also dedicated eight years as a member of the State of Tennessee Emergency Service Board in Nashville, where he played a pivotal role in regulating EMS activities across the state.

His service to the community extended well beyond his professional obligations to include

his participation with the Big Brother/Big Sister Program of East Tennessee, H.O.P.E. (Help Our Potential Evolve), the Kingsport Life Saving Crew, and the Kingsport Firefighters Association Local 2270. His advocacy efforts also saw him participate in state legislation, lobbying for the rights and welfare of firefighters across Tennessee, advocating on critical issues like PTSD and cancer.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Captain Kevin Mitchell for his outstanding service to the Kingsport Fire Department and the citizens of Kingsport, Tennessee. His retirement marks the end of an era of exceptional service and leadership, and his legacy will continue to inspire current and future generations of public servants. We wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

HONORING EAGLE SCOUT JACKSON  
CHOI OF SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI

#### HON. ERIC BURLISON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 6, 2024*

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jackson Choi of Springfield, Missouri, who recently achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. Eagle Scout is the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouts of America program. Since its inception in 1911, only 4 percent of scouts have earned this rank after a lengthy review process.

Jackson is a junior at Kickapoo High School in Springfield, and he has been in scouting since he joined as a Cub Scout in 2013. He is a member of Troop No. 289, where he has held several leadership positions. He also has attended three of the four high adventure camps earning him the Triple Crown Award from the Boy Scouts of America.

To earn the Eagle Scout designation, each individual must complete a project. Jackson's project was to update the bamboo fencing at the Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden at the Nathaniel Green/Close Memorial Park in Springfield. The garden was established by Springfield's Japanese sister city in 1985. The original bamboo fencing had fallen into disrepair, so Jackson studied the process and replaced 100-feet of fencing in the traditional Japanese way.

This accomplished young man deserves our applause for a job well done. I am proud to have him as a constituent.

CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF DR. GUBAD IBADOGLU

#### HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 6, 2024*

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on the Government of Azerbaijan to immediately release Dr. Gubad Ibadoglu, a courageous pro-democracy activist, brilliant economist, and beloved husband and father, who has been unjustly detained for over seven months.

On July 23, 2023, Dr. Ibadoglu and his wife, Irada Bayramova, were forced out of their car near Baku, Azerbaijan, seized by masked individuals, detained, and beaten. Dr. Ibadoglu had returned to Azerbaijan earlier in July from a visiting fellowship at the London School of Economics to care for his ailing mother. Though Ms. Bayramova was released hours later, Dr. Ibadoglu was not released. Ms. Bayramova and her family have been denied communication with her husband and she continues to experience Post Traumatic Stress Disorder from this harrowing ordeal. The “charges” that President Ilham Aliyev’s government has used to justify Dr. Ibadoglu’s detention and imprisonment without trial—that he organized the production of counterfeit money to support a political group and, as an avowed secularist, disseminates material that supports religious extremism—are so dubious and baseless that they would qualify as satire in another context.

Dr. Ibadoglu’s true “crime” against the Aliyev regime is his devotion to the causes of democracy, freedom and anti-corruption in Azerbaijan. He is detained today because he bravely chose to return to Azerbaijan to care for his mother despite fleeing the country in 2017 to teach abroad after his civic activism prompted threats of retaliation. As an internationally acclaimed economist, he has also served as a visiting professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Duke University, and Rutgers University. He was a 2015 Fulbright Scholar, a 2015 Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow at the National Endowment for Democracy, a 2018 Prague Civil Society Center Fellow, and a recipient of the 2018 Civil Society Scholar Award by the Open Society Fund.

During Dr. Ibadoglu’s seven-month detention, he has been subjected to crowded and inhumane conditions common to Azerbaijan’s jails and denied sustained access to critical medication. Dr. Ibadoglu’s family is increasingly concerned that he has been denied the medication and medical treatment that he desperately needs to treat his chronic health conditions. He has additionally been repeatedly denied access to his legal counsel and has not received a fair trial while in custody. I join my fellow Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle, the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Embassy in Baku, U.S. academic institutions and organizations, the European Parliament, and others in the international community to express my deep concerns about Dr. Ibadoglu’s health and demand his immediate release.

