

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING DR. ADORA OBI NWEZE

**HON. MAXWELL FROST**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 4, 2025*

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, today, I honor the work and advocacy of Dr. Adora Obi Nweze, affectionately known as “Mother Nweze”. She has dedicated her life to education, civil rights, justice and community empowerment and today is retiring as Florida State Conference NAACP President after 25 years of service.

A Diamond Life Member of the NAACP, she has served with distinction as President of the Florida State Conference NAACP, as well as a member of the National Board of Directors and numerous national committees, including ACT-SO and Education.

Under her leadership, the Florida NAACP spearheaded landmark lawsuits challenging voter disenfranchisement, affirmative action rollbacks, school vouchers, and felony disenfranchisement, leaving a lasting imprint on the struggle for justice and equity.

Mother Nweze, a devoted mother and grandmother, is a true public servant-leader and I am grateful for her leadership and unwavering commitment to improving the quality of life for all people.

In her retirement, Mother Nweze will have more time to focus on the things that truly matter most and know that we will continue to proudly carry the mantle of the NAACP mission.

I am happy to congratulate Mother Nweze on her retirement and for her incredible contributions and service.

**HIGHLIGHTING ADVANCES IN CHINESE ELECTRIC VEHICLE TECHNOLOGY AND THE NEED FOR AMERICAN INVESTMENT IN BATTERY TECHNOLOGY**

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 4, 2025*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to highlight a discussion of the advances in Chinese electric vehicle technology and the importance of American investment in battery technology. While the Republicans scale back their ambitions for American leadership in energy technology, Communist China is racing into the future. We all know that they stole American technology to get where they are, but now they're lapping us—especially in batteries where they control 85 percent of the global market.

Further, the Chinese automaker, BYD, is making electric vehicles that cost as little as \$8,000, and they are gobbling up the global market share.

Even more troubling, BYD and another Chinese firms have announced that they will soon

be selling EVs that can recharge in 5 minutes to travel as much as 320 miles—equivalent to a typical traditional gas-powered car. Another Chinese battery firm has announced the development of a battery they claim will be able to go 3,000 kilometers on only a 5-minute charge.

Now, not everyone loves electric vehicles—my car has a traditional internal combustion engine—but think of the national security implications of falling behind in batteries and advanced manufacturing. We see in Ukraine that the future battlefield is electrified.

We need to be pressing forward, not just in electric vehicles and batteries, but on all fronts. We should be investing in new forms of transportation, more in biofuels, and more in sustainable aviation fuels. We cannot retreat from the future of energy and transportation, and certainly not from our history of leading the world at the forefront of new technologies.

I would like to include in the RECORD a Wall Street Journal article from April, “Five-Minute EV Charging Is Here, but Not for U.S.-Made Cars”. I would also point my colleagues to the following articles on this topic: Electryk’s “BYD’s low-cost Seagull EV now starts at under \$8,000 in China,” and “Breakthrough EV Battery Patent Could Charge in Minutes and Cross a Continent,” by Carscoops.

**FIVE-MINUTE EV CHARGING IS HERE, BUT NOT FOR U.S.-MADE CARS**

**CATL’S AND BYD’S RAPID-CHARGING TECHNOLOGIES UNDERSCORE CHINA’S DOMINANCE IN THE EV SECTOR, A TECHNOLOGICAL PRIORITY FOR XI JINPING**

(By Yoko Kubota, April 23, 2025)

SHANGHAI.—Two of the world’s leading battery developers are locked in a technological race that has brought the charging time for an electric vehicle to just five minutes—about the amount of time it takes to refuel a traditional gasoline-powered car.

And, in a twist with geopolitical ramifications, both of the technological leaders are Chinese. It is a show of prowess that underscores just how far China has extended its global dominance over next-generation technologies, in some cases leaving the U.S. years behind.

The claimed leap forward on EV batteries is merely the latest technological feat for a country that has stunned Western governments with a string of breakthroughs on artificial intelligence, semiconductors and EVs—a vindication of leader Xi Jinping’s ambitions of turning China into a global technological powerhouse.

Contemporary Ampere Technology, the world’s biggest automotive battery maker, said this week on the sidelines of Auto Shanghai, China’s biggest auto show, that it has developed a new fast-charging system that, within five minutes, can power a car for 320 miles of driving. By getting the charging time down to roughly the same time as it takes to refuel a gasoline-powered car, the Ningde, China-based company, known as CATL, appears to have further eroded a major obstacle to wider EV adoption.

CATL’s announcement came just after that of fellow Chinese battery maker BYD which also manufactures its own EVs that

rival Tesla’s products. In March, BYD, based in the southern Chinese technology hub of Shenzhen, said that its new charging technology is capable of providing 250 miles of range in five minutes.

The technologies won’t be introduced on a wide scale right away. The batteries can only be charged at a network of superfast charging stations that is still being built out.

Still, CATL’s and BYD’s technologies serve as the latest example of how China is years ahead of the U.S. in EV technology, even as the Trump administration intensifies efforts to curtail Chinese companies’ access to cutting-edge technology.

China, under Xi, has long positioned EVs as a technological priority, while in Washington, concerns have grown among officials and lawmakers about energy security.

