

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO MR. JAMES LEE ADAMS, JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR. OF GEORGIA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2025

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember a loving husband, dedicated father, trailblazing agricultural icon, dedicated community servant, dedicated man of God and dear friend of longstanding, Mr. James Lee Adams, Jr. Sadly, James Lee passed away on October 1, 2025. He leaves behind a legacy of service and commitment that will serve as an example for generations yet to come. His life will be remembered at a home-going service at the Camilla United Methodist Church in Camilla, Georgia on October 3, 2025, at 11:00 am.

Born on January 2, 1943, in Camilla, Georgia to the union of James Lee Adams, Sr. and Ruth Borland Adams, James Lee was a proud 1965 graduate of Georgia Tech where he earned a B.S. in Management. In 1966 he earned his master's degree in Business Administration from Auburn University where he also taught undergraduate courses in Economics and Statistics. His professional career began at Lockheed Aircraft Corporation where he served in various capacities in administration.

James returned to his roots in Camilla, where he joined his father in their farming operation. He embraced an array of advancements in agricultural technology, becoming a leader in precision agriculture and sustainable farming. His ingenuity set many records, including being the first in Georgia to achieve remarkable yields in corn and wheat. His influence reached far beyond our local community as he served in several national leadership roles, including as President of the American Soybean Association.

Throughout his illustrious career, James Lee received numerous accolades, including being named one of the 100 most influential people in agriculture in the 20th century by Alpha Zeta and in 1992 the "Man of the Year in Service to Southeastern Agriculture" award from Progressive Farmer magazine. He was a true advocate for farmers, contributing significantly to policy and agricultural reforms at both the state and national levels. He assisted in writing several farm bills, including conservation, crop insurance and general commodity titles. He was twice selected as Farmer of the Year for Georgia, in 1992 and 2000. In 2000, he was also selected as the Lancaster/Sunbelt Expo Southeastern Farmer of the Year—the first Georgia farmer to be honored with this award.

It has been said that "Service is the rent that we pay for the space that we occupy here on his earth." James Lee Adams paid his rent, and he paid it well. He was beloved not just for his accomplishments in agriculture but for his unwavering commitment to service. He was actively involved in local organizations, to

include serving as President of the Camilla Rotary Club and twice leading the Chamber of Commerce. For more than 50 years, James Lee taught Sunday School and served as Chairman of the Deacons at First Baptist Church and Chairman of the Board at Camilla United Methodist Church, exemplifying his deep faith and service to God.

His contributions to education, agriculture, and community service were immeasurable. He was a firm believer in the power of education and community engagement, taking an active role in founding Westwood Schools and serving on numerous other boards and committees.

James Lee was united in marriage, first to Sue Martin, and their marriage lasted for 52 years. Together they had three beautiful daughters. James Lee found love again in his subsequent marriage to Barbara Ford Latham where he received Barbara's children into his life, accepting them as his own.

On a personal note, I have known James Lee Adams since 1992 during my first run for Congress. He became my dear friend and supporter. In public life it is hard to find friends, and it is even harder to keep them. I can truly say that when I met James Lee Adams, I found a friend and I was blessed to keep him as my friend. He never told me what I wanted to hear but always told me what he felt I needed to hear. I will be forever grateful for the fidelity of his friendship and the timbre of his character.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join my wife, Vivian and me, along with the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's 2nd Congressional District in honoring the life and legacy of Mr. James Lee Adams, Jr. and in extending our deepest condolences to his family, friends, and all who mourn his loss. Moreover, we pray that they all will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

HONORING THE NORTH, EAST, WEST, SOUTH (N.E.W.S.) QUEENS AND VICE QUEENS OF MICHIGAN COUNCIL, RED HAT SOCIETY

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2025

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today, the 12th Congressional District honors The North, East, West, South (N.E.W.S.) Queens and Vice Queens of Michigan Council, chapter of the Red Hat Society. As the Red Hat Society and CEO Mrs. Debra Granich celebrate 27 wonderful years, we would like to recognize the inspirational fellowship, community, and work of all its members. We commend Mrs. Granich for bringing together women 50 and over for sisterhood and friendship.

