

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS HOME RULE ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 21, 2025

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the District of Columbia Courts Home Rule Act. This bill would give the Council of the District of Columbia authority over the jurisdiction and organization of the local D.C. courts. The D.C. Home Rule Act (HRA) prohibits the Council from enacting any law with respect to title 11 of the D.C. Code, which relates to the jurisdiction and organization of the local D.C. courts.

More than 50 years after passage of the HRA and notwithstanding the importance of the local D.C. courts to D.C., the Council, which is the legislative body accountable to D.C. residents, is left on the sidelines while Congress, which could not care less about the local D.C. courts, remains the only legislative body that can amend title 11 of the D.C. Code.

Under the HRA, the Council has no authority to “enact any act, resolution, or rule with respect to any provision of title 11 of the District of Columbia Code (relating to organization and jurisdiction of the District of Columbia courts).” Title 11 of the D.C. Code primarily relates to the rules of criminal and civil procedure, court administration, the branches of the courts, jury service and admission to the bar.

D.C. has never had authority over its local courts, even when it was responsible for paying for them. Under the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997, the federal government assumed from D.C. the costs for several state-level functions, including the courts. This bill would not change the federal government’s responsibility for funding the local D.C. courts or the authority of the President to nominate, and the Senate to confirm, local D.C. judges.

This bill is an important step to increase self-government for D.C. I urge my colleagues to support it.

HONORING PHIL AND TONI SCULLY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 21, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Phil and Toni Scully, leaders and public servants who have been named the 2025 Lake County Farm Bureau Lifetime Achievement Award Winners.

Phil was born and grew up in San Francisco, California while Toni grew up in Galt, California. Phil earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Economics from UC

Davis. Toni also attended UC Davis, where the two met and later married while still students. Toni earned a Bachelor of Arts in English and Spanish, followed by a teaching credential. Their diverse academic backgrounds—Phil’s in agriculture and economics, Toni’s in language and education—proved to be a powerful combination, laying a strong foundation for the success of their family business: Scully Packing Company.

Phil and Toni’s commitment to our community is evident from their long history of advocating for agricultural policy. Toni has served as a powerful voice and bridge between Lake County agriculture and policymakers at every level. In 1996, while I was in the California State Senate, I had the honor to work with Toni to pass SB 1988, a bill that safeguarded the ability of Lake County teens to work during the pear harvest. In 2006, Toni partnered with U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein to support and promote the Agricultural Jobs Bill, aimed at providing a more stable, legal workforce for American agriculture while safeguarding the rights and livelihoods of farmworkers. Meanwhile, Phil has been a true innovator in the pear industry. He has introduced River Pears to Lake County, extending the marketing season. Additionally, he pioneered the use of electronic sizers, plastic bins, and PLU stickers in California’s pear industry.

Toni and Phil stay busy around the district. Toni is a current member of the AgVenture Steering Committee, past President of California Women for Agriculture, a former member of the Executive Committee for the California Grape and Tree Fruit League and has been a member of the Lake County Farm Bureau Presidents’ Club for over 30 years. Toni was also the recipient of the 2014 Common Threads North Award. Phil is a former member of the California Tree Fruit Agreement, a former board member of the California Pear Advisory Board, and a former board member of the California Grape and Tree Fruit League.

Together, Phil and Toni have four children: Tom, Pat, Katie, and Andy. Today, Pat and Andy serve as co-owners of Scully Packing Company, continuing the family legacy. Katie is a food scientist and a floral farmer, and Tom is a flight instructor and pilot for United Airlines. Toni and Phil are proud grandparents to nine grandchildren and great-grandparents to two. This year, they celebrate 61 wonderful years of marriage—a testament to their enduring partnership in both life and business.

Mr. Speaker, we thank Phil and Toni Scully for their dedicated service to California’s 4th District. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor them here today.

HONORING THE KRITZECK FAMILY

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 21, 2025

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Kritzecks, a remarkable Minnesota

family whose commitment to public safety spans five generations and more than 220 years of combined service in law enforcement. The Kritzeck family’s legacy of service spans five generations and includes time in Stearns, Wright, Hennepin, and Hubbard counties.

The family’s law enforcement service began nearly a century ago when Paul Kritzeck was elected sheriff of Wright County in November 1930. He was re-elected five times and served as sheriff for 22 years. His watch ended tragically in 1951 as he was killed while responding to a call when his patrol car was struck as he turned onto a county road. The collision pushed his vehicle into the path of an oncoming semi which struck his vehicle and resulted in his death.

Paul was not the only member of the Kritzeck family to serve in Wright County. His sons, Lawrence “Brownie” Kritzeck, and his brother, Willard Kritzeck, were Wright County deputy sheriffs while their father, Paul, served as sheriff. Willard ended up taking over as Wright County Sheriff following his father’s passing. He held the title for more than 12 years until he became the police chief for Winsted, Minnesota in 1963. Brownie also changed departments in 1963 after relocating to Stearns County, where he served as the deputy sheriff for several years.

Jack Kritzeck, part of the third generation of Kritzecks to work in law enforcement, was a captain in Stearns County from 1967 until he retired in 1999. Another family member, Steve Kritzeck, has worked as a law enforcement officer in Hennepin County, the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, and the Minnesota Department of Commerce Fraud Bureau.

Mark Kritzeck, a member of the fourth generation of Kritzecks to serve their community in law enforcement, is a patrol sergeant for the city of Eagan, Minnesota. Craig Kritzeck, another member of the family, started his career in law enforcement in 2002 and was hired as the Police Chief in Nevis, Minnesota in 2004. Later, Craig was hired by the Park Rapids Police Department, where he worked until his family moved to Cold Spring in 2010.

Craig now works for the Hubbard County Sheriff’s Office where he serves as a Deputy. Last month, Craig had the special privilege of swearing in the fifth generation of Kritzecks into law enforcement, when he deputized his son, Lucas, as a member of the Hubbard County Sheriff’s department. Inspired by his family’s legacy of service, Lucas recently completed his associate’s degree in applied science in peace officer training and education at Alexandria Technical and Community College. Following graduation, he passed the state law enforcement officers exam and will now complete a 14-week training program with the Hubbard County Sheriff’s Office.

The Kritzeck family’s story is one of resilience, sacrifice, and service. Their 220 years of combined law enforcement reflects not just their individual careers, but a family-wide call to protect and uplift our communities. On behalf of Minnesota’s entire 6th Congressional

● 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.

District, I extend our deepest gratitude to the Kritzeck family and pray that God will protect them, and all our law enforcement officers, as they work to keep our communities safe.

HONORING THE THIRD ANNUAL PEACH WEEK IN MOORE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 21, 2025

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 3rd annual Peach Week, taking place in my home county of Moore, North Carolina, this week. Peach week is a kickoff to summer fun but also shows the importance of peaches in our agriculture industry and as a staple of our state.

This year, Peach Week will run from July 18 to July 27, featuring a variety of events. Due to its popularity, Peach Week has garnered a record number of nearly 40 participating restaurants, specialty outlets, and food trucks taking part in the Peach Week promotions. Attendees will have the opportunity to try a variety of peach-themed dishes ranging from breakfast, appetizers, entrees, desserts, and both alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages.

In addition to these promotions, ticketed and complementary events will be available, such as the Run Your Peach Off 5k, Putt n' Peach mini golf, and the Peachgrass festival at the Weymouth Center for the Arts and Humanities. To complement the activities, farmers markets from Southern Pines, Vass, and Carthage will also be offering peaches and peach products during the celebration.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the 3rd annual Peach Week, in North Carolina's 9th District, as a fun and exciting week celebrating the peach, a major agricultural product of my home state of North Carolina and a symbol of summertime.

