

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD'S STATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 19, 2025

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commemorate the 25th anniversary of the State Partnership Program (SPP) between the Hawaii National Guard and the Armed Forces of the Republic of the Philippines.

The SPP pairs state and territorial National Guard units with partner nations worldwide. It helps build enduring, mutually beneficial relationships to enhance security cooperation, advance U.S. interests and improve partner nations' military readiness.

The SPP partnership between the Hawaii National Guard and the Philippines, initiated in 2000, was one of the earliest in the Indo-Pacific under this program, and it remains the longest-standing such partnership in the region. Over the past quarter century, the partnership between Hawaii's citizen soldiers and airmen and their Philippine counterparts has steadily progressed, encompassing humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, joint training exercises, strategic planning and multilateral regional engagement.

The 25th anniversary of this agreement showcases an important and long-lasting commitment to mutual security, shared values and an enduring friendship between our two democratic nations.

This great SPP's success lies in its foundation of trust, mutual respect and cultural understanding. Hawaii's geographic location and strong cultural and historical ties to the Philippines have made our state an ideal bridge between our two militaries. This special relationship has not only strengthened defense readiness but also developed personal connections that enrich both our communities.

I would also like to acknowledge the role of our partners in Guam, who have joined this trilateral cooperation in recent years. Their collaboration strengthens the regional fabric of security and partnership.

On this 25th anniversary, I wish to recognize all those who have contributed to this partnership's success. The enduring engagement between the Hawaii National Guard and the Philippine armed forces has advanced the strategic goals of a free and open Indo-Pacific and strengthened the bonds between our two great nations.

Let us honor this important milestone not just as a celebration of the past but also as a reaffirmation of our shared future. I look forward to many more years of partnership and shared commitment to peace and prosperity between America and the Philippines under SPP.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF ROOSEVELT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 19, 2025

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Roosevelt Elementary School, celebrating its 100th year of educating the children of the Tampa Bay region. Roosevelt Elementary has not only been a champion for education but a fixture of the Tampa community, supporting academic excellence, character building, and community engagement. The Tampa Bay Community is forever grateful to have caring educators and a school like Roosevelt Elementary to teach the next generation of Floridians and bring together my neighbors across Tampa Bay.

The history of Roosevelt Elementary is the history of the City of Tampa. Theodore Roosevelt was Assistant Secretary of the Navy when the U.S.S. Maine was sunk in Havana Harbor. When the Spanish-American War began, Roosevelt resigned his position and joined the military. Lieutenant Colonel Roosevelt recruited volunteers to serve in the 1st United States Volunteer Cavalry, which soon became known as the Rough Riders. In June of 1898, Roosevelt and the Rough Riders camped in Tampa for two weeks before they headed south to Cuba and became famous for their charge up Cuba's San Juan Hill. The Rough Riders were brave men fighting to achieve an independent Cuba, something Tampa's large Cuban immigrant population had sought for so long.

Roosevelt Elementary was constructed in 1925 and carries with it the ambitious spirit of the Rough Riders. It promotes academic excellence and works closely with the Tampa Bay Rough Riders, a nonprofit organization that celebrates the regiment and Tampa's contribution to the Spanish-American War through patriotic and civic activities throughout the Tampa Bay Region. Roosevelt Elementary partners regularly with the Rough Riders to foster a love and understanding of community service in students.

Roosevelt Elementary is listed in the U.S. National Register of Historic Places, honoring the cornerstone Roosevelt has become to our community and its place in the history of Tampa. Roosevelt Elementary is a Grade A school, a success that is a collective achievement, says Principal Denise Wheatley. It is the dedication by both students and teachers, and the investment by families and community partners, that make Roosevelt the thriving educational institution it is to this day. Principal Wheatley calls on all to "continue to embody the spirit of the Rough Riders." Through this collaboration of partners inside and outside of the classroom, Roosevelt will continue to thrive as a place where every student feels valued, supported, and inspired to achieve their fullest potential.

Mr. Speaker, I am incredibly proud to support the high-quality public schools and tal-

ented teachers found in Hillsborough County. On behalf of my neighbors in Tampa Bay, I am proud to congratulate Roosevelt Elementary on 100 years of educating Florida's youngest generation. It is dedicated educators like those at Roosevelt, and the committed community that foster the Rough Rider spirit, that make our Tampa Bay community the welcoming place it is today. Our community is so proud of institutions like Roosevelt, and I applaud them on this tremendous milestone of a century of learning, service, and school spirit.