In 1998, the Red Hat Society was founded to encourage women to make the most of

their lives. We honor their support for women in the pursuit of five goals: fun, friendship, freedom, fitness, and the fulfillment of lifelong dreams. The Red Hat Society is truly a unique international group for women, spreading joy to every woman involved. Through their work, Mrs. Granich and local chapters have been committed to supporting small, local, and growing businesses and empowering women business owners. The Red Hat Society's powerful stories have worked to reshape the view of women in today's culture.

The 12th Congressional District extends our deepest gratitude to not only the Red Hat Society, but to Mrs. Granich and our region's chapters, ambassadors, and leaders. Our community is forever inspired by their work and advocacy for women. We wish them all prosperity, health, and happiness and thank them for their impact in changing many women's lives for the better.

CELEBRATING SERGIO'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CARLOS A. GIMENEZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2025

Mr. GIMENEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of one of South Florida's most iconic institutions, Sergio's Cuban American Kitchen.

For half a century, Sergio's has been more than a restaurant, it has become a cultural landmark and a gathering place for generations of families across Miami-Dade. Founded in 1975, this family-owned business has proudly embodied the values of faith, family, hard work, and community service that define the Cuban-American community.

From its humble beginnings in Westchester, Sergio's has grown into a household name with multiple locations across South Florida, serving traditional Cuban comfort food that brings our community together.

Sergio's is also a proud local employer, providing opportunities to hundreds of South Floridians.

Throughout hurricanes and economic challenges, Sergio's family has remained steadfast in serving the community, supporting first responders, and helping neighbors in need.

I am honored to celebrate this milestone and to thank the entire Sergio's family for 50 years of tradition, resilience, and hospitality.

I congratulate Sergio's Cuban Restaurant on its 50th anniversary and their extraordinary contributions to the cultural fabric and economic vitality of South Florida and the Cuban-American community.

● 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 THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF H. E. CHRISTIAN “CHRIS”
PEEPLES

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of H. E. Christian “Chris” Peebles, a dedicated public servant and tireless advocate for public transit whose decades of service improved the lives of countless residents in the East Bay and beyond.

Chris Peebles was first appointed to the AC Transit Board of Directors in November 1997 to fill one of the District’s two At-Large Board positions. He went on to earn the trust of voters time and again, being elected in 1998 and re-elected in 2000, 2004, 2008, 2012, 2016, and 2020. Over the course of his distinguished tenure, he represented Ward 1—including Albany, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Richmond, San Pablo, and the surrounding unincorporated communities—with energy, vision, and compassion.

A longtime champion for transit riders, Director Peebles was deeply engaged in the AC Bus Riders Union, Alliance for AC Transit, Regional Alliance for Transit, Alliance for Sensible Transit, and the Coalition for a One Stop Terminal, among many other groups. His commitment extended beyond the Bay Area, as he actively participated in the Transportation Research Board of the National Academies and the American Public Transportation Association, where he elevated local priorities to national and international conversations.

Director Peebles was especially devoted to advancing clean transportation and was a strong proponent of AC Transit’s groundbreaking zero-emission fuel cell bus program. He spoke at and moderated panels across the country and abroad, promoting hydrogen and zero-emission transit as solutions to climate change and air pollution.

Chris was also a pillar of civic life, serving on the Oakland Ethics Commission and numerous community and political bodies. A graduate of Crown College, University of California at Santa Cruz, and Hastings College of the Law, he combined his intellectual rigor with a passion for equity and sustainability.

Christian Peebles leaves behind a legacy of advocacy, innovation, and public service that will endure for generations. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring his extraordinary life and in extending our deepest condolences to his family, friends, colleagues, and the community he served so faithfully.

HONORING THE 120TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SAINT GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2025

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 120th anniversary of the founding of Saint George Greek Orthodox Church.

For over a century, St. George has been at the heart of New Hampshire’s Greek Orthodox

community and has served as a spiritual and cultural hub for generations of New Hampshire families. St. George has witnessed every season of life for its parishioners and has remained a constant presence for generations.

My own family has been part of this community and this parish for years. I am grateful for those who have taught me so much about my Greek heritage and culture. These are lessons that I carry with me each and every day.

