

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

DEFUNDING PLANNED PARENT-
HOOD—CHILD ABUSE, INCOR-
PORATED

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I joined Kristan Hawkins, Marjorie Dannenfelser from Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America and many distinguished pro-life leaders to call for the defunding of Planned Parenthood—Child Abuse, Incorporated—an organization that has slaughtered over ten million babies in their clinics and kills more than a thousand defenseless unborn babies each and every day.

For far too long, politicians and much of the media have ignored, trivialized, enabled, and whitewashed the business of Planned Parenthood—decapitating and dismembering helpless babies with sharp knives or poisoning babies with pills that literally starve them to death and often result in their bodies being flushed down a toilet.

Child decapitation, dismemberment and starvation are not health care. It is violence—and at a minimum, taxpayers should not be forced to pay for this hideous form of child abuse.

Federal taxpayers provide Planned Parenthood with nearly \$600 million dollars every year. That must end.

Reconciliation legislation offers an important opportunity to stop funding abortion purveyors like Planned Parenthood. This is an opportunity we cannot afford to miss.

Let's not forget that undercover videos have exposed in numbing candor several high-level Planned Parenthood leaders gleefully talking about procuring children's internal organs, all while altering gruesome dismemberment procedures to preserve intact livers, hearts, and lungs from freshly killed babies.

In February, the New York Times published an in-depth article detailing horrible clinic conditions, including sewage that seeped into a recovery room for two days, and the shocking treatment women have received, leading to patient complaints and a malpractice suit.

Our Nation should invest in real health care options for women and their families. Federally Qualified Health Centers, for example, provide comprehensive services, including prenatal care, STI testing and treatment. A 2022 report found "14 community-based health clinics and pregnancy centers for every one Planned Parenthood facility in the United States, including more locations in rural and underserved communities."

And with love and compassion, the pro-life movement will continue to tangibly assist women and girls—especially through the extraordinary work of pregnancy care centers. There are more than 2,700 pregnancy care centers throughout the United States—each and every one of them an oasis of love, compassion, empathy, respect, and quality care

for both mothers and their precious children. According to a January 2025 poll, 83 percent of Americans support these centers, including 80 percent of the individuals who identify as 'pro-choice.'

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to include in the RECORD one of the many outstanding statements from the press conference, offered by Toni McFadden:

"Good afternoon! My name is Toni McFadden, and I'm here to share my personal story—one that reveals exactly why Planned Parenthood must be fully defunded.

I was a senior in high school when I walked through the doors of Planned Parenthood's death facility. They had given me a false hope that if I aborted my baby, my parents would never have to find out, my already unstable relationship would have a fighting chance, and my life would go back to normal.

After receiving an ultrasound and asking the nurse multiple times if I could see the screen that was strategically faced against the wall, she reluctantly showed me but quickly stated that my 7-week-old baby and I quote, "was nothing, just the size of a pea."

It would have been too honest of her to tell me that my baby already had a beating heart or that, at the moment of conception, their DNA was unique to them and would never ever be created again.

Instead of the truth I was given the poisonous chemical Abortion pills. The first set was taken with the abortionist and the second set was given to me to take in the comfort of my home. I was told it would only be like a heavy period.

I had complications like many women who think this is a simple thing to do. My pills didn't work correctly and when I called the abortion facility they simply said: "This is why we gave you 2 sets of the pills. Just take the second set and you will be fine." I wasn't fine. It would be the last I would hear from them. I was so uneducated and had the goal of no one finding out. I ended up experiencing severe hemorrhaging that began while I was in school about a month later.

I remember when I got home, keeping this secret from my parents. I went to the bathroom to my bed for hours just bleeding.

If I could go back, knowing what I know now—

I would give my baby life without hesitation.

Planned Parenthood didn't care about me. They didn't care about my baby.

And they don't care about women, especially minority women.

They exploit women for their own financial gain.

This is why they must be defunded.

Abortion doesn't solve our problems—it adds to them.

Abortion doesn't bring healing—it leaves deep wounds and lifelong regret.

No woman should have to walk through what I walked through—

Believing lies, and left to suffer alone.

Abortion only reaps one thing: death.

So today, I stand not just for myself—

But for every woman who's been deceived.

For every child who was never given a chance.

We must stop funding the lies.

We must stop funding the pain.

We must stop funding death.

From the first heartbeat to the final breath, every life holds value. Every soul deserves a chance. Life is a gift worth defending."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VINCE FONG

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on Tuesday, March 25, 2025. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 74.

CONGRATULATING MR. BRONICE
ODELL BRADLEY

HON. VICTORIA SPARTZ

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mrs. SPARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Bronice Odell Bradley of Carmel, Indiana who will turn 100 years old on April 9, 2025.

At 18 years old, Mr. Bradley enlisted in the U.S. Army and was assigned to Company A 394th Infantry, which was a tank division under General George Patton. He endured subzero weather at the Battle of the Bulge. While operating a machine gun on his tank, he was struck by shrapnel and later hospitalized for 13 months. Private First Class Bradley was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army on December 7, 1945.

After retiring from the military, Mr. Bradley and his wife bought a small distribution business, which they operated for 44 years.

My fellow Hoosiers and I wish Mr. Bradley a happy birthday and send him our deepest appreciation for his service to our country during his long and productive life.

OPPOSITION TO H.J. RES. 24 AND
H.J. RES. 75

HON. NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, I oppose H.J. Res. 24 and H.J. Res. 75 because these resolutions roll back common-sense energy efficiency standards for commercial refrigerators, freezers, and walk-in coolers—standards that were rigorously developed by the Department of Energy (DOE) to save businesses money while cutting energy waste. These updated regulations are technologically feasible, economically justified, and essential for reducing long-term costs for small businesses like restaurants, grocery stores, and convenience

• 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.

stores. The DOE estimates that businesses using these appliances would save over \$11 billion in energy costs over the next 30 years—savings that would go back into local economies. I urged the Biden administration to finalize these rules last Congress, and I remain committed to protecting energy efficiency initiatives that reduce costs and pollution.