I commend Emin Bayramli, one of Dr. Ibadoglu’s sons who lives in my district, and his entire family for their steadfastness in seeking their father’s freedom from his unjust imprisonment. I also commend my colleague Congressman CHRIS SMITH of New Jersey for adopting Dr. Ibadoglu through the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission’s Defending Freedoms Project.

Dr. Ibadoglu is one of far too many Azerbaijanis that the Aliyev regime has unjustly detained to suppress freedom and civil rights. The Government of Azerbaijan’s poor record of respecting human rights, civil rights and civil liberties is a moral stain that affects free people everywhere. Whether they live in Washington, D.C. or Baku, Hong Kong or Beijing, Moscow or Kyiv, everyone should have the right to determine their own destiny. Dr.

Ibadoglu’s unjust imprisonment must end immediately.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF JOE  
MADISON, “THE BLACK EAGLE”

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 6, 2024*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, the other week, we lost a great American, renowned civil rights activist, and legendary radio host: Joe Madison. He passed away on January 31 at age 74. Some knew Joe as ‘the Judge’ who would hear out his callers and guests even if they had different views but cut them off if they tried to spread misinformation. Others knew him as ‘the Black Eagle’—his longtime radio nickname. I had the pleasure of knowing him as a friend and as a crucial member of the local community. Regardless of how we knew Joe, however, we all recognized him for who he was: a man of supreme integrity, character, and intellect.

The airwaves defined Joe’s life, and Joe’s life defined the airwaves. From the start of his radio career as a DJ for the campus station at Washington University in St. Louis to its end on SiriusXM’s Urban View with a daily listenership in the tens of millions, Joe captivated his listeners. They knew they could trust Joe. He made a point never to violate that trust.

Joe understood both the nuances of radio as a medium and its power to change minds and change the country. Before his radio career took off, Joe was a leading figure in the Detroit chapter of the NAACP. He was only 24 when he became executive director of the Detroit branch of the organization—the youngest person in history to hold the position. Never losing sight of his roots in advocacy, Joe used his platform on the radio to highlight the most pressing challenges of the day, especially those facing the Black community. His perspective was invaluable in an era when conservative talk radio dominated the airwaves.

Throughout his life, Joe proved to be a powerful force for change both on and off the air, always asking his famous question, ‘What are you going to do about it?’ He posed that question not only to others but to himself. In 2001, he was arrested for protesting human rights abuses in Sudan. Breaking records with a 52-hour long broadcast in 2015, Joe raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for the new Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. He went on a 73-day hunger strike in 2021 to protest Republicans’ legislative blockade of the Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.

I saw his passionate advocacy firsthand when we worked together on the historic Emmett Till Antilynching Act. Joe and I, along with many others, were frustrated that America still lacked a law that made lynching a federal crime more than a century after the idea was first proposed. During the 116th Congress, we worked with Rep. Bobby Rush and then-Representative Karen Bass to rectify that failure. After Republicans blocked the bill’s passage in 2020, we renewed our push in the 117th Congress. At long last, President Biden signed the Emmett Till Antilynching Act into law on March

29, 2022. It wouldn’t have been possible without Joe Madison. Joe’s work on the bill and on a variety of other causes over the years drew the admiration of millions. Listeners were excited to tune in every day and guests were eager to come on Joe’s show because they knew the commentary and conversation would be just as meaningful as his principled advocacy.

Whether discussing the opportunities that the new FBI consolidated headquarters will create for Greenbelt, Democrats’ efforts to address inflation, or my longstanding work to protect voting rights, I had the pleasure of coming on Joe’s show many times over the years to talk about critical issues in Maryland’s Fifth District and beyond. Many other leaders sought out these meaningful conversations with Joe, from former President Barack Obama to Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi. He inspired each of his guests—and each of his listeners—to reflect more deeply on their principles, their politics, and their perspectives.