HONORING DR. CURTIS MARION GARNER

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 19, 2025

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a proud East Texan, beloved doctor, and my friend, Dr. Curtis Marion Garner.

Curtis was reunited with his wife, Anne, after sixty-two years when he joined her in heaven on September 15, 2025. He was born to Curtis Mahan Garner and Verna Burkes Garner on December 30, 1934, in Livingston, Texas. His Garner ancestors were Republic of Texas settlers in 1835, in Polk County. Mr. Garner considered himself an East Texan through and through, believed he lived in the best place on earth, and was not wrong.

Curtis graduated from Livingston High School as co-valedictorian with Anne Mahan, who later became his wife. He attended Baylor University and later graduated from the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, where he received several honors for medical school graduates. Following his internship, he and Anne settled in Woodville, Texas.

Curtis served as a physician in Woodville, for over sixty years, from 1960 until his retirement in 2021. He also worked as a family physician for over thirty years in the Swearingen-Garner Medical Clinic and as an emergency room physician at Tyler County Hospital, where he was beloved by the many nurses, doctors, and other staff he served with throughout the years.

Curtis and Anne were members of First Baptist Church of Woodville, where he served as a Sunday school teacher for almost sixty years. He was a man of faith and steadfastness who loved his family. Curtis and Ann had three children: their daughters Melissa Garner and Marian Ballard, and their son Curtis Mahan Garner. Their greatest joy was their grandchildren Evan, Barrett, Will, Elizabeth, Alison, Emily, Curtis, Madison, Zachary, and Mallory, as well as seventeen great-grandchildren.

Curtis led a life distinguished by faith, compassion, and devotion as a Christian, father, and grandfather. His legacy of service and love remains an enduring inspiration to his family, community, and all who knew him.

● 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.

HONORING DR. MICHAEL FRANK

HON. VICTORIA SPARTZ

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 19, 2025

Mrs. SPARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Michael Frank, an influential Professor and community leader in Anderson, Indiana. Since 2001, Dr. Frank has served the students at Anderson University in the Political Science department as Department Chair. Dr. Frank earned his B.A. in International Relations from Northern Illinois University, as well as his Ph.D. in Political Science from The University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. His studies greatly contributed to his expertise in Political Science education and lends to his research in political realignment, party history, and political inequality. Dr. Frank served as Chair of the Madison County Public Defender Board since 2009, where he ensures compliance with state guidelines for the county's public defenders and the Judicial System.

At Anderson University he teaches a variety of subjects like American Government, Research Methods, Political Parties and Behavior, and Constitutional Law. He also is the Pre-Law Advisor, preparing students for the law school admissions process, the LSAT, and the difficulty of law school. His students have gone on to work in government offices and on political campaigns in Washington D.C., for the Indiana Governor, and with Members of Congress. Dr. Frank serves as the Director of Anderson University's Center for Public Service. He helps prepare students for a life in public service careers to meet critical societal needs, and his leadership connects students to industry professionals, internships, and service opportunities.

On behalf of Indiana's 5th District, I thank Dr. Michael Frank for his incredible efforts as an educator to lead students on to success, as well as his contributions to Madison County through his work with public defenders. His passion has touched upon the lives of so many and will continue to do so in the future.

INTRODUCTION OF THE UNIVERSAL PREKINDERGARTEN AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION ACT OF 2025

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 19, 2025

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Universal Prekindergarten and Early Childhood Education Act of 2025, which would establish and expand prekindergarten programs in public and public charter schools for three- and four-year-olds.

This bill seeks a breakthrough in public education by providing funding for states to add prekindergarten for children at three and four years of age, like the kindergarten programs for five-year-olds now routinely available in public schools. This bill would take advantage of the safe facilities required in public schools.

This bill would provide federal funds to states to establish or expand universal, voluntary prekindergarten in public and public charter schools for three- and four-year-olds,

regardless of income. The classes, which would be full-day and run throughout the entire school year, would be taught by teachers who have equivalent or similar qualifications to those teaching other grades in the school. The funds would supplement, not supplant, other federal funds for early childhood education.

