

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### RECOGNIZING THE 2025 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS OF SOUTH DAKOTA

**HON. DUSTY JOHNSON**

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 10, 2025*

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, each year, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes a select group of schools across the country, celebrating their academic achievements and contributions to educational excellence. As a South Dakotan, I am proud of Howard High School, Jones County Middle School, and Warner Elementary School for being named as National Blue Ribbon Schools by the South Dakota Department of Education.

Howard High School is recognized for their outstanding achievement in English and mathematics, Warner Elementary for their strong graduation rate and attendance, and Jones County Middle School for supporting students in overcoming barriers to succeed in English, mathematics, and attendance.

Outstanding teachers and a supportive community are key to the success of each of these Blue Ribbon Schools. It is paramount that we continue to have exceptional teachers and schools for our kids and the future of our Nation. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating these three exceptional schools in South Dakota. I am confident they will continue making great contributions to our future leaders.

### HONORING THE CAREER AND SERVICE OF MR. DEXTER BRIM

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 10, 2025*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career and service of Mr. Dexter Brim, a lifelong resident of Canton, Mississippi, who has dedicated more than a decade to educating and mentoring young people in his community.

For 11 years, Mr. Brim has taught history with passion, purpose, and a steadfast belief that "All students are capable of learning." Through his instruction, he has earned the respect of his students, colleagues, and community, building a reputation for excellence and commitment. His leadership recently came full circle as he joined the administration team at Nichols Middle School, the very school he once attended. As he has said, "Serving in this capacity is not only a professional milestone but also a deeply personal privilege. I am proud to give back to the community that shaped me and to help lead the next generation of learners with dedication, heart, and a deep sense of purpose."

Mr. Brim is a proud graduate of Jackson State University, where he earned both a

bachelor's degree in social science education and a master's degree in education, and of Arkansas State University, where he completed a specialist degree in educational leadership. His preparation reflects both his dedication to lifelong learning and his vision for strong, student-centered leadership.

His record of accomplishment is extensive. He has been honored as a STAR Teacher and was named Teacher of the Year in 2019, 2022, and 2024. He was also recognized for his role in significantly improving student proficiency on the U.S. History assessment—a testament not only to his skill as an instructor but also to his conviction in his students' ability to succeed.

Beyond the classroom, Mr. Brim has been a mentor, role model, and active contributor to the Canton community. His work demonstrates that education is not just about academic success but also about character, confidence, and community pride.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Dexter Brim for his leadership, service, and commitment to education. He represents the very best of Mississippi's educators and continues to embody the values of hard work, service, and community that define our state.

### RECOGNIZING LARRY NEWMAN'S 40 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE YARDLEY-MAKEFIELD FIRE COMPANY

**HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 10, 2025*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with deep admiration and appreciation to recognize a truly outstanding individual from my district—Volunteer Firefighter Mr. Larry Newman from Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

This year, Mr. Larry Newman is celebrating 40 remarkable years of continuous service with the Yardley-Makefield Fire Company.

Larry's story began long before he ever put on the uniform. As a young child, he would visit the firehouse with his grandfather, who himself was a proud volunteer firefighter. Those early memories and experiences sparked a love for firefighting that never seemed to fade.

After graduating from St. John's University in Queens, New York, in 1969 with a degree in Business and Marketing, he pursued a successful 30-year career in men's fashion. Yet, the call to serve his community never left him. In 1975, he answered that call by joining the Floral Park Fire Department as a volunteer firefighter, which would only be the start of his overall 50-year journey in fire service.

In 1986, after relocating to Yardley, Pennsylvania, Larry joined the Yardley-Makefield Fire Company, where he has served ever since.

Throughout his 40 years with the Yardley-Makefield Fire Company, he has stepped into

a variety of roles—most significantly his 29 years serving as President of the Fire Company. His leadership has helped shape the growth of the department to ensure it remains prepared and stays connected to the community it serves.

Larry's impact goes beyond his leadership roles. He has written many successful grants that have helped the Fire Company purchase equipment, such as a High Water Rescue Truck, which has allowed the department to be able to respond more effectively.

