

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE OF WILLIAM TRAVIS, JR.

**HON. JARED HUFFMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 16, 2024*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with Congresswoman Barbara Lee to honor William Travis (Travis) who passed away at the age of 81 on April 24, 2024. Travis was a leader in environmental conservation who spent decades supporting the preservation and health of the San Francisco Bay.

Born and raised in Allentown, PA, Travis went on to study architecture at Pennsylvania State, earning an undergraduate degree in 1967 and a master's degree in regional planning in 1970. His early career included a position as bay design analyst for the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), developing the first master plan of the East Bay Regional Parks District, joining the staff of California Coastal Commission, and then returning to the Bay Conservation and Development Commission in 1985 as Deputy Director. In 1995, he assumed the role of Executive Director, a position he held for 16 years.

During his tenure with BCDC, Travis served as chair of the Shell Oil Spill Litigation Trustee Committee, disbursing over \$15 million to restore natural resources, and in the late 1990s, served a critical role in the public acquisition of 10,000 private acres of salt evaporation ponds on the bay's shoreline, which are now being returned to wetlands. Lending his expertise on sea level rise adaptation, Travis lead BCDC in 2011 to become the first state agency in the United States to develop regulations to combat sea level rise.

Beyond his environmental work for the state, Travis was deeply involved in the East Bay community. He worked as a consultant for the Oakland Athletics, served as chair of Berkeley's Downtown Area Plan Advisory Committee, and lectured at the University of California, Berkeley. After retiring and receiving a Parkinson's disease diagnosis, Travis continued to lead the effort for a transit-oriented housing development at the North Berkeley Bay Area Rapid Transit Station. After a long campaign, the project will be breaking ground on 750 residential units in 2025.

Travis was married to his wife, Jody, for 47 years. Together they raised their daughter, Katherine. Being her parent inspired the couple to write, Katherine's Hope, a memoir on international adoptions. Travis credits his passion for environmental preservation and stewardship in large part to his daughter and a hope for her future.

Known for his serious and effective professionalism balanced by sharp wit and humor, and the breadth and depth of his environmental career, Travis was a tireless advocate for our environment and the health of future generations. His legacy in the Bay Area cannot be understated. Mr. Speaker, we respect-

fully ask that you join us in expressing our appreciation for his decades of good work and condolences to his family and friends.

COMMEMORATING THE COMMITMENT OF ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE TO THE YOUNG MEN OF WESTERN NEW YORK

**HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 16, 2024*

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the consequential impact that St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute has had on the young men of Western New York.

Since its establishment in 1861, St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute has been a pillar of the Buffalo and Western New York community. While the school's faculty and staff may have come and gone throughout the school's history, the mission has never changed—to transform young men from all backgrounds into strong and courageous leaders of our community through a Lasallian education.

The Brothers of Christian Schools, also known as the De La Salle Brothers, have a long and storied history of educating young men through rigorous academics and an approach that emphasizes caring for the whole person. St. Joseph's in Buffalo is no exception to this tradition.

As an alumnus of St. Joseph's myself, I have been able to experience first-hand the commitment of the school to transforming boys into strong young men in a great position to succeed in their future. As St. Joseph's approaches 175 years of service to our community, adherence to its original founding principles, and their commitment to Western New York has never been stronger. Not only does the school create strong leaders, but also actively works to improve the lives of those in the community through service.

We honor the commitment of St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute to our young men and its unwavering dedication to serving our community. Please join me in celebrating the devotion of the St. Joseph's faculty and staff, as well as the De La Salle Brothers.

HONORING DIANNE JACKSON

**HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 16, 2024*

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Dianne Jackson. Dianne Jackson was a lifetime public housing resident, leader and activist dedicated to improving living conditions and advocating for tenant rights. She had firsthand experience with the injustices faced by public housing

residents and their communities and dedicated her life to fixing them.

As a member and graduate of the National Congress of Neighborhood Women (NCNW) college program, Dianne used her voice to bring attention to issues such as substandard housing conditions, lack of access to resources and opportunities, and discrimination residents face. She served as President of Cooper Park Resident Council for a decade and on the board of NYCHA's Citywide Council of Presidents. Dianne worked with NCNW and helped organize women in the fight for healthcare services, daycare, and community services for young people. She served on numerous anti-poverty boards, including the first NYC Area Policy Board, comprised of community leaders charged with helping to secure local funding for communities.

She was a member of the NYPD Community Council and a voice against police abuse, while supporting public safety measures to keep neighborhoods safe. Dianne organized residents to join the fight against environmental degradation, local waste companies, and polluting manufacturers. Cooper Park Houses, a predominately Black and Latino community, has been impacted by environmental injustices that hurt the health and wellness of residents. Dianne Jackson became a recognized and respected leader of influence. She has been featured in community documentaries and recognized by the City, State and Federal leaders for her advocacy.

Dianne touched so many lives through her work, and our city is undoubtedly a better place because of her. She will be sorely missed, but I'm heartened to know that her legacy will inspire young people looking to stand up against injustice in our great city. My thoughts are with her family and all the New Yorkers who had the pleasure to know her. May she rest in peace and may we all honor her memory.