The success of Head Start and other pre-kindergarten programs, combined with the scientific evidence on the importance of brain development in early childhood, virtually mandates the expansion of early childhood education to all children. Early learning programs have been available only to the affluent, who can afford them, and to some low-income families in programs such as Head Start, which would be unaffected by this bill. This bill is a practical way to create universal, public pre-kindergarten. The goal of this bill is to provide the benefits of early childhood education to those who have been left out of this essential education.

We cannot afford to allow the most critical years of child development to pass unenriched. This bill responds both to the great needs of parents who seek early childhood education and neuroscience, which shows that a child's brain development begins much earlier than had been previously understood.

Considering the staggering cost of day care, the inaccessibility of early childhood education and the opportunity that early education offers to improve a child's chances of success, schooling for three- and four-year-olds is overdue. The absence of viable options for working families demands our immediate attention.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

WELCOMING HIS ALL-HOLINESS ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BAR-THOLOMEW

HON. JOSH GOTTHEIMER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 19, 2025

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to welcome the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, His All-Holiness Bartholomew, to Washington, D.C. this week, and to congratulate him on receiving the distinguished Templeton Prize.

His All-Holiness has been a steadfast leader for the Orthodox Church, and especially for my constituents in New Jersey. He continues to encourage us all to reach toward peace, to love and respect our neighbors, and to uphold our values as a Nation.

At a time when hate and intolerance are surging across the country, His All-Holiness's focus on religious freedom is a powerful reminder that we must work together and respect one another. In the greatest country in the world, there should be no room for intolerance or hate of any kind.

As His All-Holiness Bartholomew has said, "We have it in our power either to increase the hurt inflicted on our world or to contribute toward its healing. The choice is ours." Together, we must work toward a world filled with healing and hope.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CHARLES "CHARLIE" JAMES KIRK

SPEECH OF
HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2025

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, the horrific murder of Charlie Kirk was reprehensible. Members of Congress pray for Charlie's wife, Erika, their two young children, and all who loved him during their time of mourning and grief. We also extend our prayers to all who were present on the Utah Valley University campus at the time of this tragedy, who will carry the trauma of that day with them forever.

In recent years, a disturbing and unacceptable pattern has emerged: individuals being targeted for their role in public life or for their association with political discourse. Violence of this nature is not an attack on one person alone—it is an assault on democracy itself, meant to silence debate, sow fear, and tear at the fabric of our civil society.

We remember the assassination attempt on Congresswoman Gabby Giffords, which left her critically injured and six innocent lives lost. We remember the shooting at a Congressional baseball game practice, which seriously wounded Congressman STEVE SCALISE and injured five others. We recall the chilling plot to kidnap Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer. We will not forget the storming of the United States Capitol on January 6th, which resulted in the deaths of five law enforcement officers and shook the very foundations of our democracy.

My own family still lives with the trauma of a near-deadly attack on my husband, Paul, in our home by an individual seeking to kidnap me—an act of violence that underscored in the most personal way the escalating threats that public officials and their loved ones endure.

We have also seen assassination attempts on the life of President Donald Trump; the arson targeting Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro's residence and family; the heart-breaking assassination of Minnesota House Speaker Emerita Melissa Hortman and her husband, and the attempted assassination of State Senator John Hoffman and his wife. And now, we are horrified by the murder of Charlie Kirk, targeted while exercising his right to speak freely on a college campus.

All of these incidents must be denounced unequivocally and without qualification. Violence has no place in our political process, in our communities, or in our country. At the same time, we have a solemn responsibility to act. Congress must work with state and local leaders, law enforcement, and communities to ensure the security of Members, staff, and constituents alike—so that all Americans may fully participate in civic life without fear. That also means we must address the epidemic of gun violence in our country to keep our children and their families safe.

Let us be clear: political differences must be resolved at the ballot box and through dialogue, never through the barrel of a gun or the threat of violence. The strength of our democracy lies not in unanimity, but in the peaceful contest of ideas. Together, we must recommit to protecting that principle and the American

people, to lowering the temperature of political rhetoric, and to honoring the dignity and humanity of every person engaged in public service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 19, 2025

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on September 18, 2025. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 277; YEA on Roll Call No. 278; and YEA on Roll Call No. 279.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CHARLES “CHARLIE” JAMES KIRK

SPEECH OF

HON. BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2025

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, as I expressed last week following Charlie Kirk’s horrifying assassination, my heart goes out to Mr. Kirk’s family and loved ones. The loss of anyone in such a violent manner is tragic and sadly all too common. It has raised important issues including the need to address gun violence, political violence, and the way all Americans relate to one another. Increasingly violent rhetoric in our politics and culture is manifesting itself in increasing political violence.