He has been frequently honored as a Top Responder, answering more than 400 fire calls in a single year, a testament to his strong dedication. Whether responding to emergencies or representing the Fire Company at schools during Fire Prevention Week and at community events, you will often find Larry behind the wheel of a firetruck, always ready to serve.

Larry Newman's life is a powerful example of what it means to live with purpose. His record of duty, sacrifice, and selflessness embodies the very best of the American Spirit.

On behalf of a grateful community, I offer our deepest appreciation to Larry Newman for his 40 years of extraordinary service. May his legacy of leadership, heart, and heroism continue to inspire future generations of firefighters and public servants for years to come.

I congratulate Larry. We salute him.

### HONORING THE WADAAG COMMONS PROJECT

**HON. ILHAN OMAR**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 10, 2025*

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Wadaag Commons Project in the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood of Minneapolis. "Wadaag" is the Somali word for "sharing," and this principle is reflected in the design of this building. The project, constructed and owned in partnership with the BIPOC and woman-owned developer Nawal Noor, was planned and crafted in close collaboration with the community. Getting input from those whose lives are most impacted by this development was central to the vision that shaped its final form.

The Wadaag Commons Project is the sixth and final phase of the Seward Commons redevelopment effort, which has transformed the neighborhood from a desolate industrial park into a high-density, transit-oriented housing and commercial area serving diverse incomes. I was proud to secure \$1.8 million in federal Community Project Funding to help facilitate the success of this crucial endeavor.

Beyond its value to the surrounding community, this project is invaluable to those who will call it home. Wadaag Commons provides affordable housing to large families and those experiencing homelessness. The 39 new units include homes with income-based pricing and

• 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.

Section 8 voucher commitments to address the burden of rising rent. Several other units have more than two bedrooms to meet the needs of multigenerational households, which has been an option long missing from the local housing landscape.

One of the most notable features of this project is the inclusion of indoor and outdoor play areas for children, facilities that are too often overlooked in affordable housing developments. Alongside these play spaces are private entrances, accessible layouts, and culturally relevant design elements all chosen to support daily life, connection, and communal care.

Please join me in recognizing the residents, advocates, and partners who made Wadaag Commons possible.

WELCOMING ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

### HON. KATHERINE M. CLARK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 10, 2025*

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to warmly welcome the spiritual head of the Eastern Orthodox Church, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, to Washington, D.C.

The longest-serving Archbishop of Constantinople in the history of Christianity, the Ecumenical Patriarch will arrive in the United States this month to receive the distinguished Templeton Prize. This prestigious award will be presented in recognition of his "pioneering efforts to bridge scientific and spiritual understandings of humanity's relationship with the natural world, bringing together people of different faiths to heed a call for stewardship of creation."

Guiding the world's 300 million Eastern Orthodox Christians since his election in 1991, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has been a powerful voice for our common responsibilities to one another—our shared obligation to defend the freedom, dignity, and wellbeing of our neighbors and of future generations.

I am especially grateful for the impact his leadership has had on Orthodox Christians across the United States, particularly the more than 600 families at St. Demetrios Church in Weston, Massachusetts. For decades, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has had the deepest respect of the American people and of this institution—an abiding admiration reflected in Congress' decision to award him the Congressional Gold Medal in 1997.

Today, the Ecumenical Patriarch continues to bring together people of all faiths in the pursuit of peace, mutual respect, and a future more worthy of our children. I join my colleagues in commending his invaluable work, and I proudly join my Orthodox constituents in welcoming him back to the United States.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. ABRAHAM J. HAMADEH

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 10, 2025*

Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and unable to be present for the following vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 224, on Passage of H.J. Res. 104.

### HONORING BOB NEWHART

#### HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 10, 2025*

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and legacy of Bob Newhart, TV star and comedian.

In 1972, The Bob Newhart Show premiered and catapulted Bob into a new tier of critical acclaim, adoration, and commercial success. Known for its dry humor and heart, The Bob Newhart Show drew millions of viewers into a Chicago-based story about a psychologist and his clients and friends. With incredibly strong ratings and significant praise, the show ran for six seasons, leading to his other acclaimed show, Newhart. Through these efforts, Bob connected with homes and families through his extraordinary storytelling skills. He was described by coworkers and friends as kind, funny, and intellectual, and is remembered as humble and warm despite his fame.