CATL is now responsible for making more than one-third of the EV batteries on the global market, including those inside made-in-China Teslas.

CATL and BYD’s claimed technological advancements are unlikely to benefit American consumers, at least in the near term, given sky-high tariffs levied by the U.S. against Chinese goods—and in particular EVs manufactured in China.

It is a reminder of how divergent the automotive landscape, and the consumer experience, have become between China and the U.S., the world’s two biggest economies and auto markets.

Chinese electric cars are an exceedingly rare sight on U.S. roads because of tariffs that were already at around 100% last year under import taxes levied by the Biden administration. Then, in a string of recent moves, President Trump slapped additional tariffs on most Chinese goods, including cars, of 145%.

Meanwhile, within China, Xi’s top-down push has been broadly embraced by ordinary consumers, who are now as likely to buy electric and plug-in vehicles as traditional gas-powered cars, aided by relatively low electricity costs and a batch of consumption-related subsidies.

In March, 52% of passenger cars sold in the country were battery-electric vehicles, plug-in hybrids of range-extended vehicles, according to the China Passenger Car Association.

As adoption rapidly increased in China, homegrown players came to dominate the global EV supply chain—including, crucially, batteries, perhaps the single most important technology underpinning EV performance. Many of these players got a big boost working alongside Tesla, the American EV pioneer that started making cars at its Shanghai plant in late 2019.

Now, global dependence on Chinese battery suppliers, paired with concerns that Chinese EVs could flood overseas markets and pose a threat to domestic players, have raised alarms in the U.S. and other Western markets.

In a bid to catch up, Ford Motor is building—a battery plant in the U.S. where it plans to manufacture batteries using CATL technology.

Chinese battery makers are leading producers of lithium-iron-phosphate, or LFP batteries. These iron-based battery cells cost less than the nickel-and-cobalt combination used widely in North America and Europe.

• 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.

CATL's newest fast-charging battery, the second generation of its Shenxing lineup, is an LFP battery with a range of about 500 miles. CATL said it improved electron transmission efficiency to avoid overheating during rapid charging.

How quickly such batteries will be adopted on a wide scale is another matter, because of the need to develop the charging infrastructure. BYD has said that it is working to build 4,000 compatible stations in China and that its charging system will be initially available only for two models, limiting its uptake in the near term.

Lihong Qin, president of Chinese EV maker NIO, which uses CATL's battery cells and offers its own battery-swap system, said carmakers need to see how quickly the rapid-charging technology scales up, referring to the infrastructure build-out. "There is still a big difference between theoretical calculations and practical applications," Qin said.

Mike Dunne, who runs a namesake automotive consulting firm, said CATL's and BYD's superfast charging technologies are a genuine breakthrough, but several challenges remain.

The new technology will cost more, and frequent usage will wear out the battery cells, he said.

"It's more sizzle than steak," Dunne said. China has more than 13 million EV-charging facilities nationwide, counting both publicly and privately operated ones, state media has reported. The U.S. has around 77,300 charging locations with about 230,000 EV-charging points in total, data from the Joint Office of Energy and Transportation showed. It is unclear if the two figures are directly comparable, but industry experts widely regard China's EV-charging environment to be far ahead of the U.S.'s.

Separately on Monday, CATL introduced a new sodium-ion battery that it calls Naxtra. At the moment, mainstream EV batteries are reliant on lithium, creating a potential bottleneck around supplies of the material. CATL says sodium-ion batteries, if mass-produced, could help reduce its dependence on lithium.

Sodium-ion batteries are made from a sodium compound called soda ash, which can be produced using table salt. Unlike lithium, sodium is easily accessible everywhere. The U.S. has also been working on developing this technology.

## ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

SPEECH OF

**HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 3, 2025*

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of my amendments to H.R. 4553, the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2026, and in opposition to the underlying bill.

The bill itself cuts over \$750 million from the FY25 spending levels, revokes \$5 billion from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, zeroes out Army Corps programs that clean up radioactive waste and blocks clean energy initiatives. My four amendments support essential funding for our National Labs and our continued goal to restore the Chesapeake Bay. Specifically, three of my amendments support the Continuous Electron Beam Accelerator Facility

and the High Performance Data Facility at the Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility, commonly known as JLab, in Newport News, Virginia, and my fourth amendment supports the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' ongoing oyster restoration work in the Chesapeake Bay. Unfortunately, only one of these amendments will be considered on the floor.

My first amendment No. 41, included in the bipartisan en bloc, highlights the importance of an optimal runtime for the Continuous Electron Beam Accelerator Facility, or CEBAF. CEBAF is a world-leading facility studying the inner properties of nuclei, such as the quark and gluon structure of protons and neutrons. The research conducted at this facility has vastly improved our understanding of the fundamental make-up of matter and is actively supporting collaborative research globally in medium energy physics. Currently, numerous PhD students and researchers are waiting to use the facility for experiments, and the backlog continues to grow as more scientists hope to use this critical technology. To meet the research needs and to optimize the use of this facility, CEBAF requires an additional \$11 million to operate for an optimal runtime of 34 weeks. The current level included in the bill seriously underfunds CEBAF's operations. A funding level of \$166 million for CEBAF operations should be included in the final legislation.

