

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### HONORING THE 2025 INDUCTEES TO THE FLORIDA INVENTORS HALL OF FAME

**HON. KATHY CASTOR**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the ten inventors who have been selected as the 2025 Inductees to the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame. Peers nationwide nominate inventors who then undergo and the scrutiny of the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame Selection Committee. As a result, their innovations have been identified as significantly affecting the quality of life, economic development and welfare of their communities, my Tampa Bay neighbors and the United States.

The Florida Inventors Hall of Fame was founded in 2013 at the University of South Florida. It was recognized by the Florida Senate with Senate Resolution 1756, adopted on April 30, 2014. The Florida Inventors Hall of Fame catalyzes the cycle of discovery and innovation across the state of Florida by recognizing pioneering inventors, empowering future problem-solvers and change-makers and propelling the American legacy of innovation through transformative experiences and meaningful narratives.

Nomination to the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame is open to all Florida inventors, living or deceased, who are or have been residents of Florida. The nominee must be a named inventor on a patent issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office. The impact of the inventor and their invention(s) should be significant to society, and the invention should have been commercialized, utilized or led to important innovations.

The 2025 Inductees are the 11th class to be inducted into the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame. Their achievements underscore the critical role that innovation plays in driving progress and improving the quality of life for people in our state, our Nation and around the world. Their groundbreaking work not only advances scientific discovery but also strengthens the economy and enhances our global competitiveness. The 2025 Inductees collectively hold more than 460 U.S. patents and come from across industry and academia. Since its founding, the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame has inducted 87 inventors, who collectively hold over 5,700 U.S. patents.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my neighbors in Tampa Bay and the citizens of Florida, I am proud to honor the 2025 Inductees to the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame for this outstanding achievement. Innovation and invention are the building blocks of our Nation. I applaud these highly accomplished individuals and the organizations that support them in their quest to change the world in ways that truly benefit humanity. It is because of the perseverance of these inventors that future generations are inspired to reach beyond their limits and push the boundaries of innovation.

I include in the RECORD the 2025 Inductees:

Cleopatra “Cleo” Cabuz: Retired Vice President of Technology and Partnerships, in Honeywell’s Safety and Productivity Solutions, who is recognized for significant contributions to the field of Micro Electro Mechanical Systems (MEMS) and integrated systems for medical and industrial safety applications. Her innovations in miniaturized flow cytometry, including disposable cartridges, laid the foundation for the ImmuneIQ product line, enabling point-of-care diagnostics for immune diseases.

Michael Francis: CEO and founder of Asante Bio and Associate Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery and Sports Medicine at the University of South Florida, who is recognized for pioneering innovations and clinical translation of transformative medical devices and biologics across the fields of orthopedics and sports medicine via advanced regenerative medicine, biomaterials, additive manufacturing, biomaterials, collagen-based tissue engineering and electrospun nanofiber technologies.

Joseph Iannotti: Chief Research and Academic Officer and Lang Family Endowed Chair of Orthopaedic Research at the Cleveland Clinic Florida, and Professor of Surgery and Biomedical Engineering at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine at Case Western Reserve University, who is recognized for advanced discovery and innovation in shoulder surgery for preoperative planning software and patient specific instrumentation, soft tissue engineering, and implant devices and instrumentation.

Hari Kalva: Chair and Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at Florida Atlantic University, who is recognized for pioneering innovations in video compression and multimedia communication, and video analytics that enable efficient digital video delivery across devices worldwide, transforming how the world experiences visual media.

Nasser Kutkut: Founder & CEO of Smart Charging Technologies LLC and Former CTO of Advanced Charging Technologies Inc., who is recognized for pioneering advances in industrial electric vehicle battery charging and the development and commercialization of novel fast charging and battery management technologies for motive power applications delivering substantial energy savings and reductions in carbon emissions.

Richard McCullough: the 16th President of Florida State University and former professor of materials science and engineering at Harvard University who is recognized for pioneering the discovery of regioregular polythiophenes, a revolutionary class of conjugated polymers that is foundational to printable electronic materials and organic semiconductors. He also discovered a new class of reactive metal inks.

Sumita Mitra: Partner and Co-Owner of Mitra Chemical Consulting, Retired Corporate Scientist at 3M Dental Products Division and Professor in the Institute for Advanced Discovery & Innovation at the University of South Florida, who is recognized for inventing the first dental filling material with nanoparticles, and revolutionizing restorative dentistry with stronger, more durable, and aesthetically advanced solutions that have benefited millions worldwide.

Subhra Mohapatra: Professor of Molecular Medicine at the University of South Florida

Morsani College of Medicine, Research Career Scientist at the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital, and Co-Founder of TransGenex Nanobiotech Inc., who is recognized for distinguished contributions and pioneering developments in cellular and molecular engineering and nanoscale drug delivery technologies, especially advancing detection and treatment of cancers and neurodegenerative diseases.

Edward Rosenthal: CEO and Co-Founder of Florikan ESA, who is recognized for pioneering staged nutrient release (SNR) encapsulated fertilizers that match plant growth cycles to optimize nutrient delivery while enhancing environmental stewardship and sustainable agriculture. Florikan’s SNR technology is now the sole fertilizer used on the International Space Station as part of NASA’s Veggie and Advanced Plant Habitat program.