HONORING AMIT ELOR

**HON. MARK DeSAULNIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 16, 2024*

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Amit Elor for making history as the youngest American wrestler to earn an Olympic gold medal.

Amit was born and raised in Walnut Creek, California and had been wrestling since age four. From a very young age, Amit has exemplified her astonishing skill and unwavering dedication to the sport. She attended College Park High School in Pleasant Hill, California where she earned the California high school state title in folkstyle wrestling. By the age of eighteen, Amit had won senior, U23, and U20 world titles in the span of just three months, making her the youngest U.S. senior world champion in any discipline or gender. Amit retained these titles in 2023, making her the

• 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.

only wrestler to win three titles two years in a row.

In August, Amit won an Olympic gold medal in the women's freestyle 68kg wrestling event. This historic victory made Amit the youngest wrestler from Team USA to ever win gold. Since 2019, Amit has accumulated 42 wins and outscored her opponents 375–19. We are eager to see her make history again in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

Our community is beyond proud of Amit and it has been a delight to root for her during this year's Paris Olympics alongside California's 10th Congressional District. Please join me in congratulating Amit on her incredible accomplishments and the many more to come.

#### EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR CONSTITUTION DAY

#### HON. RUSSELL FRY

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 16, 2024*

Mr. FRY. Mr. Speaker, Constitution Day is a time set aside to commemorate the signing of the Constitution of the United States of America—the most important document in our Nation's history.

In 1787, the thirty-nine men that convened in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, forever altered history when they formed the supreme law of our land—written by the people, for the people.

Through times of prosperity and times of hardship, our constitution has never wavered. Let this Constitution Day remind us of the liberty, justice, and freedom for all—and the never-ending pursuit of a more perfect union.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE FOREST LEGACY MANAGEMENT FLEXI- BILITY ACT

#### HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 16, 2024*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the “Forest Legacy Management Flexibility Act.” I thank my colleagues, Representatives JARED HUFFMAN (D-CA), JIM COSTA (D-CA), ANN M. KUSTER (D-NH), and SUZANNE BONAMICI (D-OR) for cosponsoring my House bill.

As the former Deputy Secretary of the Interior, I know our national conservation goals cannot be achieved through public land ownership alone. The federal and state governments can and must work with private landowners who want to do their part to conserve America's natural landscapes, as my family did for our cattle ranch in 1998. This Act would unlock billions in federal funding to help states conserve working forestlands, create local jobs, and support sustainable forest management practices that reduce wildfire risk.

The “Forest Legacy Management Flexibility Act” would allow States to choose to designate accredited, nonprofit land trusts to hold conservation easements purchased with federal funding under the U.S. Forest Service's Forest Legacy Program. Current law requires that only the federal or state governments can

hold conservation easements purchased under the Forest Legacy Program.

Allowing States participating in the federal Forest Legacy Program the flexibility to partner with accredited, nonprofit land trusts will help permanently conserve more land by working with private landowners who want to have their land conserved but are wary of selling the federal or state governments an easement on their property. Expanding opportunities to conserve working forestlands will benefit our rural economies and encourage sustainable forest management practices that help prevent wildfires.

This Act maintains the integrity of the Forest Legacy Program by holding all accredited, nonprofit land trusts participating in the Program to the highest possible standards. In addition, it implements safeguards to prevent misuse of the Program and allows the U.S. Forest Service or State to reclaim easements if a land trust falls into noncompliance with the Program.

We will need every tool in the toolbox to advance the Biden-Harris Administration's “America the Beautiful” National Conservation Goal to conserve at least 30 percent of the lands and waters in the United States by 2030 and Governor Newsom's similar conservation goal for the State of California. This Act takes a critical step towards meeting these goals and protecting our country's natural resources and forests for future generations.

The “Forest Legacy Management Flexibility Act” would unlock new opportunities and funding for permanent land conservation. My colleagues and I are honored to introduce this legislation to preserve America's working forests and bolster our rural economies. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all members to join us in cosponsoring this bill.

#### COMMEMORATING THE CAREER OF ROBERT T. SCOTT

#### HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 16, 2024*

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Mr. Robert T. Scott as he is bestowed the prestigious title of President Emeritus of St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute.

Mr. Scott began his career as a religion teacher at St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute in 1971. Over time, he served as a social studies teacher, vice principal, principal, and then president. In 2001, Mr. Scott earned his Letters of Affiliation, the highest honor bestowed by the Institute of Brothers of Christian Schools, the religious order that founded St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute in 1861. Scott retired in 2017 after a tremendous 48-year career at the all-boys high school.

Throughout his career, Mr. Scott has exemplified the mission of St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute, to transform the lives of students from diverse backgrounds through academic excellence and care for the whole person in a respectful, Lasallian Catholic community, developing each student's unique talents in preparation for college and life. The students that Mr. Scott impacted throughout his tenure have excelled in their personal and professional lives in large part due to the mentorship and dedication of Mr. Scott.