My second amendment No. 42, emphasizes the need for funding critically needed infrastructure improvements at CEBAF. The workforce at JLab is rapidly growing with the increased use of CEBAF and the installation of the Department of Energy's High Performance Data Facility. For JLab to effectively support its employees and researchers, the lab needs increased funding to build a modern workspace to match the research conducted at this facility. The final appropriations bill should include \$38 million for JLab to update its CEBAF infrastructure.

My third amendment No. 44, highlights the importance of the planning and construction of the High Performance Data Facility. The High Performance Data Facility will serve as a state-of-the-art computing facility supporting the Department of Energy's Office of Science Scientific User facilities. In collaboration with Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, this project will address the forthcoming increased volume of data that will need to be processed in real time and ensure researchers have the ability to manage large quantities of data reliably and efficiently. As a result of lower than anticipated funding in fiscal year 2025, this project, which will serve the rapidly growing data infrastructure needs across the National Labs, requires additional funding and support. The final appropriations bill should include at least \$25 million to ensure that the High Performance Data Facility is completed by 2030.

My fourth amendment No. 39 emphasizes the important work being conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to create new oyster habitats in the Chesapeake Bay. Oysters' natural ability to filter pollutants out of water make them an ideal partner in cleaning our Bay. The Corps serves as the lead agency for this endeavor and providing them with the necessary resources to continue growing the oyster population in the Chesapeake Bay will enable us to meet our water quality goals. The final appropriations bill should include \$7.5 million for the Corps' oyster restoration work.

I would like to thank Representatives ROBERT WITTMAN and JENNIFER KIGGANS for co-sponsoring my amendments supporting JLab, and I would like to thank Representatives ROBERT WITTMAN and SARAH ELFRETH for co-sponsoring my amendment supporting oyster restoration in the Chesapeake Bay. While I was glad to see the inclusion of my first amendment to the bipartisan en bloc, the underlying bill does not adequately fund the important work being conducted at our national labs and by the Army Corps of Engineers. This bill abandons critical research in science, diminishes the importance of clean energy, and weakens the government's ability to restore and conserve our environment. For that reason, I oppose passage of this legislation.

## RECOGNIZING THE MINNESOTA ASSISTANCE COUNCIL FOR VETERANS

**HON. ILHAN OMAR**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 4, 2025*

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans (MACV) for their grand opening of the newly renovated Robin property. Formerly the Robin Hotel, MACV has transformed the century-old property into 14 units of safe, stable housing for Veterans working to rebuild their lives.

I am immensely proud to have secured \$750,000 in Community Project Funding to support this endeavor. The Robin offers flexible housing options, ranging from transitional stays to long-term accommodation. The project is committed to providing equitable access to transportation and is thus located along the Metro Transit line to ensure easy and reliable access to community services.

For decades MACV has been unwavering in their commitment to end Veteran homelessness in Minnesota. This project is only one example of the way their work and collaboration can change lives. I want to extend my deep appreciation to Hennepin County, the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs, and the many community organizations that helped make this project possible.

At a time when VA benefits and the workers who serve our veterans are under attack, I am honored to work alongside MACV to support those who have served our country. Please join me in recognizing the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans for their outstanding efforts and in expressing our deepest gratitude to all of those who contributed to this incredible project.

## RECOGNIZING JEFF NELSON ON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. ERIC SORENSEN**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 4, 2025*

Mr. SORENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Jeff Nelson, CEO and Managing Director of MetroLINK, on the occasion of his retirement in September 2025 after more than 35 years of dedicated service to the Quad Cities.

Mr. Nelson has transformed public transportation in our region. Under his leadership, MetroLINK became a model of innovation—connecting people to Jobs, education, and opportunity while advancing economic growth, clean energy, and smart technology.

He introduced the Channel Cat water taxi service, which has provided over one million rides, giving residents and visitors a unique way to travel the Mississippi River. He also led the adoption of electric buses, placing the Quad Cities at the forefront of sustainable transit solutions.

His vision and dedication have earned national recognition, including the American Public Transportation Association's Outstanding Public Transportation System Award. Beyond these honors, Mr. Nelson built a system that strengthens the community every day.

I thank Jeff Nelson for his decades of leadership, creativity, and commitment to the Quad Cities, and I extend my best wishes to him in retirement.

#### HONORING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF GARFIELD HIGH IN EAST LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

##### HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2025

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the centennial anniversary of Garfield High School located in East Los Angeles.

Since 1925, Garfield has been a cornerstone of the community, providing education and opportunity for generations of students from all walks of life. Garfield's legacy is deeply intertwined with the cultural fabric of Los Angeles, and its tradition of academic, athletic, and artistic success continues to shape California's thriving economic and cultural landscape. I thank all the extraordinary educators and staff of Garfield whose hard work and dedication on behalf of their students reminds us of the impact that education can have not only for their students, but for their communities.

Let today be a time to reflect on the achievements of the past, but also a commitment to the future. Despite new technology and a changing world, I am confident that Garfield will remain committed to fostering public education and community for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Garfield High School on their 100th anniversary. Go Bulldogs.