HONORING PEMBA SHERPA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 21, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Pemba Sherpa, a leader and community-rooted entrepreneur who has been named California's 4th Congressional District 2025 American Dream Award Recipient for Sonoma County. This award recognizes the achievements of immigrants in our district who have made remarkable contributions to our communities in the areas of Arts and Culture, Professional Achievement, Entrepreneurship and Innovation or Community Service.

Mr. Sherpa was born and raised in Namche, Nepal, a small village in the Himalayas. Mr. Sherpa came to the United States in 1997 with a dream of pursuing a college education. In 2002, he received his bachelor's degree in business administration from Manchester College in Indiana. Mr. Sherpa then moved to the town of Sonoma where he and his business partner opened the first location of the Taste of the Himalayas in 2003. In 2009, while pur-

suing his master's degree, Mr. Sherpa enrolled in the International Culinary Center in Campbell. Today, Sonoma County knows Pemba for his tireless work ethic, entrepreneurship and leadership. He is the owner of Farmhouse Sonoma and multiple locations of Taste of the Himalayas. Mr. Sherpa is also president of the Himalayan Sherpa Club and a member of the Sonoma Valley Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Sherpa's most important role is that of a proud husband to his wife, Tenzin, and father to their children, Osel and Rigsel.

Mr. Sherpa has created more than jobs, cultivating a welcoming space for different cultures to blend. Mr. Sherpa prioritizes local sourcing, sustainable practices and uses his businesses to support community events. Mr. Sherpa has organized and contributed to numerous fundraisers benefiting wildfire relief, local families in crisis and public-school initiatives. Whether feeding first responders or helping a neighbor in need, he consistently shows up to provide generosity and care for our community.

As president of the Himalayan Sherpa Club, Mr. Sherpa leads efforts to preserve Himalayan heritage. He has played a key role in organizing cultural festivals, fundraising dinners and community aid drives, particularly during natural disasters and local emergencies. His involvement spans civic, cultural and philanthropic engagement always with a commitment to support others in Sonoma County, the place he now calls home.

His journey is a testament to the American promise of opportunity and his strength of character. Admired for his generosity, resilience and innovation, Mr. Sherpa embodies all pillars of what it means to not only achieve the American Dream, but also share it with others.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting and proper that we honor Pemba Sherpa for his innovation, leadership and dedication to California's 4th Congressional District.

HONORING U.S. COAST GUARD VICE ADMIRAL ANTHONY TIONGSON

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 21, 2025

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize United States Coast Guard Vice Admiral Anthony Tiongson on relinquishing his command of the Pacific Area in Alameda on Friday, July 18, 2025.

Vice Admiral Tiongson has dedicated his entire adult life to education and national service. After high school he attended the United States Coast Guard Academy, graduating in 1989 with a BS in electrical engineering. He went on to earn two master's degrees from George Washington University, one in mechanical engineering and another in environmental and energy management. From there, he went to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where he was a System Design and Management Fellow, earned an MS in Engineering and Management, and completed the Seminar XXI program on foreign affairs and international relations.

A career cutterman, Vice Admiral Tiongson served aboard five Coast Guard Cutters and the United States Navy Ship, *USS Normandy*,

including deployment during Operation Desert Storm.

Ashore, he served as assistant project officer for a \$30 million configuration management project as well as a nearly \$1 billion Rescue 21 project. He held key positions in the Office of Budget and Programs as a budget coordinator and office chief. He also served in the Office of Congressional Affairs as senior policy advisor to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives on domestic and international drug issues. This is all in addition to his service as Executive Assistant to the Vice Commandant of the Coast Guard.

Since 2022, Vice Admiral Tiongson has served as Commander of Coast Guard Pacific Area and Commander of Defense Force West. His distinguished service has been recognized with the Defense Superior Service Medal and four Legions of Merit.

Over more than three decades, Vice Admiral Tiongson has left an indelible mark on the United States Coast Guard and the broader maritime community, protecting coastal communities and upholding international law. His leadership and dedication exemplify the mission and values of the Coast Guard. As he concludes his commendable career, his legacy will continue to set a high standard and benefit our Nation for years to come.

HONORING JEFF CRANE

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 21, 2025

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jeff Crane on his upcoming retirement as President of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF). Mr. Crane will conclude his illustrious career after over forty years of public service.

Mr. Crane's dedication to improving our environment and providing opportunities to all outdoorsmen is constantly inspiring. He has served as President of the CSF since 2002, guiding the organization from a small group of only five staff members to become the Nation's preeminent sportsmen advocacy group. While at the helm of the CSF, Mr. Crane helped grow the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus to the largest bipartisan caucus in Congress. He also aided in the creation of the National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses (NASC), which has nearly 2,500 members across all 50 states, and the Governors Sportsmen's Caucus.

While expanding the scope of the CSF, Mr. Crane tirelessly worked to pass countless bills to enhance opportunities for hunters and anglers. He vigorously fought for our environment, passing legislation to fund conservation efforts at the state and federal levels. Other advocacy organizations would often defer to Mr. Crane's vision and judgment on policy matters, a high compliment to his knowledge and ability.

Beyond the CSF, Mr. Crane served as the Chairman of the Hunting and Shooting Sports Conservation Council (HSSCC) and of American Wildlife Conservation Partners, along with many other leadership positions. Mr. Crane has been consistently recognized for his humility, grace, and team-oriented approach. His dedication and passion for our environment

will continue to have an indelible impact on sportsmen everywhere and our majestic Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Jeff Crane for his unyielding dedication to protecting and enjoying our Creator's greatest gift: our natural world. I wish him all the best in his well-earned retirement and pray for his continued health and happiness in whatever adventures come his way.

HONORING THE BOURNE FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 21, 2025

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Bourne Fire Department, as it celebrated its 100th anniversary on July 5, 2025.

While the Bourne Fire Department was officially established on July 5, 1925, the Town of Bourne has a long history of advancing public safety dating back to the 1890s, when the town appointed a fire and forest warden following several brush fires. In the event of a fire, the warden was able to recruit volunteers and pay them 50 cents an hour to assist in firefighting efforts.

The roots of the Bourne Fire Department can be traced back to 1904, when a group named the Buzzards Bay Progressive Society organized the first local bucket brigade in response to the growing threat of fires. At a time when each village was tasked with providing its own firefighting services, the Progressive Society took a leading role. Members purchased the first fire apparatus stored at Cohasset Hall on Main Street, which would later serve as the Bourne Fire Department's first station. Sadly, the original headquarters burned down in September 1931. While the department was fighting a fire 700 feet away at a barn behind the Buzzards Bay Hotel, a spark ignited the roof of Cohasset Hall. The Buzzards Bay Fire Station was rebuilt the following year on Main Street and served as the headquarters until 2017, when the department moved its headquarters to the Sagamore Fire Station.

Throughout the early 1900s, the need for a more formalized fire department became apparent, and the town began laying the necessary groundwork. It established a Board of Fire Engineers, with Ralph Johnson serving as the Chief Engineer. Johnson would go on to become the town's first Fire Chief.

In 1924, the Maxim Fire Truck Company conducted a study to determine fire safety needs across the Bourne villages. Using the findings of that survey, articles to establish the Bourne Fire Department were drafted and brought to the 1925 Annual Town Meeting, where residents voted in favor of the measure. Bourne residents recognized the benefit of a townwide fire department to improve property protection, expand the tax base, and lower insurance rates. With an initial budget of \$3,800, the new fire department paid \$1 for the first hour of service responding to a fire, followed by 50 cents for each additional hour.

Over the years, the Bourne Fire Department continued to expand and improve fire safety in the community, installing radios in 1938 to en-

hance communication and coordination during emergency responses and steadily increasing its personnel. Growing from a small professional fire department in 1925, the department now consists of nearly 40 full-time firefighters, several call personnel, and an inventory of 20 emergency response apparatus. With the Town of Bourne divided by the Cape Cod Canal, the fire department faces a unique challenge in ensuring the safety of residents and summertime visitors on both sides of the canal. This requires the department to have the capacity to respond to emergencies not only on land, but also on the water.