Consecrated as a cathedral in 1970, St. George took on a new role within the Greek Orthodox faith, and it continues to serve as a vital connection to the larger Orthodox community. In addition to serving the spiritual needs of parishioners, St. George has been dedicated to enriching the lives of so many in the Greater Manchester area through youth programs, community events, Sunday and Greek School, basketball, and more.

For much of its history, St. George has opened its doors for festivals like Glendi and welcomed thousands of visitors of all faiths and backgrounds to enjoy authentic Greek food, culture, and history. The Anagennisis Ladies Society also remains devoted to taking on religious, cultural, and humanitarian efforts that are at the heart of the Church.

On behalf of the constituents of New Hampshire’s First Congressional District, I congratulate the Saint George Greek Orthodox Church on achieving this incredible milestone. I thank them for the work done by so many to make Manchester and New Hampshire a better place.

HONORING THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN DETROIT CENTER

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2025

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today, the 12th Congressional District proudly celebrates a significant achievement: the 20th anniversary of the University of Michigan Detroit Center on Woodward Avenue, right in the heart of Detroit.

For two decades, this space has become a hub for grassroots community organizing and education. Programs like “Semester in Detroit” have created a mutually beneficial relationship, allowing my office to mentor talented young college students while also gaining valuable support from their work as interns. By supporting education and leadership in Detroit, these programs help build stronger, more inclusive, and thriving communities.

As we celebrate 20 years, I look forward to many more years of partnership and progress together.

RECOGNIZING MRS. SHIRLEY KNOX BENTON

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2025

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable legacy of Mrs. Shirley Knox Benton, a pioneering educator whose leadership and vision broke barriers as the first female principal in her community.

Throughout her distinguished career, Mrs. Benton dedicated herself to creating opportunities for young people, ensuring that every student had access not only to quality education but also to the encouragement and support needed to succeed. Her historic appointment as the first woman to lead a school as principal paved the way for generations of women to follow in her footsteps, serving as a beacon of progress and possibility.

Mrs. Benton’s leadership extended beyond the classroom. She championed innovation in education, built meaningful partnerships with families and communities, and instilled in her students a lasting sense of discipline, perseverance, and hope. Her contributions have had a profound and enduring impact, shaping not only the schools she led but also the countless lives she touched.

Today, we celebrate Mrs. Shirley Knox Benton not only for her historic achievement but also for her unwavering devotion to education and the advancement of future generations. Her example continues to inspire, reminding us of all of the power of determination, service, and trailblazing leadership.

I congratulate Mrs. Benton on a legacy that she will endure for many more years through the lives of those she guided and inspired.

RECOGNIZING ANNISSA FRAGOSO

HON. ADAM GRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2025

Mr. GRAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Annissa Fragoso, Director of the Merced County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, for her service and accomplishments as she retires after a decade of service to the MCHCC.

Annissa Fragoso was born and raised in the City of Tracy and moved to the community of Merced in 1995 where she has resided for 30 years. She earned her Associate of Arts degree in Criminal Justice from Merced Community College in 2012. Ms. Fragoso has owned the Farmers Insurance Agency in downtown Merced, with more than 20 years of insurance expertise.

During her tenure at the Merced County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Ms. Fragoso helped secure an ARPA grant as part of the Re-open Merced Businesses initiative. She was instrumental in another grant for the Arts Community to host 2 Art Corners, where local artists participate and are paid. Under her watch, the MCHCC launched Vamanos Magazine which showcased Merced’s agricultural landscape, small businesses, and local activities.

In 2022 and 2023, Ms. Fragoso’s work allowed the MCHCC to partner with Mayor Matthew Serrato to host an annual Mayor’s Ball that would raise over \$50,000 distributed to local non-profits within the City of Merced.

She was a co-collaborator of the Mercado Night Market with the City of Merced, designed and created by Gil Cordon. This post-pandemic creation assists the small business community and Arts Community who suffered during the economic challenges of the Covid-19 Pandemic. The MCHCC assisted in 150 micro-businesses, artisans and brick and mortar stores getting the licensing needed to do

business legally and be part of the Mercado. This Mercado Night Market has become a community staple for five consecutive years.

She also served on the board of directors for the Kids Discovery Station, a museum dedicated to children and currently sits on the board for the Merced Main Street Association.

During her professional career, she has been recognized with many awards, most recently the Minerva Empresaria Award 2022 from the California State Hispanic Chamber of Commerce which recognizes businesswomen who empower others by leading with wisdom and passion.