Before reaching comedic stardom, Bob graduated from Loyola University Chicago with a bachelor's degree in business management. He then served two years in the Army during the Korean War and held jobs in accounting prior to recording the comedy album that won him Album of the Year at the 1961 Grammys, "The Button-Down Mind of Bob Newhart". Bob had a love of philanthropy and used his comedic talents to emcee at various benefits from childhood cancer to Scleroderma research. He was adamant about using his career and success for the benefit of others and showed the world how important that mission was to him by raising \$350,000 for the National Children's Cancer Society.

Bob was a true Chicagoan and proved that through the exposure he gave the city in his show as well as his enthusiastic support for the Cubs. The city is proud to honor his life and legacy through renaming the street by the Edgewater condominium to "Bob Newhart Way". Thanks to him, this building is one of the most recognizable in Chicago, appearing in The Bob Newhart Show's opening credits for 142 episodes.

The city of Chicago and the whole country have lost an incredible figure who shaped modern comedy and sitcom TV, and he will be dearly missed. His legacy lives on through his children, grandchildren, and friends, and he will be remembered by the lives that he touched through his work and philanthropic efforts. I am forever grateful to Bob for shining a light on this incredible city and showing us it means to be a true legend.

### HONORING CLAY COUNTY FLAGS FOR HEROES

#### HON. AARON BEAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 10, 2025*

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on September 11, 2025, the Rotary Club of Orange Park Sunrise will once again raise "Flags for Heroes," a moving sea of hundreds of American flags honoring the men and women who lift our communities every day.

In Clay County and across Northeast Florida, we remember the lives lost on September 11, 2001, and we salute the heroes who still answer the call: first responders, service members, veterans, teachers, nurses, and the quiet volunteers who serve without fanfare. Each flag carries a name, a story, and a promise that we will never forget.

I commend the Rotarians, sponsors, and families who make this commemoration possible, and I invite neighbors to walk among the flags, reflect, and thank a hero in their life. America is strongest when service is celebrated, and sacrifice is honored.

I thank the Rotary Club of Orange Park Sunrise for reminding us of who we are. Let's go get them.

### REMEMBERING WILLIAM E. "BILL" BALLOU

#### HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 10, 2025*

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of William E. "Bill" Ballou. Bill was dedicated to sharing the Gospel and will be remembered for his love of family and his service to his "Heavenly Father."

Bill was born April 8, 1939, in Sterling, Texas, and he later attended Baylor University where he met his wife, Avonnell Bolton. God blessed Bill and Avonnell with 52 years of marriage—a marriage that was focused on Christ and their family of two children, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Bill was a devoted Baylor alumni and sought to give back to the University that not only gave him an education but also brought Avonnell into his life. Bill served as a lifetime member of the Baylor Alumni Association, was a former member of the Baylor Development Council, and endowed a scholarship in a memory of Avonnell at the School of Education.

Bill will always be remembered for his dedication to sharing the message of salvation through Christ. Bill served Christ passionately with his lifetime of service in churches in Texas, Mississippi, and Georgia. Bill also served in leadership positions in multiple Baptist Associations and led revivals as far away as New Zealand.

One of Bill's favorite passages to use when sharing the gospel was John 14:6: I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Bill left a strong, Godly heritage to those who will walk this Earth after him. I am honored to remember his lifetime of service, and I am thankful for the incredible family he leaves to carry on his legacy.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF AN HISTORIC ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENT IN THE HISTORY OF THE LOUISIANA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (LHSAA)

## HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2025

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to humbly honor and celebrate the heroic accomplishment of the Saint Augustine High School 1975 Football Team, proudly located in Louisiana's 2nd Congressional District, of which I represent in Louisiana.

From 1951, its first year as a Catholic high school in New Orleans, through the mid-1960s, St. Augustine excelled in three major varsity sports: football, basketball and track and field. But the school, opened under the administration of New Orleans Archbishop Joseph Francis Rummel, was relegated to competing in the Louisiana Interscholastic Athletic and Literary Organization (LIALO) during the closing era of segregation.