APPRECIATING MAJOR GENERAL
VAN MCCARTY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to Major General Van McCarty, the 29th Adjutant General of South Carolina, for his service to the state over the past six years as State Adjutant General.

Born in Saluda, South Carolina, MG McCarty attended The Citadel and went on to commission in the United States Army Reserves as a Field Artillery officer.

A veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, MG McCarty has over 36 years of service and commanded units at every level. Among his 36 years of service, 24 were spent in the Law Enforcement Division with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources.

Being a recipient of the Bronze Star Medal and the Meritorious Service Medal, MG McCarty has had an extensive military education and has been recognized for his dedication and service to the country.

Since 2019, MG McCarty has been a strong and stable force and has earned the respect of the Palmetto State. I value his dedication and commitment.

As we wish the best to MG McCarty upon his retirement, I am grateful to welcome Brigadier General Robin B. Stilwell, who will serve as the 30th Adjutant General for South Carolina.

A Greenville, South Carolina native, BG Stilwell also attended The Citadel and was commissioned as an Infantry Officer.

During his career, BG Stilwell deployed multiple times overseas, including tours in Afghanistan, Kuwait and Kosovo. He served as Deputy Chief of Staff-Forward for United States Army Central Command in Kuwait, and also commanded at every level to include serving as the commanding officer of the 678th Air Defense Artillery Brigade in Eastover, SC, and in the 218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade in Charleston, SC.

South Carolina welcomes BG Robin Stilwell in his new position as Adjutant General, and I look forward to working with him throughout his tenure.

HONORING OPERATION TANGO
MIKE

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Operation Tango Mike, a

nonprofit community effort that has provided unwavering support to our deployed military personnel and their families for over two decades. On the occasion of its 22nd anniversary, I am proud to recognize Operation Tango Mike for its dedicated service to those who serve our Nation.

Operation Tango Mike was founded in 2003, when Lake County residents Ginny Craven and Ron Quick sent a care package to Kyle Molencupp, who was then serving in Afghanistan. What began as a simple gesture of support has grown into a community-driven organization that has shipped more than 27,000 care packages to deployed personnel worldwide. Operation Tango Mike has supported service members through numerous military operations, including Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn, Operation Onward Liberty, Operation Odyssey Lightning, Operation Inherent Resolve, and Operation Freedom's Sentinel.

In addition to its vital care package program, Operation Tango Mike coordinates the annual collection and distribution of Christmas gifts and school supplies for military families, providing comfort and relief during challenging times. The organization has also hosted welcome home celebrations and ceremonies for returning troops, ensuring they receive a heartfelt reception from their community. Moreover, Operation Tango Mike has assisted in honoring three of Lake County's fallen heroes in the Global War on Terror, preserving their memory with dignity and respect.

Mr. Speaker, on March 20, 2025, Operation Tango Mike marked 22 years of selfless service with its monthly packing party, a tradition that symbolizes the enduring gratitude and commitment of its volunteers and community. It is fitting and proper that we honor Operation Tango Mike for its dedication and contributions to our armed forces. Their unwavering support is a testament to the strength and generosity of the American spirit.

RECOGNIZING CHERYL CALIRE
FOR HER STEADFAST SERVICE
AND DEDICATION TO THE SAINT
GIANNA MOLLA PREGNANCY
OUTREACH CENTER

HON. NICHOLAS A. LANGWORTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the steadfast service and profound impact of Cheryl Calire, Director of Life Ministries for the Diocese of Buffalo. For 15 years, Cheryl provided guidance, leadership and service to the community as a strong voice and advocate for women, mothers and children—including the unborn. Since her announced retirement last year, she has continued to oversee the Saint Gianna Molla Pregnancy Outreach Centers and Mother Teresa Home in Western New York.

The Saint Gianna Molla Pregnancy Outreach Centers have a tangible impact on our community, providing important material, emotional, and spiritual support during and after pregnancy. This life-affirming work has saved lives, eased the transition into motherhood, and directly impacted over 1,500 families each year. Cheryl's continued leadership has im-

proved the lives and wellbeing of countless children, mothers and fathers across Western New York, and I am so grateful for her good work.

Life is a blessing, and as Cheryl Calire transitions into retirement, my family and I are so grateful to have witnessed her passion and dedication. We are all charged with leaving our community better than we found it, and Cheryl certainly has achieved that mission.

I ask this body to join me in recognizing Cheryl Calire for her commitment to life-affirming advocacy and service. On behalf of the United States Congress, and the constituents of the 23rd Congressional District, I thank Cheryl, and hope she enjoys her well-deserved retirement.

CHRISTENING OF THE USNS *BILLY
FRANK JR.*

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the christening of the USNS *Billy Frank Jr.*

Billy Frank Jr. was a proud member of the Nisqually Tribe and a dedicated leader on tribal treaty rights and environmental stewardship. He served as chair of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission for over 30 years, paved the way for the Boldt decision and was honored with numerous prestigious awards. In 2015, he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Nation's highest civilian honor.

I am grateful to have worked with Billy on habitat restoration for salmon and steelhead. Washington state's tribes and environment are stronger because of Billy's decades of advocacy and leadership.

Billy was also a veteran of the Marine Corps and served during the Korean War. It is fitting that a Navy ship will now bear his name. The USNS *Billy Frank Jr.* will offer salvage, rescue, ocean-going towing and other support capabilities for U.S. Navy fleet operations, while also supporting missions such as oil spill response, humanitarian assistance, wide-area search and surveillance.

On this momentous occasion I send my congratulations to the Frank family and the Nisqually Tribe. I look forward to once again honoring Billy later this year when his statue will be unveiled to represent the state of Washington in the U.S. Capitol's National Statuary Hall.

RECOGNIZING THE INSTALLATION
OF OFFICERS BANQUET FOR THE
OCCOQUAN-WOODBRIDGE-LORTON
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Annual Installation of Officers Banquet for the Occoquan-Woodbridge-Lorton Volunteer Fire Department and to honor the 2024 Awardees.