Today, Mr. Scott continues to inspire all who know him, sharing his compassion and dedication to his family, friends, country, and faith. Please join me in congratulating Mr. Robert T. Scott on an inspiring career in education, and the continuation of his commitment to education and the Lasallian tradition as President Emeritus of St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute.

#### HONORING EDWARD D. PETTITT, SR.

#### HON. CLAUDIA TENNEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 16, 2024*

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and remember the extraordinary life of Edward “Ed” D. Pettitt, Sr. Born on June 27, 1961, in Newfane, NY. Ed was a man of deep conviction and unwavering principles. Raised on his family's farm, Ed's early years were steeped in the values of hard work, independence, and a deep connection to the land. He was the beloved son of George and Marion Pettitt, who instilled in him a commitment to family and community that would guide him throughout his life.

A brilliant student, Ed graduated as valedictorian from Newfane High School in 1980. He then attended the State University of New York at Buffalo, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering, graduating magna cum laude in 1986. His love of learning led him to further his education, obtaining a Master of Science in 1998, followed by a second Master's in Creative Studies from SUNY College at Buffalo in 2002.

Ed's professional career was marked by innovation and excellence. Over his 35-year tenure at Mahle (formerly Delphi Harrison Thermal Systems), he earned more than 20 patents and was inducted into the Delphi Automotive Systems Innovation Hall of Fame in 1997. His dedication to his work culminated in receiving the prestigious 2013 “Boss” Kettering Award, and he retired as a Product Engineering Manager in 2020.

However, Ed's legacy extends far beyond his professional achievements. He was a man deeply committed to First Principles Thinking—a philosophy that guided his approach to life, problem-solving, and civic engagement. Ed believed in the importance of returning to fundamental truths and using them as a foundation to build solutions, a method that influenced both his engineering work and his advocacy.

Central to Ed's belief system was the conviction that natural rights—those to life, liberty, and property—originated not from any earthly government, but from our Creator. He held that these rights were inalienable and that governments were instituted among men to protect them, not to grant them. This belief fueled his passionate advocacy for the Second Amendment, as he viewed the right to keep and bear arms as a fundamental protection of these God-given rights. To safeguard these principles, Ed founded the Second Amendment For Ever (SAFE) organization in Niagara County. He was a staunch defender of the rights of responsible gun owners, believing that public safety and personal security were interdependent, both sustained by the individual's right to self-defense. Ed's commitment to

this cause was rooted in his deepseated belief that the Second Amendment was essential to preserving all other freedoms.

Ed also championed the rights of farmers and the agricultural community in Niagara County. Recognizing the challenges faced by rural areas under the current political system, he was a vocal advocate for Rural Electoral Equity. He argued that rural communities were politically disenfranchised, with power disproportionately concentrated in urban centers like New York City. Ed believed this imbalance undermined the principles of a republic, where all regions should have an equal voice in governance.

His advocacy extended to challenging the 1964 Supreme Court ruling in "Reynolds v. Sims," which mandated that Senate districts be apportioned based on population rather than by county. Ed contended that this ruling led to political gerrymandering that favored urban areas at the expense of rural communities, affecting key issues such as gun control, energy, land use, and criminal justice.

Ed's vision was to make Niagara County a leading example of how rural areas could assert their rights and push back against state overreach. He worked tirelessly to build coalitions with other counties, strengthen local government, and create barriers to state infringement. As part of his efforts to support the agricultural community, Ed helped form the Niagara County Agricultural Rights Advisory Panel, ensuring that the voices of local farmers were heard and their rights protected. His contributions to the community were recognized through several awards, including the 2018 Ken Burner Memorial Award and the 2022 Oliver Jones Memorial Award Sportsperson of the Year from the Niagara County Federation of Conservation Clubs, Inc.

Above all, Ed was a devoted family man. He married his high school sweetheart, Lisa (Bowers) Pettitt, in 1981, and together they raised four sons: Edward II, Jonathon, Michael, and Thomas. He was a loving grandfather to five grandchildren, with whom he shared his love of the outdoors, including fishing, camping, kayaking, and farming.

Edward D. Pettitt, Sr. will be remembered as a man of integrity, a fierce defender of constitutional rights, and a tireless advocate for rural communities. His legacy lives on through his family, his community, and the many lives he touched with his unwavering commitment to freedom, justice, and the principles upon which this Nation was founded.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LOYAL  
MARTIN (MARTY) GRIFFIN, JR.

**HON. JARED HUFFMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 16, 2024*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Loyal Martin (Marty) Griffin Jr., MD, MPH who passed away on May 22, 2024, at the age of 103. Marty was a trailblazing environmental leader, renowned for his early focus on the intersectionality of healthcare and the environment. He made profound impacts on both fields.

Born in 1920 and raised in a mountain cabin along the Ogden River in Utah, Marty developed an appreciation of nature at an early

age. His family moved to the West Coast during the Depression, eventually settling in Oakland, California where Marty was an Eagle Scout and the valedictorian of Oakland Technical High School. He earned a zoology degree from the University of California, Berkeley in 1942 and worked night shifts in the Richmond shipyards to afford Stanford Medical School. After receiving his medical degree in 1946, Marty joined the United States Army Medical Corps and served as a captain during the end of World War II.

