

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF T. RAMSEY & ASSOCIATES

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today, the 12th Congressional District celebrates T. Ramsey & Associates on their 10-year anniversary. We thank them for their hard work in providing social impact consulting services to nonprofits, small businesses, and governmental entities across our region.

From 2015 to 2025, T. Ramsey & Associates has worked individually with each client to support and address their needs. From training services to speaking to groups on engaging topics, to consulting in mentorship, T. Ramsey & Associates has provided critical technical assistance to our communities. T. Ramsey & Associates has worked diligently to provide necessary services to grow non-profits and businesses. and we know that many have flourished as a result of their services. Our district is proud to recognize such a hard-working organization in our community for creating essential programming for our neighbors and community, organizational, and business stakeholders.

The 12th Congressional District congratulates T. Ramsey & Associates on all of their hard work and success, and hopes for many more years of celebration to come in community building.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF TRELIS MADDALENA

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Mrs. Trellis Maddalena of Flower Mound, Texas.

A native of Georgia, Mrs. Maddalena has dedicated more than 13 years to the United States Postal Service, beginning her career as a mail carrier in Flower Mound. Demonstrating a commitment to professional growth, she completed the Customer Service Associate Supervisor Program in 2019 and went on to serve in supervisory and leadership roles across multiple Texas stations, including as OIC Postmaster.

In 2022, Mrs. Maddalena was appointed Manager of Consumer Affairs for the Southern Area, Texas One. In this role, she excels at overseeing customer policies, managing interactions with government offices, analyzing surveys and CRM systems, while fostering cooperative relationships. Her ability to work seamlessly with congressional offices, staff, constituents, and local boards of elections has made her an indispensable partner in addressing the needs of the community.

Her dedication has been recognized through multiple awards, including the USPS Outstanding Supervisor Award from the Coppell Post Office in the spring of 2022, the USPS Customer Service Award from the Consumer Advocate Headquarters in September 2022, and the USPS Chief FOIA Officer's Award in May 2023. Beyond these honors, Mrs. Maddalena has consistently gone above and beyond for our office and district, ensuring that passports are retrieved from the mail in urgent situations or assisting with time-sensitive case-work requests. Her unmatched availability and commitment have directly improved customer experience for countless constituents.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our Nation's Capitol in recognition of Mrs. Maddalena's extraordinary achievements and contributions. I thank her for all she has done.

RECOGNIZING WALLACE STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND ITS PRESIDENT, DR. VICKI P. KAROLEWICS

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize Wallace State Community College and its President, Dr. Vicki P. Karolewics, for their outstanding achievements and national recognition.

Wallace State was recently named one of the top three community colleges in the Nation by the Aspen Institute, earning the Rising Star designation in the 2025 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. It also became the first Alabama community college ever selected as a finalist for this prestigious award. Wallace State continues to fulfill its mission of "learning that transforms lives and communities," providing opportunities that strengthen individuals, families, and the State of Alabama.

Under the leadership of Dr. Karolewics, who has served as president since 2003, Wallace State has become a national model for excellence, innovation, and service. Student outcomes far exceed national averages, with graduation, persistence, transfer, and job placement rates among the best in the country. The college generates more than \$276 million annually in economic impact and supports more than 4,000 jobs across its region, while enrolling nearly 10,000 students each year in credit, workforce, adult education, and dual enrollment programs.

Dr. Karolewics herself has been recognized nationally and statewide for her leadership, serving on higher education boards and councils and receiving numerous awards for her contributions to education, workforce development, and public service. She demonstrates the transformative power of education and serves countless students while advancing Wallace State to national prominence.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Wallace State Community College and Dr. Vicki P. Karolewics for their impact on students, communities, and the State of Alabama, and I congratulate them on this well-deserved national recognition.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TECHNOLOGY AND MANUFACTURING ASSOCIATION

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize and celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Technology and Manufacturing Association. Founded in 1925 by eight Chicago area manufacturers, the organization has grown into a leading advocate and resource for small and midsize manufacturers that remain the backbone of our state's economy.

Illinois is home to nearly 13,600 manufacturers employing more than 724,000 workers. Manufacturing contributes over 135 billion dollars annually, roughly 12 percent of our state's GDP. Notably, three quarters of these workers are employed by manufacturers with fewer than 500 employees, underscoring the critical role of small and midsize businesses.

For a century, TMA has provided training, advocacy, and a network of support to help Illinois manufacturers remain strong, innovative, and competitive.

On behalf of Illinois' 16th District, I extend my congratulations to the members, leadership, and supporters of the Technology and Manufacturing Association. I thank them for a century of service and best wishes for continued success in the years ahead.

WELCOMING ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

HON. GREG STANTON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and welcome His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch, who visits the United States this week to receive the prestigious Templeton Prize. As the spiritual leader of 300 million Orthodox Christians worldwide and the longest-serving Archbishop of Constantinople in the Church's two-thousand-year history, His All-Holiness distinguishes himself as a global advocate for peace, reconciliation, and religious freedom.

Elected in 1991, Bartholomew leads efforts to unify the Orthodox Church and other faiths across national and cultural boundaries. He

• 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.

convenes councils, restores long-oppressed churches, and recognizes the independence of emerging Orthodox churches. His tireless efforts to bring together Christians of different traditions do not go unnoticed.

His All-Holiness is a champion for interfaith dialogue and a steadfast advocate for interfaith understanding. He builds meaningful relationships with Muslim and Jewish leaders in the Middle East, Europe, and beyond. He consistently speaks for peace and emphasizes that religious freedom and tolerance are essential to global stability, even as he faces persecution and harassment in his homeland.

Bartholomew is also a steward for the environment who organizes international ecological symposia and advocates for waterway preservation. His call for September 1 to be a day of prayer for the environment earned him the title "the Green Patriarch," a role he continues to embrace.

His relationship with the United States is long and distinguished. He received the Congressional Gold Medal from President Bill Clinton in 1997 and has since met Presidents George W. Bush, Barack Obama, and Joe Biden, as well as other U.S. leaders, in recognition of his contributions to global peace and understanding.

As His All-Holiness is in our Nation's Capital once again, his visit highlights his extraordinary leadership. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew continues to devote his life to advancing peace, fostering understanding across faiths, and promoting human dignity. His leadership continues to inspire communities in the United States and around the world.

RECOGNIZING REVEREND DR.
PERRICO J. ROBINSON, SR.

HON. RASHIDA TLAI

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Ms. TLAI. Mr. Speaker, today, the 12th Congressional District celebrates Reverend Dr. Perrico Robinson, Sr., as the newly appointed Pastor to the Womack Temple Christian Methodist Episcopal Church of Inkster, Michigan.

Reverend Robinson is a passionate figure in the ministry and began preaching at the age of 14 in his home state of Tennessee. He began his education at Freed-Hardeman University, where he received a bachelor's degree in biblical studies. He also holds a Master of Ministry in Pastoral Counseling from Rawlings School of Divinity and a Doctorate from Andersonville Theological Seminary.

With over two decades of ministerial experience, Reverend Robinson has held several leadership roles in churches across our country, including Louisiana, Missouri, Wisconsin, and Illinois. Dr. Robinson is known for delivering powerful sermons. His favorite biblical passage is Ephesians 3:20, which states, "Now unto Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us."

The 12th Congressional District is pleased to welcome Reverend Robinson and look forward to his contributions to our community. We wish him all the best in his leadership and ministry and look forward to the significant impact he will have on the C.M.E. Church and our district.

WELCOMING THE ALL-HOLINESS
ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BAR-
THOLOMEW

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome the All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople and the spiritual leader of Orthodox Christianity worldwide.

At 85 years old, All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew remains at the forefront of the global struggle for religious freedom. Known as the "Bridge Builder" and the "Patriarch of Peace," he has worked tirelessly to foster dialogue, reconciliation, and cooperation across nations and faith. He has stood firmly against racism, extremism, and fundamentalism, championing peace-building measures to help defuse conflicts in some of the world's most volatile regions.

In addition to his leadership on matters of faith and peace, All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has been a pioneering advocate for environmental stewardship. Often called the "Green Patriarch," he has elevated ecological awareness to the forefront of his ministry, inspiring both individuals and institutions to act with moral urgency in protecting our planet.

This month, he is visiting the United States to receive the Templeton Prize—the most prestigious award at the intersection of religion and science. He joins a distinguished group of past recipients, including Mother Teresa, the Dalai Lama, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

As the longest-serving Archbishop of Constantinople in over two millennia, All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew embodies the values of faith, service, and moral leadership. His life's work is a testament to the power of courage, compassion, and conviction, and I am honored to welcome him to our country.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISH-
MENTS OF HIS ALL-HOLINESS
ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BAR-
THOLOMEW

HON. MARK TAKANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I join the global community in celebrating the remarkable achievements of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, which now include the 2025 Templeton Prize.

Patriarch Bartholomew has long been a voice of spiritual clarity and moral courage. His leadership in advancing interfaith dialogue, human rights, and especially environmental stewardship, has earned him the nickname "The Green Patriarch." The Templeton Prize recognizes his decades of work urging the world to see care for creation not just as policy, but as a sacred duty.

In Riverside, we are blessed with a vibrant Orthodox Christian community. Parishes such as Saint Andrew Orthodox Church remind us of the enduring presence of Eastern Orthodox

faith in Southern California. These communities embody the values Patriarch Bartholomew champions—reverence, beauty, responsibility, and peace.

His visit to our Nation's capital is not just a symbolic moment; it is an opportunity for our country to honor a global religious leader who is known for his phrase: "War in the name of religion is war against religion."

On behalf of Riverside, I extend congratulations to His All-Holiness. May his work continue to inspire, and may our communities reflect his vision of faith in action.

HONORING THE EL CERRITO HIS-
TORICAL SOCIETY'S 50TH ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize the El Cerrito Historical Society on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. For half a century, the Society has preserved, promoted, and shared the rich history of El Cerrito, California, ensuring that future generations understand and appreciate the stories that have shaped this community.

Since its founding in 1973, the El Cerrito Historical Society has gone far beyond existing as a historical organization. It has hosted hundreds of programs and tours, curated both temporary and permanent exhibits, and produced books, pamphlets, journals, and even historical films. Its work has illuminated the cultural and social history of El Cerrito, from early settlement to the city's role in California's diverse story.