On July 12th, the Bourne Fire Department held a centennial celebration at Buzzards Bay Park to honor the brave men and women who have served the Bourne community throughout the years and recognize the fire department's legacy of service, bravery, and community engagement that has defined the department since its inception on July 5, 1925.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the Bourne Fire Department, and I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking the dedicated firefighters who have tirelessly protected the Bourne community over the last century.

HONORING ROBERT GAYALDO

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 21, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert Gayaldo, an esteemed member of our Lake County community. Robert's dedicated membership to the Lake County Farm Bureau Board and vocal support for agriculture exemplify why he has been named as the 2025 Lake County Farm Bureau Member of the Year.

Born in Lakeport, Robert currently lives in Kelseyville, California and has two children, Charlene and Niki.

Robert has been an instrumental member of the Lake County Farm Bureau Board for over 40 years. He has previously served as President of the Bureau's board of directors, where he played a vital role in addressing the challenges of farmers, ranchers, and rural landowners in Lake County. He has also represented the Lake County Farm Bureau on the California Farm Bureau state board.

Robert's commitment to the Lake County Farm Bureau and our community is evident. As member of the Lake County Farm Bureau, he has been a visionary leader for the organization, inspiring membership growth that led to the Bureau being selected as a County of the Year Award recipient by the California Farm Bureau.

He also continues to support many agriculture-based companies in the community as well as support community youth programs such as 4-H, FFA and youth sports programs.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting and proper that we honor Robert Gayaldo for his service and dedication to California's 4th District.

CONGRATULATING ROLLS-ROYCE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 21, 2025

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, South Carolinians are grateful that Rolls-Royce is expanding its manufacturing operations in Aiken County.

The \$75 million investment will create 60 new jobs, strengthen the local economy, and enhance career opportunities across the state.

As a provider of off-highway engines and complete power generation solutions, Rolls-Royce develops and delivers complex power and propulsion solutions for safety-critical applications in the air, at sea, and on land.

Since its establishment in 2010, the Aiken facility, with the leadership of their Vice President of Operations, Philipp Steinle, has grown to become a 395,000 square foot campus with state-of-the-art production capabilities, an engine testing facility, office space, a research center, and more.

Additionally, this investment will increase the production of engines which will help meet the demand for high-power mission critical back up generators.

The dedication and leadership of Chief Executive Officer, Adam Riddle is appreciated.

Best wishes to Rolls-Royce for success in their future endeavors.

APPRECIATING GLENN McCALL

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 21, 2025

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on July 11, America lost a Devoted Patriot with the death of National Committeeman Glenn McCall. A grateful review of his accomplishments is presented by Joseph Bustos in The State newspaper of Columbia, South Carolina.

“Glenn McCall, the South Carolina Republican Party’s national committeeman, died Friday from complications from surgery, the state party said. McCall, who also was the Winthrop University Board chairman, was 71 years old.

He had been the state GOP’s national committeeman since 2008, also chaired the RNC’s budget committee, and served as co-chair of the 2020 Republican National Convention Committee.

S.C. GOP Chairman Drew McKissick said McCall will be sorely missed by the party. “Glenn was not only a wonderful human being, but he was a great leader and representative for South Carolina on the Republican National Committee,” McKissick said. “Time and again he used his influence and relationships to help maintain the SCGOP’s position as the First in the South presidential primary, and the resulting influence that gives Republicans all over our state.”

Those in the Republican Party described McCall as a “kind and loyal friend.” “Glenn was far more than a friend; he was a mentor, advisor and source of moral clarity,” former SC GOP Chairman Matt Moore said. “He was never angry, boastful or self-interested, always steadfast in doing what was right.”

McCall, of Rock Hill, was the state party’s first Black national committeeman. “I loved

Glenn McCall from the moment we met on (U.S. Rep.) Ralph Norman's '06 race. He was good and decent, a kind and gentle soul and he was faithful," South Carolina GOP operative Rob Godfrey posted on X. "I embraced every opportunity to work with him. I am thankful for our friendship, and I will miss Glenn deeply. Thank you, Linda, for sharing him."

McCall served in the U.S. Air Force for 24 years, according to a biography provided by the state party.

He was a retired senior vice president of Bank of America, and began serving on the Winthrop board in 2011, the according to the school.

"He was a man of immense faith and personal conviction, as evidenced by the life he lived every day," Winthrop President Edward Serna said in an email about McCall to the school. "Those who interacted with the board on a regular basis will recall how Glenn took the time to speak to everyone in whatever room he found himself."

He is a graduate of the University of Maryland, College Park, with a bachelor's degree in management information systems and a master's in business administration.

"We haven't always agreed on issues, but he has always represented with class and an open ear," state Rep. Brandon Guffey, R-York, posted on Facebook. "The last time I saw Glenn, was at the state party (reorganization). He came up to congratulate me on winning legislator of the year and thanked me for standing for truth as opposed to falling into the bumper sticker politics many have turned to."

**HONORING DR. JOHN M. LOGSDON,
DISTINGUISHED HISTORIAN AND
PIONEER OF U.S. SPACE POLICY**

HON. APRIL McCLAIN DELANEY

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 21, 2025

Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary constituent of Maryland's 6th District, Dr. John M. Logsdon, for his decades of leadership in the field of space policy.

Dr. Logsdon is Professor Emeritus at the George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs, where he served on the faculty for 38 years. In 1987, he founded the university's Space Policy Institute, a center for the study of civil space programs and policy. He also directed the Center for International Science and Technology Policy from 1983 to 2001 and served on the faculty at the International Space University from 1988 to 2020.

Dr. Logsdon holds a B.S. in Physics from Xavier University (1960) and a Ph.D. in Political Science from NYU (1970). That same year, he published *The Decision to Go to the Moon: Project Apollo and the National Interest*, launching a prolific career detailing the policy and historical aspects of U.S. and international space activities. His later works—*John F. Kennedy and the Race to the Moon* (2010), *After Apollo?*, and *Ronald Reagan and the Space Frontier* (2019)—have won numerous awards, including the AIAA Gardner-Lasser Aerospace History Award and the AAS Emme Award. He also edited *The Penguin History of Outer Space Exploration* and led NASA's seven-volume *Exploring the Unknown* series.

Dr. Logsdon's public service includes two terms on the NASA Advisory Council (1998 to

2001, 2005 to 2009), membership on the Columbia Accident Investigation Board (2003), and service as the Charles A. Lindbergh Chair in Aerospace History at the Smithsonian (2008 to 2009). He has testified before Congress, advised policymakers, and helped educate the public through frequent media appearances.

His achievements have earned him NASA's Exceptional, Distinguished, and Public Service Medals, the Kennedy Astronautics Award, and awards in the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, the American Astronautical Society, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Most recently, he served on the Board of Directors of The Planetary Society, a global nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering the world's citizens to advance space science and exploration.

As I serve on the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, I owe a debt of gratitude to Dr. Logsdon for being a trailblazer in deepening public understanding of space programs and elevating the role of thoughtful, strategic policy for humanity's reach beyond Earth. It is an honor to represent Dr. Logsdon in Congress.

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026**

SPEECH OF

HON. BRYAN STEIL

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2025

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment to the Fiscal Year 2026 Defense Appropriations Act, which provides \$10 million to the Army's Long Range Precision Fires Technology Program, or LRPF, for testing and demonstration of advanced-caliber munitions.

The LRPF program develops technologies to neutralize and suppress enemy forces with artillery and missile fire.