The 2025 officers and members of the board of directors are taking leadership roles in one of Northern Virginia's longest standing volunteer fire departments. The O.W.L. Volunteer Fire Department was born out of the need for organized fire response capabilities in the growing suburbs of Northern Virginia. In 1938, the Department officially formed to become the only fire department between Fredericksburg and Alexandria. In the subsequent decades O.W.L. has expanded to staff three stations and provide emergency medical services.

The members of O.W.L. are dedicated community volunteers, and the 2025 officers and directors will be diligent stewards of this tradition of service. The 148 active O.W.L. members answer thousands of calls and serve 95,000 people each year. Their job is demanding, and the hours are long, but they gladly serve for little more than the satisfaction of volunteerism and civic engagement. We would all do well to follow their example.

The 2025 Officers: President Todd Hewitt, Executive Vice President Susan Wessollock, Membership Secretary Stacey Godin, Treasurer Debra Haight, Sergeant at Arms Mark Bauer, Elections Officer Sabrina Brandon Ricks, Chief Wayne Haight, Assistant Chief Kurt Bolland, Assistant Chief Ernest DeSantis, Assistant Chief Ryan Williams, Assistant Chief of Rescue Sandra Williams, Fire Captain Steve Godin, EMS Captain Mike Yankaskas, Fire Lieutenant Peter Langone, Fire Lieutenant Jared Lawrence, EMS Lieutenant Andrea Bonilla, EMS Lieutenant Leo Greenwald.

Board of Directors: Frank Bruno, Mike Clark, Steve Godin, Dee Gottman, Dave Lukes, Stephanie Powers, Anna Smith, Cynthia Thackway

2024 Awardees: Betty Limerick Lifetime Service Award: Stacey Godin

Roger T. Furr Chief's Award: Malak Hassan Richard A. McAvoy Award for EMS Service Award: Leo Greenwald

John M. McGovern, Jr. Unsung Hero Award: Ernest DeSantis

Robert F. Arrington Administrative Member of the Year Award: Melaina Lewis

Fred M. Lynn Fire Crew Member of the Year Award: Daniel Collins

Bonita F. Joseph EMS Crew Member of the Year Award: Steven Ostrosky

New EMS Crew Member of The Year Award: Mitchell Connolly

James W. Ludwig Owllet Award: Austin Williams

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me to congratulate these remarkable volunteers for their continued work. The Occoquan-Woodbridge-Lorton Volunteer Fire Department is to be commended for the vital service it provides to the Prince William and Fairfax community.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT KURT DELONG

HON. VICTORIA SPARTZ

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mrs. SPARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Kurt Delong of Westfield, Indiana who for his 25 years of service as a reserve officer to the Hamilton County Indiana

Sheriff's Department, where he has served with distinction. Lieutenant Delong had a very strong religious upbringing, while stating numerous times to his colleagues that he is a "Missionary disguised as a police officer."

During his time with the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office, Lieutenant Delong has obtained numerous awards, including being named "Reserve Deputy of the Year," "Sergeant of the Year," and "Lieutenant of the Year." Additionally, he was named a Pistol Expert, and "Life Saving Award" recipient.

Lieutenant Delong also served as a trainer for Hamilton County Sheriff's Office new Reserve Deputies, and he was a Board Member for the Community Foundation's "Christmas Express Volunteer and Shop for Kids" drive. Lieutenant Delong, in his 25 years of service, provided a strong foundation for safety, training, and growth for the citizens of Hamilton County.

Outside of his law enforcement duties, Lieutenant Delong operates a small landscaping business. Lieutenant Delong is an avid fan of both high school and college wrestling, and he loves boating and travelling.

While Lieutenant Delong will be retiring as a reserve officer on March 28, 2025, he will continue to serve the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office in a civilian capacity. My fellow Hoosiers and I appreciate Kurt's dedication and contribution to our community.

RECOGNIZING MARCH AS DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.

For nearly 40 years, Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month has been observed across the United States to recognize and highlight the achievements, challenges, and inclusion of people with developmental disabilities.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, developmental disabilities are defined as impairments in physical, learning, language, or behavior areas such as ADHD, autism spectrum disorder, cerebral palsy, vision impairment, and hearing loss, among many others. Developmental disabilities occur across all racial, ethnic, gender, educational, and socioeconomic groups. Today in the United States, around 1 in 6 children aged 3 through 17 have one or more developmental disabilities.

Developmental disabilities present differently in every person, and the difficulties an individual faces can vary significantly. There is no one-size-fits-all approach for supporting those with developmental disabilities, and we must recommit ourselves to gaining a better understanding of all developmental disabilities.

We have made significant progress as a nation in advancing the rights, inclusion, and participation of people with developmental disabilities, but challenges and barriers persist. We must continue to promote policies that improve resource accessibility, strengthen support networks, and increase public awareness.

I commend activists, families, caregivers, and organizations, like the Arc of Northern Virginia, for their efforts to ensure people with developmental disabilities have the care, resources, and opportunities necessary to lead productive and fulfilling lives. The tireless and selfless work they do makes it possible for those with developmental disabilities to reach their full potential. The mission is not just to make sure that individuals with developmental disabilities survive, it is to make sure that they are able to thrive.

Mr. Speaker, as we recognize March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, I urge my colleagues to join me in reaffirming our commitment to promoting accessibility, dignity, and equity for all Americans with developmental disabilities.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF LANDIS VALLEY VILLAGE & FARM MUSEUM

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate and recognize Landis Valley Village & Farm Museum for their 100th anniversary.

In 1925, brothers Henry and George Landis combined their collection of Pennsylvania German objects and antiques to found what would eventually become the Landis Valley Village and Farm Museum. The museum was formally incorporated in 1941. In 1953, the brothers donated the museum and property, the Landis' family farm, to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

As the largest Pennsylvania German museum in the country, Landis Valley holds over 100,000 historic artifacts, such as furniture, fraktur art, pottery and quilts, which date back to the early days of Pennsylvania German settlement. Over the years the museum has transformed into a living history exhibition, adding onto its collection many relocated and constructed historical buildings, historical breeds of animals and plants, and interactive presentations of traditional, Pennsylvania German life.