The Society has also been instrumental in preserving important local landmarks, including one of the earliest homes in El Cerrito, tied to the Italian-American community; a Japanese-American floral shop representing the city's once-thriving flower-growing industry; and the beloved Cerrito Theater. These efforts stand as enduring reminders of El Cerrito's cultural and historic fabric.

Thanks to the generosity of founders Sundar and Dorothy Shadi, the Society has established a permanent home in City Hall, where it maintains an archive and hosts community meetings. This partnership with the City of El Cerrito underscores the Society's enduring civic role and commitment to public engagement.

For 50 years, the El Cerrito Historical Society has served as a steward of the past and a guide for the future. On behalf of the constituents of California's 8th Congressional District, I would like to honor the 50th anniversary of the El Cerrito Historical Society and extend my sincere gratitude for their generations of service to our community. May it continue its vital mission for many more years to come.

WELCOMING HIS ALL-HOLINESS
ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BAR-
THOLOMEW

HON. SCOTT FITZGERALD

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. FITZGERALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in welcoming His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to our Nation's Capital. As the Head of the second largest Christian Church in the world, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew leads a Church of 300 million people, including a large community in Southeastern Wisconsin.

His work towards the cause of peace should be commended, and on behalf of Wisconsin's 5th Congressional District, I congratulate Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew ahead of receiving the Templeton Prize.

HONORING HIS ALL-HOLINESS
BARTHOLOMEW FOR HIS WIN-
NING OF THE TEMPLETON PRIZE

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of my Greek Orthodox constituents to welcome His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to our Nation's Capital. I welcome him to Washington, D.C. and congratulate him for winning the Templeton Prize, a distinguished award received by other religious leaders such as the Dalai Lama, Mother Teresa, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

The prize honors those who have spent a lifetime, as Patriarch Bartholomew has devoted to Sir John Templeton's vision of using the power of science to examine the deepest questions of humankind and our way in the universe.

Born in Turkey, Patriarch Bartholomew studied at institutions across Europe and even here in the United States at Yale and Georgetown.

Now, the primary spiritual leader of the Orthodox Christian church, and a figure of global importance, he has addressed the World Economic Forum, UNESCO, the United Nations, and the European Parliament. He has stood out as a leader bridging divides and finding common ground, seeking peace throughout the world, and confronting global conflict with personal experience and a unique perspective.

A peacemaker through and through, Patriarch Bartholomew said that "Human conflict may be inevitable in our world; but war and violence are not. If our age will be remembered, it may be for those who dedicated themselves to the cause of peace."

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that we welcome Patriarch Bartholomew and recognize his life, his career, and the global impact of his teachings. We are grateful for his lifetime of service brokering peace and advancing our common interests, and we welcome him to Washington, D.C.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF THE WARRENDALE
COMMUNITY

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today, the 12th Congressional District proudly recognizes the 100th Anniversary of the Warrendale Community. From 1925 to 2025, Warrendale Community has been a place of love, community, and stewardship, promoting community outreach and creating a home for all.

The Warrendale Community Organization mission is to promote a relationship between the residents. Initiate educational programs that enhance the quality of life within the community that are beneficial to citizens and to expand their knowledge with a variety of programs and initiatives for all to enjoy. Such as the Free After-school STEAM program, Health and Safety Fair and many other amazing programs and initiatives. Our district is proud of the partnership and leadership of this community, not only in creating innovative and essential programming for our neighbors, but for creating a warm and welcoming experience for all residents.

The 12th Congressional District congratulates Warrendale Community and all of its neighbors on their steadfast service to community and such honorable work in their celebration of 100 years of community.

HONORING LIEUTENANT JOSEPH
A. LAPOINTE ON THE OCCASION
OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE
FDNY CEREMONIAL UNIT

HON. NICOLE MALLIOTAKIS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Lieutenant Joseph A. LaPointe on the occasion of his retirement from the New York City Fire Department Ceremonial Unit, effective September 15, 2025. This date marks the conclusion of more than four decades of distinguished public service and a career defined by leadership, compassion, and unwavering dedication to the FDNY and the people of New York City.

Born in the South Bronx, Lieutenant LaPointe is the eldest of seven children. His father served as a firefighter in the Bronx and his mother dedicated herself to raising their family. He grew up in Great Kills on Staten Island's South Shore and now resides in Annadale with his wife, Linda, and their three children, Thomas, Teresa, and Tara.

Lieutenant LaPointe began his distinguished career in civil service in 1982 as a New York City corrections officer. In 1984, he transferred to the New York City Police Department, serving as a police officer in Manhattan's Midtown North Precinct. In 1990, he joined the New York City Fire Department, assigned to Brooklyn Ladder 109. He was promoted to Lieutenant in January 2001 and became an instructor at the FDNY Fire Academy.

On September 11, 2001—the darkest day in the history of the FDNY—343 firefighters,

along with 23 NYPD officers, 37 PAPD members, and thousands of innocent civilians, perished. In the immediate aftermath, the entire Fire Academy staff, including Lieutenant LaPointe, was assigned to the World Trade Center site for rescue and recovery operations. By the end of that month, he and other academy instructors were reassigned to the FDNY Ceremonial Unit to take on the monumental and solemn responsibility of planning and executing the funerals and memorial services for all 343 fallen firefighters.

Funerals and memorials were held six days a week, sometimes with as many as 20 services in one day. In October 2001, Lieutenant LaPointe was asked to lead the ceremonial team handling services in Brooklyn and Staten Island. On December 31, 2001, he was assigned to Ladder 114 "Tally Ho" in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, while continuing his work with the Ceremonial Unit.

In 2004, he became the Executive Officer of the Ceremonial Unit, and in 2007, he was appointed its Commanding Officer. In that role, he has overseen a staff of more than 400 fire and EMS officers, firefighters, EMTs, and paramedics, managing over 800 events annually, including graduations, promotions, parades, and, most importantly, line-of-duty funerals.

Lieutenant LaPointe's leadership, compassion, and unwavering dedication have left an indelible mark not only on the FDNY, but on all of New York City. His 43 years of public service exemplify the highest traditions of honor, duty, and selflessness. I am proud to represent him in Congress and to call him my constituent.

Beyond his service in uniform, he is a proud board member of the Tunnel to Towers Foundation, which supports catastrophically injured members of the Armed Forces and assists the families of fallen members of the military, law enforcement, fire, and EMS services.

Mr. Speaker, few individuals can say they have stood beside thousands of grieving families and lifted them with dignity, respect, and love. Lieutenant LaPointe has done so for more than two decades, and in doing so, he has become part of the very soul of the FDNY. On behalf of a grateful community, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Lieutenant LaPointe's extraordinary career and in offering our deepest gratitude for a lifetime of selfless service.

RECOGNIZING THE ECUMENICAL
PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTI-
NOPLE, HIS ALL-HOLINESS BAR-
THOLOMEW

HON. MAGGIE GOODLANDER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Ms. GOODLANDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, His All-Holiness Bartholomew, the longest-serving Archbishop of Constantinople in the two-thousand-year history of Christianity and the spiritual leader of a church of 300 million people, including more than 4,800 Orthodox Christians living in New Hampshire. Ordained to the Diaconate in 1961 and to the Priesthood in 1969, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew served as Assistant Dean

at the Theological School of Halki before he was appointed Personal Secretary to the late Ecumenical Patriarch Demetrios, Metropolitan of Philadelphia, and Metropolitan of Chalcidion. I want to thank His All-Holiness for his commitment to religious freedom for all faiths as well as his lifetime of service to all people and our planet. During this visit, His All-Holiness will receive the Templeton Prize to honor his environmental and spiritual leadership. I am honored to welcome him back to the Capitol and recognize his contributions to our Nation and the world.

HONORING NATIONAL HISPANIC
HERITAGE MONTH

HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I rise to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month and its 2025 theme, Collective Heritage: Honoring the Past, Inspiring the Future. From September 15, 2025, through October 15, 2025, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, the people of the United States will celebrate the accomplishments of Hispanic Americans and the invaluable contributions they have made in our country, society, and economy.

Hispanic Heritage Month begins each year on September 15 and recognizes the anniversaries of the independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Mexico and Chile observe their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively. This month, communities across Indiana's 1st Congressional District will gather for parades and celebrations to observe Hispanic Heritage Month in the cities of East Chicago and Hammond, Indiana.

The theme of National Hispanic Heritage this month emphasizes the importance of honoring people and traditions of the past while inspiring future generations to succeed. As we reflect on the rich tapestry of history and culture that Hispanic communities have woven into our society, we look to the next generation for inspiration and leadership.

During this time, I commend the dedicated Hispanic leaders whose mentorship and guidance inspires future generations to succeed in Northwest Indiana and beyond. As we recognize the extensive contributions made by Hispanic American leaders of the past, let us look to inspire future generations to succeed in Northwest Indiana and across the country. Let us commit to supporting and uplifting Hispanic voices across the Nation to ensure that the legacy of those who came before us continues to inspire and transform society for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month and in recognizing the many achievements of Hispanic Americans throughout the history of our Nation. Our country is strengthened and uplifted by members of the Hispanic community, and our collective success is because of their contributions.

HONORING MAYOR JOHNNIE MAE
NEAL

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Mayor Johnnie Mae Neal, and outstanding public servant and dedicated community leader who has faithfully served the Town of Sidon, Mississippi.

Mayor Neal has long been a champion for civic engagement, health equity, and grassroots outreach. Under her leadership, Sidon has taken vital steps to improve access to essential services and empower its citizens through direct community involvement. Notably, during the 2020 U.S. Census campaign, Mayor Neal led efforts to ensure that every resident of Sidon was counted. She hosted local town halls, provided free protective gear during the COVID-19 pandemic, and made it a priority to offer health screenings and voter education—actions that reflect both her compassion and foresight.

Her commitment to public service exemplifies the spirit of rural leadership, where resources may be limited, but determination and love for one's community are boundless. Mayor Neal's vision and integrity have earned her the deep respect of her constituents and peers alike.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Mayor Johnnie Mae Neal for her unwavering dedication to the people of Sidon. Her efforts reflect the best of what local government can be—responsive, inclusive, and people-centered.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LATEEFAH SIMON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Ms. SIMON. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call Vote Number 220 on H.R. 747, I mistakenly recorded my vote as NAY when I should have voted YEA.