Its principal, Josephite Father Robert Grant, wanted more for his athletes. He wanted them to compete against the city's other Catholic schools, who were members of the Louisiana High School Athletic Association. His first attempt came in 1962 when Father Grant wrote to the principals of the five schools—Jesuit, St. Aloysius, Holy Cross, De La Salle and Redemptorist—asking them to compete against St. Aug on an interscholastic sports level. He thought that would be possible because the Archdiocese of New Orleans had already desegregated its elementary schools.

No one accepted the invitation. But there was one reply, by De La Salle principal, Christian Brother Cassian. It was painfully blunt: "Father, personally, I am not one to rush into situations which may not be to my advantage and to those associated with me. For years, I have refused to play certain high school teams on the basis that there was nothing to gain by such competition. This is how I feel about your request to play De La Salle. Time may change my attitude."

Mr. Clarence Jupiter, who would go on to become a top administrator at Xavier University, championed the cause by asking why St. Augustine and Xavier Preparatory, which competed in major boys' sports, were not allowed to play their white Catholic counterparts? These institutions developed All-Americans and future pros and perform exceptionally well. Yet the fans never saw these schools compete against the other five. On the surface, little was happening to change the situation, but Father Grant was tirelessly working behind the scenes.

In June 1964, Fr. Grant notified Archbishop John Cody that he would seek admittance to the LHSAA, to establish athletic relations with the other Catholic high schools in the archdiocese. He also notified those schools of his plan, asking them to include St. Aug on their basketball, baseball and track and field schedules for the 1964–65 school year.

Father Grant had no delusions that LHSAA Commissioner T.H. "Muddy" Waters would greet his request with open arms. And he was right. Jesuit principal Father C.J. Stallworth, who had served on the LHSAA executive

committee for seven years, said he would do what he could to assist St. Augustine, but added it would be helpful to him to have Sister Madalena of Xavier Prep also apply for admission to bolster his request.

Father Grant faced resistance from other Catholic schools, whose coaches set the athletic schedules. The Catholic League coaches ignored the two LIALO schools when they set the schedules for 1964–65. The CYO tournament and Knights of Columbus track meet also kept their events segregated.

At the January 1965 annual meeting, the LHSAA denied St. Augustine's membership request but amended its constitution to allow LHSAA and LIALO schools to compete against each other.

A year later, Rummel, Shaw and Cor Jesu were admitted by a two-thirds vote of LHSAA principals; St. Aug was not. Although the local Catholic school principals voted to admit the school into their district by a 5–3 count, the vote of LHSAA principals numbered 11 years, 185 days. The rest is history.

St. Augustine gained entry through a federal court suit in 1966, the CYO allowed St. Augustine and Xavier Prep to compete in its tournament, and the Knights of Columbus ceased running its annual track and field meet.

On Friday, December 12, 1975, in Strawberry Stadium, located on the campus of Southeastern Louisiana in Hammond, Louisiana, the Saint Augustine High School Purple Knights achieved their first state title in the Louisiana High School Athletic Association (LHSAA)—the all-white athletic league that St. Aug integrated through winning a Federal Court case in 1967.

St. Augustine has won state championships in football, basketball and track over the years. Xavier Prep became an all-girls school a few years after joining the LHSAA.

The LIALO became a defunct organization in 1969. Its members joined the LHSAA. Almost every high school in the LHSAA has a mixed enrollment.

Team Roster Included: Virgil Alexis, Michael Ben, Winston Burns, Ken Cobette, Gary Craddock, Oyd Craddock, Charles Cross, Donald Davis, Kurt Davis, Travis Duroncelet, Joseph Evans, Greg Fernandez, Bernard Gaines, Zachary Gaston, Henry Gibson, Derek Gray, Raymond Gray, Marty Griffin, Richard Harleaux, Louis Holmes, Arthur Hunter, Harold Jackson, Walter Lain, Sidney Lawrence, Thaddeus Lee, Stephen McNair, Michael Moody, Keith Moore, Elliot Muhammad (Boisdore), Louis Oubre, Larry Parker, Tyrone Parker, Burnell Quinn, Eric Richard, Victor Richard, Michael Roussell, Tyrone Smith, Gary Washington, Christopher Willard, Alan Williams, Wydell Williams, Rynell Wilson.