I’m grateful that this resolution addresses some of these issues.

I remember the series of assassinations and attempted assassinations that rocked the country in the 1960’s and 1970’s: Medgar Evers, John and Robert Kennedy, George Lincoln Rockwell, Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, Fred Hampton, Richard Nixon, and George Wallace. Hate, discrimination, and distrust led to political violence that tore the country apart. We need a national conversation about how we learn the lessons of our past and build a better future for everyone.

I encourage us all to reflect on the country we want to live in. And to ensure our words and actions point us in that direction. If we are to have a thriving democracy, we must be able to disagree and fight for what we believe in without denying each other’s humanity. Much of the political rhetoric in recent years has failed this test. I pray we return to a place where, despite our differences, we can recognize the humanity in every one of us.

Tackling these issues will require a thoughtful and honest national conversation. The resolution that we will vote on today called on Members to honor the legacy of Charlie Kirk. I could not honestly lend my name to his legacy. Charlie Kirk had a conviction and passion for expressing his opinions and for moving them forward in the national conversation. Unfortunately, much of that legacy involved hateful rhetoric about many fellow Americans, specifically the LGBTQ community, Muslims, and other minorities, particularly Black women. For that reason, I will not vote for this resolution.

Mr. Kirk’s assassination was a horrible crime against him, his family, and our Nation. I pray for all three.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CHARLES “CHARLIE” JAMES KIRK

SPEECH OF

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concern regarding the direction our national discourse has taken following the death of Charlie Kirk and to share my reservations about the resolution before us today.

I condemn—unequivocally and in the strongest terms—the violent murder of Charlie Kirk.

I am praying for his family and our Nation as we navigate the aftermath of last week’s horrific shooting.

No one should be killed for what they say or what they believe, and any claim to the contrary betrays the values upon which this Nation was founded.

But my deep regret that Mr. Kirk was killed and my respect for his First Amendment right to express himself freely does not make him someone that should be elevated as a role model for the American public. The resolution before us today would do just that.

The fact is Charlie Kirk’s rhetoric was divisive, disparaging, and too often rooted in grievance.

The beliefs he evangelized normalized fringe views on race, sex, and immigration.

I’ve spent my entire career—from the peak of the civil rights movement until today—advocating for equal rights for everyone, regardless of race, sex, or religion.

I’ve sought to carry on the important work of civil rights leaders like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

I have worked to eradicate prejudices and stereotypes that suggest that the color of someone’s skin, or their gender, or their religious beliefs could somehow limit their potential.

I believe strongly that America is stronger, safer, and more secure when everyone who lives here has the opportunity to achieve their highest potential.

When I was growing up, I never had a new textbook because people in power didn’t think people that shared my skin color deserved them.

My right to vote was hardly guaranteed.

The first time I ran for mayor of my small town in Mississippi, the Ku Klux Klan showed up to intimidate me.

A lot has changed since then.

And we owe the progress this country has made toward equality to those who were brave enough to stand up to the people in power who perpetuated and institutionalized the prejudices that made groups of Americans second-class citizens.

Unfortunately, Charlie Kirk’s statements resurrected the dangerous rhetoric of a dark past.

I cannot hold up as a role model someone who said:

“If I see a Black pilot, I’m going to be like, boy, I hope he’s qualified.” The Charlie Kirk Show, January 23, 2024.

“If you’re a WNBA, pot-smoking, Black lesbian, do you get treated better than a United States marine?” The Charlie Kirk Show, December 8, 2022.

“Happening all the time in urban America, prowling Blacks go around for fun to go target white people, that’s a fact. It’s happening more and more.” The Charlie Kirk Show, May 19, 2023.

“If I’m dealing with somebody in customer service who’s a moronic Black woman, I wonder is she there because of her excellence, or is she there because of affirmative action?” The Charlie Kirk Show, January 3, 2024.

“If we would have said that Joy Reid and Michelle Obama and Sheila Jackson Lee and Ketanji Brown Jackson were affirmative action picks, we would have been called racists. Now they’re coming out and they’re saying it for us . . . You do not have the brain processing power to otherwise be taken really seriously. You had to go steal a white person’s slot to go be taken somewhat seriously.” The Charlie Kirk Show, July 13, 2023.