HONORING THE LIFE OF REV-
EREND THOMAS DELBERT
STATON

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today, the 12th Congressional District honors the extraordinary life and legacy of Reverend Thomas Delbert Staton, a remarkable man whose achievements in ministry, academics, community service, and athletic career set an example for us all.

Thomas was born on May 21, 1957, as the fourth son of Reverend Chester Staton and Odesa Staton. He excelled in school, earning an athletic scholarship to the University of Michigan. After working for over two decades with DTE, he began a successful consulting

career for Detroit's big-three automotive companies. Thomas used this wealth of experience and wisdom to serve as a pillar of his community, working tirelessly as a minister, motivational speaker, basketball coach, and local township treasurer. As a featured speaker of the Detroit Pistons, his words energized tens of thousands of children.

We extend our sincerest condolences to his lifelong partner, Wanda, and son, Thomas. Our collective memory of his dedication to excellence, faith, and service will live on through his beautiful family and the countless people who were touched by his striking words and actions.

WELCOMING THE ECUMENICAL PA-
TRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE,
HIS ALL-HOLINESS BAR-
THOLOMEW

HON. GEORGE LATIMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to recognize His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, known throughout the world as the "Bridge Builder" and the "Patriarch of Peace." As the spiritual leader of over 250 million Orthodox Christians, he has dedicated his life to the pursuit of reconciliation, understanding, and human dignity. Despite enduring decades of persecution and restrictions upon his Patriarchate in Istanbul, he has remained steadfast in his mission, bearing witness not only to the strength of faith but also to the power of compassion.

His All-Holiness Bartholomew, born Demetrios Arhondonis in 1940 on the island of Imvros was elected in October 1991 as the 270th Archbishop of the 2000-year-old Church founded by the Apostle Andrew. He holds the historic title of Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch, a position that dates back to the sixth century. A citizen of Turkey, he studied in Imvros, Istanbul, Rome, Switzerland, Munich, and Athens, where he earned his doctorate in Canon Law and helped found the Society of Canon Law of the Oriental Churches. Ordained in 1961 and 1969, he served as Assistant Dean of Halki, Secretary to Patriarch Demetrios, Metropolitan of Philadelphia, and later Metropolitan of Chalcidion before his election as Ecumenical Patriarch.

Patriarch Bartholomew's leadership extends far beyond the walls of the Church. He has become a global voice for peace, interfaith communication, and environmental stewardship, reminding the world that creation itself is a sacred trust. Through initiatives such as establishing a worldwide day of prayer for the environment and convening international gatherings of scientists, leaders, and theologians, he has exemplified how faith can serve the common good. His tireless journeys across continents and his engagements with parliaments, heads of state, and religious leaders have earned him honors from the United Nations, the European Union, and this very Congress, which bestowed upon him the Congressional Gold Medal beneath this Capitol dome.

Mr. Speaker, in honoring Patriarch Bartholomew, we recognize a man whose life's work has been the building of bridges, between East and West, faith and justice. His

enduring witness to peace and extraordinary work for humanity is an inspiration to us all. May his example continue to inspire us to build bridges of understanding, to care for all of God's creation, and continuously seek justice and reconciliation.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING HIS
ALL-HOLINESS BARTHOLOMEW

HON. BRYAN STEIL

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor His All-Holiness Bartholomew I, the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople and the spiritual leader of Eastern Orthodox Christianity around the world. On behalf of the millions of Eastern Orthodox Christians in the United States, including thousands of Greek Orthodox in my district in Wisconsin, I welcome Bartholomew to the United States.

His All-Holiness Bartholomew has served as the leader of the Eastern Orthodox Church for more than 30 years. Prior to his election to this role, Bartholomew served in various roles for the Church including as the personal secretary to his predecessor, His All-Holiness Demetrios I. This week, Bartholomew is in Washington, D.C. to meet with President Trump and Congress.

Bartholomew will also travel to New York later this month to receive the distinguished Templeton Prize, joining visionaries like the Dalai Lama, Desmond Tutu, and Mother Teresa as among the few to receive this honor. The Templeton Prize recognizes individuals for a lifetime of work and achievement in faith and the sciences.

On behalf of the many Eastern Orthodox who call Southeast Wisconsin home, including parishioners of Kimissis Theotokou Greek Orthodox Church in Racine, I welcome His All-Holiness Bartholomew to the U.S. and congratulate him on his winning of the Templeton Prize.

REMEMBERING SHERIFF WILLIAM
"BILL" OLDHAM

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay my respects to Shelby County Sheriff William "Bill" Oldham, who passed on September 4 at the age of 75.

A lifelong Memphian, Sheriff Oldham served for 27 years in the Memphis Police Department rising through the ranks from patrolman to Police Director. He then was elected to two terms as sheriff and was honored by fellow lawmen with the Tennessee Sheriff's Association as Sheriff of the Year in 2015. He dedicated his life to law enforcement, serving and protecting our community with integrity, professionalism and character.

A longtime parishioner at St. Louis Catholic Church, growing up Mr. Oldham attended Nativity, St. Thomas and Memphis Catholic High School and then attended what was then called Memphis State University. He was a big

sports fan and cheered on the Tigers, Cubs and Notre Dame's Fighting Irish. He also coached teams at St. Joseph, St. Paul, St. Louis and Bishop Byrne.

His love of children was demonstrated in his treatment of incarcerated young people and he never gave up on them. His own three children called him "Chiefy." Among his sterling qualities was his love of justice and commitment to doing the right thing in an effort to make our community a safe place for all.

I extend my sincere condolences to his wife of 53 years Jean, his children Neal, Katie and Beth, his grandchildren and his extended family, his law enforcement colleagues, and his many friends. Memphis has lost a moral leader. His was a life of service to others and was well-lived.

He will be missed.

WELCOMING HIS ALL-HOLINESS
ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW TO NEW YORK AND
WASHINGTON, D.C.

HON. DANIEL S. GOLDMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. GOLDMAN of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer a heartfelt and historic welcome to America for a truly remarkable global religious leader—His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, Archbishop of Constantinople and the Spiritual Head of the Orthodox Christian Church, the second-largest Christian Church in the world.

We are deeply honored to have His All-Holiness visiting our country, our Nation's capital, and New York, home to a vibrant Orthodox community, including the largest Greek, Ukrainian, and Romanian populations in the United States. His visit is a moment of profound significance for Orthodox Christians, for the broader faith community, and for all who cherish moral leadership in times of global challenge.

His All-Holiness comes to America in conjunction with his acceptance of the Templeton Prize in New York City—an award bestowed upon visionary leaders whose lives and work affirm the spiritual dimension of human existence. The Templeton Prize has previously honored extraordinary figures such as Mother Teresa, the Dalai Lama, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Patriarch Bartholomew joins that distinguished company, not only as a spiritual figure but as a tireless advocate for interfaith dialogue, peace, and human dignity.

Today, as the world witnesses ongoing war and displacement, His All-Holiness has stood firmly on the side of justice and sovereignty. On the eve of the third anniversary of Russia's illegal and immoral war against Ukraine, Patriarch Bartholomew declared unequivocally that, "Ukraine's sovereignty is not up for debate, nor can it be negotiated under the guise of diplomacy." He rightly insists that any future peace must include Ukraine as an equal participant. He has commended President Volodymyr Zelenskyy for his tireless defense of his nation's independence and democratic values—a position that echoes the principles of freedom and self-determination we hold dear.

As the "first among equals" in Orthodoxy, His All-Holiness continues to provide moral

clarity and spiritual leadership not just for the Orthodox faithful, but for the world at large. He has reminded us—through words and deeds—that faith must be active, that leadership must be courageous, and that peace must be rooted in justice.

Please join me in welcoming His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to the United States of America. His presence is a blessing to our Nation and a beacon of hope to hundreds of millions around the world.

WELCOMING HIS ALL-HOLINESS
ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

HON. CHRISTOPHER R. DELUZIO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. DELUZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to Washington, D.C.

As the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, His All-Holiness Bartholomew, is the spiritual leader of 300 million Orthodox Christians worldwide, including thousands living in Western Pennsylvania. Since his election as the 270th Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome in 1991, His All-Holiness has continuously worked to promote religious freedoms, human rights, and stronger environmental protections.

Through the tireless work to promote international peace and religious tolerance, His All-Holiness was awarded the Gold Medal of Congress during his visit in 1997. During this current visit to the United States, His All-Holiness will receive the Templeton Prize, the prestigious award honoring contribution in religion and science.

I welcome His All-Holiness to Washington, D.C. and I congratulate him on his great achievement.

HONORING FIRE CAPTAIN MARK
ANDREW

HON. RASHIDA TLAI

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Ms. TLAI. Mr. Speaker, today, the 12th Congressional District of Michigan honors Fire Captain Mark Andrew, a second-generation firefighter, for the incredible tenacity and courage he displayed throughout his nearly three-decade career serving the Dearborn community.

Captain Andrew began his service on April 29, 1997. Over the course of 28 years, he earned five promotions, advancing from Firefighter 1 to Fire Captain by 2015. He earned 40 awards in recognition of his commitment to consistently exceptional work, scholarship, community service, fire education, and the safety of all people. The community of Dearborn often commended his sincere care and empathy toward the countless people he saved, his coworkers, and every person he served.

The 12th Congressional District of Michigan extends our deepest gratitude to Fire Captain Mark Andrew. Our neighbors are safer and

stronger thanks to his work, and we wish him health and happiness throughout his well-earned retirement.

**WELCOMING HIS ALL-HOLINESS
ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW**

HON. SETH MAGAZINER

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, I am glad to welcome His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to the United States to accept the distinguished Templeton Prize. As the Representative for Rhode Island's 2nd Congressional District, I welcome Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew on behalf of the vibrant Greek Orthodox constituency in my district, including at the Church of the Annunciation in Cranston, Rhode Island.

The Church of the Annunciation was the first Orthodox Parish established in Rhode Island, and it now consists of over 600 families throughout the state. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew's dedication to his faith, raising concern for the environment, and promoting peaceful coexistence is a blessing to us all that spreads optimism for a brighter future.

**RECOGNIZING WILSON DAM ON ITS
100TH ANNIVERSARY**

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a special anniversary in Alabama's 4th Congressional District. One hundred years ago, on September 12, 1925, Wilson Dam began commercial operations. As a part of the Tennessee Valley Authority's network of hydroelectric dams, Wilson Dam supports TVA's mission of providing low-cost, reliable power, flood control, and navigation of the Tennessee River. Over the past 100 years, Wilson Dam has powered communities, enabled river commerce, and driven economic growth throughout the Tennessee Valley.