W. Greg Sawyer: Chief BioEngineering Officer and Chair in the Department of Bio-Engineering at Moffitt Cancer Center, who is recognized for pioneering inventions in biomedical engineering, cancer engineering and tribology that have revolutionized medical devices, prosthetics and implants, contact lenses, cancer research and regenerative medicine while advancing Florida’s innovation ecosystem.

### RECOGNIZING ALISON COHEN AND HER SERVICE TO THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**HON. JERROLD NADLER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Alison Cohen for two and a half years of outstanding service to the constituents of New York’s 12th Congressional District.

A native of Northern Virginia, Alison attended William & Mary University, where she received a bachelor’s degree in Global Governance and Community Engagement. After graduating, she joined the Teach for America program and moved to New Orleans to work as a middle school math teacher in a public school.

For the next three years, she served as a teacher and mentor for hundreds of students. I know she keeps in touch with some of her former pupils who still recognize the impact that she made on their lives. Alison’s skills from her time as a teacher can be seen during the many meetings that she has with student groups, where she is able to capture the attention of students and skillfully answer their questions in a thoughtful and accessible way.

Alison’s experience working in public education in Louisiana inspired her to enter policy work to help address the systemic inequities that she saw impacting her students’ lives. She began working as a legislative assistant for Louisiana State Representative Aimee Freedman. During her time working in the State Legislature, she worked on many issues impacting everyday Louisianans. One of her key accomplishments was helping shepherd

● 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.

Representative Freedman's bill to eliminate the "pink tax" on diapers and menstrual products and other goods, which unfairly disadvantages women and children. This legislation was signed into law in 2021 and is an example of Alison's longstanding commitment to helping support women and families through policy.

After working as a policy analyst for the Louisiana Budget Project, Alison returned to the D.C. area and began working as a Legislative Assistant for Congresswoman Elaine Luria (D-VA). In 2023, I was lucky to have her join my Washington, D.C. Office as a Legislative Assistant.

Over her two and a half year career in my office, Alison covered many issues, including Healthcare, Reproductive Rights, Education, and Social Security. During her time in my office, Alison held hundreds of meetings with stakeholder groups from across the district, serving as a representative for my office in many photos with groups. She always brought her knowledge and compassion to these meetings and often showed her unique talent of being able to quickly learn the names of everyone in her meetings.

Supported by her afternoon Diet Cokes, Alison assisted with many of my key legislative priorities over the past few years. She worked diligently to support the implementation of my Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, working to ensure it was protected in the appropriations process, and helping to organize an amicus brief supporting the bill.

She has also been a champion of my bill, the Living Donor Protection Act, which received 225 cosponsors in the 118th Congress due to Alison's hard work. Her steadfast and compassionate work with members of the organ transplant community has been inspiring to see.

Alison has also worked on many other health issues, including supporting my long-standing work to secure funding for the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA). She has also worked closely with stakeholders in the district to support my long-standing work on the World Trade Center Health Program.

Alison serves as a key bridge between my office and the many hospitals, health centers, and stakeholders in our district.

While working in my office, Alison completed her master's in Health Law and Strategy from New York University, helping to expand her understanding of the healthcare system, especially in the legal context. Her ability to navigate both school and work demonstrates her flexibility and willingness to take on new challenges.

Alison has also been an active part of our office culture, helping to mentor many staff and interns; she was always available to offer support and feedback. I will miss her positive presence in the office, especially around birthdays and other celebrations.

As Alison moves to her new position in Federal Affairs at Callen-Lorde Health system in New York, I am glad to know she will continue to serve the people of the 12th District. I look forward to seeing where her career will take her and thank her for her excellent service.

## CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COLORADO DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL

### HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Colorado Dragon Boat Festival, a vibrant and family-friendly event that has become one of our state's most treasured cultural traditions. This year's festival commemorated the Year of the Wood Snake, bringing together people of all backgrounds to highlight Colorado's rich Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander community.

The Colorado Dragon Boat Festival began in 2001 at Sloan's Lake Park in Denver, the dream of leaders in our AANHPI community who sought to create a space to showcase the culture, diversity, and contributions of Asian American communities. That vision has grown into something extraordinary. From 16 teams and 16,000 attendees in its first year, the festival now welcomes nearly 200,000 visitors annually and has become the largest dragon boat festival in the United States.

The event embodies its mission of building bridges of awareness, knowledge, and understanding between diverse AANHPI communities and the broader public. With nearly 50 racing teams, over 30 food vendors, a bustling Asian Marketplace, Dragonland for children, and more than 60 performances ranging from traditional dances and martial arts to contemporary Asian American music, the festival reflects both the depth and vitality of Colorado's cultural landscape.

Dragon boat racing itself is a tradition rooted in over 2,000 years of history, commemorating the poet and warrior Chu Yuan, whose followers honored his legacy with paddles, drums, and unity on the water. Today, that same spirit of remembrance, resilience, and cultural pride lives on in Sloan's Lake every summer.