Marty's career in the medical profession quickly expanded to include environmental work, as he recognized the convergence of these two fields and their relationship to public health. He became a distinguished physician in Marin County, establishing the Ross Valley Clinic, Ross General Hospital, Tamalpais Retirement Center, and Kentfield Psychiatric Hospital. He also served as Chief of Medicine at both Marin General and Ross Hospitals.

Marty returned to the University of California, Berkeley in 1972 where he earned a master's degree in public health and subsequently became the Public Health Director of the Sonoma Developmental Center, a position he held for 15 years. In 1980, he was appointed Chief of the Hepatitis B, and later AIDS, Task Force for 11 state hospitals. In 1989, he received the Gold Medal for Superior Medical Accomplishment from the State of California.

Marty's passion for land preservation and environmental education extended beyond his professional career. In 1961, he founded Audubon Canyon Ranch, which now includes 5,000 acres of wildlife sanctuaries throughout the Bay Area and Sonoma County and is a model of conservation education. This land created the "gateway" to the Point Reyes National Seashore and Golden Gate National Recreation Area that were later established in 1962 and 1972. Marty also cofounded the Environmental Forum of Marin, and he served as an elected official as a director of the Marin Municipal Water District. He created a model for watershed management plans through his founding of the Russian River Task Force, Friends of the Russian River, and the Russian River Environmental Forum. Beyond California, Marty helped establish a 20,000-acre preserve in Halekalā National Park and participated in wildlife efforts in Nepal.

Marty's lifetime of work inspired many, including the documentarians Nancy Kelly and Kenji Yamamoto who, in 2013, created the film *Rebels with a Cause*, detailing his and other local conservationists' fight to stop development along the Marin County coastline. What would have been a large development is now public land enjoyed by thousands of visitors every year in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Known fondly as "the nature doctor" and "the doctor with mud on his shoes," Marty is survived by his wife, Joyce Griffin; daughters Linda Henke, Anne Oliver, Carol Griffin and Joanie Griffin; stepson Brian Nielsen; and five grandchildren. He is predeceased by his granddaughter, Gina Marin Monaco, who passed in 1998 at age 15 from leukemia.

Mr. Speaker, Martin Griffin was an innovative leader who never shied from an opportunity to advocate for our environment and the health of future generations. It was my privilege to know Marty and consider him a friend. His legacy in Marin County, California, and be-

yond cannot be understated. I respectfully ask that you join me in expressing my appreciation for his lifetime of good work.

RECOGNIZING THE ASSYRIAN COMMUNITY IN CALIFORNIA'S CENTRAL VALLEY

**HON. JOHN S. DUARTE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 16, 2024*

Mr. DUARTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Assyrian community in the Central Valley of California. In particular, Stanislaus County has had a long history of Assyrians seeking refuge from religious persecution and genocide in their ancestral homelands known as Mesopotamia. This vibrant and thriving community is determined to preserve the language, heritage, culture, and their identity as Christians.

Over fifty thousand Assyrian Americans call Stanislaus County home. The 10th Anniversary of the Assyrian Festival hosted by the Assyrian Church of the East local parishes bring thousands of visitors to the Turlock Fairgrounds to celebrate the rich heritage, cuisine, and traditional dances of the Assyrian culture. The Assyrian language, heritage, and culture form the bedrock of Assyrian communities in the Central Valley, which anchors them in traditions that span millennia while also acting as guiding lights that propel them successfully forward while preserving their unique narrative. In addition, the Assyrian Church of the East's most ancient faith dating back to the first century of Christianity offers this community spiritual nourishment. This heritage instills pride, and the language and culture fosters unity. Together, they empower the Assyrian people worldwide to preserve the rich legacy and advance as a vibrant community, forging connections across generations and continents, ensuring their enduring presence in the tapestry of humanity.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in proudly recognizing the Assyrian community in the Central Valley of California for its invaluable contributions to our Nation's history, culture, and prosperity as we celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Assyrian Festival this month.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF THE  
THOMPSON FAMILY FOUNDATION

**HON. J. LUIS CORREA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 16, 2024*

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of the Thompson Family Foundation for Autism and Neurodevelopment, which supports families with loved ones who have autism and other neurodevelopment conditions. Their multifaceted approach raises awareness, advances public policy, and spearheads philanthropic efforts for this amazing cause.

The Thompson Foundation partners actively with the Lestonnac Free Clinic, located in the heart of Orange. The Lestonnac Clinic shares the same philanthropic vision as the Thompson Foundation, and their contributions have

positively impacted the health and well-being of many of our low-income residents.

Since the Foundation's inception nearly two decades ago, founders Billy and Nancy Thompson have fostered an environment that places families and their concerns first. To date, the Thompson Family Foundation has helped conduct over 5,000 autism spectrum disorder diagnostic evaluations through the Thompson Center for Autism & Neurodevelopment at the University of Missouri.