Located in Florence, Alabama, Wilson Dam has 21 generating units, capable of producing up to 663 megawatts of electricity and powering over 350,000 homes and businesses in north Alabama.

Wilson Dam is a National Historic Landmark and an engineering feat. It stretches nearly a mile—more than 4,500 feet—across the Tennessee River. The site plays a crucial role in the movement of goods through our country. The main lock has a maximum lift of 100 feet, making it the highest single-life lock east of the Rockies. More than 3,700 vessels on average and 11.4 million tons of goods pass through Wilson Dam's locks each year.

The associated Wilson Dam Reservoir includes over 160 miles of shoreline and covers 15,500 acres, providing ample opportunities for recreation. This makes North Alabama a destination for those looking to fish, boat, kayak, and enjoy our beautiful state, while driving economic activity and jobs in Alabama.

In a testament to the role Wilson Dam plays in the system, TVA is in the process of ex-

tending the life of the plant for decades. As part of the Hydro Life Extension Program TVA is refurbishing units to improve dam safety and increase hydro generation output. Wilson Dam has fulfilled—and continues to fulfill—TVA's mission statement of serving the people of the Valley region.

I hope my fellow Alabamians will join me in celebrating all that Wilson Dam has done for our state, and our region, for one hundred years. Here's to the next 100.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT THOMAS MCCALL

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Thomas McCall of Frisco, Texas, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. He has served and uplifted our community through his leadership and dedication.

Tom was born and raised in Yonkers, New York. Due to life hardships, he was quickly educated in the meaning of mortgage payment and food on the table. He attended Manhattan College, graduating in 1972 with a BSBA in Accounting and his CPA designation, which led to the beginning of a long and prosperous career in which he earned a reputation as a determined accountant and executive. Over 30 plus years of work, Tom had multiple assignments but only 3 employers. He launched his own business, McCall Asset Management, in 1998 in Frisco, Texas and it is still going strong. Tom met his wife, Karen, during college and they married in 1975. They raised 2 kids and have 2 wonderful grandchildren.

Throughout his career, Tom has been present in his community through his charitable giving of time, talent and treasure as seen in his involvement with Boy Scouts of America, Leadership Council, St. Baldrick's Children's Cancer Research, Hope for Vision, and Serving HIM (Healthcare International Ministries). A devoted man of faith, Tom attends Holy Cross Catholic Church The Colony with his wife, Karen, where he serves as Volunteer Finance Chair, on the Pastoral Council and as an Educator. Since 1985 he has been actively involved with Knights of Columbus, Fourth Degree, and is a past Trustee. He lives the Catholic Christian life of servitude. I am proud of Tom's lifelong contributions to our community, and I wish him continued success for many years to come.

It is an honor to bestow Tom with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to the people of North Texas.

RECOGNIZING THE 160TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF STOCKTON

HON. JOSH HARDER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. HARDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 160th anniversary of the First

Congregational Church of Stockton—a steadfast pillar of faith, fellowship, and service in the heart of the Central Valley.

For over a century and a half, the First Congregational Church has nurtured generations of Stockton families, offering not only a place of worship, but a community rooted in compassion, justice, and shared purpose. From its earliest beginnings in the aftermath of the Civil War to its continued presence today, the church has grown alongside Stockton, adapting and expanding to meet the spiritual and civic needs of its neighbors.

What began as a small gathering of individuals committed to living out their faith in community has become one of the city's enduring institutions. Over the years, the church has called several sanctuaries home—each one a reflection of its growing and evolving congregation. Through every chapter, the church has remained unwavering in its mission to provide spiritual guidance, inspire moral courage, and serve those in need.

Beyond the pulpit, the First Congregational Church has played a vital role in the cultural and social life of Stockton. Its members have long championed education, civic engagement, and social justice—offering programs and outreach efforts that extend far beyond its walls. Whether through fellowship events, support groups, or charitable initiatives, the church continues to be a source of hope and healing for the broader community.

In marking 160 years of ministry and service, we celebrate not just a building or a date, but a living legacy of faith in action. The First Congregational Church of Stockton remains a guiding light, grounded in its values and open to all.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this milestone and in expressing our deepest gratitude to the First Congregational Church of Stockton for its profound and enduring contributions to our region.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REDFORD TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY

HON. RASHIDA TLAI

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Ms. TLAI. Mr. Speaker, today, the 12th Congressional District of Michigan celebrates a century of service for the Redford Township District Library. While the original Redford Township District Library building first opened its doors in the 1960's, their mission of inspiring ideas, enriching lives, and creating community began much earlier. The library started its service using bookmobiles in the 1920's before receiving generous workplace expansions, book donations, funding, and material support over numerous decades. The services offered by the library today are a testament to the power of community and charity.

As we celebrate the spirit of generosity that has enabled the Redford Township District Library to grow and vitalize our community, we look ahead with confidence that it will continue to serve as a beacon of learning, connection, and opportunity. We honor and celebrate this momentous occasion and stand in solidarity to ensure that our learning institutions thrive and continue to provide a safe space for learning for all communities.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF PATRICK L. "PAT" KANDA**HON. JEFF HURD**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. HURD of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the life of Patrick L. "Pat" Kanda, a devoted public servant and community leader from Grand Junction, Colorado, who passed away on March 18, 2025.

For over thirty years, Pat served as Finance Manager at Grand Valley Power, where his leadership was crucial in navigating various financial challenges. A proud alumnus of Colorado Mesa University, he exemplified excellence and integrity throughout his career.

Pat's commitment to the community was evident through his mentorship of students as a substitute teacher and tutor, his service on the local school board, his leadership in the Orchard Mesa and Clifton Lions Clubs, and his work as treasurer for the local Republican Party. Pat was known for his generous spirit, often saying, "If there's anything I can do for you, let me know," and he actively supported his students and neighbors in need.

Pat Kanda's legacy of generosity and commitment to service will endure in the lives he touched. Carrying on this legacy is Pat's sons John and Michael Teck and his grandsons Landon and Grant Teck.

On behalf of Colorado's 3rd District, I extend my deepest condolences to his family and friends and invite my colleagues to join me in honoring Pat Kanda, whose contributions enriched the lives of many in Western Colorado.

CELEBRATING THE AMERICAN
TYPE CULTURE COLLECTION**HON. SUHAS SUBRAMANYAM**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) on their 100th anniversary of operations.

The American Type Culture Collection is one of the world's leading non-profit biological resource and standards organizations, supplying scientists at home and abroad with bio-materials that contribute to scientific breakthroughs and discoveries. For over one hundred years, the ATCC's mission has been to protect public health and help scientists mitigate global emerging infectious diseases.

I had the pleasure of visiting ATCC's repository and laboratory wing in Manassas, Virginia on May 12, 2025. This wing is one of the many ATCC centers that produces innovative scientific products used in countless research areas to address health concerns across the globe.

ATCC plays a crucial role in maintaining and advancing critical R&D functions in partnership with agencies like the National Institutes of Health, U.S. Department of Defense, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It was also vital in responding to the Zika virus, COVID-19 pandemic, mpox, and avian flu.

ATCC's reference materials are used as a standard across prominent federal and global organizations including the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and the World Health Organization. In addition to reference materials, ATCC produces a wide range of cell and microbe products that are used in prominent areas of research including cancer research, genetic disorder research, and infectious disease research.

American Type Culture Collection was named one of Prince William County's Best Places to Work in 2025 for their rewards and recognition program, diverse workplace community, and prioritization of employee well-being. Whether it be at the office or across the world, ATCC is committed to improving lives and communities.

Congratulations to ATCC on their 100-year milestone. I thank them for their valuable contributions to the scientific community, understanding of threats to public health, and advancements in scientific knowledge.

WELCOMING THE ECUMENICAL PA-
TRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW OF
CONSTANTINOPLE TO WASH-
INGTON, D.C.**HON. SHRI THANEDAR**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. THANEDAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople, the leader for Orthodox Christianity worldwide, who is here in Washington, D.C. after accepting the distinguished Templeton Prize earlier this year.

The Templeton Prize is awarded to those who demonstrate exemplary philanthropic contributions. His relentless leadership has been recognized by a variety of organizations such as the United Nations, UNESCO, and the World Economic Forum. He has also dedicated his time serving on the Executive and Central Committees and Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches.

Patriarch Bartholomew has a focus on creating advocacy for environmental issues and in his time launched a series of initiatives to help start conversations worldwide. Among these initiatives were a variety of trips with political leaders and accredited scientists discussing issues such as water pollution in the Black Sea, for which he went on to receive Norway's Sophie prize in 2002.

Michigan's 13th Congressional District has a beautiful community of Greek Orthodox constituents at St. George Greek Orthodox Church and Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral. They continuously work to create welcoming spaces in our community by hosting celebrations such as festivals, luncheons, and more. I am honored to keep my constituents in mind as we welcome Patriarch Bartholomew in Washington, D.C.

WELCOMING HIS ALL-HOLINESS
ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BAR-
THOLOMEW**HON. TROY A. CARTER**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend a warm welcome to His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the spiritual leader of the world's Orthodox Christians and the head of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.

As the spiritual leader of the second-largest Christian Church in the world, His All-Holiness carries a message of peace, reconciliation, and interfaith dialogue that resonates deeply across all faith traditions. His enduring commitment to religious freedom, environmental stewardship, and global unity has earned him recognition as a moral voice not only for Orthodox Christians but for people of all faiths.

Many of my constituents in the Greek Orthodox community, and Orthodox Christians across the United States, look forward to his visit to Washington, D.C. with great pride and reverence. They view his presence here as an opportunity to celebrate the rich spiritual and cultural heritage of Orthodox Christianity and to reaffirm the strong bonds between the United States and the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

It is my honor to welcome His All-Holiness to our Nation's capital and to recognize his tireless efforts in promoting peace, human dignity, and spiritual leadership across the globe.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this important visit and in celebrating the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.

WELCOMING THE ECUMENICAL PA-
TRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW TO
WASHINGTON, D.C.**HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to our Nation's Capital and to recognize him for his acceptance of the distinguished Templeton Prize.

Born Demetrios Arhondonis in 1940, His All-Holiness Bartholomew completed his undergraduate studies at the historic Theological School of Halki. He would also pursue graduate degrees in Italy, Switzerland, Germany, and Greece. Before being ordained to the Diaconate in 1961 and to the Priesthood in 1969, he was a founding member of the Society of Canon Law of the Oriental Churches.