Please join me in honoring Annissa Fragoso for her dedication, commitment and selfless service to the people of Merced County.

HONORING ANGELA G. REYES

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2025

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today, the 12th Congressional District honors an exceptional leader in our community, Angela G. Reyes of Southwest, Detroit. Angela Reyes is a proud Latina and always centered her work on human dignity and rights of immigrant neighbors. Her legacy as the founder and Executive Director of the Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation (DHDC) is nothing short of extraordinary, and her impact will continue to resonate for generations to come.

Since founding DHDC in 1997, she has been a beacon of hope and transformation for the Southwest Detroit community. Angela's tireless dedication to youth violence prevention and community empowerment has saved lives but also created opportunities for countless individuals to thrive. She has been active in community organizing in Southwest Detroit for over 30 years and has received several awards. She is known globally as a consultant and speaker on issues affecting the Latino community, including cultural awareness, immigration, and education.

The 12th Congressional District extends our deepest gratitude for her vision and courage. Her legacy will continue to inspire those who follow in her footsteps, and her contributions will forever be a cornerstone of DHDC's mission. We wish her all the best in this next chapter of her journey, knowing that her impact will continue to shine brightly.

HONORING THE CITY OF GONZALES BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. MICHAEL CLOUD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2025

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the historic City of Gonzales, Texas, as it celebrates 200 years since its founding in 1825. Named by James Kerr after Governor Rafael Gonzales of Coahuila and Texas, this settlement was briefly abandoned and later rediscovered in 1832 by Byrd Lockhart and has grown into a cornerstone of Texas' enduring history.

Gonzales is renowned as the birthplace of the Texas Revolution, where the defiant "Come and Take It" rally cry first echoed. When Mexican soldiers were sent to retrieve a cannon from the small settlement, a small cohort of men successfully resisted in what is now called the Battle of Gonzales. This heroic stand showcased the unyielding courage and determination of its people—qualities that continue to define the city today. It was this cannon that fired the first shot for Texas' Independence, and today, because of it, the city stands as one of the oldest settlements across the entire state.

Just years later, when William Travis sent out a plea for reinforcements at the Alamo, 32 men from Gonzales were the only ones to answer the call. All of these men lost their lives and today are honored as the "Immortal 32" for their heroism in fighting for freedom and to overthrow an oppressive government.

After the Texas Revolution, Gonzales would rebuild and later become an agricultural hub, reflecting the sacrifices and hardships of Texans on the frontier. Thanks to cattle ranching and this agricultural production, Gonzales helped spur the growth of the larger Texas economy.

The story of Gonzales is one of courage and resilience in the face of hardship and toil. Today, the town continues to embrace its rich history and maintains the Texas spirit through its museums, historical sites, and traditional celebrations. As we mark this historic milestone, I congratulate the city of Gonzales on its bicentennial and honor the enduring legacy of resilience and strength that it represents. Representing this city and its people in Congress is a great honor and privilege.

CELEBRATING THE 70TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF DENNIS AND IRENE KOUDELKA

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2025

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in celebration of the 70th wedding anniversary of Dennis and Irene Koudelka.

Mr. and Mrs. Koudelka exchanged their vows on July 30, 1955, at St. Gerard Catholic Church in San Antonio, Texas. The couple exchanged their vows after Mr. Koudelka returned from the Korean war, where his heroic actions awarded him a Bronze Star at the Battle of Pork Chop Hill. Mr. Koudelka served our Nation in the United States Army for eight years, where he was Active Duty from 1952 to 1954 and a reservist from 1954 to 1960.

Mr. and Mrs. Koudelka have two children, Mrs. Debbie Hannasch and Mr. Steve Koudelka. They are the grandparents to Mrs. Amanda Pawkett and the great grandparents to Reed and Rylie Pawkett.

Mr. and Mrs. Koudelka dedicated themselves to serving the community. At St. Luke's Catholic Church, Dennis coached football and flag football for the parish's Catholic Youth Organization teams. Irene served as the church's area chairwoman. She also served as the Hillcrest neighborhood chairwoman, in addition to being her daughter's Girl Scout Brownie leader.