In what was originally a collection between two brothers, the passing century has transformed Landis Valley Village & Farm Museum into an educational community center for the surrounding area. As they celebrate one hundred years in serving the public, I am thankful that Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District has such a wonderful organization keeping our community's heritage alive.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF ROBERT JENNINGS

HON. HILLARY J. SCHOLTEN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my constituent, Robert Jennings, on his retirement from SpartanNash in Byron Center, Michigan. Mr. Jennings was an outstanding associate of SpartanNash, with

his retirement marking 25 years of incredible professionalism and service to his coworkers and community. His commitment to excellence in his role is to be commended, and it is my honor and privilege to recognize Mr. Jennings here today.

Through considerable effort, innovation, and persistence, Mr. Jennings has helped foster an efficient and effective warehouse environment for associates at SpartanNash. He worked with cross-functional departments to coordinate distribution center operations while supervising the daily warehouse department in shipping, selection, loading, and storage. Mr. Jennings was also crucial in assisting with the training of SpartanNash teams during changes in procedure, and worked with warehouse leads to coordinate the day-to-day scheduling of associates. Our West Michigan Community is fortunate to have lived and worked alongside Mr. Jennings, who has made outstanding contributions during his time at SpartanNash.

Mr. Speaker, I once again ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Robert Jennings on his retirement from SpartanNash. We commend him for his decades of service. I wish Mr. Jennings, a much-deserved, restful retirement surrounded by family, friends, and neighbors.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN OF VIRGINIA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the American Association of University Women (AAUW) of Virginia which is celebrating its centennial on March 28, 2025.

In 1925, a group of women met in Williamsburg, Virginia to form a Virginia state Division of the American Association of University Women. The women, mainly educators, resolved to work for an increase in funds for the state supported schools and a program for pre-school children.

In the 1930's, AAUW-Virginia worked to improve school curricula, promoted teacher training, fought for equal salaries for men and women teachers and for removing the discriminatory ruling against married women teaching in the public schools.

In the 1940's, members worked around travel restrictions from World War II. The number of local branches grew in Virginia, as the National organization worked to help women Axis and occupied nations escape to safety. AAUW of Virginia was active in promoting jury duty for women, a right granted in 1950.

In the 1950's when some schools were closed following federal court orders, AAUW branches in Virginia established tutoring groups as temporary substitutes, laying the groundwork for the organization's firm and courageous stand for the preservation of a statewide system of free public schools.

In the 1960's, AAUW of Virginia worked for compulsory school attendance and consistently opposed tuition grants to pupils in private, sectarian schools. The organization had long supported measures to protect and improve the legal status of women, and efforts increased during this decade.

In 1971 AAUW of Virginia voted to support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. In protest the organization moved its state convention outside Virginia to Washington, D.C., in 1981 and to Maryland, a ratified state, in 1982.

The fight for gender equality continued throughout the 1980's, as AAUW of Virginia again opposed the use of public funds for the male-only Virginia Military Institute and signed on as an amicus curia when the case went before the Supreme Court. In 1996, the Court ruled in favor of admitting women students.

In 2020, Virginia became the 38th state to ratify the ERA. The organization's support never waned.

In the new century, some of AAUW of Virginia's issues were the same, such as opposition to public education funds for private schools, and equality for all. Under the auspices of the AAUW National, the Virginia branches have worked for equal pay, including support for the Lilly Ledbetter Act, and fought to protect Title IX, as well as access to reproductive care.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating AAUW of Virginia for 100 years as the Nation's leading organization for equity in higher education and women's economic empowerment. Cheers to another century of advocacy and civic engagement.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTERS WEEK

HON. SUSIE LEE

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the week of March 24th to March 28th of 2025 as National Area Health Education Centers Week, or AHEC week.

Southern Nevadans are facing a dire shortage of health care providers, which means longer wait times, fewer choices, and less access to quality care. To solve this crisis, underserved communities like ours need to expand the resources we offer so that medical providers can learn and grow their careers in southern Nevada.

AHECs are a part of that solution. These centers connect students to local populations, which helps facilitate future engagement and boosts care in our communities. That has been and will continue to be key as we fight to ensure every Nevadan has access to the health care they need.

The AHEC program has already trained millions of health care professionals. Across our state, from Elko to Reno to Las Vegas, the AHEC program is strengthening the future of our health care workforce which will help the collective health of all Nevadans.

That's why I'm proud to support this program and why, year after year, I've fought to secure essential federal investments in the national AHEC program.

On behalf of my constituents at the Nevada AHEC program, their national counterparts, and the thousands of Americans who benefit from the care fostered by AHECs, I am proud to recognize this National Area Health Education Centers Week.

I thank them all for their dedication to keeping our communities healthy.

HONORING THE EASTERN PROVINCE OF KAPPA ALPHA PSI FRATERNITY INCORPORATED ON THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GLENN IVEY

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize the Eastern Province of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Incorporated on the historic milestone of 100 years of achievement and service. Since 1925, when Brother Earl B. Dickerson, the 5th Grand Polemarch of Kappa Alpha Psi, appointed John Miller Marquees as the first Eastern Province Polemarch, the province has exhibited the fundamental purpose of the organization achievement in every field of human endeavor.

As a proud member of the Hyattsville-Landover Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi, I have seen first-hand the commitment to excellence, brotherhood, and the betterment of mankind exhibited by the Eastern Province. With 5 total regions, including all of Washington, D.C., Virginia, Bermuda, and Maryland, the Eastern Province includes over 100 undergraduate and alumni chapters, whose God-fearing and serious minded men have positively contributed to society and the fraternity for the past 100 years.

The Eastern Province of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Incorporated serves as an embodiment of the organization's core values and principles. Under the 30th administration of the province, I am certain that they will continue in the mission and ideals set forth by our illustrious founders. I congratulate them again on 100 years.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MR. JIMMY LEE HOOKS, JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and service of one of my late constituents, Mr. Jimmie Lee Hooks, Jr. He was a decorated war veteran; devoted husband, father and grandfather; and American hero who exemplified duty, courage, and selfless sacrifice in service to the United States of America. Sadly, Mr. Hooks passed from labor to reward on November 5, 2024, at the age of 77 in Columbus, Georgia.