The Colorado Dragon Boat Festival is a testament to the lasting power of cultural celebration and community building. For 25 years, it has been a place where families gather, traditions are shared, and the stories of AANHPI communities are uplifted for all to see. I commend the organizers, volunteers, and community members who have made this milestone possible, and I look forward to many more years of dragon boat racing, cultural exchange, and unity in Colorado.

## RECOGNIZING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH AND THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY HISPANIC AFFAIRS ADVISORY BOARD

### HON. CARLOS A. GIMENEZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

Mr. GIMENEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Hispanic Heritage Month and to commend the extraordinary work of the Miami-Dade County Hispanic Affairs Advisory Board.

Each year, our Nation honors the history, culture, and countless contributions of His-

panic Americans. Today, Hispanics and Latinos represent the largest minority in the United States, accounting for more than 19 percent of our population and nearly 70 percent of the residents of Miami-Dade County.

The Hispanic Affairs Advisory Board has long served as a strong advocate for our Hispanic community. It leads countywide efforts to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month and to promote cultural unity across our diverse community.

This year, Miami-Dade County's 2025 Hispanic Heritage Month Kickoff Celebration will bring together elected officials, more than 30 Consuls General and international diplomats, as well as community leaders from across South Florida. This celebration reflects the multicultural richness that defines both our county and Nation.

I am proud to recognize the Miami-Dade County Hispanic Affairs Advisory Board for its leadership, dedication, and tireless service. Their work not only highlights the invaluable contributions of Hispanic Americans but also reminds us that cultural unity strengthens the very fabric of our communities.

## HONORING CLAIRE'S CORNER COPIA ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. ROSA L. DELAURU

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

Ms. DELAURU. Mr. Speaker, in my hometown of New Haven, on the corner of Chapel and College Streets, there is an eclectic, gourmet vegetarian restaurant that is among the most popular and beloved in the city. Today, Claire's Corner Copia marks its 50th Anniversary—an outstanding milestone for this one-of-a-kind culinary treasure. I am proud to rise today to join the many family, friends, patrons, and community leaders who have gathered in extending my heartfelt congratulations to its owner, Claire Criscuolo, and her exceptional team on this very special occasion.

Love and family have always been at the heart of Claire's Corner Copia. Claire and her late husband, Frank, opened the restaurant as a way to spend more time together and focused on bringing the essence of the recipes Claire used for her home-cooked meals to their customers. That sense of family extended not only to those who came to eat but, most importantly, to those who worked for them. Unlike most in the industry, instead of making her employees rely on tips, Claire pays her staff a fair wage, provides health benefits, and paid time off. By investing in her employees, Claire has created a unique work environment, built on mutual respect and trust. It is why so many have stayed with her for more than a decade, weathering even the worst of economic trials with her. They are not just people who work for her, they are family. That is the secret of the success of Claire's Corner Copia.

What is it, you may ask, that makes Claire's Corner Copia so popular? Perhaps it is the mismatched furniture placed throughout the dining area. Maybe it is the menu artfully scrawled in multicolored chalk across a series of blackboards. It could be the charm of the immersive dining experience—waiting in line

to place your order, picking up your cutlery and bussing your own table. Personally, I believe it is the quality and care that is put into everything that is served. Claire is meticulous in designing her all-vegetarian menu, always ensuring the freshest of ingredients are used and taking great pride in how it is prepared. While Claire's Corner Copia is known for its incredible selections, its most popular items are the delicious baked goods that are made in-house every day. If you find yourself in downtown New Haven, I highly recommend stopping into Claire's and trying their signature Lithuanian Coffee Cake—it is not to be missed.

I want to extend a special note of congratulations to Claire Criscuolo. The restaurant business is not easy, and her determination, vision, creativity, and entrepreneurial skill have made Claire's Corner Copia an iconic local landmark. Claire is also a dedicated member of our community, supporting a variety of organizations including New Haven Reads, St. Francis and St. Rose of Lima Schools, and Smilow Cancer Hospital. I cannot remember a time when I did not know her, and I consider myself fortunate to call her my friend. I am honored to rise today to extend my very best wishes to her and her staff on this very special occasion. Happy 50th Anniversary.

**HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF FORMER ILLINOIS GOVERNOR JIM EDGAR**

**HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life and legacy of former Illinois Governor Jim Edgar.

Born in Oklahoma but raised in Charleston, Illinois, Governor Edgar was shaped by the values of family, hard work, and service. The youngest of three boys, raised by his mother Betty, he found his calling early. Elected to class office in the second grade, he never let go of his passion for public service.

From those humble beginnings, he went on to a career that changed Illinois for the better. He first entered public service in 1968 as a top aide to leaders in the Illinois House and Senate, then was elected to the Illinois House, later becoming Secretary of State, and eventually the 38th Governor of Illinois. In every role, he worked not for headlines but for results. He strengthened DUI laws, required mandatory auto insurance, reformed child-care standards, improved Chicago's schools, and restored Illinois's fiscal health—leaving office with a balanced budget and a surplus.