Deceased Team Members: Joseph Broussard, Nathaniel Dorsey, John Doucette, Alan Florent, Percy Gibson, Arthur Hagan, Byron Honore, Ronnie James, Jerome Mazique, Alvin Reed, George Robertson, Daryl Smith, Renard Smith, Brian Thompson, Fredrick Thornton.

Coaching Staff: Ronald Arceneaux, Anthony Biagas, Eddie Flint, Daryl McConduit (Deceased), Anthony Simmons (Deceased), Otis Washington—Head Coach (Deceased).

### PURPLE KNIGHT DISTRICT & STATE PLAYOFF RECORD

George Washington Carver, 33–0  
John McDonogh, 21–0  
Joseph S. Clark, 51–0  
Jesuit 35–7  
Archbishop Rummel, 19–6

Holy Cross, 41–7  
DeLaSalle, 33–0  
Chalmette, 34–0  
Archbishop Shaw, 26–0  
Brother Martin, 7–0

### STATE PLAYOFFS

George Washington Carver \*\*, 29–8  
West Jefferson \*\*, 14–6  
South Lafourche, 20–7  
Sulphur, 11–10  
Covington, 35–13

\*\* First 2 high school games held in the LA Superdome—40k in attendance

The team's historic 15–0 season record not only affirmed St. Aug could excel, but it could dominate in the face of adversity. The team's performance both uplifted the high school and the entire Black community in New Orleans and around the state. The team was ranked No. 1 all season, was first in LHSAA to achieve 15–0 record, and first to play in the Louisiana Superdome. For the season, the team outscored opponents 409 points to 64 points and held opponents scoreless in 7 games. That year, eleven (11) team members received football scholarships to Division 1 Universities. Currently, over 30 athletes have advanced to the National Football League, the largest total than any high school in the United States of America.

Law and Hope are the names of the streets between which St. Augustine High School has been located for 74 years. More appropriate symbols would be difficult to find as so much of this school speaks of Divine Providence. I congratulate the St. Augustine High School Purple Knights, the 1975 Championship Football Team, and those that continue the mission of the Josephite Fathers and Brothers. Rise Sons of the Gold and Purple.

### COMMEMORATING THE REDEDICATION OF THE EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH

## HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2025

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise today to commemorate the rededication of the new church edifice the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Boston, Massachusetts. Today, we also celebrate as they embark on a new journey, under the direction of Reverend Carl B. Thompson, to continue their legacy of ministry in the Town of Abington. I join with the church community in welcoming the Reverend Dr. Jonathan McReynolds to Massachusetts as we mark this momentous occasion in the church's history.

While the Ebenezer Baptist Church was formally recognized in 1871, the church's history began years earlier. Former slaves from the Brandon Plantation in Prince Georges County, Virginia, arrived at Long Wharf in Boston on September 15, 1847. Initially, group meetings for song and prayer service were held in the kitchen of Mrs. Martha Jones. In subsequent years in a hall at 1060 Washington Street, children gathered for Sunday school and adults learned reading, writing and "good citizenship." Mrs. Jones' kitchen prayer services transformed into Sunday evening preaching services with Reverend Randolph, the church's first pastor and founder.

Since its inception, the church has served not only as a house of worship, but also as a

central hub where Boston's Black community gather for organizing and education. Generations of congregants have joined together over the decades for worship and fellowship, deepening their personal Christian commitment and call to civic action.

Despite the uncertainty during and since the COVID-19 Pandemic in 2020, the unwavering faith of its congregants and leadership carried the church through four years of temporary locations. In Abington, Massachusetts, the Ebenezer Baptist Church has found its way home.

It has been Reverend Thompson's steadfast leadership, vision and heart that have led the church community through these sometimes difficult and emotional transitions. As noted in his biography, Reverend Thompson "is truly an added blessing to the life and ministry of the Ebenezer Baptist Church."

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the impact and legacy of the Ebenezer Baptist Church, as an African American congregation, as the church expands its roots into the Town of Abington and surrounding communities. I ask that my colleagues in Congress and friends throughout Massachusetts join me in wishing the church much success in all its new endeavors.