In addition, the foundation contributes equipment, like that used for cardiac and vision screening, and has recently led the expansion of patient examination rooms at the Lestonnac Clinic. The Foundation is currently funding efforts to open the Nation's first dedicated free surgery center, which would allow uninsured community members to receive non-life-threatening surgery procedures, like hernia repairs or colonoscopies, that are often neglected.

Providing quality health services to our community is critical—and through the Thompson Family's involvement and leadership, the Lestonnac Clinic will be able to continue providing essential preventative care to their patients.

I'd like to thank Billy and Nancy, important leaders in our Orange County community who have demonstrated their commitment to caring for our children and families. The work of the Thompson Family Foundation continues to be an important cornerstone of support for healthcare services to our district's low-income and uninsured residents, and I join our community in thanking them for the great work they do.

#### RECOGNIZING INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DEMOCRACY 2024

**HON. JAMIE RASKIN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 16, 2024*

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the International Day of Democracy, which was Sunday, September 15. This day is an opportunity to promote the principles of democracy and freedom against an alarming resurgence of authoritarianism and fanaticism across the globe.

The enemies of freedom seek to destabilize and destroy the constitutional democracies.

It is estimated that in 2024 alone, two billion people across 64 countries will have exercised their right to self-determination at the ballot box. But already, we have also witnessed sham elections, most notably in Bangladesh, Belarus, Venezuela and Russia, where the incumbent regimes suppressed political opposition and manipulated the electoral process.

Free and fair elections are the cornerstone of democracy and the foundation of a free society. Yet, far too many dictators, budding autocrats and monarchists of the world have undermined the will of the people, using coups d'etat and electoral autocracy to stifle democratic voices. According to Freedom House, a leading American organization devoted to the support and defense of democracy around the world, in 2023, political rights and civil liberties were diminished in 52 countries, while just 21 countries made improvements.

In June, I met Dr. Amir Khasru Chowdhury, a leader in the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). Dr. Chowdhury was arrested on dubious charges three months before Bangladesh's January 2024 elections. He languished in prison for six months until the Bangladeshi government, then controlled by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, conveniently released him two months after ballots had been cast. Dr. Chowdhury was not alone in his politically motivated imprisonment; his was one of nearly 8,000 arrests of BNP leaders and political dissidents. But despite the government's sinister ploy to subvert the electoral process, Dr. Chowdhury and the other jailed Bangladeshi dissidents were vindicated, and their cause ultimately prevailed. After a historic youth-led movement to end Prime Minister Hasina's despotic reign, the Bangladeshi people have earned the right to redirect their future. It's now time for the international community to support the fundamental principles of democratic governance in Bangladesh.

Meantime in Hong Kong, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) continues to erode the city's political independence. In July, a Hong Kong court taken over by the CCP denied a request to resume the trial of pro-democracy activist Jimmy Lai. The case prosecuting Mr. Lai for what is essentially a "thought crime" lays bare the CCP's authoritarian takeover of the once-free Hong Kong. I was proud to adopt Jimmy Lai as a prisoner of conscience through the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission's Defending Freedoms Project and will continue to passionately advocate for his release.

Jimmy Lai is not the only prisoner of conscience detained by an autocratic regime. In July, I wrote a letter to President Biden and Secretary Blinken urging the administration to demand the release of those wrongfully imprisoned in Saudi Arabia for exercising their basic human rights. Thousands of courageous activists, journalists, religious clerics, and human rights defenders have been silenced for simply speaking out about their dreams for democracy—such as their desire to move freely, speak openly and wear whatever they choose. In response to their impassioned advocacy, the repressive Saudi Arabian regime has unjustly imprisoned critical voices, issued violent threats, and imposed severe travel bans. This draconian reign of terror must end immediately.

The governments of Bahrain, Turkey, Belarus and numerous other nations are also holding prisoners of conscience hostage to suppress the voices of their fellow citizens. Our foreign policy must not overlook these human rights violations, be it governments' subversion of electoral processes, obstruction of justice, or the crushing of dissent. I invite my colleagues to use their various platforms to support prisoners of conscience everywhere to tell their stories in the pursuit of justice. Joining the Defending Freedoms Project is one excellent avenue to do so.

In 1835, Alexis de Tocqueville wrote that democracy and voting rights could shrink and shrivel away or grow and expand. Today, our world is embroiled in a period of democratic backsliding. In reverence to the International Day of Democracy, I'm asking each of my colleagues to join me in boldly advocating for democracy and freedom across the world.

#### COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CHARLES PRIORE

**HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 16, 2024*

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the life and legacy of a fallen hero and pillar of the Western New York community—Charles "Chuck" Priore.

Born in Buffalo, New York on December 15, 1975, Chuck was the youngest of three boys born to Charley and Laurie Priore. After graduating from Bishop Timon High School in 1994, Chuck entered the workforce and ultimately landed a job as a hazardous materials specialist with EarthTech.