“MLK was awful. He’s not a good person.” America Fest, December 2023.

“I have a very, very radical view on this, but I can defend it, and I’ve thought about it. We made a huge mistake when we passed the Civil Rights Act in the 1960s.” America Fest, December 2023.

“The American Democrat party hates this country. They wanna see it collapse. They love it when America becomes less white.” The Charlie Kirk Show, March 20, 2024.

And all of that is to say nothing of what he said about religion, immigrants, and women, among other things.

I am more concerned than ever that the country is headed in the wrong direction. And I am concerned that those on the right are trying to use Charlie Kirk’s tragic death to shame those who disagree with them into espousing their misguided views about what America is and what it should be.

This resolution does just that, so I must oppose it.

WELCOMING HIS ALL-HOLINESS ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

HON. NEAL P. DUNN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 19, 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 THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CHARLES “CHARLIE” JAMES KIRK

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2025

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my horror at the September 10, 2025

assassination of Charlie Kirk and to express my sincerest condolences to the Kirk family.

I attempted to add my name as a cosponsor to H. Res. 719, a resolution honoring the life and legacy of Mr. Kirk. However, due to a processing error beyond my control, I was not added as a cosponsor before the House adopted this resolution.

Political violence has no place in our society. I strongly believe it should be condemned in the strongest way possible and at every opportunity.

I was, and still remain, a strong supporter of this resolution and the sentiments contained therein.

I call upon civic leaders at all levels of American society to commit to constructive civic discourse and firmly reject violence against their political opponents.

HONORING MR. SYD LOOMIS

HON. VICTORIA SPARTZ

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 19, 2025

Mrs. SPARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable career and retirement of Mr. Syd Loomis, a lifelong Hoosier, dedicated professional, and beloved member of the Noblesville community.

Born in Waukegan, Illinois, to Joseph "Jay" and Marlene "Mitzi" Loomis, Syd grew up with strong family values that would guide him throughout his life. A 1978 graduate of Noblesville High School, he married his wife Jeanine in 1982, and together they raised three wonderful children—Caryn, Amy, and Spencer. Today, Syd is the proud grandfather of four granddaughters, who bring him great joy and who affectionately know him as a devoted supporter of their softball games, dance recitals, and family traditions.

Syd's career in banking has spanned over 45 years. Beginning in 1980 as a teller at American National Bank, he went on to serve with AmeriTrust, Society, Key Bank, Metro, First Indiana, First National, BMO Harris, and, for the past 15 years to the day, The Farmers Bank, where he served as Assistant Vice President and Branch Manager. Syd was not just a banker; he was a mentor to young professionals, a trusted advisor to countless customers, and a friendly face who treated everyone like family. His service was recognized with numerous honors, including induction into the Indiana Bankers Association's 40-Year Banker Club, the Community Pride Award in 2011, and the Keep Noblesville Beautiful Award in 2013.

Beyond his professional career, Syd has always given generously of his time and talents to his community. He has served on the boards of the Noblesville Chamber of Commerce, the Shepherd Center of Hamilton County, and the Hamilton Heights Youth Assistance Program. He is also well known for his love of the arts, beginning community theatre in 1998 and performing in beloved roles such as George Bailey in *It's a Wonderful Life*, Daddy Warbucks in *Annie*, and the Tin Man in *The Wizard of Oz*. His performances earned several Encore Awards and brought joy to audiences across Hamilton County. Syd also shared his love of music in the choir of First Presbyterian Church, where his faith and voice have lifted others for decades.

Syd is affectionately known by many as the "unofficial mayor of Noblesville," a fitting title for a man who never met a stranger and always left a lasting impression. I am personally grateful to have worked alongside Syd, who was my boss when I was a bank teller. His kindness, humility, and encouragement left a deep impression on me, as I know they have on so many others.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Indiana's 5th Congressional District, I wish to extend my sincere appreciation to Mr. Loomis for his many years of dedicated service as a community leader and as a true community banker, the kind of which we need more.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CHARLES "CHARLIE" JAMES KIRK

SPEECH OF

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2025

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on H. Res. 719.

I will not vote for this resolution. While I stand firmly and without hesitation against all forms of violence, I cannot support language that requires us to praise a man who so often showed disdain and disrespect for others. This resolution is misleading. It attempts to make us forget the harm of his words and the pain caused by his ideology.