The Ecumenical Patriarch served as Assistant Dean at the Theological School of Halki from 1968 to 1972 before his appointment as Personal Secretary to the late Ecumenical Patriarch Demetrios. In 1973, he was elected as Metropolitan of Philadelphia and, in 1990, Metropolitan of Chalcedon. Finally, he was elected in October of 1991 as the 270th Archbishop of the 2000-year-old Church founded by the Apostle Andrew.

As the spiritual leader to 300 million Orthodox Christians worldwide, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is known as a transnational

figure who has focused on organizing international and interfaith peace conferences, challenging racism and religious fundamentalism, and promoting religious freedom and human rights. He is also seen as a global leader in championing environmental stewardship and has organized several international summits to address ecological issues. His accolades include a Congressional Gold Medal in 1997, recognition from *The Guardian* as one of the world's leaders in raising environmental awareness, and recognition from *Time Magazine* as one of the world's most influential people.

Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege to welcome the Ecumenical Patriarch to Washington, D.C. and to congratulate him on his receiving such an esteemed award in the Templeton Prize.

HONORING PERRY WATSON

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today, the 12th Congressional District of Michigan honors the illustrious career of Coach Perry Watson.

Many know him as Coach Watson, but he was a high school counselor to hundreds of us in southwest Detroit when he was assigned at Southwestern High School. Perry Watson is a lifelong Detroit resident and known for his coaching career. However, if not for him, I would never have gone to college. Counselor Perry Watson was stationed on the lower floor at Southwestern High School, and you would always find him standing in the doorway catching his students as they passed. I was one of them. He kept on me for not applying to college. Even after I explained that my family couldn't afford it, he insisted. He said, "Everything will turn out okay." He was right.

He later served as an assistant coach at the University of Michigan, and then the head coach of the University of Detroit Mercy Titans. Over 15 seasons, Coach Perry Watson compiled a 261–198 record, the second-most wins of any Titans coach in history. This exceptional record earned him a well-deserved place in the UDM Hall of Fame. It wasn't a surprise that Coach Watson ensured his students displayed academic excellence. Under his supervision, 96 percent of his players graduated from the University of Detroit Mercy.

Students from across the city of Detroit were brought together under the instruction of Coach Perry Watson. Their distinction in academics and athletics is a testament to his influence and mentorship.

We thank Perry Watson for his profound contributions and celebrate the lasting legacy he leaves in both sports and education.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL AEROSPACE WEEK

HON. RON ESTES

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Aerospace Week that just concluded.

On December 17, 1903, Orville and Wilbur Wright completed the first successful flight, igniting a spark for aviation innovation in the United States. More than a century later, America has continued to be at the forefront of aerospace development, in technology, defense, manufacturing, transportation, and exploration. At the conclusion of National Aerospace Week, we recognize the important contributions of aviation companies, workers and organizations to the aerospace and defense industry in our country.

In fact, the aerospace and defense industry generated more than \$955 billion in sales in 2024, creating jobs and boosting the economy. In 2024, the aerospace and defense industry accounted for 1.5 percent of the nominal GDP. More than two million Americans contribute to this industry, crafting the machinery and equipment that power the industry. Many of these Americans in the aerospace and defense industry call Kansas home.

It is my honor to represent the Air Capital of the World—Wichita, Kansas—where hard-working men and women manufacture and design airplanes that are used around the world. When I travel throughout the district, I see firsthand and the passion for aerospace. In Kansas, we are fortunate to educate and train the future pilots, designers, and manufacturers of the aerospace industry.

Aerospace innovation is intertwined with our U.S. Military and defense industrial base. The men and women who serve our Nation are equipped with the most advanced aerospace technologies to keep our Nation safe and secure and allow us to defend ourselves against our adversaries.

Furthermore, America's preeminence in aviation is a model and inspiration for other nations around the world. Our fast, safe, and efficient jets, and our new technologies remain the gold standard around the globe.

Aerospace is integral to our economy and defense, and it is a major part of many states throughout the country, including the Sunflower State.

During National Aerospace Week, we recognized all those in this country who continue to push the limits of aviation, from the Wright Brothers in 1903 to the innovators of today.

HONORING SISTER JOANN PERSCH

HON. SEAN CASTEN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the remarkable advocacy of Sister JoAnn Persch. For over four decades, Sister JoAnn has been on the ground helping migrants and asylum seekers in Chicagoland.

Sister JoAnn, along with Sister Pat Murphy, opened Su Casa Catholic Worker House, a sanctuary for survivors of torture from Central America in 1990. Sister JoAnn, Sister Pat, and several Franciscan priests all lived and worked at Su Casa. The house welcomed its first family, a widower and his three children from Guatemala as they sought asylum in Canada. Throughout the 1990's, approximately 160 women, men, and children received temporary residence at Su Casa as they coped with trauma rooted in experiences of war, torture, and political persecution in their home countries in Central America.

As the flow of refugees from Central America slowed, Su Casa grew in its service to single mothers who had survived domestic violence. Su Casa committed to one-year residencies for families rebuilding their lives after domestic violence and homelessness. Since 1996, over 350 people have called Su Casa home.

The Su Casa Catholic Worker House continues to welcome three to six families at a time. The families live in community with residential volunteers who are committed to simplicity, freedom from violence, and love.

Fueled by the horrific family separations at the Broadview Immigration Staging Center in 2007, Sister JoAnn and Sister Pat started weekly prayer vigils on Friday mornings at the facility. They were met with resistance from inside the facility but knew they had to keep fighting to get inside to pray with the detained migrants.

With the help of the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, the two Sisters helped pass an Illinois law that mandates access to provide spiritual care for immigrants in detention. This led Sister JoAnn and Sister Pat to work with religious leaders to establish the Illinois Community of Displaced Immigrants, which helps migrants and asylum seekers with wrap-around services, including case management, transit assistance, and housing. To date, the organization has helped over 400 families.

In 2022, Sister JoAnn and Sister Pat founded Catherine's Caring Cause. This organization helps asylum-seeking families pay rent and utilities for a year, offers food assistance, and provides connections to legal aid. The organization has set up eight apartments to house people in need in Chicago.

Sister JoAnn continues her work on the front lines as well. She hosts weekly and Zoom prayer vigils at the Immigration and Customs Enforcement staging and processing center in Broadview. She also frequently visits families whom she has helped throughout the years.

Our county greatly benefits from the incredible work Sister JoAnn does every day. Immigrants make our country better, and we're very fortunate to have heroes like Sister JoAnn fighting for human rights in our community.

WELCOMING HIS ALL-HOLINESS ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW TO THE UNITED STATES

HON. LANCE GOODEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. GOODEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to the United States and congratulate him on receiving the distinguished Templeton Prize.

As the head of the Orthodox Christian Church, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is the spiritual leader of 300 million Orthodox Christians worldwide, having faithfully served in this role since October 1991. Throughout his tenure, he has reached across borders and barriers to build peace and reconciliation among diverse faiths and nations. He has convened conferences with Jewish and Muslim

leaders, strengthened Christian-Muslim relations, and championed environmental issues worldwide. Because of this work, he is endearingly known as the “Bridge Builder and Patriarch of Peace.”

His All-Holiness’s commitment to interfaith harmony, human rights, and global peace exemplifies the highest levels of compassion and unity. We are honored by his visit to the United States and are grateful for his dedication to peace and unity. May his legacy, humility, and love for all people continue shining light toward a more just and peaceful world.

HONORING THE CAREER OF SERGEANT CHARLIE FOUNTAIN

HON. SCOTT FRANKLIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Sergeant Charlie Fountain as he retires after an extraordinary 50 years of service with the Polk County Sheriff’s Office.

Sergeant Fountain began his career in 1975 in the Sheriff’s Office radio room. The following year, after graduating from the Law Enforcement Academy at Polk Community College, he was sworn in as a deputy sheriff. Over the next five decades, he served in a wide range of assignments, including patrol and property crimes investigations. He was later promoted to sergeant, where he oversaw shifts, led specialized units on land, air and water, and most recently supported operations in the Fleet Services Bureau.

Known across the Sheriff’s Office as the “go-to” person, Sergeant Fountain’s deep institutional knowledge and steady leadership made him an invaluable resource to his colleagues and the broader community. He consistently rose to every challenge and earned the trust of those he served alongside.

His recent Lifetime Achievement Award from the Florida Sheriff’s Association is a fitting tribute to his distinguished career. Beyond any accolade, his legacy will endure through the deputies he mentored and the confidence he inspired in the people of Polk County.

On behalf of my constituents, I thank Sergeant Fountain for his 50 years of service and congratulate him on a retirement most richly earned.

HONORING THE VISIT OF ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE BARTHOLOMEW

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome His All-Holiness Bartholomew, the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, to Washington, D.C. As spiritual leader of more than 300 million Orthodox Christians, he is revered worldwide as “First Among Equals” among the Primates of Orthodoxy.

Throughout his three decades of service, Patriarch Bartholomew has been a champion of religious freedom and the dignity of all peo-

ple. His advocacy for the environment has earned him the title “Green Patriarch,” underscoring his vision that faith and stewardship of creation must walk hand in hand.

This month, His All-Holiness visits our capital and later will receive the Templeton Prize, recognizing his lifelong witness to faith. Equally deserving of praise is his efforts to spur interfaith dialogue. In a world where we are too often divided by that which makes us different, constructive dialogue that fosters relationships and creates mutual respect is critical.

From his first historic visit in 1997, when he was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, to today, his presence has inspired bipartisan respect and admiration.

We welcome him with gratitude and honor his commitment to peace, liberty, and reconciliation.

HONORING ELMWOOD BLESSINGS BOX

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today, the 12th Congressional District of Michigan honors Mr. Vincent and Elizabeth Freeman for the generosity, compassion and dedication they have displayed in creating the Elmwood Blessing Box.

In 2023, the Freemans installed a small food pantry box in front of their home, which allowed neighbors to take food when they were in need at zero cost. Over time, they realized that this demand was greater than initially expected. The Freemans decided to expand the blessing box to include enough food to fill a collection of cabinets and refrigerators, while continuing to expand as the need grew greater. Today, we are extremely excited to celebrate the benevolence, hard work and commitment the Freemans have shown and continue to show as they work to prevent food insecurity throughout Westland, Michigan and beyond.