But what stood out most about Governor Edgar was not only the policies he championed, but the way he led. He always put people before politics. He earned trust across party lines and across the state, carrying 101 of 102 counties in his reelection, including Cook County. That trust came not from partisanship, but from his integrity, humility, and a level head in moments of challenge. Even after leaving office, Governor Edgar continued to give back. He devoted himself to mentoring young leaders from both parties, believing that democracy is strongest when we work together with respect and compassion. He lived

by those values every day, and in doing so, set an example for all of us.

Governor Edgar is survived by his beloved wife, Brenda, who was his full partner in public and political life. As First Lady, she championed issues to improve the lives of women and children across Illinois. Together they raised two children, Elizabeth and Brad, and delighted in their grandchildren. His family, like his public service, is a testament to his devotion and love.

Mr. Speaker, Illinois has lost one of its finest statesmen. But his legacy endures, reminding us that honesty, decency, and good government are not old-fashioned ideals; they are timeless ones. I am honored to celebrate his life today, and I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering Governor Jim Edgar's remarkable service and the lasting example he leaves behind.

**CELEBRATING NATIONAL APP CHALLENGE DAY**

**HON. KIM SCHRIER**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

Ms. SCHRIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate September 17, 2025, as the second annual National App Challenge Day. This day honors the ingenuity, creativity, and technical skill of middle and high school students nationwide who are building tools that improve their communities and strengthen our country's future.

National App Challenge Day highlights the Congressional App Challenge, a bipartisan, House-sponsored initiative that invites students from every congressional district to learn to code, apply their skills to real-world problems, and share their solutions with their Representatives. What began as a simple invitation to experiment with computer science has grown into a movement that now spans all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the United States territories. Since the first App Challenge was held in 2015, more than 70,000 students have coded over 12,000 unique apps, supported by tens of thousands of educators, mentors, and volunteer judges each year.

The Congressional App Challenge also enjoys overwhelming bipartisan support. In the 118th Congress, 412 Members, representing 95 percent of the House of Representatives, hosted at least one Challenge in their districts. This remarkable level of participation underscores a shared commitment across party lines to empowering America's youth and strengthening the Nation's leadership in STEM education.

Through this Challenge, students gain far more than programming experience. They learn to work in teams, think critically, communicate clearly, and iterate on their ideas. They identify local needs and build apps that address them, from expanding access to educational resources and civic information to supporting public health, safety, and environmental resilience. In classrooms, after-school programs, libraries, youth centers, and homes, the Congressional App Challenge opens doors to opportunity and helps develop the next generation of American innovators.

Today's observance also honors the teachers, mentors, parents, community partners,

and industry volunteers who devote their time and expertise to guiding student creators. Their encouragement ensures that a student's curiosity can become a prototype, that a prototype can become a working product, and that each working product can inspire peers to imagine what is possible with technology.

As we mark National App Challenge Day, let us reaffirm our commitment to hands-on STEM education and to equitable pathways into the innovation economy. Investing in our students' potential strengthens the workforce, supports American competitiveness, and sustains the spirit of problem solving that has long defined our Nation.

I encourage all Members of the House and their constituents to join me in celebrating National App Challenge Day. Let us recognize the remarkable achievements of these young coders and continue supporting initiatives that cultivate creativity, expand opportunity, and empower students to build solutions that serve their neighbors and their Nation.

**CONGRATULATING MS. YURI KIM ON HER RETIREMENT**

**HON. JAMES C. MOYLAN**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great joy and deep admiration that I congratulate Ms. Yuri Kim on her retirement, after 29 incredible years of service as a U.S. diplomat.

Today is a day of celebration, but also one of reflection. As we look back, we honor not just the impressive milestones in her career, but the impact she has made on the lives of so many through her leadership and guidance in the direction of U.S. foreign policy.

Ms. Kim is a proud daughter of Guam. She began her journey at the Academy of Our Lady, then went on to earn her degree at the University of Pennsylvania, followed by a master's from Cambridge University. Her roots in Guam remained a strong part of her identity throughout a career that took her around the world.

Over nearly three decades, she wore many hats that shaped her vision of the future of our country. She was a champion for energy, defense, technology, and infrastructure. Early on, she showed herself to be a force of nature, leading critical work in the Political Section of the U.S. Embassy in Seoul, heading the DPRK Unit in the Office of Korean Affairs, and serving in key roles across the U.S. embassies in Turkey, Iraq, Japan, and China.

She served as Special Assistant to Secretary Colin Powell and played a central role in the Six-Party Talks aimed at ending North Korea's nuclear weapons program. Her work continued at the highest levels, becoming Chief of Staff to the Deputy Secretary of State and later Director of the Office of European Security and Political-Military Affairs, where she helped shape U.S. policy toward NATO and the OSCE.

In 2019, she was nominated under President Trump to serve as the U.S. Ambassador to Albania, where she continued her service under President Biden. During this time, she deepened our existing partnership by advancing shared interests and encouraging economic growth.

Most recently, she served as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs, helping navigate some of the most complex challenges in today's global landscape.

Through all of this, what stands out most is not just her accomplishments, but her character. Ms. Kim has led with integrity, courage, and heart. She's been a mentor, a role model, and a steadfast public servant who gave her all, every single day.