No one should ever be attacked or killed because of their political beliefs. Violence is wrong. Period. As Americans, we resolve our differences through debate, through dialogue, and through the ballot box—not through bloodshed. I believe deeply in the Constitution, and that includes the right to free speech, even when we strongly disagree with it. But free speech does not erase the responsibility to tell the truth about its consequences.

Charlie Kirk did not deserve to be murdered for his views. His life was taken unjustly, and that violence must be condemned in the strongest terms. My most sincere prayers go out to his wife, children, and his extended family during this time of great personal loss.

At the same time, we cannot ignore that he used his platform to demean Black women like Michelle Obama and Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, to dismiss diversity and fairness as "anti-White," to question the qualifications of Black professionals, to mock LGBTQ Americans, to oppose health care for transgender people, and to promote the so-called "great replacement" theory. He even went so far as to say, "I have a very, very radical view on this, but I can defend it, and I've thought about it. We made a huge mistake when we passed the Civil Rights Act in the 1960's." These are not harmless words. They carry the same spirit of division that once fueled Jim Crow—when racism and bigotry were written into law to deny people their rights and dignity.

As a son of the South, I know how deeply such words can wound. They open old scars, justify injustice, and threaten the unity of our future. That is why I reject both violence and hate speech. Violence because no life should be taken for an opinion. Hate speech because no life should be diminished by the false claim that some people are less American, less worthy, or less human.

I proudly represent a district that reflects the very fabric of this nation. Black, White, Latino, Asian, Christian, Muslim, Jewish, people of every faith and people of no faith. Men and women, gay and straight, transgender and nonbinary. Every person deserves dignity, safety, and equal protection under the law.

This is what it means to be American. We do not honor our democracy by praising division or by rewriting the truth. We honor it by recommitting ourselves to peace, to justice, and to equality. That is how we heal, and that is how we ensure that the failures of Jim Crow, the poison of racism, and the sting of bigotry never again define our Nation.

I close with the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who reminded us: "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." Let us be the light, let us reject hate, and let us stand together as one Nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

HONORING THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AFGHAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 19, 2025

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Afghan American Community Organization on the celebration of their tenth anniversary on September 20, 2025.

For a decade, the Afghan American Community Organization has served as a trusted, compassionate partner to Afghan and Afghan American families—strengthening civic participation, expanding opportunity, and celebrating a rich cultural heritage that is now a vibrant part of my district and the American story.

Whether it has been English language and citizenship classes, youth mentorship and college readiness, small business advising, or workforce development, the Afghan American Community Organization has opened doors for thousands in the Afghan American community. Its legal and resettlement clinics have helped newcomers navigate complex systems with dignity. The mental-health and women's empowerment initiatives have provided care and community, and its cultural events have fostered understanding between neighbors.

When Afghans arrived in large numbers following the fall of Kabul, Afghan American Community Organization mobilized volunteers, partnered with faith and civic groups, and worked together with local, state, and federal agencies to secure housing, enroll children in school, connect families with health care, and ensure that no one was left behind.

On this milestone anniversary, I congratulate the Afghan American Community Organization Board, dedicated staff, volunteers, and community partners whose steadfast efforts made this achievement possible. Their work reminds us that welcoming the newcomer and lifting our neighbors are enduring American values.

I congratulate them on ten years of service, and wish the Afghan American Community Organization continued success in the decades ahead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. AUGUST PFLUGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 19, 2025

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call Vote No. 279, on H.R. 1047, I inserted my vote card and due to a technical error, it appears that my vote was not recorded. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 279.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CHARLES “CHARLIE” JAMES KIRK

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2025

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I join all my colleagues in this body, my constituents, and the American people at large in denouncing all forms of political and ideological violence.

Democracy relies on the core principle of nonviolence.

We settle our disputes with ballots, not with bullets.

But as a social studies teacher, I can also recount a dark history of times when we lost our way as a Nation, and violence was used to silence the voices of debate and sow division.

The political violence that led up to and followed in the wake of the Civil War included a violent assault between Members of Congress and the assassination of President Lincoln.

The assassinations of President Kennedy, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Robert F. Kennedy—and the shooting of George Wallace—took place during a brutal response throughout the Nation to the organized, nonviolent Civil Rights Movement.

This year we have seen a resurgence of horrifically violent attacks that have targeted politicians and community leaders on all sides of the ideological spectrum.