The 12th Congressional District of Michigan extends our deepest gratitude to the Freemans and hopes their work inspires others. Our community will be forever indebted to them, and we wish them success, health and happiness on the opening of the Elmwood Blessings Box.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING “MEDICAL RE- SEARCH WEEK” FROM SEP- TEMBER 15 THROUGH SEP- TEMBER 19, 2025

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to reintroduce a resolution recognizing “Medical Research Week” from September 15 through September 19, 2025. This important resolution will look to recognize the important breakthroughs of medical research improving health outcomes for patients and communities, securing global competitiveness in science, boost-

ing job creation, educating the next generation of scientists, and strengthening economic growth.

Medical research through the support of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), continues to serve a vital role in the medical research enterprise. This research can lead cutting edge preventative strategies and research for treatments and additional cures for long-standing medical challenges such as cancer, Alzheimer’s, heart disease, sickle cell, and obesity. I have met with Hoosier families that are struggling with these rare diseases, and I have been moved by the impact that medical research has on their lives. This has educated me and my colleagues about the necessity of medical research to provide more treatment options and better diagnoses for all Americans.

NIH research funding generates nearly \$93 billion in economic activity and continues to support more than 400,000 jobs across the United States. Medical research is not only focused on improving the health of all Americans, but also as an economic driver in growth and job opportunity. Their work ripples far beyond its headquarters in Bethesda, Maryland, and into every State. It drives demand for medical supplies and research equipment, boosts local and regional economics to benefit manufacturers and suppliers across the country, and into many United States territories.

The NIH supported medical research plays a primary role in several sectors. The NIH supports noncommercial and clinical research with private sector innovation, allowing for major achievements in rare diseases such as ALS, substance use disorders, stroke, and Parkinson’s.

During my time in Congress, I have continuously advocated on behalf of medical research. Congressional action has helped support medical research through the NIH and CDC, supported in part by the bipartisan appropriations letter I lead each year to increase NIH overall funding and increasing funding for the Veterans Medical and Prosthetic Research Program. I urge all my colleagues to join me in both these appropriations requests. Imagine what we could accomplish with more robust investments in medical research in our Nation, from making strides to combatting antimicrobial resistance, to harnessing the power of personalized medicine to treat disease, and more. These critical breakthroughs in medical research are our Nation’s best hope in finding cures, prevention measures, and treatments for diseases affecting millions of Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this resolution to recognize the importance of medical research in America. I urge the House to support this resolution.

COMMEMORATING THE GREEK OR- THODOX CHURCH ON THE VISIT OF HIS ALL-HOLINESS BAR- THOLOMEW

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the historic and valued contributions of the Greek Orthodox Christian

Church to the City of Chicago, the State of Illinois, and the United States of America. Since our Nation's inception, Greek Orthodox Christians have been an integral part of the American experience. The church established its first parish in Florida in 1768, followed by the establishment of Greek communities in New Orleans in 1864 and a permanent presence in New York in 1892.

Built upon the pillars of love, faith, and order with the Church of Christ, the Greek Orthodox Church in the U.S., particularly in Chicago, has significantly and positively impacted the fabric and unique community-oriented spirit of the City. The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago consists of 58 parishes and two monasteries across five midwestern states, including Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin. The Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral, located near the heart of Chicago, serves as the seat of the Metropolitan of Chicago, with a current membership of approximately 400 families.

The Church is well known in the Chicagoland area for its charitable works and giving spirit toward our Nation's most vulnerable populations. In recent years, the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago spearheaded several charitable activities and humanitarian campaigns, such as the Chicago CEO COVID-19 Coalition, thereby demonstrating its longstanding commitment to serving its surrounding community.

I also would like to take this moment to join many of my constituents in Illinois' 7th Congressional District and the families of the Greek Orthodox Church in welcoming to the U.S. this week the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, His All-Holiness Bartholomew. As the spiritual leader and the *Primus inter Pares* (First among Equals) of Orthodox Christianity worldwide, a Church of 300 million people, His All-Holiness Bartholomew has been at the forefront of the cause of religious freedom for his entire ministry and now stands as the longest-serving Archbishop of Constantinople in the two millennia history of Christianity.

Further, I would like to congratulate His All-Holiness Bartholomew on the recent honor of being named the 2025 Templeton Prize Award recipient, which is the world's most prestigious award in Religion and Science. This honor, along with the noted historic contributions of His All-Holiness and the Greek Orthodox Church, at large, help to highlight the church's enduring influence and commitment to its members and the broader community.

I am proud to represent many of the members of the Greek Orthodox Church in Chicago and even more proud of the fact that, for over a century, the Church has served as a focal point for Greek immigrants and their descendants, contributing to the cultural and social fabric of the communities it serves in Chicago and around the world.

I congratulate the Greek Orthodox Church on its recent accomplishments, and welcome to His All-Holiness Bartholomew on his visit to the U.S. this month.

WELCOMING ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

HON. JAMES A. HIMES

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to the United States.

His first visit since 2021, he joins us on his eighth Apostolic trip to our country during which he will receive the prestigious Templeton Prize for his environmental advocacy.

The "Green Patriarch's" landmark 1997 speech in Santa Barbara—in which he first posited the notion of ecological sin—is striking for how revolutionary it was then, and how prescient it remains today. In particular, one line from His All-Holiness' remarks 28 years ago struck me as worthy of meditating upon in the tumultuous times in which we find ourselves.

In his speech, His All-Holiness offers the following: "we lovingly suggest to all the people of the earth, that they seek to help one another to understand the myriad ways in which we are related to the earth, and to one another."

Now, perhaps more than any time in my recollection, that call to engage with one another, identify our commonalities, eschew clinging to our differences, and help—how we can, where we can—feels vital to the moral health of the American people and the long-term viability of our global environment.

On behalf of the Eastern Orthodox Christian community of Southwestern Connecticut, I would like to extend my congratulations to His All-Holiness for his Templeton Prize; it is a well-deserved acknowledgement of his years of advocacy. I hope his trip is a success and that he enjoys his time in the United States.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF SERGEANT DONALD "DONNY" GRUNDHAUSER

HON. ANGIE CRAIG

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Sergeant Donald "Donny" Grundhauser, who recently passed away after a courageous battle with cancer.

Sergeant Grundhauser joined the Saint Paul Police Department in 1994, proud to serve the area where he was born and raised. Over the course of his 30-year career, he served in a wide range of demanding assignments, including SWAT, the Homicide Unit, the Gang and Gun Unit, ATF Federal Task Force, East Investigations as an Acting Commander and the Special Operations Unit. In recognition of his outstanding contributions, Sergeant Grundhauser received three Unit Citations, three Medals of Commendation, two Unit Letters of Recognition, and five individual Letters of Recognition.

Sergeant Grundhauser was deeply respected by his neighbors and colleagues for his courage, selflessness, and commitment to helping others. Known to his fellow officers as

"Grundy," he was a mentor and friend to many, and he lived by the belief that it never cost anything to be kind. His family carries on his legacy of service, with his son, Nicholas, and his two brothers, Mark and Keith, also serving in the Saint Paul Police Department.

I offer my deepest condolences to Sergeant Grundhauser's family—his wife, Kelly, and his children, Jacob and Nicholas. Sergeant Grundhauser represented the best of law enforcement, and I thank him and his family for their service to our community.

CELEBRATING ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW AND HIS VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to welcome to America one of our world's significant religious leaders—Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the Spiritual Head of Orthodox Christians, the second largest Christian Church in the world. Around the world there are over 250 million Orthodox Christians. In America there are well over a million Orthodox Christians with Churches in all 50 states. Even in low population states there are numerous churches—like for example, four Orthodox Churches in the state of Wyoming.

After his visit in Washington, D.C. with our President at the White House and with the bipartisan leadership of the Congress, he will be traveling to New York City to receive the Templeton Prize. That Prize is one of the world's leading recognitions of world leaders who make an exceptional contribution to the deepest questions regarding the universe and humankind's place and purpose within it. Previous winners of that Prize have included Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the Dalai Lama, Mother Teresa, and Billy Graham.

His All-Holiness is also a recipient of the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest Congressional Award. That Gold Medal had also been awarded to George Washington and to Abraham Lincoln. The Congress emphasized that Gold Medal by having more Members of Congress asking to have their names added as co-sponsors of that legislation than any other bill introduced during the 105th Congress. The Congressional Gold Medal recipients who were presented with the Award immediately before and immediately after Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, were Mother Teresa and Nelson Mandela.

Within Christian Orthodoxy, an over 2,000-year-old religion, His All-Holiness is the longest serving Ecumenical Patriarch. He is the 269th direct successor of Jesus Christ's first Apostle, Andrew. Andrew's brother Peter carried his mission to what is today the Vatican. Today's Pope Leo is the 266th direct successor of the Apostle Peter.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PETER
MAYS

HON. RASHIDA TLAI

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Ms. TLAI. Mr. Speaker, today, the 12th Congressional District of Michigan honors the life of Peter Mays, a dedicated and beloved member of the Trinity Health family for over 20 years. Peter served in the Information Technology department, where he took pride in his work and was known for his reliability, generosity, and willingness to help others. He continued working as long as his health allowed, retiring just one week before his passing. When not working, you could find Peter riding his bike around the city of Detroit.

During a Trinity Health Town Hall attended by more than 600 employees, colleagues paid tribute to Peter in a special Colleague Remembrance presentation. His coworkers, many of whom became close friends, stood by him and his family through challenging years, offering hospital visits, home support, and heartfelt gestures of kindness.

Peter's service, friendship, and example will be deeply missed, but his impact will continue to inspire those who knew and loved him. The 12th Congressional District of Michigan honors the life of Peter Mays and extends heartfelt condolences to all his loved ones and friends.

THANKING JOHN MCINTYRE (MAC)
TOLAR FOR HIS DEDICATED
SERVICE TO OUR NATION

HON. BRYAN STEIL

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and thank John McIntyre (Mac) Tolar for dedicating over three decades of service to our Nation's military, state, local, and federal governments, including the past thirteen years as an employee within the United States House of Representatives.

After graduating from the University of South Carolina, Mac enlisted in the United States Marine Corps as an infantry officer in 1987. Mac remained on active duty for eight years and continued his reserve duty through 2012. During his distinguished military career Mac was also a Reconnaissance Officer and deployed to the Middle East in support of Operation Desert Shield, Desert Storm, and in support of the Global War on Terror.