My amendment No. 272, included in Bipartisan En Bloc No. 2, will ensure the Army has additional funds to meet its LRPF Modernization Priority. This enables the Army to continue working with private-sector partners to advance our artillery and missile technology and address current shortfalls of the LRPF program.

Modernization of the LRPF program will advance technologies, expand military capabilities, and help prevent munitions stockpile shortages.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

HONORING BONNIE SEARS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 21, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bonnie Sears, an esteemed member of the Lake County agricultural community. Mrs. Sears' leadership and dedication to Lake County's wine grape industry exemplify why she has been named as a Friend of the Farm Bureau.

Mrs. Sears, office manager for Beckstoffer Vineyards, Red Hills, has worked for various agriculture-related businesses, including Snows Lake Vineyard, where she was involved in multiple aspects of the winegrowing business. Previously she was employed by a fruit importer in Kelseyville.

Mrs. Sears and her family moved to Lake County in 1987. She served two years on the board of the Lake County Winery Association and was on the Wine Adventure committee for several years. She has also been involved with the Lake County Chapter of California Women for Agriculture. In 2010, she decided she wanted to know more about the business of growing grapes and began her pursuit of a certificate in viticulture with Vesta, an online viticulture program.

As a longtime member of the Lake County Winegrape Commission board, Mrs. Sears has been instrumental in advocating for growers, advancing sustainable practices, and fostering collaboration across the region's vineyards. Her professional expertise and passion for viticulture have helped elevate Lake County's reputation as a premier wine grape growing region, benefiting farmers and businesses alike. Beyond her industry contributions, Mrs. Sears' commitment to community service and partnership with the Farm Bureau exemplify the spirit of cooperation that drives Lake County agriculture forward.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting and proper that we honor Bonnie Sears for her service, leadership, and dedication to California's 4th District.

**COMMEMORATING CASTRO
VALLEY PRIDE**

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 21, 2025

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Castro Valley Pride on the occasion of their 50th annual Pride Festival for their commitment to creating an inclusive community that celebrates each person for exactly who they are.

Castro Valley Pride is a LGBTQ+ Pride organization that has been a beacon of advocacy and resilience since its founding in 2010. It is the only Pride group focused on advocacy within the unincorporated areas of my district and the longest continuously running Pride organization in Alameda County.

Over the past 15 years, Castro Valley Pride has been a driving force for equity in public education. It has led the distribution of over 5,500 Pride flags for classrooms and homes across the region, fostering solidarity in the community.

Working alongside activists from across Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, Castro Valley Pride helped develop a regional network of allies to oppose hate and discrimination and foster understanding and inclusion.

This organization has held a series of community events, including porch decorating contests during the COVID-19 pandemic, a Project Eden/Lambda Youth Pride Prom, and Fremont and San Leandro's first LGBTQ+ Pride events. At this year's Pride Festival, over a dozen welcoming faith groups will be featured to support the inclusion of LGBTQ+ individuals.

I am proud to represent a district demonstrating such leadership and served by an inclusive organization advocating for progress and change. I commend Castro Valley Pride for their extraordinary service and look forward to all they will continue to accomplish.

CONGRATULATING LEMASTER STEEL ERECTORS ON 50 YEARS IN BUSINESS

HON. RUDY YAKYM III
OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 21, 2025

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding American success story, LeMaster Steel Erectors of Elkhart, Indiana, as they celebrate their 50th anniversary in business.

Founded in 1975, LeMaster Steel Erectors began as a family-run operation in Elkhart and has since grown into a regional leader in steel erection, proudly serving not only Indiana but also throughout the Midwest.

Over the past five decades, the company has completed countless high-quality metal building projects, as well as specialty installations, demonstrating excellence and innovation at every turn.

LeMaster's growth is a testament to their hard work, skill, and dedication to its workforce: expert supervisors, veteran foremen, and hardworking crews whose craftsmanship and professionalism have earned the respect of clients across Indiana and beyond.

Beyond their business success, LeMaster Steel Erectors has become a pillar of the local economy. With offices in Elkhart and Noblesville, they provide stable employment, support local suppliers, and are a pillar in their communities.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating LeMaster Steel Erectors on this remarkable milestone. For 50 years, they have built more than steel structures; they've built the foundation of stronger communities across Indiana. May they continue to have success across Indiana and beyond for years to come.

CELEBRATING ARTURO VARGAS ON 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. SYLVIA R. GARCIA
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 21, 2025

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate my longtime friend, Arturo Vargas, as he marks 30 years of extraordinary leadership with the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) and the NALEO Educational Fund.

As a former President of NALEO, I know the kind of dedication it takes to build lasting impact. And for three decades, Arturo has done just that. He has helped shape the civic landscape for Latinos in this country—not by chasing headlines, but by doing the work. The hard, necessary, behind-the-scenes work of building power, lifting up leaders, and making sure our voices are counted.

Under Arturo's leadership, NALEO has become a powerhouse for civic engagement

training elected officials, defending voting rights, championing fair representation, and connecting communities to the ballot box. He's helped demystify the process of government and made sure it actually works for the people.

Arturo knew that in order to elect Latino leaders, he had to become an expert in the systems built against them. He went to Stanford, mastered the ins and outs of redistricting and demographics, and became one of the foremost experts on Latino civic participation. That expertise has helped guide countless policymakers, including many of us in this chamber. If you're a Latino in government, odds are Arturo Vargas has touched your journey.

Even before NALEO, Arturo was doing the work at the Mexican America Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF), at the National Council of La Raza, and everywhere justice and opportunity were on the line. Arturo's legacy isn't written in stone—it's ongoing, growing, and living in the generations of leaders he's helped raise. He's not done yet, and thank goodness for that.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Arturo Vargas for his years of service, his deep commitment to our democracy, and his unwavering belief in what's possible when every voice is heard and every opportunity is seen.

HONORING HELENE R. DILLARD

HON. MIKE THOMPSON
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 21, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Helene R. Dillard, an academic leader and member of our Davis community, on the occasion of her retirement as Dean of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at UC Davis. After more than 11 years of service in this role, and a career spanning four decades, Dean Dillard leaves behind a legacy of excellence in education, research, and public service.

A native of San Francisco, Dean Dillard earned her Bachelor of Science in Biology of Natural Resources from UC Berkeley in 1977, followed by a Master's in Soil Science in 1979 and a Ph.D. in Plant Pathology from UC Davis in 1984. She went on to spend three decades at Cornell University, where she served in several leadership roles, including Chair of the Department of Plant Pathology, Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension, and Associate Dean in both the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the College of Human Ecology.

Dean Dillard returned to UC Davis in 2014 to lead the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, widely recognized as the top-ranked agricultural school in the Nation and second in the world. As dean, she served as the college's chief academic and administrative officer, overseeing 14 departments, 29 centers and institutes, and a community of more than 7,600 students, 320 faculty, and 585 staff.

Under her leadership, the college advanced major research and infrastructure initiatives. These included six new greenhouses, among them a 14,400-square-foot facility designed to protect critical grapevine collections, upgrades

to the Center for Aquatic Biology and Aquaculture, improvements in water and irrigation systems, and the development of a new indoor vertical farm and goat dairy. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Dean Dillard guided the college through budget reductions and campus closures, overseeing the transition to online learning and the implementation of safety measures across research and teaching spaces.

Beyond her administrative leadership, Dean Dillard has also led efforts to make education more inclusive and accessible. She has been a strong advocate for experiential learning, supporting opportunities that take students beyond the classroom and into the field. Her commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion has included co-leading the college DEI committee, piloting faculty diversity statement requirements, and supporting the launch of Aggie Jumpstart, a program serving first-generation and underserved students.