My vote for the resolution before us today is a vote to roundly condemn these attacks.

I condemn the assassination of Charlie Kirk.

I condemn the assassination of Minnesota Representative Melissa Hortman and her husband Mark, and the shooting of Senator John Hoffman and his wife Yvette.

I condemn the attack on Governor Josh Shapiro and his family whose home was lit on fire while they slept inside.

I condemn the assassination attempts on President Trump during last summer’s campaign.

All of this has happened within little more than a year.

But since I was elected to office in 2000, I have witnessed a building wave of political violence.

In 2011, my friend and former Representative Gabby Giffords was shot at a community event, and one of her staff members and five other bystanders were killed.

In 2017, a shooting at the Republican Congressional baseball team practice severely wounded Leader STEVE SCALISE.

In 2020, extremist militia members attempted to kidnap Democratic Governor Gretchen Whitmer.

And on January 6, 2021, this institution and its Members—on both sides of the aisle—were targeted by violent and antidemocratic insurrectionists who attacked the Capitol.

These attacks against our leaders and institutions do not exist in a vacuum.

America’s crisis of political violence comes in the context of a rise in hateful rhetoric used against our neighbors and the normalization of gun violence in our communities.

This Congress has failed to act on common sense gun control measures that could make us all safer and decrease the likelihood of political assassinations, school shootings, and the tragedy of everyday gun violence in this Nation.

I know that we are divided on this issue, as we are on many others. But we cannot continue to ignore the danger posed by the proliferation of weapons of war in our society. We must come together on solutions to protect our communities and de-escalate the violence in our society.

Today as I vote for this resolution to condemn the assassination of Mr. Kirk, I must express how disappointed I am that we still have not brought to the House Floor, the resolution that honors the victims and survivors of the mass shooting at Annunciation Catholic School that took place three weeks ago.

I equally condemn that violence, which took the lives of two children as they sat in church pews that day celebrating the start of a new school year.

If there is a Biblical truth that we seek to be inspired by today, let it be the principle of non-violence espoused by Christ and embodied in Saint Paul’s letter to the Romans: Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (Romans 12:21) Let us then pursue what leads to peace and to building up one another. (Romans 14:19)

RECOGNIZING MS. CAMILLA “CAM” WILLIAMS FOR HER DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 19, 2025

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and honor Camilla “Cam” Williams for her extraordinary dedication, service, and unwavering commitment to the Republican Party and to our shared conservative values.

For well over a decade, Cam has been a faithful Republican precinct delegate and a

constant presence in efforts to support Republican candidates at the local, state, and national level. She has given countless hours of her time to ensure that our Party’s message is heard and that our candidates have the support they need to succeed.

Cam has set records in the State of Michigan for the most phone calls made in support of Republican candidates, an achievement that demonstrates not only her dedication, but also her determination to connect with voters and strengthen our Nation through grassroots engagement. She has given thousands of hours of volunteer service, never asking for recognition or reward. Her work has been marked by passion, humility, and humor. Through her vigor and tireless spirit, she has shown us all what it means to serve faithfully.

Cam embodies the very best of what it means to be a Patriot, someone who works not for personal gain, but out of love for her community, her country, and the values that have guided generations of Americans. The positive impact of her service is felt across Michigan and beyond and will continue to inspire future leaders in our movement.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Michigan’s 1st Congressional District, I thank Camilla Williams for her service, her leadership, and her enduring commitment to the conservative cause.

RECOGNIZING NORFOLK’S JERRY LANDKAMER ON HIS ELECTION AS NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER

HON. MIKE FLOOD

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 19, 2025

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a true pillar of the Norfolk community, Jerry Landkamer, on his recent election as one of five National Vice Commanders of the American Legion.

A proud Legionnaire since 1975, Landkamer has been a cornerstone of Post 16 in Norfolk. He has served at every level—post, county, district, and area—with unmatched dedication to representing our veteran community.

From legislative advocacy in Washington to youth programs like Cornhusker Boys State, Landkamer’s commitment to service has never wavered.

His work on national committees including—Americanism, Homeland Security, and Veterans Preference—demonstrates his steadfast commitment to our veterans and Nation.

Jerry Landkamer embodies the very spirit and service of the American Legion. I’m honored to recognize his election to National Vice Commander and know his family and community share in the same pride of this well-earned achievement.