#### HONORING THE INVESTITURE OF PRESIDENT ANDRÉS ACEBO, J.D.

##### HON. LaMONICA McIVER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2025

Mrs. McIVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Andrés Acebo, J.D., as the 13th President of New Jersey City University, located in the 10th Congressional District of New Jersey. As the youngest-ever president appointed to a public university in New Jersey, Acebo has made remarkable advancements

during his interim presidency. His innovative approach and commitment to excellence have significantly enhanced the university's impact on the local community and its academic standing. In just two years, Acebo turned NJCU's \$22.7 million deficit into financial stability, achieving its first balanced budget since 2017. His efforts led to significant credit rating upgrades from Moody's and Fitch, and he was named the top influencer in New Jersey higher education by ROI-NJ in May 2024.

Beyond financial accomplishments, Acebo's leadership has propelled NJCU to remarkable heights in social mobility, as the university ranked No. 1 in New Jersey and 10th nationally in CollegeNET's 2023 Social Mobility Index, maintaining that top state ranking and a position in the Top 20 nationally in 2024. This commitment to student success is further reflected in the graduation rates, with 1,667 students earning their degrees in Spring 2024, an impressive 8.2 percent increase in bachelor's degrees from the previous year and an additional 1,544 graduates projected for 2025. He established partnerships with peer institutions, connecting schools that share similar values and agreements, which fostered a larger higher education community. Under Acebo's leadership, NJCU's athletics also benefited positively as he transitioned the program to a new conference with CUNYAC members in 2026.

What an incredible accomplishment and a shining example of New Jersey excellence. I congratulate Andrés. He makes New Jersey proud.

#### CELEBRATING HABON ABDULLE ON THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF AYADA LEADS

##### HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2025

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the extraordinary leadership, dedication, and impact of Habon Abdulle. Her incredible and tireless work has empowered new Americans, including many women of color. I wish to specifically honor Ms. Habon Abdulle on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of Ayada Leads.

In Somali, "ayada" means "she." True to its name, Ayada Leads is committed to strengthening our democracy and civic participation by advancing women's leadership and highlighting women empowerment as integral to transformative change.

For years, Habon has been a driving force for gender equity, civic engagement, and leadership. Through her unwavering commitment, she has empowered women across various ages, states, and cultures to embrace their leadership potential. As the founder of Ayada Leads, originally known as Women Organizing Women, I know firsthand how committed Habon is to empowering women and guiding them to become strong leaders here in Minnesota and across the country.

Habon has been a trailblazer for civic engagement for more than 25 years. She is a renowned scholar in gender and politics, holding two master's degrees and a Ph.D. She has also conducted research on the cultural and structural barriers against minority women in political spheres. Habon is no stranger to the

challenges women experience in our community. But nevertheless, she continues to guide and educate women to develop their full leadership potential and is a source of inspiration for so many.

I have personally witnessed Habon's devotion and commitment to this work. A friend for many years, she also served as my mentor. She helped me harness my drive and ambition and encouraged me to do everything I could to support my community.

I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Habon Abdulle's incredible contributions to our community, political education and leadership. Her work is a constant reminder of the importance of strengthening our democracy by empowering women.

#### RECOGNIZING CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

##### HON. ERIC SORENSEN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2025

Mr. SORENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge one of the most cherished organizations in my district and the efforts to continue their storied mission of serving with the greatest care and love. As we know, September is childhood cancer awareness month, so please join me in recognizing OSF HealthCare and their newly named OSF Children's Hospital of Illinois Cancer and Blood Disorders Institute.

This is an incredible milestone for pediatric healthcare in downstate Illinois. Located in Peoria, the institute cares for children with both cancer and blood disorders through world-class, family-centered care.

The OSF Children's Hospital of Illinois is the sole children's hospital in the downstate area that offers the full spectrum of pediatric oncology and hematology care under one roof for children and their families. These services include one of approximately 45 proton beam therapy centers in the United States and the only one serving downstate Illinois families. This allows for highly targeted radiation treatments which reduce side effects and improve long term outcomes for children.

In addition to treating childhood cancers, the hospital is a regional leader in the care of serious blood disorders such as sickle cell disease, hemophilia, and aplastic anemia. Their comprehensive programs cover major steps for care, including diagnosis, treatment, life-long management, and transition to adult care, thus ensuring every patient receives the treatment they need at every stage of life.

Every year, approximately 15,000 children in the United States, 700 in Illinois, are diagnosed with cancer, and countless others live with chronic or life-threatening blood disorders. This includes children as young as only a few months. While we are thankful that survival rates for many pediatric cancers have improved to over 85 percent, cancer remains the leading cause of disease-related death among children, and hematologic conditions continue to require complex, coordinated, and long-term care.

To unite our community in this fight, OSF Children's Hospital of Illinois has also recently launched Paint the Town Gold, an annual community-wide awareness initiative that will

take place every September during Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. Now an annual downstate tradition, Paint the Town Gold brings together businesses, schools, local governments, and citizens to honor children, inspire hope, and advocate for continued progress in both cancer and blood disorder care.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to urge the chamber to join me in congratulating OSF Children's Hospital of Illinois Cancer and Blood Disorders Institute on their new name, while applauding their leadership in pediatric cancer and blood disorder care. Likewise, I am happy to recognize Paint the Town Gold as an enduring community tradition in the fight for every child's health.