Her legacy will not only be seen in policy or diplomacy, but in the people she inspired and the bridges she built. She's helped shape the world we live in, and we are all better for it.

We thank and celebrate Ms. Kim, and we wish her nothing but happiness and fulfillment in this next chapter of her life.

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FALLEN SERVICEMEMBERS RELIGIOUS HERITAGE RESTORATION ACT

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SPEECH OF

**HON. MIKE BOST**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I rise to include in the RECORD the following letter of support for H.R. 2701 from National Commander Scott P. Stevens, CW04, USA, (R).

The Jewish War Veterans of the USA supports H.R. 2701, the Fallen Servicemembers Religious Heritage Restoration Act. JWV appreciates the leadership of Rep. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (D-FL) and Rep. MAX MILLER (R-OH) for their bipartisan introduction, as well as the support of the House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Disability and Memorial Affairs and the Full Committee in moving this critical legislation to the House floor. JWV urges swift passage of H.R. 2701 to start the process of properly marking graves and honoring these brave Jewish American servicemembers.

The Fallen Servicemembers Religious Heritage Restoration Act requires the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) to create a program to identify Jewish servicemembers buried with grave markers that do not reflect their faith and to connect with their descendants. This vital effort will correct the historical record and ensure our fallen heroes are remembered as they lived and served.

JWV understands that approximately 900 American-Jewish servicemembers who lost their lives during World War I and World War II and were buried in U.S. military cemeteries overseas (ABMC) were mistakenly interred under markers that do not represent their religion or heritage. JWV recognizes that most of these errors are unintentional; however, these mistakes hide the identity and legacy of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. American-Jewish servicemembers served with honor and bravery, playing a crucial role in winning the Allied victory. They deserve to be remembered with dignity and accuracy.

The United States has a solemn duty to ensure every fallen servicemember is honored correctly. Enacting H.R. 2701 helps ensure that the Star of David marks the Jewish graves of servicemembers, currently marked in error.

RECOGNIZING NAVIN KC, LUNA SHRESTHA, AND NABARAJ KC

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**HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and include in the RECORD, three prominent community members in the Nepali American community who have contributed to cultivating arts, culture, and business around the country.

NAVIN KC

For more than twenty-five years, Navin KC has been a tireless force in the world of dance and choreography, introducing Nepali language, art, and culture to audiences both nationally and internationally. As the Founder and Director of KC Dance Center in Virginia, he has provided countless students, particularly second-generation children, with dance training that emphasizes not only technique but also cultural heritage and language. His choreography has been featured in films, theater productions, and music videos, while his students have performed across the United States in places such as Hollywood, New York, Texas, and Colorado. Since 2017, through his annual production, "Kollywood Night," Navin has created a powerful platform where emerging talent and celebrated artists come together to celebrate the richness of Nepali culture on stage.

LUNA SHRESTHA

With more than two decades of dedication to art, culture, and language, Luna Shrestha has made a profound impact as a performer, choreographer, and instructor. As Co-Founder and Director of KC Dance Center, she has trained students across Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, D.C. in dance, yoga, aerobics, and Nepali-inspired fitness programs. Luna's work is driven by her passion for preserving and sharing Nepali traditions in America and giving young performers the opportunity to showcase their skills on stages nationwide. She plays a key role in the production of the annual "Kollywood Night" show for new trainees and established artists.

NABARAJ KC

A community leader, humanitarian, and advocate, Nabaraj KC has earned recognition on local and national levels. As President of the College Point Civic and Taxpayers Association and the Dil Kumari KC Memorial Foundation, he has led initiatives that raised more than \$3 million worth of food, personal protective equipment, and other important resources to communities in need during the COVID-19 pandemic. His service has earned him several honors, including the REALTOR Spirit Award in 2022, Community Service Award in 2023, and COVID-19 Hero Award. He has also been named among Schneps Media's Queens Power List and Kings of New York. A proud New Yorker and son of Nepali immigrants, Nabaraj KC combines his professional and educational background with a dedication to community service.

WELCOMING HIS ALL-HOLINESS ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

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**HON. NEAL P. DUNN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

Mr. DUNN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome his All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to the United States this week. My colleagues and I are honored to host him here in the House of Representatives and I know my Greek-Orthodox constituents are excited to have him visit our Nation's Capital. His All-Holiness is a champion of religious liberty, engaging in dialogues with leaders of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Moreover, he leads a congregation of 300 million church members worldwide and is the longest-serving Patriarch in the two-millennia history of the Church. We are blessed to have him here in Washington, D.C. this week.

HONORING DENICE HARLAN ON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE GIDDINGS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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**HON. MICHAEL T. McCaul**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

Mr. McCaul. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to honor one of my dear friends, Denice Harlan, as she retires from her role as President/CEO of the Giddings Chamber of Commerce.

Denice moved to Giddings, Texas, in 1983 with her beloved husband, Wade. She opened Harlan's Restaurant in 1987 to provide delicious homestyle cooking. Her passion for service led her to join the Giddings Chamber of Commerce and serve as Chamber Director. In addition, Denice has also served on the New Horizons Lions' Club, Lee County Fair Association, and Rotary Club. She was most recently recognized with the Giddings Lifetime Achievement Award.