Dean Dillard's contributions have been widely recognized by her peers and beyond. She is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a Fellow of the American Phytopathological Society, and recipient of the Excellence in Extension Award, the New York Farmers Medal, and the Walter A. Robinson Community Champion Award, among others. Over the past decade, she has helped secure more than \$442 million in philanthropic support for the college, including 50 million for the Lynda and Stewart Resnick Center for Agricultural Innovation, the largest individual gift in UC Davis history.

Dean Dillard is known throughout the campus community not only for her leadership but also for her open-door approach, mentorship, and deep commitment to students, faculty, and staff. Dean Dillard is a proud Aggie, a supporter of women's basketball, and enjoys pickleball, fishing, and world travel. She and her husband, Victor, have been married for 44 years and are the proud parents of Jamar Dillard.

Mr. Speaker, Dean Helene Dillard has had a distinguished career in education, research, and public service. Her leadership at UC Davis has made a lasting impact on the university and on the lives of students and colleagues across our region. It is fitting and proper that we recognize her here today and thank her for her many contributions to our Davis community and beyond.

HONORING THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE OF REGINALD BERRY

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL
OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 21, 2025

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Reginald Adams Berry, a devoted husband and father. A native of Washington, D.C., Reginald remained in his hometown, building a loving family and distinguished career as an architect.

Among his great accomplishments was his devotion to family—his wife, Sonceria Ann Berry, and daughter, Elizabeth Ruth Berry. A native of Birmingham, Alabama in my district, Ann got her start in the Senate as a staffer for U.S. Senator Howell Heflin in Alabama, rising through the ranks to serve as the first Black

woman Secretary of the U.S. Senate from 2021 to 2025. I know I speak for all of us in expressing our gratitude to the Berry Family for decades of service to their country and to their Congress. We will continue to keep Ann, Elizabeth, and their family in our prayers.

On behalf of Alabama's 7th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the extraordinary life of Reginald Berry.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

SPEECH OF

HON. BRYAN STEIL

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2025

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment to the Fiscal Year 2026 Defense Appropriations Act, which provides \$1 million to complete the Navy Sea Systems Command's final review of centrifuge purifiers for surface combatant vessels.

Centrifuge purifiers are machines that separate liquids into their component parts and are critical to the proper functioning of our naval ships.

The Navy currently relies on a single, non-U.S.-based manufacturer for these centrifuge purifiers, which creates supply chain vulnerabilities and stifles domestic innovation.

My amendment No. 273, included in Bipartisan En Bloc No. 2, gives the Navy the resources it needs to finish a review process it began several years ago. Completing its review will help future delays and ensure the Navy has access to the most advanced and reliable technology available.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

HONORING EDGAR ONTIVEROS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 21, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Edgar Ontiveros, a leader and public servant who has been named California's 4th Congressional District 2025 American Dream Award Recipient for Lake County. This award recognizes the achievements of immigrants in our district who have made remarkable contributions to our communities in the areas of Arts and Culture, Professional Achievement, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, or Community Service.

For many years, Mr. Ontiveros came to Hidden Valley to visit his uncle during the weekends. In 2003, he had the chance to visit Clearlake for the first time, sparking his love for the Lake County community. By 2004, he had the opportunity to purchase a house in Clearlake and has lived in the area ever since.

In 2009, Mr. Ontiveros joined the staff of Lake County Behavioral Health Services (LCBHS) as a Cultural Specialist and Ethnic Services Peer Support Specialist. In 2014, LCBHS created the La Voz De la Esperanza community center, appointing Mr. Ontiveros as the center's supervisor. The La Voz, or the Latino Wellness Center, located in Clearlake,

works to connect the Latino Community to culturally relevant service and ensure that Spanish speakers are equipped with tools to navigate health and wellness services. With volunteer translators and various educational opportunities, they help to break the language barrier that often prevents people from seeking help and offer referrals for mental health services when requested.

Mr. Ontiveros' leadership and work as the supervisor of La Voz integral in ensuring countless community members have access to mental health support, help to navigate the health care system, and a sense of community and support. As a Certified Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist, he works to assess critical needs of Latino community members regarding mental health services and support clients, both individual and family.

Mr. Ontiveros also works tirelessly to develop, implement, and maintain activities and programs related to the Latino Wellness Center. He recruits and trains volunteers and develops relationships with partner agencies and community entities. Additionally, Mr. Ontiveros connects Latino community members to services through the Behavioral Health Department, providing key mental health services for those who may not otherwise have access.

Mr. Ontiveros' commitment to service extends well beyond his professional duties. Mr. Ontiveros has taken to the front lines of community support following the countless fires that devastated Lake County, communicating important information and ensuring that Lake County residents have equitable access to emergency services and necessities during major disasters. Mr. Ontiveros is an ordained minister and faith leader. He works as a preacher in Middletown for the South Lake County community.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting and proper that we honor La Voz director Edgar Ontiveros for his service, leadership, and dedication to the Lake County community.

RECOGNIZING LEE VENT

HON. ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 21, 2025

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the outstanding contributions of Mr. Lee Vent, a lifelong administrator and educator, who was recently recognized as a Legacy Leader by the Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators. The organization is dedicated to supporting and enhancing educational leadership in Arkansas through various initiatives and legislative advocacy. This prestigious award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated exceptional leadership and made significant contributions to the field of education in Arkansas.

Mr. Vent has shown unwavering dedication with an incredible 56-year career in education, including 43 continuous years as a Superintendent, making him the longest continuously serving Superintendent in Arkansas. He currently serves as the President of the Great Rivers ESC Board of Directors and Superintendent of the Clarendon-Holly Grove School District. Mr. Vent is a strong testament to the vision, compassion, and resilience demonstrated by thousands of Arkansas educators.

Mr. Vent's love for learning began in a three-room schoolhouse, which had no indoor plumbing. He has spent most of his educational career in schools along the Mississippi Delta, or what he calls "the pure Delta." He has dedicated his life to selflessly serving the community, and ensuring students are prepared for a promising and successful future. Mr. Vent embodies the very best of American educators, fostering a knowledgeable, collaborative, curious, and innovative learning environment for all.

Mr. Vent's continued efforts are well-recognized through his strength in personal and organizational communication and constant improvement of administrative knowledge and skills. His deep commitment to transforming our community through educational resources brings great pride to our district.

It is my honor to congratulate Lee Vent on his recognition as a Legacy Leader and for his decades of service. I thank him for preserving the legacy of learning. I wish him continued success, and may his actions continue to encourage others.

CELEBRATING A CHAMPION,
CASSANDRA WILSON

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 21, 2025

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true champion from Northwest Ohio, Cassandra Wilson.

Cassandra is not only the first woman in Lucas County to bring home gold medals four years in a row for Special Olympics Powerlifting, she is also a fearless advocate who has served as the first Self Advocate from her county on the State Developmental Disabilities Council.

Since the age of five, Cassandra has been a voice for those too often left unheard. Her advocacy, determination, and unbreakable spirit have shattered barriers and inspired communities.

Even when faced with coaches who doubted her, she stood strong.

She proved—and continues to prove—that strength isn't just about lifting weights; it's about lifting others up with you.

She reminds us all that true leadership begins with courage, and true change comes from those who never give up. She is not just breaking records, she's breaking ground.

Cassandra is a living example that hard work and confidence, not gender or circumstance, defines our potential.

May her story continue to lift hearts, open minds, and pave the way for many more to follow.

HONORING LARRY HOOPER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 21, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable servant, Mr. Larry Hooper.

Born and raised in Natchez, Mississippi, Larry Hooper is a third-generation educator

who is deeply committed to ensuring that students have access to high-quality educational opportunities.

Mr. Hooper has served as a teacher, basketball coach, reading program facilitator, Job Training Partnership/General Education Diploma Supervisor, high school graduation coach, assistant principal, and principal, accumulating 21 years of administrative experience.