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HONORING THE LIFE AND  
MEMORY OF JOSEPH D. PUTNAM

**HON. KEVIN MULLIN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 4, 2025*

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and memory of a legendary business and community leader in San Mateo County, California, Joseph D. Putnam, who died peacefully at his home in Woodside on August 11, 2025, at the age of 90.

Born in Gregory, South Dakota, Mr. Putnam was one of six children of Francis and Bertha Putnam. He was raised on his family's farm, where, during the depths of the Depression and the Dustbowl, they carried their water to the house in buckets from a well, their heat was provided by the wood-burning stove in the kitchen, and their light by oil lamp. Their out-house was located behind the house. From a very young age Joe showed his entrepreneurial spirit by trapping minks and selling them to the war department for lining the jackets of bomber pilots in World War II. In those early years, he also developed the skill of western riding as he spent many hours with his beloved horse.

When in high school, Mary Lou Kayl set her sights on the smartest boy in school, and Joe was the unwitting beneficiary of her plan. After they married a couple of years later, he started his career selling used cars in Minneapolis. Mary Lou was employed with Braniff Airlines, which enabled the young couple to honeymoon in Brazil. Thus began a lifelong quest to jointly explore the world.

When Mary Lou gave birth to their first child, Joe had to work double-time to sell three cars in one day so that he could afford to pay the hospital bill and bring them home. That ambition drove him year-round, as their family grew to six children and Joe made the leap from selling used cars in the Dakotas and Minnesota, to buying a dealership in Burlingame, California. Through grit, smarts, and long hours at work, Joe developed a very successful business, Putnam Auto Dealerships. The business has grown from one dealership to thirteen, selling seventeen brands around the San Francisco Bay Area in Burlingame, San Mateo, Redwood City, San Carlos, and Oakland.

Joe was a mentor and friend to many over the years managing his automobile dealerships. Well known for his radio ads on KCBS in the 70's and 80's—"bring your wife or hus-

band, your pink slip and your check book"—he leaves behind a legacy of family-friendly values and excellent customer service.

Joe and Mary Lou were married for 54 years and created a dynamic life together, centered always on family while being active in the Catholic Church and in charitable activity throughout the community. They were a generous, tireless, formidable couple. Mary Lou predeceased Joe by eighteen years.

Outside of family and work, Joe's lifelong passion was horses. A skilled western horseman, he won many cutting competitions across the west and rode with his good friends at the Mounted Patrol of San Mateo County. In 1998 Joe was awarded Outstanding Horseperson-Citizen of the Year by the Mounted Patrol. His children grew up in Woodside riding their horses after school the way other kids ride their bikes.

Mr. Putnam leaves a proud legacy of community engagement and service, values instilled in his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. A self-made family man who lived and embodied the American dream, Mr. Putnam will always be remembered for his many contributions to our community. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to please join me in celebrating and commemorating the life and the accomplishments of Joseph D. Putnam.

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RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT  
OF SERGEANT MAJOR TROY E.  
BLACK

**HON. MORGAN MCGARVEY**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 4, 2025*

Mr. MCGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize an extraordinary American patriot, Sergeant Major Troy E. Black, United States Marine Corps, on the occasion of his retirement following a distinguished 37-year career in faithful service to our Nation.

Sergeant Major Black's journey began in Louisville, Kentucky, where the values of duty, discipline, and perseverance were instilled early in his life. In July 1988, he answered the call to serve and reported to Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island. There, he began a journey that would span nearly four decades and see him rise to the highest enlisted ranks in the Marine Corps and in our Armed Forces.

After completing infantry school and earning his military occupational specialty as an 0331-Machine Gunner, Sergeant Major Black trained at Marine Security Force School before deploying aboard the USS *Forrestal* (CV-59) in support of Operation Just Cause. He deployed again in 1990 with the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines to Kuwait during Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

From the beginning, Sergeant Major Black distinguished himself not only through valor in combat but also as a dedicated mentor and leader. He served as a two-time drill instructor at Parris Island, ultimately rising to the roles of Senior Drill Instructor, Drill Instructor School Instructor, and Drill Master of the Recruit Training Regiment. It was there, fittingly at the very birthplace of Marine transformation, that he met his wife Stacie, herself a proud Marine who would later retire as a First Sergeant.

Following the tragic attacks on our Nation on September 11, 2001, Sergeant Major Black deployed repeatedly to the frontlines of the Global War on Terror. With the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines, he completed two combat deployments to Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom, and later, with the 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines, he deployed twice more to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

In one unforgettable moment of heroism, Sergeant Major Black ran through uncleared territory to rescue a wounded Marine struck by an IED. For this act of extraordinary courage under fire, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V", a testament to his unwavering commitment to those he led.

His exceptional leadership culminated in his appointment as the 19th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, the highest enlisted position in that service, and subsequently as the 5th Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the most senior enlisted position in the entire U.S. Armed Forces.