I want to thank Denice for the devotion she has demonstrated and her commitment to serving the constituents of Lee County. I am grateful for her leadership, and I send my best wishes to Denice as she begins this new chapter in life.

As a member of the United States House of Representatives, I am honored to join her family and friends in congratulating Denice Harlan on this momentous occasion.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF EMMA WEIR

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**HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Emma Weir for her outstanding service as Communications Director and Senior Advisor for the New Democrat Coalition over the past four years.

As former chairwoman of the New Democrat Coalition, I had the privilege of working closely

with Emma. She brought strategic insight, professionalism, and a deep commitment to public service that strengthened our message, expanded our reach, and supported every member of the Coalition. During some of the most pivotal debates during the Democratic majority, Emma's creativity and instinct were instrumental in advancing New Dem priorities that helped improve the lives of Americans across the country. Her work has left a lasting impact on the New Dems and the values we fight for.

While we will miss her leadership, I am excited to see Emma take on a new role with Chairman PETE AGUILAR and the House Democratic Caucus. I know she will continue to serve with the same skill and dedication that made her so effective with the New Dems.

I thank Emma for her service, and I wish her the very best in this next chapter.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. ADDISON P. McDOWELL

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

Mr. McDOWELL. Mr. Speaker, on September 16, 2025, I regrettably missed a portion of the evening vote series. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 270.

#### HONORING THE VIETNAM AND KOREAN WAR VETERANS OF ILLINOIS

#### HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Vietnam and Korean War veterans who traveled to Washington, D.C. on September 17, 2025, with Honor Flight Chicago, a program that provides WWII, Vietnam, and Korean War veterans the opportunity to visit their memorials on The National Mall in Washington, D.C. These memorials were built to honor their courage and service to their country.

The American Veteran is one of our greatest treasures. The Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen who traveled here on September 17, 2025, answered our Nation's call to service during one of its greatest times of need. From the Pacific Asian Theatre to the Korean Theater, these brave Americans risked life and limb, gave service, and sacrificed much, all while embodying what it is to be a hero. We owe them more gratitude than can ever be expressed.

I welcome these brave veterans to Washington and to their memorials. I am proud to include in the RECORD the names of these men and women for all to see, hear, and recognize, and I call on my colleagues to rise and join me in expressing gratitude.

James B. Ayres, John H. Ball, Richard Banko, James T. Bator, Paul E. Bauer, Dallas Beecher, Jody R. Bennett, Larry G. Bird, Harvester Bond, Eddie, Jr. Brown, Manuel Castillo, Gilbert A. Cipriano, James Cole, Carl Conti, Gregory S. Craig, Thomas M.

Curran, William Davis, Jr., Eddie B. Davis, John E. Debner, Thomas E. Duffy, Dwight C. Dwomik, John Engeriser, Kevin Fitch, Rodney E. Franklin, Jay R. Fredrikson, Walter L. Fullilove, John Green, Donald M. Gregory, Jr., Gregory Gremba, Frank F. Gudauskas, William E. Haines, Micheal Heavrin, William A. Herod, Kevin M. Holly, Leigh Holzwart, Edward R. Howe, Joseph F. Inserro, Donald L. Iwanski, Robert D. Jarman, Robert A. Johnson, David B. Jones, William E. Kaczmarski, George Kartsones, Robert A. Kosmicki, Melvyn J. Kovacik, Edward R. Koziorowski, Warren J. Kutlik, Francis J. Kwasny, Gordon D. Lauer, Cedric C. Lewis, Michael Liacone, William J. Lopina, John A. Mamak, Archangel Mastrangelo, Ernest R. McGee, James R. Mendenhall, Gerald E. Mertes, Jr., Arthur A. Moeller, Leslie J. Montag, Michael G. Moorehead, Raymond J. Morris, Darrell L. Morrison, Raymond D. Muccianti, Thomas Muth, William Muth, Emery E. Myers, Larry M. Narum, Harold Noftz, Arnold S. Oskin, John G. Pappas, Terrance W. Parr, Michael L. Passman, Dennis M. Perz, Joseph J. Pilch, Domenico Pinto, James T. Pioth, Warren Powell, Richard J. Provost, Robert T. Przybylinski, David E. Quigley, William J. Quinn, Jr., Peter A. Regnier, Scott R. Ripper, John Rohlwing, Robert J. Rucinski, Edward A. Sarnecki, Thomas L. Sbertoli, Michael R. Scott, Robert Shrutek, Leon E. Smith, Robert S. Smith, Robert Spencer, John Z. Stajcic, Michael G. Stalzer, Boykin L. Stewart, Jr., John S. Strama, Matthew J. Strama, Robert Strickland, Howard Strickler, John J. Tengelitsch, Anthony J. Thomas, Terrence J. Thompson, Sr., William A. Trader, Frank C. Trout, Douglass M. Vines, Leonard Vinyard, John A. Weiler, Paul Wiltjer, Robert M. Witt, Walter Yanta, David Yost, John Zaragoza, Thomas Zasadil, and Raymond F. Zipko.