He was named Teacher of the Year at Hazlehurst Elementary School in 1999. As a basketball coach, he led teams to championships in both Vicksburg and Port Gibson. Mr. Hooper has also played a key role in helping William Winans Middle School and Natchez Freshman Academy exit School Improvement Status.

A God-fearing and family-oriented individual, Mr. Hooper is a proud parent of a son and a daughter and remains very active in the Natchez community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Larry Hooper for his outstanding service and achievements in the Natchez, Claiborne, and Wilkinson County communities of Mississippi.

HONORING CINTHYA CISNEROS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 21, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Cinthya Cisneros, a leader and public servant who has been named California's 4th Congressional District 2025 American Dream Award Recipient for Napa County. This award recognizes the achievements of immigrants in our district who have made remarkable contributions to our communities in the areas of Arts and Culture, Professional Achievement, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, or Community Service.

Ms. Cisneros was born in Michoacan, Mexico, as the oldest of three siblings and has grown up in Napa since the age of four. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from Sonoma State University and holds a Single Subject Teaching Credential from Sacramento State University.

Ms. Cisneros began her career in 2018 working as a bartender shortly after finishing her last year of teaching high school chemistry. In 2020, she founded La Cheve Bakery and Brews, a family-owned Mexican bakery, craft beer taproom, and restaurant. She is also the owner of the upcoming restaurant Con Amor Botanas y Tequila, co-founder of La Lucha Wines, and advisory board member of the nonprofit scholarship organization 10,000 degrees.

Ms. Cisneros and La Cheve regularly give back to our community. Since its founding, La Cheve has provided scholarships for undocumented, Latino, and low-income, first-generation college students in the science and business field. La Cheve has also supported our community through fundraising efforts for organizations such as: If Given a Chance, Migrant Farmworkers, LGBTQ Connection, Puertas Abiertas, COPE, NEWS, Napa Valley Education Foundation, Red Cross, Molly's Angels, IIBA, Mariposa, Napa High School, Vintage High School, Valley Oak High School, Napa United, and Girls on the Run.

Ms. Cisneros has always dreamed of helping her parents, who she notes as being her biggest role models. At La Cheve, she works alongside them. For her work, Ms. Cisneros was recognized as this year's American Dream Award Recipient in Napa County.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting and proper that we honor Cinthya Cisneros for her service and dedication to California's 4th District.

RECOGNIZING ANUSHA ARORA FOR SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE

HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 21, 2025

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Anusha Arora on being the Gold Medal recipient at the Washington State Science and Engineering Fair for her project titled "Smart Strings: A Novel Low-Cost Multimodal System for Intelligent Sensory Feedback through Artificial Intelligence." The Washington State Science and Engineering Fair aims to advance the studies of STEM in grades 1–12 through the State of Washington. They work to provide opportunities for students to display their projects and provide support and guidance for the operation of science and engineering fairs throughout Washington State.

Additionally, Anusha had the opportunity to represent Washington State at the 2025 Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair. For more than 70 years, thousands of students from various science fair networks have explored their passion for scientific research at the world's largest pre-college science competition. Students from more than 75 countries, regions and territories competed across 21 different STEM disciplines. This year, Anusha competed among the top young scientists from around the globe and was selected as a Grand Award Winner in the category of "Technology Enhances the Arts." Anusha Arora attends Interlake High School in Washington's 1st Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Anusha Arora and this victory for science education in Washington. Her work demonstrates not only exceptional scientific excellence, but a deep commitment to addressing real world challenges. We are grateful for her contributions to the scientific community and wish her a successful career.

CELEBRATING MOTHER REGINA ROSE EDWARDS

HON. LISA C. MCCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 21, 2025

Mrs. MCCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary woman whose life of faith, service, and leadership has left a lasting impact on her community and the Church.

Mother Regina Rose Edwards, who is celebrating 90 blessed years, is a native of River Rouge, Michigan. She has dedicated her life in service to her Church and community and has raised a proud family.

Throughout our Nation's history, we have always been inspired by those whose faith and

unwavering commitment uplifts others. Mother Regina Rose Edwards goes beyond these criteria.

For decades, Mother Edwards has embodied compassion, wisdom, and dedication in her role as matriarch within the Church of God in Christ and as a beloved member of the Michigan Southwest First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction.

Her ministry has brought comfort and community to countless families. Through prayer, mentorship, and love, she has been a guiding light to many.

As she celebrates her 90th birthday, I wanted to take an opportunity to recognize her faith, service, and lifetime of commitment to her community.

Mr. Speaker, the legacy of Mother Regina Rose Edwards is one of service over self. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and celebrating her remarkable achievements and contributions to our Nation, her community, and the Church.

HONORING ST. HELENA HIGH SCHOOL AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 21, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 25th anniversary of the St. Helena High School Agricultural Program, an esteemed organization of our Napa community. This milestone reflects decades of dedication, community support, and profound impact on students' futures. This program is more than just an educational opportunity; it is a cornerstone of the community.

The Agriculture Program at St. Helena High School aims to shape young minds, nurture responsible leaders, and prepare students for successful careers in agriculture and beyond. This program not only fosters practical skills and knowledge but also instills values such as stewardship, leadership, and community service in our students.

The St. Helena Agriculture Program has touched the lives of over 3,500+ students in the St. Helena community through positive experiences in relevant, rigorous, and relationship driven coursework and involvement in the National Future Farmers of America Organization. These opportunities have been made possible by the financial backing of the St. Helena Agriculture Booster Organization.

The Ag Boosters have supported state-of-the-art facilities improvements, curriculum development and equipment, student travel, student leadership conference participation, supervised agricultural experience participation, and making sure that all students can take advantage of what the Future Farmers of America and Agriculture Education have to offer.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting and proper that we honor the St. Helena High School Agricultural Program on the 25th anniversary of their founding. Through their advocacy, leadership, and commitment to excellence, they have become a cornerstone of our Napa County's agricultural community.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

SPEECH OF

HON. BRYAN STEIL

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2025

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment to the Fiscal Year 2026 Defense Appropriations Act, which provides \$10 million to support testing of tethered unmanned aircraft system prototypes.

Tethered drones, which are physically connected to a ground-based power source, offer critical protection against cyberattacks—an increasingly important safeguard given rising threats from adversaries like China and North Korea.

My amendment 275, included in Bipartisan En Bloc No. 2, provides the Army with the necessary resources to procure and test tethered drones.

Tethered drone testing could lead to further innovation and advance the Army's mission capabilities.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

HONORING DONALD DWIGHT

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 21, 2025

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and mourn the passing of Mr. Donald R. Dwight of Holyoke, Massachusetts. Mr. Dwight was a Marine, newspaper executive, and dedicated public servant. Born in Massachusetts, he attended Deerfield Academy and Princeton before serving as an active-duty Marine, where he earned the rank of captain. A man dedicated to his country, Mr. Dwight held multiple public offices, including serving as the 64th Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts. As Lieutenant Governor, he worked behind the scenes to serve his state and always stood up for what he felt was right.

After leaving public office, Mr. Dwight led newspapers in Minneapolis and New England and was responsible for printing seven separate publications. He was dedicated to local, independent journalism and never hesitated to follow a difficult story.

Outside of his public life, Mr. Dwight was a loving husband, father, and grandfather. To those who knew him, he was endlessly curious, and never afraid to try new things. He always knew how to ask the right questions and was driven by unflinching dedication to the common good. The mark he left on his community, state, and country will never be forgotten, and for that, we are forever grateful.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

SPEECH OF

HON. BRYAN STEIL

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2025

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment to the Fiscal Year 2026 De-

fense Appropriations Act, which provides \$7.5 million to support continued research of conductive pigments and coatings in batteries.

Advancing battery technology is essential to providing our military with longer-lasting, more reliable energy sources. Better battery technology will also benefit the American people through broader energy innovation.