**RECOGNIZING MR. JOHN MODDIE  
ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY AND  
FOR HIS SERVICE WITH THE  
590TH FIELD ARTILLERY**

**HON. JACK BERGMAN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 10, 2025*

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to recognize Mr. John Moddie on his 100th birthday and to commend him for his valiant service with the United States Army as a member of the 590th Field Artillery Battalion, 106th Infantry Division during World War II.

At just 18 years old, while working as a stock clerk at Peterson Boat Works in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, Mr. Moddie answered the call to serve his country by enlisting in the U.S. Army. Following basic training at Camp Roberts, California, he was assigned to B Battery of the 590th Field Artillery Battalion, 106th Infantry Division at Camp Atterbury, Indiana. Excelling in his training on the 105 mm Howitzer, Mr. Moddie set sail for England to prepare for deployment to the Western Front.

On the morning of November 30, 1944, Mr. Moddie and his battalion crossed the English Channel to Le Havre, France, where they awaited orders to move up the Seine River into Germany to take part in what would become the Battle of the Bulge—the second-most deadly battle of the war for American troops. On December 19, 1944, he was captured by German forces and held at Stalag 9B in Bad Orb, Germany, as a prisoner of war. Despite enduring extreme conditions and losing nearly half his body weight, he survived until liberation by Allied forces on April 2, 1945.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Moddie's life is a testament to courage, sacrifice, and patriotism. Let us honor him for his extraordinary service to our Nation, his devotion to his fellow servicemembers, and his steadfast commitment to family and community. On behalf of Michigan's 1st Congressional District, I wish

him a joyous 100th birthday and extend the gratitude of a Nation, he so bravely served.

**RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF  
ROBERT PHILLIPS**

**HON. JASMINE CROCKETT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 10, 2025*

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exceptional member of our community, Mr. Robert Phillips, the recipient of D Magazine's Volunteer of the Year Award.

For more than two decades, Mr. Phillips has dedicated thousands of hours to serving low-income families through the Ferguson Road Initiative's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program. His unwavering commitment to accurate, free tax preparation has made him a cornerstone of this vital effort—and a source of immense pride for our district.

As both a tax preparer and site coordinator at two VITA locations, Mr. Phillips has helped thousands of individuals and families navigate the tax system—even during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, when many other sites were forced to close. Thanks to his dedication, and that of fellow volunteers, the program has completed over 17,900 tax returns, returned more than \$3.3 million to the community, and saved taxpayers an estimated \$300,000 in fees.

Mr. Phillips' selfless service and steadfast leadership have helped ensure financial stability for countless Dallas residents. He has also mentored and supported fellow volunteers, strengthening the very fabric of our community.

I am deeply grateful for Robert's contributions and proud to represent him in Congress. I congratulate him on this well-deserved recognition and wish him continued success in all his endeavors.

**RECOGNIZING COLORADO STATE  
CHAMPIONS, THE GRAND MESA  
LITTLE LEAGUE SENIOR ALL-  
STARS**

**HON. JEFF HURD**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 10, 2025*

Mr. HURD of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a remarkable group of young men and their coaches from Western Colorado, the Grand Mesa Senior All Stars baseball team.

This summer, these players, ages 14 to 16, won the Colorado Senior Little League State Championship in Grand Junction. They went on to compete in California for the regional title against some of the best teams in the West, proudly representing Colorado with grit and determination.

The team brings together players from across our district, including Grand Junction, Clifton, Palisade, Parachute, and Rifle. They first captured the district championship and then fought their way through the state finals, defeating two tough Denver-area teams to claim back-to-back state titles—their third in just four years.

Their success is built not only on talent but also on the dedication of their coaches, the support of their families, and the spirit of their communities. I am proud of these young men and honored to celebrate the Grand Mesa Senior All Stars for the way they represented the Western Slope and the State of Colorado.

**CONGRATULATING THE TOMLINS,  
THE 2025 OKALOOSA COUNTY  
FARM FAMILY OF THE YEAR**

**HON. JIMMY PATRONIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 10, 2025*

Mr. PATRONIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Tomlin family of Crestview, Florida, who have been named the 2025 Okaloosa County Outstanding Farm Family of the Year. This recognition is part of the Okaloosa County Farm Bureau's 75th Annual Membership Meeting, a gathering that celebrates the strength of our agricultural community.