Born and raised in Plains, Georgia, Jimmie Lee Hooks, Jr. was no stranger to hardship. After losing his mother at an early age, he developed a deep sense of resilience, family values, and an unwavering work ethic. He graduated from Sumter County High School in Americus, Georgia, in 1967. Shortly thereafter, he answered the call to serve his country by enlisting in the United States Army. After enlisting, he married his high school sweetheart and beloved, lifelong partner of 54 years, Mildred Louise Hooks (Hubbard).

Private First Class Hooks' courage and valor were tested on the front lines of the Vietnam War, where he served as a Rifleman with Company A, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, 23rd Infantry Division's 11th Infantry Brigade near

Chu Lai. He participated in over twenty-five aerial missions over hostile territory, earning numerous military commendations for his bravery and dedication, including two Bronze Star Medals, the Army Commendation Medal, the Combat Infantry Badge, the Purple Heart, and the esteemed Air Medal.

Among his many accolades, one honor stood out above the rest—the Bronze Star Medal with “V” for Valor. On April 24, 1971, while conducting a combat patrol near Tra Bong, his unit came under heavy enemy fire from North Vietnamese forces. In the face of imminent danger, Private First Class Hooks fearlessly rushed forward, exposing himself to intense hostile fire to provide accurate suppressive cover for his fellow soldiers. His actions were instrumental in preventing additional American casualties and securing victory in the engagement. His unwavering heroism embodied the highest traditions of military service and earned him the profound respect of his comrades and his countrymen.

Following 15 years of honorable military service, Jimmie Lee Hooks, Jr. returned to Georgia and started a family. Together, Mr. Hooks and his wife, Mildred, raised 7 children, 15 grandchildren, and 5 great-grandchildren. He also had a beloved host of nieces, nephews, extended family and friends who loved him dearly.

Though he returned home safely after the Vietnam War, Mr. Hooks continued to carry with him the invisible wounds and scars that can affect veterans following combat. A devout Christian, he answered a calling to help other veterans who struggled with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and service-related conditions by being deeply involved with Mind of Christ Ministries. He also held memberships in the Blind Veterans Association of Columbus and Disabled American Veterans, which demonstrates the strong ties he maintained within the local veteran community.

Despite the adversity he faced on the battlefield and throughout his life, Mr. Hooks remained a steadfast soldier at heart, instilling within his family the values of integrity, resilience, service and character. His dedication to his country and community extended beyond his years in uniform, leaving an indelible impact on all who knew him. Truly, Mr. Hooks embodied the highest ideals of military service on and off the battlefield.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, “The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.” Mr. Jimmie Lee Hooks, Jr. stood tall in the face of adversity, risking his own life to protect his fellow servicemembers and defend the freedoms we cherish.

Mr. Speaker, as Americans commemorate National Vietnam War Veterans Day this Saturday on March 29th, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join my wife, Vivian, and me; along with the over 765,000 people of Georgia’s 2nd District, in honoring Mr. Jimmie Lee Hooks, Jr. for his bravery and his tremendous service and sacrifice on behalf of the American people; and in extending our deepest sympathy to his family, friends, and all those who mourn his loss.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
GERALD “GERRY” W. HYLAND

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Gerald “Gerry” W. Hyland. Gerry’s character and legacy were a testament to a life dedicated to service, leadership, and deep care for others throughout Northern Virginia and abroad. He was a natural leader who genuinely listened to those around him, always considering the needs of others before his own.

As a decorated Air Force Colonel, he exemplified discipline, integrity, and a strong sense of duty to both his country and community. His service extended beyond his military career, as he spent 28 years as the Mount Vernon District Supervisor, tirelessly advocating for his constituents and ensuring their voices were heard in the decision-making process. Gerry was a leader who truly listened, and his actions reflected his profound commitment to improving the lives of those around him.

His legacy is not just defined by his political achievements but by his deep connection to the community. Gerry’s instrumental role in closing the I-95 landfill, preserving Inova Mount Vernon Hospital, and revitalizing Lorton are among the many ways he made a lasting impact. His annual Town Hall meetings and Lobsterfests were a symbol of his dedication to keeping the community engaged and united. In his work with the Virginia Railway Express, the Virginia Association of Counties, and the National Association of Counties, Gerry continued to shape policies that benefited both the local and broader regions.

Outside of his public service, Gerry’s love for family and his 35-acre farm in Parksley, Virginia, where he nurtured the land, raised animals, and enjoyed the simple pleasures of life, paints a picture of a man who valued balance, nature, and the importance of building strong, lasting relationships. His enduring love for his wife Carmen and his family—his daughter Gigi, siblings, and many nieces and nephews—showcase a man whose compassion extended far beyond his professional life.

Gerry Hyland’s legacy is one of a leader who dedicated his life to serving others, a community pillar whose legacy will be felt for generations to come. He leaves behind a profound mark on Fairfax County, a legacy of commitment, service, and the kind of leadership that will continue to inspire future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging the life of Gerry Hyland—a man of deep compassion, humility, and unwavering devotion to his family, friends, and community.

REMEMBERING MR. ROY FAGAN
HODGES

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to remember Roy Fagan Hodges,

who passed away peacefully on Friday, March 21, 2025, at Tippah County Hospital in Ripley, Mississippi.

Roy Fagan Hodges was born on November 9, 1924, in Dumas, Mississippi, to Lee and Inez Cappleman Hodges. He attended school in Wheeler and Baldwin.

During World War II, Roy served in the United States Army Air Force as a tail gunner on a B-24 Liberator with the Eighth Air Force. From 1944 to 1945, he flew 33 combat missions over Nazi-occupied Europe. His deep faith in God sustained him through the war, and upon returning home, he married Eugenia Faye “Jean” Storey Hodges in 1946. Together, they raised two daughters and a son, sharing 65 years of marriage.

Roy was a devoted member of Dumas Baptist Church, where he faithfully served as a deacon. Beyond his church involvement, he made significant contributions to Tippah County communities in various capacities. He served as Fire Chief of the Dumas Fire Department and as an Alderman. Roy was instrumental in establishing, upgrading, and improving the fire departments and rural water systems county wide. He was also a proud member of the Southeast Tippah Lions Club and the American Legion.