Mac was decorated with four awards for exceptional individual service and received numerous awards from his unit. While on reserve duty, Mac earned his law degree from the University of South Carolina in 2001 and completed his military career as a Judge Advocate.

After earning his law degree, Mac embarked on a career in local government. From November 2001 to February 2003, Mac served as an Assistant Solicitor for the 15th Circuit in Conway, South Carolina, where he was responsible for prosecuting misdemeanor offenses and General Session transfer cases. Mac showed tremendous initiative in this role by developing and implementing a successful

DUI curriculum for local law enforcement personnel. This training program was so successful that it was later expanded to the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy and the Commission on Prosecution Coordination.

Mac continued his career in South Carolina serving as the in-house Counsel for the Georgetown County government. In this role, Mac was responsible for drafting, reviewing, and approving legal documents, including deeds, contracts, leases, dedication instruments, financing documents, resolutions and ordinances. These wide-ranging responsibilities afforded Mac the opportunity to provide expert legal representation to several county offices, boards, commissions, and employees.

After a four-year tour in private practice, Mac joined the office of United States Representative Martha Roby as her Military Legislative Counsel. Mac's military and legal background perfectly positioned him for his role in the office. His primary responsibilities included serving as the Congresswoman's Veterans affairs, national security, and foreign policy advisor. Mac was instrumental in creating and managing Representative Roby's constituent Veterans' Advisory Committee, which allowed the Congresswoman to gain additional insights, perspectives, and ideas to drive her oversight and legislative agenda.

In July 2014, Mac landed his next role in Congress working for the Select Committee on Benghazi. He was initially hired to serve as the Select Committee's Senior Counsel and then moved into the important role of Security Manager. As an employee of the Select Committee, Mac analyzed thousands of pages of documents, communications, and other executive branch materials relating to the terrorist attacks in Benghazi.

Once his tenure with the Select Committee ended, Mac landed in the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer in 2016 and immediately began serving as the Director of the Wounded Warrior Program, now known as the Green & Gold Congressional Aide Program.

Over the past nine years, Mac's leadership, stewardship, and dedication have driven several significant enhancements to this outstanding program. These efforts include modernizing several components of the program, updating the requirements for participation, broadening the scope to cover Gold Star Family Members and Active-Duty Military Spouses, expanding allocations assigned to Member, Committee, Leadership, and House Officer organizations, enhancing the orientation program and professional development offerings for the Aides, and launching the program's social media presence and dynamic website.

Mac's impact on the program is best seen in the lives and careers of the many Aides who came through during his tenure as Director. From December 2016 to August 2025, 339 Aides completed the two-year assignment. Of those, 37 percent of them continued their careers in Congress. Additionally, nearly 80 percent of the Aides built on their experience by finding new roles in government, transitioning successfully to the private sector, or enrolling in college to further their education. These achievements are a true reflection of Mac's leadership—underscoring not only the strength of the program, but also the lasting opportunities it provided to so many.

I would also like to recognize and thank Mac's family for their encouragement, love, and support, including his wife Helen Tolar—

who was also a decorated House and Senate senior staff member—and their three children Walker, Mary Mac, and Oliver.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mac Tolar for his outstanding contributions and overall impact on our Nation. Whether it was in the military, local or state government, or as an employee of the House of Representatives, Mac always made a difference in each job and an impact in every role.

WELCOMING HIS ALL-HOLINESS
ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW,
ARCHBISHOP OF
CONSTANTINOPLE-NEW ROME
AND ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great honor to welcome to our Nation's Capital His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch. He is the Spiritual Head of the Orthodox Christian Church worldwide and shepherd to over 300 million faithful. For Orthodox Christians across the globe, including many of my own constituents in Northwest Ohio, His All-Holiness is not only their spiritual father but also a guiding light for interfaith understanding, religious freedom, and environmental stewardship.

Part of his visit to the United States is to receive the distinguished Templeton Prize in New York City. This recognition, bestowed previously on figures such as Mother Teresa, the Dalai Lama, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, acknowledges his lifetime of service in advancing the harmony of faith and reason, and his courageous leadership on behalf of peace and the protection of God's creation.

His All-Holiness is no stranger to the halls of Congress. On his first visit to our Nation's Capital in 1997, he was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in the Rotunda, where he delivered an address that remains a touchstone in the history of religious freedom and international dialogue. Through subsequent visits under both Democratic and Republican administrations, the Ecumenical Patriarch has been received with the highest honors by our Nation's leaders.

For more than three decades as Ecumenical Patriarch, His All-Holiness has been a bridge-builder between peoples and nations. He has convened leaders of the Abrahamic faiths in pursuit of peace and reconciliation. He has boldly raised the conscience of the world to the urgent moral imperative of environmental responsibility. For these efforts, he is rightly known as the "Green Patriarch." He has also been a steadfast advocate for human rights and religious liberty across the globe, strengthening the cause of freedom for all people.

On behalf of the people of Northwest Ohio, and especially our vibrant Greek Orthodox community, I am proud to extend our heartfelt welcome to His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew as he returns to Washington. We rejoice in his recognition with the Templeton Prize, and we pray that his ministry of peace, love, and reconciliation will continue to inspire our Nation and our world.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF CATERPILLAR INC.

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 100th anniversary of Caterpillar Inc., marking a century of customer-centric innovation and industry-leading transformation. With a strong history in my district, Caterpillar serves as a cornerstone example of American innovation and industry leadership.

Founded in 1925, when the Holt Manufacturing Company and the C.L. Best Tractor Company merged to form what became the Caterpillar Tractor Company, the business began with its first track type tractor designed to pull combine harvesters. Now, Caterpillar delivers autonomous construction and mining equipment and engines that power the world, helping customers complete infrastructure projects that have shaped the modern era.

Caterpillar is a consistent leader in industrial innovation. With more than 113,000 employees worldwide, this American based company continues to serve customers across the globe. Through their work and customer focus, Caterpillar helps communities in Illinois, across our country, and around the world rise to meet challenges and build a better future.

As we commemorate this incredible milestone. I want to recognize the entire Caterpillar team for their entrepreneurial spirit, strong values, and unwavering commitment to manufacturing and innovation in the United States.

I congratulate Caterpillar on 100 years of American excellence. May the next century strengthen the values that make Caterpillar, Illinois, and our Nation strong.

WELCOMING HIS ALL-HOLINESS
ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and welcome to Washington, His All-Holiness Bartholomew Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch, the spiritual leader of Orthodox Christianity worldwide. As the Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome, His All-Holiness serves as the spiritual head of the second largest Christian Church in the world.

His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew was elected in October 1991 as the 270th Archbishop of the 2,000-year-old Church founded by the Apostle Andrew. For more than three decades, he has stood at the forefront of the cause of religious freedom, interfaith dialogue, and peacebuilding, making him the longest-serving Archbishop of Constantinople in the history of Christianity.

Born Demetrios Arhondonis in 1940 on an island in Turkey, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew pursued theological studies in Rome, Switzerland, Germany, and Greece before joining leadership within the

Church. He is fluent in numerous languages and has been recognized by academic institutions worldwide, holding honorary doctorates from universities across Europe, the United States, and beyond.

Throughout his tenure, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has worked to advance religious liberty and human rights, to strengthen ties among Christian denominations, and to build relationships among the Abrahamic religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. He has co-sponsored international peace conferences, supported reconciliation in conflict-ridden regions, and spoken out for persecuted groups across the globe.

His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is no stranger to our Nation's Capitol. In 1997, during his first official visit as His All-Holiness, he was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in a ceremony in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda. On that occasion, he reminded us that, "The Pentagon embodies might, but the Capitol embodies right. In these halls different points of view meet and are reconciled. . . . And most important to the Orthodox Church during many dark ages—in these halls human rights are preserved and human dignity is enhanced."

This week, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew will return to Washington as part of his visit to the United States, where he will also receive the distinguished Templeton Prize in New York City, an award previously bestowed upon Mother Teresa, the Dalai Lama, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. This honor recognizes his lifelong commitment to faith, peace, and science.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that we welcome His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew back to Washington, D.C. and recognize his remarkable contributions as a global religious leader, peacemaker, and advocate for freedom. His presence is a reminder of the enduring values of faith, dialogue, and human dignity.

CELEBRATING THE 90TH
BIRTHDAY OF WANDA BABB

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 90th birthday of Mrs. Wanda Faye Babb of Paris, Texas.

Mrs. Babb was born on September 20, 1935, in Paris, Texas. Mrs. Babb attended school in Paris, the same place where she would grow into an active member within her church and community.

She has dedicated her life to faith, family, and community. Mrs. Babb has been a devoted member of many churches and has spent her time teaching Sunday school and guiding the youth. On November 25, 1953, Mrs. Babb married the love of her life, the late Wendell Babb. Together, they raised three wonderful children, and over the years, their family grew to include many cherished grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Babb owned and operated Byers Beauty Shop in Paris, a business started by her mother, where she worked for decades as a beloved cosmetologist. She took pride in her business and treated her clients like family. In

addition to the beauty shop, Mrs. Babb spent time as a representative for Mary Kay, where she strived to provide opportunities for her employees. Throughout her life, she has been a dedicated and devoted wife, mother, and grandmother, striving to instill a strong faith and love of music in her grandkids. In her free time, she enjoys cooking, playing piano, and recognizing every Western television and film actor. Mrs. Babb credits her life to the Lord, her family, and loving her country.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our Nation's Capitol in recognition of Mrs. Babb's incredible life and journey. May God bless Mrs. Babb on 90 years of life filled with patriotism, faith, and joy.

HONORING THE LIFE OF IGNACIO
"ZIGGY" GONZALEZ

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today, the 12th Congressional District honors the extraordinary life and legacy of Ignacio "Ziggy" Gonzalez, a beloved son of southwest Detroit. A proud veteran and dedicated educator, Ziggy lived a long and impactful life of 94 years, which stretched far beyond the baseball diamond and hockey rink.

Born in 1930, Ziggy proudly served in the United States Air Force before returning home to raise a family and dedicate his life to teaching and coaching. As a beloved educator at Western High School, "Mr. G" inspired countless students with his humor, wisdom, and unshakable belief in their potential.

Ziggy was also the heart and soul of Clark Park, where he got the name "Mr. Clark Park" and built hockey and baseball programs that gave generations of young people a place to play, learn, and belong. To many, he will forever be "Mr. Clark Park." His love of family, sports, community, and music, especially jazz, reflected the very best of Detroit.