#### RECOGNIZING THE GREATER HERNANDO COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

#### HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the Greater Hernando County Chamber of Commerce on the occasion of its 100th anniversary—a remarkable milestone that reflects a century of steadfast service, economic leadership, and community commitment. Chambers of commerce are foundational institutions within our communities. They promote economic vitality, advocate for local businesses, and offer critical resources such as training, marketing, and networking. The Greater Hernando County Chamber of Commerce embodies these principles and has served as a vital engine of prosperity for generations.

The Chamber traces its origins to 1925, when local leaders first organized a community chamber under the guidance of Frederick Williamson, its inaugural president. Despite the challenges of the Great Depression, the Chamber persevered and experienced a revival in 1938, led by visionary banker Alfred McKethan—a pivotal figure in Hernando County's economic history. As the county grew rapidly in the latter half of the 20th century, particularly with the development of new communities like Spring Hill, the business landscape became increasingly diverse and fragmented.

In a decisive moment of unity and forward-thinking, leaders Morris Porton, Steve Emerson, and Vince Vanni worked to consolidate the business community. Their efforts culminated in the formal establishment of the Greater Hernando County Chamber of Commerce on December 22, 1992.

Over the past 100 years, the Chamber has evolved and expanded to meet the changing needs of Hernando County's business community. Guided by its Pillars of Success—Advocacy, Marketing, Networking, and Training—the Chamber has become the largest and oldest business organization in Hernando County. Its influence has been recognized across the region, including by the Tampa Bay Business Journal, which named it one of the largest chambers in the Tampa Bay area. The Chamber represents a broad and diverse membership spanning vital sectors such as professional services, construction and trades, real estate, healthcare, finance, education, retail, hospitality, transportation, manufacturing, and nonprofit organizations. It also leads impactful programs, including Leadership Hernando, a premier leadership development initiative that has graduated over 525 community leaders since its inception in 1992. The Chamber's enduring commitment to economic development, collaboration, and community enrichment has played an essential role in shaping Hernando County into the thriving place it is today.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Greater Hernando County Chamber of Commerce on its centennial anniversary. May its legacy of service continue to strengthen our communities for generations to come.

#### CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL REDEDICATION OF DENVER EAST HIGH SCHOOL

#### HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Denver East High School—an institution that has been at the heart of my district for a century and a half—as it celebrates the centennial rededication of its historic building.

East High opened its doors 150 years ago in 1875 as Denver's first high school, setting a foundation of excellence that continues to this day. The current building, designed by George H. Williamson, a proud member of East's Class of 1893, was completed in 1925.

Its iconic 162-foot clock tower, modeled after Independence Hall in Philadelphia, has stood as an iconic beacon. In 1991, the building was recognized as an official Denver Historic Landmark.

Over the past 150 years, East High has shaped leaders, artists, athletes, and innovators. From First Lady Mamie Eisenhower, to Rock and Roll Hall of Famers Philip Bailey and Larry Dunn of Earth, Wind & Fire, to aerospace leader Norman Augustine, to head coach of the Detroit Pistons J. B. Bickerstaff, East alumni have left an indelible mark on our city, our country, and our world.

Equally impressive is East's storied athletic tradition, with the Angels earning 99 state championships, the third most of any high school in Colorado. Generations of students

have worn the red and white with pride, carrying forward the spirit of teamwork and perseverance.

More than its achievements, East High has always been about community. This rededication brings together alumni, students, teachers, and neighbors to honor its history, connect across generations, and create new memories for the future.

As a lifelong Coloradan and graduate of the Denver Public School system, I am proud to recognize East High School for 150 years of excellence in education and for the centennial rededication of its landmark building.

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

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and welcome the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, His All-Holiness Bartholomew, to Washington, DC. The spiritual leader of the Orthodox Christian Church, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew comes to the United States to accept the Templeton Prize, which recognizes an individual who has “made an exceptional contribution to affirming life’s spiritual dimension, whether through insight, discovery, or practical works.”

Born in current day Gökçeada, Turkey, His All-Holiness received his undergraduate degree at the Theological School of Halki and completed graduate studies at three universities in Italy, Switzerland, and Germany. He was elected in October 1991 as the 270th Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome, a Church of 300 million individuals worldwide, including many of my constituents in New Jersey’s 8th Congressional District. He has devoted his life to advocating for peace-building measures, organizing interfaith summits, and promoting religious freedom and human rights.

It is a privilege to welcome such a leading figure to the Nation’s Capital and recognize his significant contributions to peace, interreligious dialogue, and cultural understanding.

I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating this historic visit.

**HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF CHAD ALLAN BLOMGREN**

**HON. KEVIN MULLIN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chad Allan Blomgren, who passed on July 9, 2025, at the age of 56. Mr. Blomgren was a distinguished U.S. Army veteran, a Senior Director at Gilead Sciences, and a tireless advocate for veterans through his volunteer work with Dream Foundation.

Chad’s life was a powerful reflection of his family’s legacy of service to his country, his community, and his fellow veterans. Raised in the Hills-Beaver Creek community of Minnesota, he excelled in high school both academically and athletically. These formative

years helped shape the competitive spirit that remained central to who he was. After graduation, Chad enlisted in the Minnesota Army National Guard. Shortly thereafter, he met the love of his life, Debbie, and they married in 1990. He went on to earn his degree from Mankato State University the following year.