Over the course of nearly four decades, Sergeant Major Black's work has had an immeasurable impact on our Joint Forces servicemembers and the civilian employees of the Department of Defense. His dedication to the mission, to the men and women and then families who accomplish it, and his tireless efforts to lead from the front, have contributed to the safety and security of all Americans. Today, his legacy lives on through the Black family, with their daughter, Corporal Are'wynn Black, following in her parents' footsteps in the Marine Corps.

On behalf of a grateful Nation, I offer my deepest thanks and best wishes to Sergeant Major Troy Black, to 1st Sergeant Major Stacie Black, and to their entire family as they begin this well-earned new chapter.

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WELCOMING HIS ALL-HOLINESS  
ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

**HON. WILLIAM R. TIMMONS IV**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 4, 2025*

Mr. TIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome to Washington, D.C., His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the spiritual leader of Orthodox Christianity worldwide. As Archbishop of Constantinople—New Rome, His All-Holiness is recognized as the "first among equals" of Orthodox Primates and shepherds more than 300 million faithful across the globe.

Since his election in 1991, Patriarch Bartholomew has been an unwavering advocate for peace, interfaith dialogue, religious freedom, and environmental stewardship, earning him the title of "Green Patriarch" and international recognition for his vision of reconciliation and unity. He has convened historic gatherings of Orthodox leaders, fostered dialogue with other Christian traditions, and extended a hand of friendship to leaders of the Jewish and Muslim faiths.

In South Carolina's 4th District, the Greek Orthodox community has been a vital part of our religious and cultural life. Families in Greenville and Spartanburg have shared their faith and traditions for generations, strengthening the bonds of community and enriching the fabric of our state.

On behalf of my constituents in South Carolina's 4th District, including the faithful at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Spartanburg, I extend a warm welcome to His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. His presence in Washington is a reminder of the enduring bonds of faith, freedom, and shared values that unite people of all backgrounds.

**CELEBRATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROCK CHURCH OF TERRELL AND HONORING PASTOR GARY WEEMS**

**HON. LANCE GOODEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 4, 2025*

Mr. GOODEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of The Rock Church of Terrell's 20th anniversary and to congratulate Pastor Gary Weems on his retirement and transition to a senior bishop role. Since its founding in 2005, The Rock Church of Terrell has been a symbol of love, hope, and faith to people from all walks of life in my hometown of Terrell, Texas.

Pastor Gary began his ministry in Terrell in 1996, immediately offering himself and his family to the enrichment of our community. Alongside his wife, Jodi, Pastor Gary has dedicated his life to the service of the body of Christ and full-time ministry for 48 years. His faithfulness and love have made a profound and enduring impact on the Terrell community. In his absence, The Rock Church of Terrell will welcome a new generation of pastoral leadership. Pastor Gary's son, Ben, will assume the role of Senior Pastor, continuing his father's legacy of dedicated service. I wish the best for Pastor Ben and his wife, Chelsea, and Associate Pastor Bodie Jones and his wife, Stephanie, as they embark on this new journey.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. JEFFERSON SHREVE**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 4, 2025*

Mr. SHREVE. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 234, Perry of Pennsylvania Amendment No. 30.

**HONORING PENINSULA FAMILY SERVICE AND COMMEMORATING ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY**

**HON. KEVIN MULLIN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 4, 2025*

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Peninsula Family Service and commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the founding of this impactful nonprofit, and its unique history and significance to my district.

Peninsula Family Service was founded on April 24, 1950, responding to a need to pro-

vide counseling for veterans who had returned from World War II and their families. The San Francisco Bay Area has evolved over many decades, and Peninsula Family Service has been there every step of the way—providing support, caring for neighbors, and becoming a deeply trusted part of our community. Peninsula Family Service is well-known for its ability to adapt and respond to local needs, and it provides support to program participants at every stage of life, from children and families to adults over 100 years young. The organization has more than 45 programs, sites, and services, reaching 10,000 of our neighbors in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties in California. Today these services are more relevant than ever. The priority program areas for Peninsula Family Service are early learning, employment services, financial empowerment, and older adult services.

The scope of Peninsula Family Service programs is broad: Older adults can participate in any one of numerous exercise classes, including Tai Chi and Zumba, or get a nutritious lunch, which is provided each day at the organization's Fair Oaks Adult Activity Center in Redwood City. The Fair Oaks Center is part of the Peninsula Family Service's comprehensive approach to health, wellness and overcoming isolation for our older adults, all key components of its Overcoming Loneliness Initiative, through which the organization is a San Mateo County leader. Parents of children from birth to 5 years old are served at Peninsula Family Service early learning centers, of which there are soon to be eleven around San Mateo County. Each learning center provides high-quality child development and family support. One of these centers also provides programs for youth ages 6 to 12 years. All Peninsula Family Service centers provide this care and early learning to children of low-income families and households in poverty. Some children are unhoused and some may have experienced other trauma. Peninsula Family Service also offers financial education workshops for adults, and now also for teens ages 13 to 20 years of age.