Seventy years after they exchanged their vows, they are still creating memories with

their family, friends and loved ones. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Dennis and Irene Koudelka's 70 years of marriage—their love story is one of admiration, respect, hope and joy.

HONORING STEVE SPREITZER

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2025

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today, the 12th Congressional District honors Steve Spreitzer for his decades of bringing our communities together. His love for interfaith work shined through with his work at the Michigan Roundtable for Just Communities. For over forty years, Steve has dedicated his life's work to advancing racial equity, building bridges across equity divides, and uplifting the voices of those too often left out of the decision-making that directly affects them. His steady and compassionate leadership guided the Roundtable through times of challenge and transformation, leaving a legacy that continues to inspire us all.

Under his leadership, the Michigan Roundtable has become a hub for justice, dialogue, and action, forming coalitions, strengthening partnerships, and creating programs that brought communities together to confront systemic racism and discrimination. His vision has paved the way for a new generation of leaders who will continue this vital work.

On behalf of Michigan's 12th District, I thank Steve for his extraordinary service. His impact will echo through our communities for years to come and inspire all who fight for justice, equity, and workers' rights. We wish him well in his retirement.

RECOGNIZING 30 YEARS OF ART ON THE AVENUE

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2025

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 30th anniversary of Art on the Avenue, an annual celebration held each fall in the Del Ray neighborhood of Alexandria, Virginia. For three decades, this esteemed event has served as a cultural touchstone, welcoming visitors from throughout the greater Washington, D.C., area and exemplifying the spirit of artistic expression and community engagement.

Since its founding, Art on the Avenue has attracted tens of thousands of attendees each year. The festival features the work of more than 300 artist vendors, musical performances across four stages, family-friendly activities, and an array of cuisine from local restaurants and eateries. These offerings have enriched the community, fostered creativity, and supported local businesses.

Art on the Avenue is consistently recognized as one of Virginia's premier festivals, earning repeated distinction as "Best of Virginia Festivals" by Virginia Living Magazine. Its enduring popularity and acclaim reflect the dedication of the organizers and the appreciation of the participants.

I wish to recognize and extend my deep appreciation to Pat Miller, the founder of Art on the Avenue, for her exemplary leadership and unwavering dedication to this event. The long-standing success of Art on the Avenue has been made possible by Pat's vision and commitment.

I also want to offer special recognition to the local businesses that sponsor the festival each year, and to the hundreds of volunteers whose steadfast efforts ensure its continued excellence and vitality.

In commemorating this milestone anniversary, I encourage my colleagues to join me in celebrating Art on the Avenue and the profound contributions it has made to the cultural life and community spirit of Northern Virginia and the entire Commonwealth.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO PROVIDE FOR INTERIM APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS AND RELATED AGENCIES WITH RESPECT TO ANY FISCAL YEAR FOR WHICH APPROPRIATIONS ARE NOT OTHERWISE PROVIDED FOR SUCH COURTS AND AGENCIES

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2025

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, this week, I introduced a bill that would exempt from Federal Government shutdowns the Federal and independent agencies that are exclusively or primarily federally funded but have jurisdiction over local District of Columbia civil and criminal justice matters. This bill is modeled on a provision I have gotten enacted each year since the 2013 Federal Government shutdown to exempt the D.C. government from Federal Government shutdowns.

This bill would exempt the following agencies from Federal Government shutdowns: the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for D.C., the D.C. Courts, the D.C. Public Defender Service, the D.C. Commission on Judicial Disabilities and Tenure, the D.C. Judicial Nomination Commission and the D.C. Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. With one exception, these agencies are not under D.C.'s control. These agencies provide critical local services to D.C., including law enforcement, and should continue to function as usual during a Federal Government shutdown.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JEFFREY
“JT THE GREAT” THOMAS

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2025

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today, the 12th Congressional District honors the life and legacy of Jeffrey “JT the Great” Thomas, a beloved Detroiter, entrepreneur, and family man whose impact reached far beyond his community. Mr. Thomas co-founded Sweet Potato Sensations, transforming a dream

that began with cookies sold from the trunk of his car into a Detroit staple, a family table where neighbors could feel at home.

Beyond business, Mr. Thomas' life was full of laughter, competition, and love. From golf outings with his daughters, basement parties, cook-offs, and spirited games of Bid Whist, he poured joy into every moment. A man of faith, he embraced his role as a teacher and scholar.