Cory and Jennifer Tomlin, together with their children Harper, Hadley, and Haylyn, represent the very best of Florida agriculture. Their family has carried forward a proud legacy of fanning that began in 1982 when Jennifer's grandfather, Mr. Joe Bundrick, established their beekeeping operation. Today, with the guidance of Mr. Bundrick and the leadership of Jennifer's father, Ken, the Tomlins manage about 400 hives annually. Their farm produces honey, provides pollinator services, and serves the community through both wholesale and retail operations, including a storefront offering honey and beekeeping supplies.

The Tomlin family's dedication goes well beyond their farm. Jennifer serves as the Children's Ministry Leader at Dorcas Baptist Church, Harper is an active 4-H member, and every member of the family contributes to the success of their agricultural operation. Together, they exemplify the values of faith, family, and stewardship that sustain rural communities across America.

Four generations have worked this farm, and the Tomlins are committed to ensuring it continues for generations to come. Their story reflects not only the resilience of farm families in Northwest Florida but also the essential role of agriculture in our Nation's future.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I commend the Tomlin family for their outstanding contributions to agriculture and community life. They are most deserving of this year's recognition as the Okaloosa County Farm Family of the Year.

**CONGRATULATING SOUTH DAKOTA'S  
AIR NATIONAL GUARD'S  
114TH FIGHTER WING**

**HON. DUSTY JOHNSON**

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 10, 2025*

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the South Dakota Air National Guard's 114th Fighter Wing, which recently received three top national honors at the National Guard Association of the

United States Conference. They were awarded the Distinguished Flying Unit Plaque, the Winston P. Wilson Trophy, and the Major General John J. Pesch Flight Safety Trophy.

These awards reflect the Wing's nearly 80 years of excellence. Over the past year, the 114th deployed twice, once to the Pacific and once to the Middle East, while maintaining outstanding readiness at home. Their record has once again placed them among the very best in the Nation.

This recognition highlights the leadership of Colonel Brandon Eskam and the commitment of every Airman in the unit. As Major General Mark Morrell noted, these honors are not pursued, but earned through professionalism, discipline, and daily dedication. The 114th represents the best of South Dakota and a standard of excellence for the entire Air National Guard.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the 114th Fighter Wing on these well-deserved honors and in thanking them for their service to South Dakota and the United States.

#### SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, September 11, 2025 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

#### MEETINGS SCHEDULED

##### SEPTEMBER 16

- 9 a.m.  
Committee on the Judiciary  
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Federal Bureau of Investigation.  
SH-216
- 2:30 p.m.  
Committee on the Judiciary  
Subcommittee on Crime and Counterterrorism  
To hold hearings to examine AI chatbots.  
SD-226
- 3 p.m.  
Select Committee on Intelligence  
To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.  
SH-219

##### SEPTEMBER 17

- 9:50 a.m.  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
Business meeting to consider the nomination of Jeffrey Hall, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency; to be immediately followed by oversight hearings to examine the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.  
SD-562
- 10 a.m.  
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
Business meeting to consider the nomination of Neil Jacobs, of North Carolina, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere; to be immediately followed by hearings to examine the nominations of Michael Graham, of Virginia, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board, Ethan Klein, of New Jersey, to be an Associate Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, and Joyce Meyer, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Economic Affairs.  
SR-253

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine reviewing recent events at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and implications for children's health.

SD-430

10:15 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine certain pending nominations.

SD-G50

2 p.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Border Security and Immigration

To hold hearings to examine missing unaccompanied alien children and criminal sponsors.

SD-226

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings to examine conspiracy theories, antisemitism, and democratic decline.

2358C-RHOB

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act successes and opportunities at the Department of the Interior and the Indian Health Service.

SD-628

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine using the 504 program to build America's manufacturing future.

SR-428A

3 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

3:30 p.m.

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine drug safety, supply chains, and the risk to aging Americans.

SH-216

4 p.m.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine strengthening services for veterans with spinal cord injury and disorder.

SD-106