My amendment No. 274, included in Bipartisan En Bloc No. 7, continues the Navy's work to research and test conductive pigments and coatings for batteries. This research will help in building towards eventual wide-scale production.

Continued research on innovative battery coatings will heighten military readiness, improve energy efficiency, and benefit the American people.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

HONORING ANDRES OLMEDO

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 21, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Andres Olmedo, a leader and public servant who has been named California's 4th Congressional District 2025 American Dream Award Recipient for Yolo County. This award recognizes the achievements of immigrants in our district who have made remarkable contributions to our communities in the areas of Arts and Culture, Professional Achievement, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, or Community Service.

Mr. Olmedo was born in Jocotepec, Jalisco, Mexico to Andres and Concha Olmedo. Mr. Olmedo and his wife Carolina are the proud parents of Andres, Alexis Andrea, and Johan Adrian, and the proud grandparents of Nicholas. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish and a master's degree in Sports Science and Recreation.

In 1998, Mr. Olmedo started his teaching career instructing elementary, middle, and high school students in the Woodland Joint Unified District. Since then, he has served as an AP World Language Teacher, Girls Varsity Head Soccer Coach, and Boys Junior Varsity Soccer Coach at Woodland High School. He is also the founder and head coach of Woodland Community College Soccer and serves as a college advisor for Davis Legacy Soccer Club.

Mr. Olmedo has led his various soccer teams to local, regional, and state championships. He has helped countless student-athletes receive soccer scholarships to schools like UCLA and Stanford. Even more impressive, his World Language students have more than a 90 percent pass rate on their AP Exam. Under Mr. Olmedo's leadership, 9 out of every 10 of his students earn a high enough score on this very rigorous test that qualifies them for college credit.

Around our district, Mr. Olmedo is known for his constant mentorship and dedication to his students and players. He is always looking for ways to help students and athletes alike reach their goals, whatever they may be. For his work, Mr. Olmedo was recognized as this year's American Dream Award for Yolo county.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting and proper that we honor Andres Olmedo for his service, leadership, and dedication to California's Fourth District.

HONORING WORLD WAR II HERO
BUD LOMELL**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 21, 2025

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor one of the bravest and most highly decorated combat soldiers of World War II—Leonard G. "Bud" Lomell—by naming the new Veterans outpatient clinic in Toms River, New Jersey in his honor.

While Bud Lomell passed away in 2011, at age 91, his dear wife Charlotte is turning 104 in September; she and her family deeply loved Bud and continue to deeply cherish his memory. I spoke to Bud's youngest daughter Renee on the phone this morning and they are very pleased that Congress is poised to honor him.

I also want to extend special thanks to former Toms River Mayor and retired Admiral Mo Hill for originally coming up with this idea to name the clinic for Bud Lomell, as well as, his incredible advocacy on behalf of Bud and his family.

On June 6, 1944, D-Day, First Sergeant Bud Lomell of D Company, 2nd Ranger Infantry Battalion, and his Army Rangers were tasked with the nearly impossible mission of scaling the 100-foot cliffs at Pointe du Hoc and to destroy the Germans' 155-millimeter artillery guns with a range of 10 to 15 miles that threatened the entire allied invasion, which they believed were positioned at the top of the cliffs.

Bud Lomell and his Rangers, upon successfully climbing the cliffs despite heavy casualties—Bud was actually wounded leaving the landing craft but tenaciously continued and said in one interview, "I lost half my guys"—were dismayed to find at the top of the cliffs, that Allied military intelligence was misled by decoys, and that the entire invasion was now at risk.

After forming patrols to search for the guns, First Sergeant Lomell and another Ranger, Sergeant Jack Kuhn, found the five guns camouflaged in a nearby orchard. He discovered they were all aimed at Utah Beach, but could reach Normandy as well. With Kuhn providing cover, Bud Lomell used thermite grenades to singlehandedly destroy three of the Nazi big artillery guns, got more thermite grenades and went back and destroyed the other two, five massive artillery guns destroyed, ultimately helping to ensure the success of the Allied invasion and saving countless lives.

Historian Stephen Ambrose has described Bud Lomell as the single individual, besides Allied Supreme Commander Dwight Eisenhower, who was most responsible for the success of the D-Day invasion.

In his book, *The Greatest Generation*, Tom Brokaw devoted an entire chapter to Bud Lomell, who he first met forty years after the invasion at D-Day. He noted that during their interview, even after several decades, he "could almost see the tough, young First

Sergeant Lomell directing his men as they landed under the withering fire of the German forces."

For his amazing leadership and extraordinarily brave acts, Bud Lomell received the Distinguished Service Cross—the second highest military decoration. The citation said in part: "First Sergeant Lomell led a patrol of men through the heaviest kind of automatic weapons fire to destroy an enemy machine gun nest. Later on, the same day, while leading another patrol, he penetrated through the enemy lines to the rear and discovered five enemy 155-mm. guns . . . he gallantly led his patrol against the enemy and successfully destroyed the guns . . . First Sergeant Lomell's bold and outstanding leadership in the face of superior numbers is in keeping with the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States and reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Army."

Lomell also received a rare battlefield promotion to Second Lieutenant, and it was said that "there was not a man who did not feel proud to serve under him."

Six months later, Bud Lomell served in the Battle of Hurtgen Forest, where he and D Company helped capture and defend the Notorious Hill 400, which had claimed thousands of his fellow servicemembers' lives. He was subsequently awarded the Silver Star for his valor in combat. His Silver Star citation states:

"Conspicuously leading from the front, Lomell directed the successful defense of the hilltop in the face of a nearly overwhelming German counterattack midday . . . Refusing shelter and, at risk of life with blood oozing from his ears, nose, and mouth, firing his machine gun cradled in his bandaged left arm with his right hand, he continued to lead his men against another ruthless German assault throughout the entire afternoon."

Bud was wounded at Hurtgen and again weeks later in the Battle of the Bulge.

In addition to the Distinguished Service Cross and Silver Star, Bud Lomell received other awards including the Bronze Star, Purple Heart with two Oak Leaf Clusters and France's highest medal—the Legion of Honor.

A little further background: born in Brooklyn in 1920, Bud Lomell was adopted by Scandinavian immigrants and raised in Point Pleasant, New Jersey, along with his four siblings. His parents instilled in him a strong work ethic and he often worked odd jobs to help support his family during the Great Depression, which included delivering mail, caddying at Manasquan River Golf Club, and selling his father's paintings to guests at local hotels. This relentless drive also followed him in sports, where he became a stellar boxer and played football and baseball. He earned a partial football scholarship at Tennessee Wesleyan University, where he worked part time to support his aging parents.

Bud Lomell married Charlotte Ewart, a public health nurse in Long Branch. They settled in Toms River, where they raised three daughters, Georgine, Pauline, and Renee. They also took in Elizabeth "Buffy" and Jay Bergson, the children of Charlotte's sister who passed unexpectedly, and raised them as their own. Lomell's daughter Renee describes her beloved dad as a caring and devoted father who loved and valued their mother and taught them to, as he would say, "work hard, be respectful, and do the right thing."

Bud Lomell was appointed to serve as the first director of the newly organized Ocean

County Veterans Service Bureau to assist veterans with their transition to civilian life. He later graduated from Rutgers Law School and opened one of Ocean County's largest and most successful law firms. Initially a member of the prestigious Ocean County Lawyers' Club, he resigned in protest when the club would not admit a Jewish lawyer whom he had recommended. "I'm not going to tolerate any anti-Semitism," he said at the time. "I didn't fight Nazis in Europe to come home and find anti-Semitism in my backyard."

He was an active participant in civil life, serving as president of the Ocean County Bar Association, a director of the First National Bank of Toms River, a member of the Dover Township Board of Education, and a co-founder of the Garden State Philharmonic.