Above all, Mr. Thomas took great pride in his family, nearly 49 years of marriage to Cassandra and their daughters, Charisse “Reese Pooh” and Jennifer “Jenny Loops.” His legacy of love, family, hustle, and faith will inspire our community for generations.

APPRECIATING THE PRESENCE
AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF HIS
ALL-HOLINESS ECUMENICAL PA-
TRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

HON. HALEY M. STEVENS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2025

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my gratitude towards His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the Archbishop of Constantinople and spiritual leader of Orthodox Christianity worldwide, for his time spent in our Nation's Capital last week. On behalf of the strong Eastern Orthodox community I represent in Michigan's 11th Congressional District, I enthusiastically congratulate His All-Holiness on receiving the 2025 Templeton Award.

This award underscores his ground-breaking environmental advocacy and unique ability to merge both scientific and spiritual discourses. His All-Holiness has exemplified a sense of responsibility towards coming generations: to preserve, protect, and promote the health of the planet on which we are honored to live.

Beyond his environmental advocacy, His All-Holiness has been an unwavering pillar in support of intersectionality, working to foster relations between devotees of Catholic, Jewish, and Muslim faiths. He has been relentless in his pursuit to prevent violence on the basis of religion, to ensure the humane treatment of all, and to join hands across the world in seeking peace and justice.

In Oakland County, we are blessed with a thriving Orthodox Christian community. As their Representative in Congress, I am thrilled His All-Holiness joined us in Washington, D.C., last week. His visit reminds us to be constantly kind and collaborative, one that is much needed during this time.

Please join me in thanking His All-Holiness for his visit and congratulating him on this well-deserved award.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN D. LAVELLE

HON. BEN CLINE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2025

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the late General John D. Lavelle who was born on this day in 1916.

Jack Lavelle was one of the early investors in Bryce Resort in Basye, Virginia. He worked hard to keep Bryce solvent in those days, and contributed to turning it into the member-owned resort it is today. Jack served in the Air Force all over the world, but thought the Shenandoah Valley was the most beautiful place he'd been to.

On the eve of war in 1939 he enlisted as an aviation cadet in the Army Air Corps and received pilot training at Randolph and Kelly Fields, Texas. He received his pilot wings and a commission as a second lieutenant in June 1940.

During World War II he saw combat in the European theater of operations, where he served with the 412th Fighter Squadron. Following the war, he was assigned to Wright Field, where he was one of the two Air Corps officers who negotiated with all seven Army Technical Services and wrote the agreements for the division of assets and the operating procedures to be affected during the buildup of the Air Force.

As a career airman with a 32-year reputation as being a smart, hardworking leader, he was promoted to four star general and assigned Commander of the Seventh Air Force in Vietnam on August 1, 1971. In April 1972, General Lavelle was removed from command as a result of allegations that he ordered unauthorized bombing missions into North Vietnam, and that he authorized the falsification of reports to conceal the missions. General Lavelle was retired in the grade of major general, two grades lower than the last grade he served on Active Duty. General Lavelle always maintained his innocence until his death on July 10, 1979. On this day of that year, his widow Mary Josephine McEllin Lavelle dedicated a flagpole with base and flag, and a plaque in his honor at Bryce, which is still there today.

In 2007, newly released and declassified information disclosed that General Lavelle was authorized by President Richard Nixon to conduct the bombing missions. In light of the new information, his widow made a request to the Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records for the restoration of his grade to general, his last grade while on Active Duty.

On August 4, 2010, President Barack Obama nominated General Lavelle posthumously for promotion back to the grade of general on the Air Force retired list based on the information that he had been authorized by President Richard Nixon to conduct the bombing missions. Further, the Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records found no evidence that General Lavelle caused, either directly or indirectly, the alleged falsification of records, or that he was even aware of their existence. Unfortunately, the Senate Armed Services Committee returned the nomination, and still to this day will not allow the full restoration of his grade to general.

Jack Lavelle served the country outstandingly over his entire career. He and his wife “Jo” were heartbroken when he was removed from command and forced out of the Air Force that they had grown up with and were so proud of. But they found some solace in retirement in the beauty and peace of Virginia's Shenandoah Valley. General USAF (Ret.) Jack Lavelle is recognized by me today as an honorable and patriotic American and we remember him today as such on the anniversary of his birthday, September 9, 1916.