After 34 years of service with the Mississippi Forestry Commission, Roy retired in 1986. Even in retirement, his dedication to Tippah County continued as he served as Election Commissioner and Fire Coordinator. He also enjoyed raising cattle and gardening.

Roy is survived by his daughters Phyllis Hill (Wayne) of Tiplersville and Pat Rowland (Charlie) of Booneville; his son Danny Roy Hodges (Janet) of Baldwin; and eight grandchildren: Suzanne Shoup (Bryan) of Ripley, Barry Rowland (Michelle) of Amory, Christy Cagle (John) of Booneville, Brande Shackelford (Kevin) of Ripley, Allison Wood (Thomas) of Mantachie, Amy Smith (Shane) of Byhalia, Sam Hodges of Nashville, Tennessee, and Seth Hodges of Dumas. He also leaves behind twelve great-grandchildren: Trevor Shoup, Thomas Shoup (Olivia), Blake Rowland, Brayden Rowland, Ross Shackelford, Reed Shackelford, Ella Reese Shackelford, Clayton Wood (Anna Reed), Brooke Wood, Carly Wood, Leah Smith, and Taylor Smith; two great-great-grandchildren, Easton Wood and Olivia Wood; and his brother, Ben Hodges of Texas, a fellow World War II veteran who is 102 years old. He is also survived by several nieces and nephews.

Additionally, Roy is survived by his wife of 10 years, Rachel Hodges of Ripley, and her children, Glen Michael (Lori), Franke Michael, and Penny Michael. He is also lovingly remembered by her nine grandchildren, Laken Green (Jake), Jonah Rinehart (Marleigh), Sarah Ann Michael, Mattie Bailey (Hunter), Cooper Rinehart, and Olivia Michael, as well as her five great-grandchildren.

CELEBRATING THE 2025 COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD HONOREES AT THE WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE CELEBRATION AND AWARDS LUNCHEON IN RECOGNITION OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise along with my colleague, Rep. SHEILA CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, to celebrate and honor the incredible achievements of women who are shaping our communities, empowering future generations and leading with grace, courage, and determination. It is a privilege to recognize inspiring women receiving the 2025 Community Service Award in recognition of Women's History Month at the Women of Excellence Celebration and Awards Luncheon.

This celebration is not just about acknowledging individual accomplishments, but it is also about highlighting the collective strength and transformative influence women have in every sector of society. From family leaders to trailblazers in business, education, public service, and beyond, women continue to break barriers and inspire change with remarkable resilience and dedication.

We extend a special thank you to the host of the event, LaTonya Coley-McKenly, the Executive Director of the Deerfield Beach Housing Authority. Her vision, leadership, and commitment to community development made this celebration possible.

Mr. Speaker, please join us in celebrating the honorees being recognized at this year's Women of Excellence Celebration and Awards Luncheon in recognition of Women's History Month: Gloria J. Battle, Lisa C. Davis, Rose Anne Brown, Kiana Morris, Gwendolen Clarke-Reed, and Shaheewa F. Gelin.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BLACKS IN GOVERNMENT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Blacks In Government (BIG), which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this month. The theme of BIG's anniversary celebration is "50 Years of Transformative Government Leadership. Navigating Change, Leading the Charge."

BIG was founded in 1975 in the District of Columbia by a small group of Black employees at the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare to address discrimination against Black federal employees. Over time, BIG has expanded its mission to assist and advocate for Black employees in all levels of government. BIG promotes equality and equity in government employment and creates pathways for students interested in careers in government through its scholarship programs.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing BIG for its contributions over the last 50 years.

RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FAIRFAX LIBRARY FOUNDATION

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Fairfax Library Foundation, an organization that has played an essential role in enhancing the programs and services of the Fairfax County Public Library (FCPL), the largest public library system in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Since its creation in 1994, the Foundation has operated as a 501(c)(3) charitable and educational organization with a singular and steadfast mission: to support FCPL in its endeavor to enrich the lives of over 1 million residents across Fairfax County.

Over the past three decades, the Fairfax Library Foundation has been instrumental in ensuring that the Fairfax County Public Library continues to provide unparalleled access to information, technology, and educational opportunities. Through its unwavering commitment to the community, the Foundation has helped fund innovative programs that enhance civic engagement, promote literacy, and ensure equitable access to essential services for all residents—regardless of their background or economic status.

With a deep commitment to supporting lifelong learning, the Foundation has been a catalyst for the library's extensive work in providing resources such as educational workshops, digital literacy programs, and tutoring services. By facilitating access to these resources, the Foundation has had a profound and lasting impact on individuals of all ages, contributing to the intellectual and personal growth of the community.

As we reflect on the Foundation's accomplishments, it is crucial to recognize the extraordinary leadership of its board members, staff, volunteers, and generous supporters. Their tireless efforts have not only enhanced the library's ability to meet the needs of the community but have also helped to make FCPL a beacon of knowledge, culture, and civic engagement. Their dedication has fostered a library system that remains a critical resource for residents, providing a safe and welcoming environment for learning, collaboration, and enrichment.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to the Fairfax Library Foundation's leadership—both past and present—for their vision, commitment, and hard work. Through their efforts, they have ensured that the Fairfax County Public Library will continue to thrive and evolve in the years to come, empowering future generations of learners, thinkers, and community members. The impact of their work over the past 30 years has been immeasurable, and I am confident that the Fairfax Library Foundation will continue to inspire and serve the residents of Fairfax County for many more decades to come. I am thrilled to congratulate the foundation on its 30th anniversary as they celebrate the "Celebration of Library Joy."

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in acknowledging the Fairfax Library Foundation's remarkable achievements and in expressing our gratitude for its continued service to the Fairfax County community.

INDIGENOUS DIPLOMACY AND ENGAGEMENT ACT

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge support for my Indigenous Diplomacy and Engagement Act to ensure that our foreign affairs fully encompass and incorporate the independent interconnectedness of our world's indigenous peoples.