Chad honorably served in the U.S. Army, joining a long family tradition of service that includes his father, three brothers, niece, son, and dozens of relatives. After his military service, he embarked on a successful professional career spanning over a decade at Gilead Sciences as Senior Director of Managed Markets. For the past five years, he co-led the Gilead Veterans Engagement Team (GVET), supporting more than 500 employees aligned around the mantra, “Serving Those Who’ve Served.”

In June 2023, Chad was appointed to the Board of Directors of Dream Foundation, the only national organization dedicated to granting final wishes to terminally ill adults. He served on its Dreams for Veterans Advisory Council since its inception in 2021 and actively participated in fulfilling dreams for veterans, visiting at least four recipients in person to deliver those special moments of hope and closure. As he shared, “Providing a positive impact for those in the final stages of their lives means everything to me.” It was a cause he embraced both personally and professionally, bringing compassion, leadership, and a fighter’s perspective to the foundation’s mission.

Chad’s life embodies the highest ideals of leadership and service. Whether in uniform, guiding colleagues in industry, or comforting veterans through Dream Foundation, he lived a life of purpose and generosity. His family and colleagues remember him as fun, smart, full of laughter, and always ready with a helping hand.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of a selfless and honorable man, Chad Blomgren. His dedication to his family, his career, his Nation, and his fellow veterans inspires us all.

**WELCOMING ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW TO AMERICA**

**HON. JEFF CRANK**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

Mr. CRANK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the Spiritual Head of the second largest Christian church in the world who is visiting our Nation’s Capital this week. Back home in Colorado’s 5th Congressional District, Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church is the home for many of my constituents of the Greek Orthodox faith. I welcome the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, wish him well during his time in America, and thank him for his leadership for the Orthodox Christian faith around the world, numbering 300 million.

HONORING CARL JOHN McMANUS ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have this opportunity to join the many family, friends, and community members who will gather this evening in extending my heartfelt congratulations to New Haven legend, Carl John McManus, as he marks his retirement from Phil’s Barber Shop, ending his sixty-year career as a barber.

Carl began his career as a barber in his hometown of Hopkinton, Massachusetts, the path to his calling, and a unique story. While working at a local grocery store, Carl befriended the butcher who liked to play the horses at Suffolk Downs. Carl used to take his choices to the local bookmaker, you guessed it, the town barber. He found himself drawn to the friendly atmosphere and what he has described as the “kibitzing” between the barber and his customers. He soon found himself a student at the Massachusetts School of Barbering in Boston, the first stepping stone of what would become an illustrious career path.

Following his parents and siblings, Carl moved to New Haven and soon found himself a home at Phil’s Barber Shop. Over the course of his sixty-year career, he has met a multitude of people, from the Presidents of Yale University to future Presidents of the United States, and famous actors to local theater favorites. But the most important connection he made was that to an older barber in town who worked at the Graduate Club. Carl had noticed a photo of the barber’s daughter and when he expressed an interest in meeting her, the barber arranged a date, despite her slight hesitation. In the end, Carl and the barber’s daughter, Ethel, were married for nearly fifty years before her passing just two years ago.

Carl did not just give a shave and a haircut; he helped people to find themselves. Today, as he celebrates his retirement, Carl can be proud of the legacy he leaves. When you sat in his chair, you became more than a client, you became a friend. And while he will most certainly be missed by many, I am honored to join his daughter, Rose and granddaughter, Autumn, as well as all of those who will gather this evening in wishing him the very best as he begins this new life chapter. I congratulate him on his retirement.

**CONGRATULATING MEXICO ON ITS 215TH INDEPENDENCE DAY**

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for the opportunity to recognize September 16, 2025, as Mexico’s 215th Independence Day.

Mexico has served as an invaluable diplomatic, trade, and cultural partner with the United States for two hundred years, reflecting the close relationship that make this alliance invaluable to both countries.

In 2024, Mexico was the second-largest destination for U.S. exports and the top source of U.S. imports. Total U.S. goods and services trade with Mexico, in 2024, totaled over \$935 billion.

I am particularly grateful of the trade ties between South Carolina and Mexico. In 2024, the Palmetto State exported over three and a one-half billion dollars of rubber and plastic products, electrical equipment and components, iron and steel, and other items to our southern partner, while importing more than five and one half billion dollars in motor vehicle and aerospace parts, and other goods.

This integration highlights the deeply connected partnership between Mexico and South Carolina.

I applaud the deep commitment of President Donald Trump and Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum to cooperate and collaborate in stopping illegal aliens crossing our Southern

Border, including the murderous threats posed by drug traffickers with human trafficking. This underscores the promise by President Trump to protect American lives.

This day is also special to me because I have a dedicated member of my staff, Daniel Ramirez, who is first generation Mexican-American.

I am appreciative that the United States and Mexico are partners—and neighbors—and wish the people of Mexico a Happy 215th Independence Day.

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#### 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 commit-

tees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

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

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, September 18, 2025 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.