While working for EarthTech, Chuck traveled throughout the Midwest and Mid-Atlantic. In the weeks leading up to the September 11th terror attacks, Chuck and his co-workers were assigned to a job in Queens. When the attacks occurred, his team was redirected from their job site to the World Trade Center where they worked in 24-hour continuous shifts cleaning up debris from the fallen towers. His life and the lives of his future wife and children were forever changed by the time he spent doing his job, serving his country, and answering the call in the days following the attacks.

In the months following, Chuck returned home to Buffalo and joined Laborers' Union Local 210. In 2008, two years after the birth of his son, Kevin, he became a Corrections Officer with the Erie County Sheriff's Office and served in that role until 2021.

In the fall of 2009, Chuck met his now-wife, Cate Flanagan, at the Buffalo Irish Center. They later moved into the same neighborhood that Chuck grew up in to start their lives together and raise a family. On June 25, 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Chuck was diagnosed with bladder cancer linked to his time at the World Trade Center after the 9/11 attacks. He underwent treatment and surgery but passed away on August 17, 2024, after being admitted to hospice care.

Chuck's passing leaves behind his beloved wife Cate, and two children, Kevin and Ciara who now face life without him. His sacrifice is a solemn reminder of the lasting impact of dedicated service in the face of tragedy. As we remember Charles "Chuck" Priore we grieve the loss of a beloved friend and dedicated public servant and find solace in knowing that his legacy lives on.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF THOMAS CARE REED

**HON. JARED HUFFMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 16, 2024*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise with Congressman MIKE THOMPSON to honor Thomas Care Reed, who passed away at the age of 89 on February 11, 2024, and his extensive public service to the United States and local Sonoma County community. Mr. Reed served as the 11th Secretary of the United States Air Force and was a dedicated public servant to three former Presidents.

Mr. Reed was born in New York City, NY in 1934. His military career began as a member of Cornell's Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps program. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering as Cadet Colonel, the highest-ranking officer in his class. Shortly thereafter, he was commissioned as Second Lieutenant in the Air Force. Mr. Reed served until 1959, ending his active-duty career as Technical Project Manager for the Minuteman Re-Entry Vehicle System with the Air Force's Ballistic Missile Division.

While enlisted in the Air Force, Mr. Reed simultaneously attended the University of Southern California where he completed his Master's Degree in electrical engineering. He later moved to the Bay Area where he was stationed at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory as a chief strategist working to develop new thermonuclear weapons systems. This work contributed to the end of the Cold War and launched his political career.

As one of the key scientific minds behind the invention of thermonuclear devices being tested in the Pacific Ocean during the early 1960s, Mr. Reed earned the respect of his peers including Manhattan Project member Edward Teller. In 1973, he was appointed as Assistant to the Secretary of Defense. Just a few years later, under President Gerald Ford's administration, Mr. Reed was named Secretary of the Air Force, a post he held until the beginning of President Carter's term in 1977.

Throughout his life, Mr. Reed held many passions including writing and winemaking. What started as a small hobby growing wine grapes in Sonoma County's Alexander Valley would eventually transform into the renowned Clos du Bois Winery, which by the late 1980s, would sell more than 200,000 cases of wine per year.

Mr. Reed is survived by his wife, Kay, his daughter, Carolyn Reed Ellis, his sons, Gordon Reed and Andrew Reed, and six grandchildren. While his patriotism and military service were instrumental in deterring the Soviet Union from deploying nuclear devices during the Cold War, Mr. Reed will also be remembered as a loving husband, father, and grandfather.

Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that Thomas Reed was a dedicated public servant who will be missed and whose many contributions to the Sonoma County region and Nation are worthy of commendation. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor his many contributions and express our deep condolences to his family and friends.

#### 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 Tuesday, September 17, 2024 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

#### MEETINGS SCHEDULED

##### SEPTEMBER 18

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine aviation cybersecurity threats.

SR-253

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine America's regional commissions, focusing on sharing best practices in regional and economic development.

SD-406

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to continue to consider S. 4667, to amend title 31, United States Code, to establish the Life Sciences Research Security Board, S. 4373, to provide for congressional approval of national emergency declarations, S. 4495, to enable safe, responsible, and agile procurement, development, and use of artificial intelligence by the Federal Government, S. 4675, to require the United States Postal Service to submit a comprehensive proposal to the Postal Regulatory Commission before implementing any network changes, S. 4630, to establish an interagency committee to harmonize regulatory regimes in the United States relating to cybersecurity, S. 4654, to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to allow Indian tribal governments to directly request fire management assistance declarations and grants, S. 4698, to authorize the Joint Task Forces of the Department of Homeland Security, S. 4711, to limit the consideration of marijuana use when making an employment suitability or security clearance determination, S. 4681, to ensure a timely, fair, meaningful, and transparent process for individuals to seek redress because they were wrongly identified as a threat under the screening and inspection regimes used by the Department of Homeland Security, to require a report on the effectiveness of enhanced screening programs of the Department of Homeland Security, S. 4043, to amend title 5, United States Code, to make executive agency telework policies transparent, to track executive agency use of telework, S. 4679, to amend title XLI of the FAST Act to improve the Federal permitting process, S. 4716, to amend section 7504 of title 31, United States Code, to improve the single audit requirements, S. 4294, to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to negotiate with the Government of Canada regarding an agreement for integrated cross border aerial law enforcement operations, S. 59, to implement merit-based reforms to the civil service hiring system that replace degree-based hiring with skills-and competency-based hiring, S. 4676, to enhance the effectiveness of the Shadow Wolves Program, S. 4672, to require the Commissioner for U.S. Customs and