We extend our love to his wife, siblings, children, grandchildren, and friends as we celebrate his life, and we are committed to carrying forward his spirit of service, joy, and justice.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SCOTT FRANKLIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, September 8, 2025, I missed Roll Call Vote Nos. 240 and 241 due to official business. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 240, and YEA on Roll Call No. 241.

WELCOMING HIS ALL-HOLINESS
BARTHOLOMEW I, ECUMENICAL
PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINO-
PLE

HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, as a Vice Co-Chair of the Hellenic Caucus and a proud Greek-American, I rise today to welcome His All-Holiness Bartholomew I, Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, to the United States, the spiritual leader of the Orthodox Christian community around the world. His All-Holiness's visit to Washington, D.C. and New York is yet another demonstration of his commitment to peace, his see, and the millions of Orthodox Christians in the United States.

Born Demetrios Arhondonis in 1940 on the island of Imvros (today, Gökçeada, Turkey), His All-Holiness Bartholomew was elected in October 1991 as the 270th Archbishop of the 2000-year-old Church founded by the Apostle Andrew. His formal office is Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch, a historic title dating to the sixth century. The Ecumenical Patriarch received his elementary and secondary education in Imvros and Istanbul. After completing undergraduate studies at the historic Theological School of Halki, he pursued graduate studies at the Pontifical Oriental Institute of the Gregorian University in Rome (Italy), the Ecumenical Institute in Bossey (Switzerland), and the University of Munich (Germany). His doctoral dissertation, submitted to the University of Athens (Greece), was in the field of Canon Law, and he was a founding member of the Society of Canon Law of the Oriental Churches. Ordained to the Diaconate in 1961 and to the Priesthood in 1969, he served as Assistant Dean at the Theological School of Halki (1968 to 1972) before his appointment as Personal Secretary to the late Ecumenical Patriarch Demetrios (1972 to 1990) as well as his election as Metropolitan of Philadelphia (1973) and, subsequently, Metropolitan of Chalcedon (1990).

His see, the Ecumenical Patriarchate, once possessed holdings as vast as the Vatican but has been reduced to a small, besieged enclave in a decaying corner of Istanbul called the Phanar (Lighthouse). Almost all of its property has been seized by successive Turkish governments, its schools have been closed, and its prelates are taunted by extremists who demonstrate almost daily outside the Patriarchate, calling for its ouster from Turkey. The Patriarch himself is often jeered and threatened when he ventures outside his walled enclave. He is periodically burned in effigy by Turkish chauvinists. Petty bureaucrats take pleasure in harassing him, summoning him to their offices to question him about irrelevant issues, blocking his efforts to make repairs in the few buildings still under his control, and issuing veiled threats about what he says and does when he travels abroad. The Turkish government as a whole follows a policy that deliberately belittles him, refusing to recognize his ecumenical status as the spiritual leader of a major religious faith.

In September 1955, when Bartholomew was studying in Istanbul, he witnessed a massive pogrom against the city's Greek neighbor-

hoods that left them looking "like the bombed parts of London during the Second World War," as one British journalist reported. While the police "stood idly by or cheered on the mob," according to a report of the U.S. consul, 4,000 Greek shops and 2,000 homes were sacked and plundered, 38 churches were burned to the ground and 35 more desecrated, and 52 schools were destroyed. More than a dozen people were killed and scores were injured during the riots, beginning a cycle of violence and intimidation that has seen Istanbul's Greek population reduced from 200,000 when the riots erupted to less than 2,000 today.

At a time when hostility and misunderstanding between the Christian and Muslim worlds have reached a deadly standoff, Patriarch Bartholomew, who speaks seven languages including Turkish, has made a deliberate effort to reach out to Muslims throughout the Middle East. "It is our strong belief that Orthodox Christians have a special responsibility to assist East-West rapprochement," he noted. "For, like the Turkish Republic, we have a foot in both worlds." Pointing out that Orthodox Christians have a 550-year history of co-existence with Muslims in the Middle East, he has initiated a series of meetings with Muslim leaders throughout the region in what he calls "a dialogue of loving truth." To strengthen that dialogue, he has traveled to Libya, Syria, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Azerbaijan, Qatar, and Bahrain, and met political and religious figures in those countries, whom no other Christian hierarch has ever visited. As a result, the Patriarch has created more bridges between Christianity and Islam than any other prominent Christian leader.

The Patriarch's concerns are not just limited to interfaith conflicts but have expanded to embrace all of God's creation. He has shown such concern for the environment that he has become widely known as "the Green Patriarch." He famously declared shortly after he assumed the ecumenical throne in 1991 that "crime against the natural world is a sin." Human beings and the environment, he stated, "compose a seamless garment of existence, a multicolored cloth, which we believe to be woven in its entirety by God." The world, he told a 1997 conference of environmentalists in Santa Barbara, California, "is not ours to use for our own convenience. It is God's gift of love to us, and we must return his love by protecting it and all that is in it."

To back up his words with action, Bartholomew launched a series of initiatives to raise worldwide concern for the environment. In 1992 he proposed to all Orthodox churches that September 1st be celebrated as a special day of prayer for the environment. In 1995 he started a series of environmental conferences, inviting prominent scientists, political leaders, theologians, ecologists, and journalists to embark on weeklong trips to examine the destruction that pollution has caused on major waters. Designed to draw international attention to the ecological degradation of the areas they visit, five such floating conferences have taken place in the past decade to the Black Sea, the Aegean, the Adriatic, the Baltic and the Danube River. For his work to combat pollution, the Patriarch was chosen in 2002 to receive Norway's Sophie Prize, the most important international award given for leadership on the environment. He donated the \$100,000 prize money to the poor children of Ethiopia,

Greece, and Turkey. "We are losing time," Bartholomew warned while accepting the award, "and the more we wait, the more difficult and irreparable the damage."

Although his efforts have brought him little relief from his problems in Turkey, they have been recognized around the world, including by the U.S. Congress, which gave him its highest award, the Congressional Gold Medal, in a ceremony in the Capitol. "The greatest lesson about America lies under this magnificent dome," he told the assembled legislators. "The Pentagon embodies might, but the Capitol embodies right. In these halls, different points of view meet and are reconciled . . . And—most important to the Orthodox Church during many dark ages—in these halls human rights are preserved and human dignity is enhanced."

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is a leading figure in the dialogues of the Abrahamic Faiths—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, and his presence in Washington, D.C. is an extraordinary opportunity to highlight the positive role that religious leaders of his stature bring to the myriad causes we in Congress grapple with each day.

In addition to welcoming His All-Holiness to the United States and recognizing his lifetime of service and commitment to peace, I also ask that the House join me in congratulating Patriarch Bartholomew for receiving this year's Templeton Prize. Established in 1972, the Templeton Prize honors individuals whose exemplary achievements advance Sir John Templeton's philanthropic vision: harnessing the power of the sciences to explore the deepest questions of the universe and humankind's place and purpose within it. At this year's ceremony, His All-Holiness will be honored for "pioneering efforts to bridge scientific and spiritual understandings of humanity's relationship with the natural world [which] have brought together people of different faiths to heed a call for stewardship of creation."

It is my hope that His All-Holiness's trip is not only a resounding success, but brings with it a message for all of us as legislators to recommit ourselves to complementing his vital work of building bridges, protecting God's creation, and advancing the cause of peace around the world.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

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

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, September 16, 2025 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 17

9:15 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Thomas DiNanno, of Florida, to be Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security, Michael DeSombre, of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary (East Asian and Pacific Affairs), Jacob Helberg, of Florida, to be an Under Secretary (Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment), Benjamin Black, of New York, to be Chief Executive Officer of the United States International Development Finance Corporation, Paul Kapur, of California, to be Assistant Secretary for South Asian Affairs, Nicole McGraw, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Croatia, Somers Farkas, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Malta, Kenneth Howery, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Denmark, Chris Pratt, of Utah, to be an Assistant Secretary (Political-Military Affairs), Stacey Feinberg, of California, to be Ambassador to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Leandro Rizzuto, of Florida, to be Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the Organization of American States, with the rank of Ambassador, Howard Brodie, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Finland, Arthur Fisher, of North Carolina, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Austria, Nicholas Merrick, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Czech Republic, Roman Pipko, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Singapore, Thomas Rose, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Poland, Lynda Blanchard, of Alabama, to be U.S. Representative to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture, with the rank of Ambassador, Sarah Rogers, of New York, to be Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy, Caleb Orr, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary (Economic and Business Affairs), Michael G. Waltz, of Florida, to be the Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the Rank of Ambassador, and the Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations, and to be Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during his tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, Richard Buchan III, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Morocco, John Giordano, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Namibia, Michel Issa, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Lebanese Republic, Sean O'Neill, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand, Julie Stuftt, of Ohio, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Kazakhstan, Bill Bazzi, of Michigan, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Tunisia, Melinda

Hildebrand, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Costa Rica, Todd Wilcox, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary (Diplomatic Security), Riley Barnes, of Texas, to be Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, Dan Negrea, of Connecticut, to be Representative of the United States of America on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, and William White, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium, all of the Department of State.

S-116

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

SEPTEMBER 18

9 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider an original bill entitled, "Free Speech Protection and Reforming Expiring Authorities", an original bill entitled, "Safer Counter-Drone Authorities", S. 1221, to prohibit contracting with persons that have business operations with the Maduro regime, S. 2283, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 201 West Oklahoma Avenue in Guthrie, Oklahoma, as the "Oscar J. Upham Post Office", and S. 252, to increase access to agency guidance documents.

SD-342

10 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Platte Moring, of South Carolina, to be Inspector General, Kirsten Davies, of Tennessee, to be Chief Information Officer, James Mazol, of Virginia, to be a Deputy Under Secretary, and Derrick Anderson, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary, all of the Department of Defense.

SD-G50

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the state of K-12 education.

SD-430

10:15 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Jennifer Lee Mascott, of Delaware, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit, Robert P. Chamberlin, and James D. Maxwell II, both to be a United States District Judge for the Northern District of Mississippi, Edmund G. LaCour, Jr., and Harold D. Mooty III, both to be a United States District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama, Bill Lewis, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Alabama, David Courcelle, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana for the term of four years, and Scott Leary, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Mississippi for the term of four years.

SH-216