The estimated 476 million indigenous peoples spread across all parts of our world are bound together by a common heritage, common wisdom and common challenges that transcend often artificial lines of national sovereignty. To recognize their international status and leverage their collective knowledge, in 2007 the international community adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

This common history, knowledge and approach, in such key areas as preservation of unique cultures, sustainable use of our natural resources, and advancement of health care, offers all of us not only a wealth of expertise on their own challenges but on those we all face. To better coordinate focus on indigenous peoples worldwide and engage internationally on issues important to indigenous peoples, my Indigenous Diplomacy and Engagement Act would create an Office for Indigenous Affairs at the Department of State responsible for coordinating all efforts of the federal government regarding diplomacy and engagements with international indigenous peoples. The office would be headed by a Coordinator for Indigenous Affairs, appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate. The coordinator will be tasked with establishing a comprehensive international strategy for promoting diplomacy and engagement with indigenous peoples.

The strategy will be developed in coordination with various federal departments and agencies as well as an Advisory Commission on Indigenous Peoples established by the bill. The Commission will consist of members appointed by the Secretary of State, President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, as well as representatives from the National Congress of American Indians, Alaska Federation of Natives and Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the representative entities for the largest groups of our country's own indigenous peoples. This will help more directly link our Nation's indigenous peoples with efforts to build relationship with those in other countries.

This bill would also require our Foreign Service Officers to be trained on the history and culture of indigenous communities that reside near their posts of assignment. Our Foreign Service Officers will often be the primary American officials for interaction with these communities, and should be well versed in specific indigenous peoples' issues.

We must not step away from the international stage; rather we should lead efforts for meaningful engagement where and however we can. This includes strengthening our relationships and partnerships with international indigenous peoples to more fully include their special perspective and connectedness in an inextricably interlinked world.

I strongly urge my colleagues to join with me in passing and enacting the Indigenous Diplomacy and Engagement Act.

**HONORING THE LATE ROBERT
GEORGE CLARK, JR.**

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a trailblazer, the Honorable Robert George Clark, Jr. He dedicated his life to demonstrating what can be achieved through hard work, perseverance, and a strong desire for change.

Robert George Clark, Jr. was elected to the Mississippi House of Representatives in 1967, becoming the first African American to serve in the Mississippi State Legislature since the Reconstruction era. He remained in office until 2003, leaving behind a legacy of leadership and progress.

Clark was born on October 3, 1928, to the late Mr. Robert and Mrs. Julia Anne Clark of Ebenezer, Mississippi, as the youngest of three children. He attended Holmes County Training School in Durant, Mississippi, and later earned his B.A. from Jackson State University in 1952. In 1959, he obtained a Master's Degree in Administration and Educational Services from Michigan State University. In 1979, while serving in the Mississippi State Legislature, Clark further honed his expertise as a teaching fellow at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

After earning his B.A. degree, Clark worked as a teacher in Holmes County. His first experience in politics came in 1966 when he ran for and won an elected board position with the Holmes County Community Action Program (CAP). The following year, he ran for state legislator on Holmes County's Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP) ticket. His victory made history, as he became the first Black person elected to the Mississippi House of Representatives since Reconstruction.

Clark's election signaled the emergence of Black electoral politics in Mississippi. As late as 1964, only ten Black people were registered to vote in Holmes County, despite African Americans comprising roughly 75 percent of the population. By 1967, however, the Black community had built one of the strongest and most sophisticated political organizations in the state.

Ten years after his historic election, Clark became the first Black committee chairman in the Mississippi House of Representatives when he was appointed to lead the Education Committee. Under his leadership, the legislature passed landmark education reforms, including the 1982 Education Reform Act and the 1984 Vocational Education Reform Act. The 1982 act significantly improved Mississippi's educational system by modernizing classrooms and other facilities, replacing outdated textbooks, and securing new school buses.

In January 1992, Clark was elected Speaker Pro Tempore, a position he held until 2000. By the time he retired from the Mississippi House of Representatives in December 2003, he was the longest-serving member in continuous House service. I stand on the shoulders of

men like him, drawing inspiration from his tireless efforts to make Mississippi a better place for all its citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the late Robert George Clark, Jr. for his unwavering dedication to civil rights and racial equality.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VINCE FONG

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on Monday, March 24, 2025. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 73, and YEA on Roll Call No. 72.

**DEFENDING EDUCATION TRANS-
PARENCY AND ENDING ROGUE
REGIMES ENGAGING IN NEFAR-
IOUS TRANSACTIONS ACT**

SPEECH OF

HON. NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2025

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Chair, I oppose H.R. 1048, the DETERRENT Act, because it imposes unnecessary, overly broad reporting mandates on universities under the pretense of national security. While protecting research from foreign influence is important, this bill goes too far, sweeping in respected organizations like the United Nations and the World Health Organization. It creates a complex and punitive reporting system that burdens universities with vague requirements and excessive penalties, while assigning enforcement to the Department of Education, which is understaffed and lacks national security expertise. The Trump Administration is also trying to dismantle the Department of Education.

The bill also mandates a public database of faculty contracts and donations, raising privacy concerns and exposing researchers to potential harassment. This approach does not strengthen security—it creates red tape that harms academic collaboration. That is why I oppose it, along with major higher education groups and research institutions.

HONORING COLE MCGOWAN

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Cole McGowan for his dedicated service and exemplary leadership as a firefighter with the Yocha Dehe Fire Department. Mr. McGowan has been named the Yocha Dehe Firefighter of the Year, a recognition awarded by his peers for his commitment, work ethic, and embodiment of the department's core values.

Born in Newport Beach, California, Mr. McGowan currently resides in Rescue, California with his wife Brenna. Together, they are

the proud parents of three children: Jack, Kate, and Jane. In addition to his outstanding service as a firefighter, Mr. McGowan is a veteran of the United States Marine Corps, where he served from 1993 to 1997, reaching the rank of Sergeant E-5. His military service reflects his lifelong commitment to serving and protecting others.

From his first day with the Yocha Dehe Fire Department, Mr. McGowan has demonstrated unwavering dedication to protecting our community. As a member of the only internationally accredited Native American fire department, he plays a vital role in providing essential fire protection, rescue support, and paramedic services to Yolo County. Additionally, Mr. McGowan has devoted time to improving the station and their training sites, as well as teaching at the Youth Fire Academy, inspiring our community's next generation of firefighters to answer the call to serve.