Border Protection to assess current efforts to respond to hazardous weather and water events at or near United States borders and, to the extent such efforts may be improved, to develop a hazardous weather and water events preparedness and response strategy, S. 4697, to enhance the cybersecurity of the Healthcare and Public Health Sector, S. 4715, to require the National Cyber Director to submit to Congress a plan to establish an institute within the Federal Government to serve as a centralized resource and training center for Federal cyber workforce development, S. 4631, to amend title 41, United States Code, to prohibit minimum education requirements for proposed contractor personnel in certain contract solicitations, S. 4700, to modify the governmentwide financial management plan, S. 4656, to amend title 5, United States Code, concerning restrictions on the participation of certain Federal employees in partisan political activity, S. 4651, to require agencies to use information and communications technology products obtained from original equipment manufacturers or authorized resellers, S. 4419, to require the Science and Technology Directorate in the Department of Homeland Security to develop greater capacity to detect, identify, and disrupt illicit substances in very low concentrations, S. 4321, to amend title 5, United States Code, to prohibit the payment of annuities and retired pay to individuals convicted of certain sex crimes, S. 2546, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 North Taylor Lane in Patagonia, Arizona, as the "Jim Kolbe Memorial Post Office", S. 3946, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1106 Main Street in Bastrop, Texas, as the "Sergeant Major Billy D. Waugh Post Office", S. 4077, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 180 Steuart Street in San Francisco, California, as the "Dianne Feinstein Post Office", H.R. 5527, to amend section 1078 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 to increase the effectiveness of the Technology Modernization Fund, H.R. 7219, to ensure that Federal agencies rely on the best reasonably available scientific, technical, demographic, economic, and statistical information and evidence to develop, issue or inform the public of the nature and bases of Federal agency rules and guidance, H.R. 7524, to amend title 40, United States Code, to require the submission of reports on certain information technology services funds to Congress before expenditures may be made, H.R. 3254, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish a process to review applications for certain grants to purchase equipment or systems that do not meet or exceed any applicable national voluntary consensus standards, H.R. 6174, to improve the biodefense functions of the Department of Homeland Security, H.R. 272, to amend title 31, United States Code, to authorize transportation for Government astronauts returning from space between their residence and various locations, H.R. 4403, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make improvements to the Securing the Cities program, H.R. 5887, to amend chapter 3 of title 5, United States Code, to improve Government service delivery,

and build related capacity for the Federal Government, H.R. 7525, to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to issue guidance to agencies requiring special districts to be recognized as local government for the purpose of Federal financial assistance determinations, H.R. 4467, to direct the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security to assess contracts for covered services performed by contractor personnel along the United States land border with Mexico, H.R. 599, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3500 West 6th Street, Suite 103 in Los Angeles, California, as the "Dosan Ahn Chang Ho Post Office", H.R. 1060, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1663 East Date Place in San Bernardino, California, as the "Dr. Margaret B. Hill Post Office Building", H.R. 1098, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 50 East Derry Road in East Derry, New Hampshire, as the "Chief Edward B. Garone Post Office", H.R. 1555, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2300 Sylvan Avenue in Modesto, California, as the "Corporal Michael D. Anderson Jr. Post Office Building", H.R. 3608, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 28081 Marguerite Parkway in Mission Viejo, California, as the "Major Megan McClung Post Office Building", H.R. 3728, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 25 Dorchester Avenue, Room 1, in Boston, Massachusetts, as the "Caroline Chang Post Office", H.R. 5476, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1077 River Road, Suite 1, in Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania, as the "Susan C. Barnhart Post Office", H.R. 5640, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 12804 Chillicothe Road in Chesterland, Ohio, as the "Sgt. Wolfgang Kyle Weninger Post Office Building", H.R. 5712, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 220 Fremont Street in Kiel, Wisconsin, as the "Trooper Trevor J. Casper Post Office Building", H.R. 5985, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 517 Seagaze Drive in Oceanside, California, as the "Charlesetta Reece Allen Post Office Building", H.R. 6073, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 9925 Bustleton Avenue in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as the "Sergeant Christopher David Fitzgerald Post Office Building", H.R. 6651, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 603 West 3rd Street in Necedah, Wisconsin, as the "Sergeant Kenneth E. Murphy Post Office Building", H.R. 7192, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 333 West Broadway in Anaheim, California, as the "Dr. William I. 'Bill' Kott Post Office Building", H.R. 7199, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at S74w16860 Janesville Road, in Muskego, Wisconsin, as the "Colonel Hans Christian Heg Post Office", H.R. 7423, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 Benedette Street in Rayville, Louisiana, as the "Luke Letlow Post Office Building", and the nominations of

Sherri Malloy Beatty-Arthur, Rahkel Bouchet, Erin Camille Johnston, Ray D. McKenzie, and John Cuong Truong, each to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, Ann C. Fisher, of South Dakota, and Ashley Jay Elizabeth Poling, of North Carolina, both to be a Commissioner of the Postal Regulatory Commission, and Carmen G. Iguina Gonzalez, and Joseph Russell Palmore, both to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals.