To honor its 75 years of unwavering service to the Bay Area, Peninsula Family Service is hosting a year-long celebration throughout 2025 to recognize, thank and engage past, current, and future members of the Peninsula Family Service family. At the core of its 75th anniversary is a commitment to celebrating the many generations of program participants, staff, leadership, volunteers, auxiliaries, donors, and corporate and community partners, and their impact on our community.

I am proud Peninsula Family Service is part of California's 15th Congressional District. The organization stands as a testament to the power of responsiveness to community needs and the importance of providing support for our community. Peninsula Family Service honors all those who have been part of its past and looks forward to serving where community need remains great. As I reflect on the journey of Peninsula Family Service, I am reminded of the profound impact of nonprofits, such as Peninsula Family Service, that keep our communities healthy and strong. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to please join me in celebrating Peninsula Family Service's 75th Anniversary and wishing continued success in all future endeavors.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. TIM BURCHETT**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 4, 2025*

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, due to an illness, I missed the vote series on September 3, 2025. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 224; YEA on Roll Call No. 225; YEA on Roll Call No. 226; YEA on Roll Call No. 227; YEA on Roll Call No. 228; YEA on Roll Call No. 229; YEA on Roll Call No. 230; YEA on Roll Call No. 231; YEA on Roll Call No. 232; YEA on Roll Call No. 233; and YEA on Roll Call No. 234.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. MIKE HARIDOPOLIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 4, 2025*

Mr. HARIDOPOLIS. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 227.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. ADRIAN SMITH**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 4, 2025*

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 234.

**RECOGNIZING THE SOUTH DAYTON DEPOT ON ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY**

**HON. NICHOLAS A. LANGWORTHY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 4, 2025*

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a remarkable landmark of our history from my hometown of South Dayton. For 150 years, the South Dayton Depot has been a center of connection, culture, and community spirit. Since its founding in 1875, the South Dayton Depot has welcomed generations of travelers and neighbors, serving first as a vital hub for freight and passenger service, and now as a museum where history is preserved for generations to come.

The South Dayton Depot has not only preserved our community's railroad heritage, but has also become a gathering place where neighbors connect and visitors experience the rich story of our region. From its role in major motion pictures like *The Natural* and *Planes, Trains and Automobiles*, to its continued service through the *Movie and Rail Museum*, the South Dayton Depot stands as a living link between our past and present.

On September 6, 2025, the Village of South Dayton will celebrate the South Dayton Depot's 150th anniversary with a community celebration that honors both its historic legacy and its enduring role as the heart of the village. Thanks to the dedication of local leaders,

volunteers, and preservation groups, the South Dayton Depot continues to thrive as a source of pride for the entire region.

I ask that the United States House of Representatives join me in honoring the enduring legacy of the South Dayton Depot and congratulate them on this important milestone.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. DANIEL S. GOLDMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 4, 2025*

Mr. GOLDMAN of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on Wednesday, September 3, 2025 due to an important personal matter. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 224; NAY on Roll Call No. 225; NAY on Roll Call No. 226; NAY on Roll Call No. 227; NAY on Roll Call No. 228; NAY on Roll Call No. 229; NAY on Roll Call No. 230; NAY on Roll Call No. 231; NAY on Roll Call No. 232; NAY on Roll Call No. 233; NAY on Roll Call No. 234.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF RICHARD TINDALL

#### HON. ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 4, 2025*

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Desha County Judge Mr. Richard Tindall, a dedicated Arkansan, faithful Christian, lifelong learner, and beloved public servant, on the occasion of his passing on Friday, July 11, 2025, at the age of 79.

Mr. Tindall was born on September 13, 1945, in Monticello, Arkansas and graduated from McGehee High School, where he met his wife of more than sixty years, Mrs. Sandy Tindall. Mr. Tindall held a deep commitment to his family and was an adored father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

Mr. Tindall is fondly remembered for his innovative spirit and held a variety of occupations, including a small business owner, a licensed contractor, and a farmer. He also possessed an array of interests as an avid outdoorsman, tournament fisherman, and horse showman. He became one of the first to attempt to raise saltwater shrimp in freshwater in southeast Arkansas.

In 2018, Mr. Tindall ran for Desha County Judge, and thanks to the broad support of Desha County citizens, he was elected to serve. After taking office in January 2019, Judge Tindall led Desha County through numerous disasters, flooding events, and the COVID-19 pandemic. He held this role with great dedication and integrity until the day he passed.

In his role as County Judge, Mr. Tindall developed relationships with local, state, and federal agencies to aid county residents through disasters. He was also responsible for the day-to-day operations of the county, which included management of various departments, oversight of over \$5 million in assets, 500 miles of county roads, and an annual budget of over \$7 million.

Mr. Tindall strove to make his community a better place. He was a man who believed in the importance of family and faith above all else and worked tirelessly to support his community, which he loved deeply. His kindness, loyalty, and service will forever be remembered. Let us continue to honor his legacy by carrying forward these values that he lived by. Desha County residents will deeply cherish Judge Tindall's memory, and he made a profound impact on all who knew him.