Mr. McGowan's dedication to our community extends beyond his professional responsibilities. In the past, he has volunteered his time to support youth development programs at the El Dorado County Juvenile Hall and Lords Gym in El Dorado County. Through these efforts, he helps to mentor and empower the youth in our community.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Cole McGowan exemplifies the ideals of public service and community dedication. His commitment to excellence, both in his professional duties and community involvement, makes him a deserving recipient of the 2025 Firefighter of the Year Award at Yocha Dehe Fire Department. It is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

**RECOGNIZING DEPUTY JEFF
LARKIN**

HON. VICTORIA SPARTZ

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mrs. SPARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hamilton County Sheriff Deputy Jeff Larkin, who is retiring after 16 years of service with the Hamilton County, Indiana Sheriff's Department.

Prior to his time with the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office, Deputy Larkin served as a police officer with the Memphis, Tennessee Police Department. In 1982, he served as lead negotiator for a hostage situation at St. Jude Children's Hospital. After his heroic actions during this event, Deputy Larkin formed a new negotiation unit with the Memphis Police Department. Deputy Larkin's actions during the hostage situation also had a profound impact on the 1985 Tennessee vs. Garner court case, which stated "Under the Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, a police officer may use deadly force to prevent the escape of a fleeing suspect only if the officer has a good-faith belief that the suspect poses a significant threat of death or serious physical injury to the officer or others."

During his time with the Sheriff's Department, Deputy Larkin received a number of awards, including being named "Reserve Deputy of the Year." Deputy Larkin has also been honored for his work with senior citizens in the community providing them with information on Senior Crime Prevention and Elder Fraud & Abuse.

Outside of work, Deputy Larkin has been a steadfast Boy Scout Leader for Troop 132, for over 35 years. An avid sports lover, Deputy Larkin is also a referee for many local high school sports leagues. Deputy Larkin is a graduate of Ole Miss University. He has given back to his alma mater by teaching a criminal justice course as a guest lecturer. Deputy Larkin also serves on a criminal justice committee at the school.

Deputy Larkin's professional contributions have had a lasting impact wherever he has worked. Deputy Larkin plans to continue working with the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office in a civilian capacity after his retirement. My fellow Hoosiers and I appreciate his commitment and dedication to our community.

COMMEMORATING THE 2025 BURKE
VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE
DEPARTMENT'S INSTALLATION
OF OFFICERS BANQUET

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department on the occasion of its 77th Annual Installation of Officers Banquet, and to thank its volunteers for playing an essential role in keeping our community safe.

The Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department was founded in January 1948, and for more than seven decades it has provided lifesaving fire suppression, fire prevention, and emergency medical and rescue services to the residents of Burke and the surrounding communities. It also provides houses, and maintains firefighting and emergency medical equipment, provides opportunities for professional growth and development for the membership, and maintains and fosters a strong viable organization.

As one of the county's most active volunteer fire and rescue departments, the Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department works in co-

operation with the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department to serve the community. I am honored to recognize the dedicated men and women of the Burke Volunteer Fire Department who have volunteered for extra duty as Officers or as members of the Board of Directors and to include in the RECORD their names:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President—Ian Dickinson
Vice President—John Powers
Secretary—Maria Suarez-Ortiz
Treasurer—Larry Bocknek
Board Member—Kathleen Beer
Board Member—James Stahlman
Board Member—Kenneth Senn

OFFICERS

Chief—Keith O'Connor
Deputy Chief—John Hudak
Deputy Chief—Tina Godfrey
Assistant Chief—Larry Bocknek
Captain II—Melissa Ashby
Captain II—Kevin Grottle
Lieutenant—Caitlin Edwards
Sergeant—Noah Bilger
Sergeant—Gavin Kuzemchak
Officer—Garrett Canterbury
Officer—Justin Day

In addition to the men and women who have generously assumed the responsibilities of serving as an Officer or a member of the Board of Directors, the Burke Volunteer Fire Department is also presenting awards to the following individuals in recognition of their exemplary service during the last year:

Rookie of the Year: Catherine Petrovich
EMS Provider of the Year: Garrett Canterbury

Officer of the Year: Noah Bilger
Career Member of the Year (The Steven J. Meyer Award): Captain Christopher Yorty
Team of the Year: VISIT Team: Christopher Hague, Jennafer Miller, and Damion Jedlicka

Admin Member of the Year: Richard Lawson

President's Award: Damion Jedlicka

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the department for 77 years of service and in thanking all of the brave volunteers who do not hesitate to drop everything when the community calls in need

of help. To all of these men and women who put themselves in harm's way to protect our residents I say: "Stay safe."

CELEBRATING ROBERT "BOB"
GUINA'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. HILLARY J. SCHOLTEN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of my constituent, Robert "Bob" Guina, who turned 100 years old on January 14th of this year. Mr. Guina has dedicated his life to our country, his family, and Michiganders.

After graduating from high school in 1943, Mr. Guina quickly joined the United States Army Air Corps and became a lieutenant pilot after 18 months of service. He briefly moved to Detroit in 1945 before returning as a pilot in the Korean War, flying in 52 missions. Mr. Guina recalls several heroic moments during his service, where he was tasked with identifying and taking out targets with his aircraft. At one point, in the dead of winter, he had completely emptied his fuel reserves during a mission. They prayed for more time as they raced back to the base and the engines failed, but the crew still managed to land safely. Now, over 70 years later, we thank him for his bravery and life-long commitment to our country.

After he was discharged from the military, Mr. Guina returned to Michigan and worked for Ford Motor Company. He has since retired and enjoys spending time with his more than 50 grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

I am proud to honor Mr. Guina and his unwavering service to our Nation and West Michigan. His life serves as a shining example of true courage, resilience, and patriotism. Once again, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Robert Guina a wonderful birthday as we celebrate his contributions to our Nation and his family. I wish Mr. Guina another happy, healthy, and fulfilling year ahead.