Mr. Speaker, Joe’s voice was defined not by its earthy baritone but by its moral clarity and commitment to truth. Like so many others across the country and around the world, I will miss hearing it crackle through the radio in the morning. Joe may be gone, but the question he posed to his listeners remains: ‘What are you going to do about it?’ Although he can no longer ask us that question, we can still answer.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my prayers to Joe’s incredible wife of 47 years, Sherry; his three daughters, Monesha Madison Lever, Shawna Collins and Michelle Borleske; his son, Jason Madison; his four half-siblings; his five grandchildren; and his great-granddaughter. I ask that all my colleagues join me in wishing them strength and in mourning Joe Madison—a titan of the airwaves. May God bless and keep Joe Madison.

HONORING EAGLE SCOUT FRANKLIN  
LUCORE OF MONETT, MISSOURI

**HON. ERIC BURLISON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 6, 2024*

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Franklin Lucore of Monett, Missouri, who achieved the rank of Eagle Scout just prior to his 15th birthday. Eagle Scout is the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouts of America program, and since its inception in 1911, only 4 percent of scouts have earned this rank after a lengthy review process.

Franklin is a freshman in the International Baccalaureate Program at Central High School in Springfield and a member of BSA Troop 38 in Monett. He began his scouting career as a Cub Scout at the age of seven and since then has held numerous leadership positions with the troop, while also maintaining a 4.0 grade point average in school. He is a member of the Brotherhood of the Order of the Arrow, scouting’s National Honor Society, and a member of the Tribe of the Lone Bear, an honors program of the Ozark Trails Council’s Camp Arrowhead. He also has earned 36 merit badges, camped out more than 50 nights, hiked more than 100 miles and performed more than 36 hours of community service.

His Eagle Scout project provided improvements and outdoor furnishing to South Park, a 65-acre park owned by the city of Monett that caters especially to children and adults with disabilities.

Scouting has been teaching valuable lessons in leadership since it was established in February 1910, and achieving the rank of Eagle Scout is an important accomplishment. This young man deserves our applause for a job well done. I am proud to have him as a constituent.

---

#### 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, March 7, 2024 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

#### MEETINGS SCHEDULED

##### MARCH 11

- 2:30 p.m.  
Select Committee on Intelligence  
To hold hearings to examine worldwide threats. SH-216
- 4:30 p.m.  
Select Committee on Intelligence  
To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters. SH-219

##### MARCH 12

- 9:30 a.m.  
Committee on Armed Services  
To hold hearings to examine global security challenges and U.S. strategy. SH-216
- 10 a.m.  
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine proposals to address housing affordability, availability, and other community needs. SD-538
- Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
To hold hearings to examine the findings and recommendations of the Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission. SD-366
- Committee on Finance  
To hold hearings to examine growing U.S. manufacturing through the tax code. SD-215
- Committee on the Judiciary  
To hold hearings to examine voting rights in America. SD-G50
- 10:15 a.m.  
Committee on the Budget  
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2025. SD-608

- 2 p.m.  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety  
To hold hearings to examine youth apprenticeships, focusing on building partnerships and strengthening career pathways. SD-430
- 2:30 p.m.  
Joint Economic Committee  
To hold hearings to examine the fiscal situation of the United States. CHOB-210
- 3 p.m.  
Committee on Rules and Administration  
To hold hearings to examine administration of upcoming elections. SR-301

##### MARCH 13

- 10 a.m.  
Committee on Veterans' Affairs  
To hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of The American Legion and multiple veterans service organizations: JWV, TAPS, NCHV, MOAA, NACVSO, NCAI, VVA, NGAUS, and FRA. 390-CHOB

##### MARCH 14

- 10 a.m.  
Committee on Finance  
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2025 for the Department of Health and Human Services. SD-215
- Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine responding to the increasing wildfire threat. SD-342
- 10:30 a.m.  
Committee on Foreign Relations  
To hold hearings to examine U.S. strategy in the Pacific Island region. SD-419