The 68,000-square-foot state-of-the-art facility, which we hope will soon bear his name, provides both primary care as well as specialty care, including dental care, women's health care, mental health counseling, physical therapy, and laboratory services. It is only fitting that a clinic that has already done so much for our community be named after a true war hero who dedicated his life to the service of his country and its veterans.

As President Reagan famously put it in his speech at Pointe du Hoc, the men who invaded Normandy, including and most especially Bud Lomell, "had faith that what they were doing was right, faith that they fought for all humanity, faith that a just God would grant them mercy on this beachhead or on the next." They were "the men who took the cliffs." They were "the champions who helped free a continent." They were "the heroes who helped end a war." In enduring gratitude to them, Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in bestowing this posthumous honor on Second Lieutenant Bud Lomell.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 21, 2025

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I missed the second vote in the series on July 14, 2025. Had I not missed the vote, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call 192, H.R. 177.

HONORING RIITTA DEANDA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 21, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Riitta DeAnda, a leader and public servant who has been named California's 4th Congressional District 2025 American Dream Award Recipient for Solano County. This award recognizes the achievements of immigrants in our district who have made remarkable contributions to our communities in the areas of Arts and Culture, Professional Achievement, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, or Community Service.

Mrs. DeAnda was born in Turku, Finland, and immigrated with her parents to Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, where they became Canadian

citizens. Eight years later, they moved to Richmond, California, fulfilling her father's long-standing goal of settling in the United States. Mrs. DeAnda became a U.S. citizen at age 22.

Mrs. DeAnda worked for a large commercial insurance company in San Francisco for many years, after which she founded an insurance agency in Vallejo and later moved its office location to American Canyon. She became involved in the communities where her office was located by joining the local Chamber of Commerce. Mrs. DeAnda feels it is important to make a difference in the communities in which you work and live. In 2018, she sold the insurance agency but has not slowed down.

Around the district, Mrs. DeAnda is known for her enthusiasm and dedication to various organizations, many of which she has been involved with for years. Currently, Mrs. DeAnda serves as the Chair of the Napa-Solano Area Council on Aging, the Treasurer of Sierra Club Solano, and the Secretary of the Northern Solano Democratic Club. Additionally, she was a Board Member of Travis Unified School District and served as its President from 2020–2021. Mrs. DeAnda actively engages with our community as she serves as a Committee Member of Walk to End Alzheimer's Solano, leadership of Solano Together, and a Board Member of the Finnish American Home Association (FAHA). She is involved in organizations that reflect her personal experiences and values, allowing her to advocate for causes that resonate with her identity and represent the needs and perspectives of her community.

Mrs. DeAnda also aids our district by helping community members. Licensed by the IRS, Mrs. DeAnda has been able to help our community members prepare their tax return documents. Additionally, Mrs. DeAnda has helped produce a monthly newsletter for Councilmember Jeannette Wylie, has become a Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy counselor, and has helped distribute quilts to those in need through Lutheran World Relief. Her dedication to philanthropy and helping others is admirable and has a positive impact on our community.

Mrs. DeAnda is a powerful embodiment of civic engagement, where she has exercised her rights and voted in every election since she became a citizen. It is a right she is proud to have and even spurred her to join the Northern Solano Democratic Club, later becoming the organization's Secretary, and has phone-banked during numerous election cycles, motivating others to become civically involved.

Mrs. DeAnda earned her master's degree from San Francisco State University. She was married to the late James DeAnda and is the proud mother of their daughter, Kristina, who resides in Denver, Colorado, and their son, James, who lives in Vacaville with his wife and their five children.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting and proper that we honor Riitta DeAnda for her service, leadership, and dedication to California's 4th District.

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, July 22, 2025 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JULY 23

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Seval Oz, of California, and Michael Rutherford, of Florida, both to be an Assistant Secretary, and Gregory Zerzan, of Texas, to be General Counsel, all of the Department of Transportation.

SR-253

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine challenges to meeting increased electricity demand.

SD-366

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Katherine Scarlett, of Ohio, to be a Member of the Council on Environmental Quality, and Jeffrey Hall, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator, both of the Environmental Protection Agency.

SD-562

Committee on Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider pending calendar nominations; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine dismantling transnational criminal organizations in the Americas.

SD-419

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Benjamin DeMarzo, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary, and Craig Trainor, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary, both of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Jovan Jovanovic, of Pennsylvania, to be President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for a term expiring January 20, 2029, Francis Brooke, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, and David Peters, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce.

SD-538

2 p.m.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Subcommittee on Education and the American Family

To hold hearings to examine choice and literacy, focusing on empowering families for better educational results.

SD-430

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

Subcommittee on Near East, South Asia, Central Asia, and Counterterrorism
To hold hearings to examine United States diplomatic strategies for a dynamic Middle East.

SD-419

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on the Constitution

To hold hearings to examine ending illegal discrimination and preferences, focusing on enforcing our civil rights laws.

SD-226

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine innovation in the crosshairs, focusing on countering China's industrial espionage.

SR-428A

3 p.m.

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Richard Fordyce, of Missouri, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Farm Production and Conservation.

SR-328A

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure

To hold hearings to examine the road ahead, focusing on proposals to improve America's transportation infrastructure.

SD-562

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

4 p.m.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of John Bartrum, of Indiana, to be Under Secretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and Jeremiah Workman, of Ohio, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training.

SR-418

JULY 24

Time to be announced

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider the nominations of David Brian Castillo, of Washington, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Labor, Brian Christine, of Alabama, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services, Brittany Panuccio, of Florida, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2029, Jonathan Snare, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission for a term expiring April 27, 2029, David Barker, of Iowa, to be Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education, and Mary Riley, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Legislation and Congressional Affairs, both of the Department of Education.

TBA

9:15 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Admiral Daryl L. Caudle, USN, for reappointment to the grade of admiral and to be Chief of Naval Operations, Department of Defense.

SD-G50

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Business meeting to markup an original bill entitled, "Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2026", and an original bill entitled, "Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2026".

SD-106

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Pedro Allende, of Florida, to be Under Secretary for Science and Technology, and Sean Plankey, of Pennsylvania, to be Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, both of the Department of Homeland Security, Paul Ingrassia, of New York, to be Special Counsel, Office of Special Counsel, Anthony Lomangino, of Florida, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2031, John LaValle, of New York, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2030, Charles Arrington, of Illinois, to be a Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for a term expiring July 1, 2030, Christopher Fox, of Virginia, to be Inspector General of the Intelligence Community, Office of the Director of National Intelligence, and Edward Alwyn O'Connell, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

SD-342

10 a.m.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine empowering workers by expanding employee ownership.

SD-430

10:15 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 1038, to direct the Attorney General to include a data field in the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System to indicate whether the last known location of a missing person was confirmed or was suspected to have been on Federal land, S. 1098, to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to enhance the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Grant Program, S. 1528, to amend the National Child Protection Act of 1993 to ensure that businesses and organizations that work with vulnerable populations are able to request background checks for their contractors who work with those populations, as well as for individuals that the businesses or organizations license or certify to provide care for those populations, and the nominations of Kurt Alme, to be United States Attorney for the District of Montana, Nicholas Chase, to be United States Attorney for the District of North Dakota, Lesley Murphy, to be United States Attorney for the District of Nebraska, Jeanine Pirro, of New York, to be United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, Daniel Rosen, of Florida, to be United States Attorney for the District of Minnesota, Erik Siebert, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, and Kurt Wall, to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of Louisiana.

SH-216

2 p.m.

Commission on Security and Cooperation
in Europe
To hold hearings to examine intercepting
terror, focusing on strengthening
Ukrainian air defense.
210-CHOB

JULY 29

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To receive a closed briefing on Operation
MIDNIGHT HAMMER.
SVC-217