#### HONORING LT. COLONEL DEIDRE D. SMITH

#### HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 4, 2025*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Lt. Col. Deidre D. Smith, Director of Public Affairs for the Mississippi National Guard. In this role, she provides critical counsel to the Adjutant General and senior leaders on command information, community outreach, and media engagement, ensuring the Guard remains connected to the citizens of Mississippi.

A Hattiesburg native, Lt. Col. Smith has served across the United States, Europe, and overseas in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Throughout her distinguished career, she has taken on leadership roles in Human Resources, Public Affairs, Information Operations, and Equal Opportunity, demonstrating versatility and excellence in every assignment. Within the Mississippi Army National Guard, she has held several key positions, including State Director of Public Affairs, Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, and Director of Outreach Services. Her dedicated service has earned her numerous awards, including the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and the Mississippi Magnolia Cross, reflecting her professionalism and commitment to duty.

Lt. Col. Smith is a graduate of Marion Military Institute, Southeastern Louisiana University, and the University of Oklahoma. She has also completed advanced military education through the Command and General Staff College, the Defense Information School, and the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute. In addition to her military achievements, she was selected for Leadership Mississippi in 2018 and named among the Mississippi TOP 50 in 2022.

She resides in Brandon with her husband, Maj. James Kevin Polk of the 172nd Airlift Wing, and their daughters, Pfc. Harley Smith and Pvt. Lyndi Polk, both newly enlisted members of the Mississippi Army National Guard, continuing their family's proud tradition of service.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF SUE VEER

#### HON. SHERI BIGGS

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 4, 2025*

Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable career

and dedicated leadership of Sue Veer, who sadly passed away after nearly two decades of service as the president and CEO of Carolina Health Centers in Greenwood, South Carolina. She has left behind a strong legacy through her purposeful mentorship and healthcare advocacy.

As president and CEO, Sue led 19 medical practices that provide care for more than 26,000 patients combined. Her colleagues, patients, and partners in the healthcare space admired her innovative goals for community health centers. She is said to have inspired those around her to aim higher and make a difference.

Sue was a dedicated board member of the National Association of Community Health Centers and the South Carolina Primary Health Care Association. She championed local, state, and national priorities in the health center movement and will be remembered as a committed visionary. In her national work, she was a founding member of a lobbying group called 340B Working Table, which represents hospitals, drugmakers, and various health interests that work together to advance bipartisan 340B legislation. She testified before Congress several times to advocate for 340B programs and affected patients.

Prior to her career in community health, Sue faced a life-threatening tragedy. A devastating dam failure caused extensive damage and heavy flooding in her town. This disastrous incident took the life of her young daughter. According to Sue, the kindness demonstrated by the healthcare professionals who treated her injuries and helped her move forward proved to be an inspiration. Her survival story, and the healthcare professionals at the forefront, led her to pursue a career in community health and sympathize with patients every step of the way.

Her compassionate "Monday Messages" of encouragement to colleagues and friends will be cherished and fondly missed. She is said to have cultivated many deep connections, and I pray for her family, friends, and loved ones as we all mourn her loss.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to represent the 3rd District of South Carolina and to celebrate the legacy of Sue Veer and others who serve people in need and inspire their community.

#### CELEBRATING THE LAUNCH OF THE CONGRESSIONAL STUDY GROUP ON INDIA (CSGI)

#### HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 4, 2025*

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the launch of the Congressional Study Group on India (CSGI), and to applaud the visionary leadership of the Roundglass Foundation and its partners in standing up this groundbreaking initiative.

Congressional Study Groups provide a vital platform for bipartisan exchanges that enable Members of Congress to engage in substantive policy discussions focused on strengthening America's relationships with its partners, friends, and allies.

India and America are crucial strategic partners, and that is why this new Congressional

Study Group is so important. As the fifth such group established by the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress, the CSGI creates a dedicated, bipartisan forum for substantive discussions on trade, technology, energy, defense, and other issues that define the U.S.-India relationship. This initiative will not only strengthen our strategic partnership, but also build greater understanding and collaboration between our two great democracies at a pivotal moment in history. The CSGI represents an investment in the future, one that advances shared priorities like national security, global health, and climate stewardship, while also reaffirming the enduring bonds between the American and Indian people.

I would like to specifically extend my sincere gratitude to the Roundglass Foundation, established by Mr. Gurpreet “Sunny” Singh, for its marquee role in launching this groundbreaking initiative that will further strengthen the sacred bond between the United States and India. Under Mr Singh’s visionary leadership, Roundglass has already championed numerous efforts that have expanded access to athletics, education, women’s empowerment, and environmental stewardship, particularly for underserved communities. This new initiative is a shining example of that legacy, one that reflects Roundglass’ unwavering commitment to building a

healthier, more inclusive, and more sustainable future for us all.

As an Indian-American, I am deeply honored to recognize the work being done under Roundglass’ efforts to unlock the full potential of a strong U.S.-India relationship, one that can help build healthier and more resilient societies in both of our countries. The establishment of this Congressional Study Group on India holds the promise of guiding our nations toward a stronger, more cooperative future. For that, Mr Speaker, I wish to extend my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to Roundglass, to Mr. Singh, and to the additional partners who helped launch this groundbreaking program.