SD-342

## Committee on Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 2695, to amend the Indian Law Enforcement Reform Act to provide for advancements in public safety services to Indian communities, S. 3857, to take certain land in the State of California into trust for the benefit of the Jamul Indian Village of California, S. 4442, to amend the Crow Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2010 to make improvements to that Act, and S. 4505, to approve the settlement of water rights claims of Ohkay Owingeh in the Rio Chama Stream System, to restore the Bosque on Pueblo Land in the State of New Mexico; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the nomination of Patrice H. Kunesh, of Minnesota, to be Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission.

SD-628

2 p.m.

## Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Subcommittee on Food and Nutrition, Specialty Crops, Organics, and Research  
To hold hearings to examine keeping kids learning in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program.

SD-562

## Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

## Subcommittee on Economic Policy

To hold hearings to examine the macroeconomic impacts of potential tax reform in 2025.

SD-538

## Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings to examine Russia's imperial identity.

2358C-RHOB

2:30 p.m.

## Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine streamlining and coordinating support for rural small businesses.

SR-428A

## Select Committee on Intelligence

To hold hearings to examine foreign threats to elections in 2024, focusing on roles and responsibilities of U.S. tech providers.

SH-216

3 p.m.

## Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine current and future VA budget challenges, focusing on providing for veterans.

SR-418

SEPTEMBER 19

10 a.m.

## Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

## Subcommittee on Oceans, Fisheries, Climate Change, and Manufacturing

To hold hearings to examine Coast Guard drug interdiction and enforcement in the maritime environment.

SR-253

## Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine fusion energy technology development and commercialization efforts.

SD-366

## Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider an original resolution directing the Senate Legal Counsel to bring a civil action to enforce a subpoena of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, an original resolution authorizing the President of the Senate to certify the report of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate regarding the refusal of Dr. Ralph de la Torre to appear and testify before the Committee, and other pending calendar business.

SD-562

## Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 1306, to reauthorize the COPS ON THE BEAT grant program, S. 2220, to amend title 35, United States Code, to invest in inventors in the United States, maintain the United States as the leading innovation economy in the world, and protect the property rights of the inventors that grow the economy of the United States, S. 2140, to amend title 35, United States Code, to address matters relating to patent subject matter eligibility, S. 4713, to amend chapter 11 of title 35, United States Code, to require the voluntary collection of demographic information for patent inventors, S. 2082, to make technical corrections relating to the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act, and the nominations of Ryan Young Park, of North Carolina, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit, Byron B. Conway, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin, Jonathan E. Hawley, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of Illinois, April M. Perry, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, Gail A. Weilheimer, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and Joseph R. Adams, to be United States Marshal for the Northern District of West Virginia, David L. Lemmon II, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of West Virginia, and Bobby Jack Woods, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Kentucky, all of the Department of Justice.

SD-G50

## Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine how scammers are stealing from older adults, focusing on fighting fraud.

SD-106

10:30 a.m.

## Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of John W. McIntyre, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Eswatini, Jeremy Neitzke, of Illinois, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of

Lesotho, Abigail L. Dressel, of Connecticut, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Angola, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe, James Holtsnider, of Iowa, to be Ambassador to the Independent State of Samoa, Brian K. Stimmmer, of Nebraska, to be Ambassador to the Kyrgyz Republic, and Amanda S. Jacobsen, of Washington, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, all of the Department of State.

SD-419

## SEPTEMBER 24

10 a.m.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine Novo Nordisk's high prices for Ozempic and Wegovy for patients with diabetes and obesity.

SD-562

## SEPTEMBER 25

10 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider S. 4425, to support democracy and the rule of law in Georgia, H.R. 8282, to impose sanctions with respect to the International Criminal Court engaged in any effort to investigate, arrest, detain, or prosecute any protected person of the United States and its allies, and the nominations of Vivek Hallegere Murthy, of Florida, to be Representative of the United States on the Executive Board of the World Health Organization, Kristen Sarri, of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, John N. Nkengasong, of Georgia, to be Ambassador-At-Large for Global Health Security and Diplomacy, Elizabeth K. Horst, of Minnesota, to be Ambassador to the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, Troy Fitrell, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Seychelles,

Kelly Adams-Smith, of New Jersey, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Moldova, Juan Carlos Iturregui, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Dominican Republic, Jennifer D. Gavito, of Colorado, to be Ambassador to the State of Libya, Tracey Ann Jacobson, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Iraq, Joshua M. Harris, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, and Peter W. Lord, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Senegal, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, all of the Department of State.

S-116

2 p.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

To hold hearings to examine FAA oversight of Boeing's broken safety culture.

SD-342