HONORING MS. MARTHA G. SCOTT
STREET RENAMING

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2025

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, the 12th Congressional District is proud to honor Wayne County Commissioner Martha G. Scott with the renaming of “Rhode Island Street” in her hometown, Highland Park, to “Martha G. Scott Boulevard,” a truly well-earned recognition.

Ms. Scott has dedicated more than half a century to public service in multiple capacities, including functioning as the first woman mayor of the city, the first Black mayor in Michigan, and as a member of the Michigan legislature, where she has championed causes such as preserving the Davison Freeway and pursuing insurance reform, among other issues.

The 12th Congressional District honors Wayne County Commissioner Martha G. Scott for her distinguished service, and with great pride, we are proud to celebrate her remarkable legacy as former Mayor of Highland Park, Michigan State Representative, Senator, and as the current Wayne County Commissioner for District 3. I thank her for being a true advocate for the people and the light in many of our lives.

**REMEMBERING MIGUEL ÁNGEL
GARCÍA-HERNÁNDEZ**

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2025

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply heartbroken over the loss of Miguel Ángel García-Hernández, who succumbed to his injuries following the horrific shooting at the Dallas ICE facility. Miguel was a husband, a father, and a hardworking man whose greatest joy was providing for and being present with his family. His death is an immeasurable tragedy that has left a lasting void for those who loved him most.

My prayers and deepest condolences are with Miguel’s wife, Stephany Gauffeny, their four children, and the baby they were expecting, as they face this devastating loss. To lose a loved one under such violent circumstances is a burden no family should ever bear. His loved ones should know that they are not alone in their grief—our community mourns alongside them, and we extend every measure of compassion and support possible.

We will always remember Miguel Ángel García-Hernández as a hardworking father, husband, neighbor, and colleague. Today, we stand in solidarity with the Mexican community as we grieve this loss together, and we hold on to the hope that his memory will strengthen our resolve to bring an end to the epidemic of gun violence in our country.

**REMEMBERING WALTER
GRAINGER**

HON. VINCE FONG

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2025

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Walter Grainger, a lifelong resident of Bakersfield, California, who passed away on Sunday, September 14, 2025, at the age of 99.

In May 1944, just weeks after graduating from Kern County Union High School, later renamed Bakersfield High School, Walter enlisted in the United States Navy, where he served honorably during World War II. He and his four brothers together wore our Nation’s uniform in defense of freedom.

After the conclusion of his military service, Walter dedicated his life to education and community. He taught at Bakersfield High School, Shafter High School, and North High School, where he chaired the Industrial Arts Department, before later working as a safety consultant for the school district. Beyond the classroom, Walter was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and faithful member of First United Methodist Church.

Even in his nineties, Walter continued to serve. He was instrumental in the design and construction of the Kern County World War II Veterans Memorial at Jastro Park. His vision and leadership helped shape one of the most beautiful veterans memorials in the West. Today, that memorial stands as a lasting tribute to all who served, including Walter and his brothers, whose names are engraved in granite for generations to see.

Walter was a deeply respected member of the community, and when he spoke, people listened. He lived his life with humility, service, and quiet strength. His legacy is found not only in the memorial he helped build, but in the family he loved, the students he taught, and the community he served.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the remarkable life of Walter Grainger. May his memory serve as an inspiration to all of us, and may his family take comfort in knowing the profound and enduring impact he had on Bakersfield, Kern County, and our Nation.

**HONORING BISHOP TONY SHOMARI
MARSHALL AND THE HOUSE OF
PRAYER INSTITUTIONAL CHURCH**

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2025

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today, the 12th Congressional District honors Bishop Tony Shomari Marshall and the House of Prayer Institutional Church in Detroit, Michigan, as they celebrate 25 years of ministry and public service.

Bishop Marshall, the founding pastor, is a revered preacher, educator, chaplain, and author who has dedicated his life to serving people in need. A committed “teaching priest,” he has studied under numerous scholars and earned degrees and certificates from respected institutions, including Taylor University.

city, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Trinity International University, Andersonville Theological Seminary, and Ecumenical Theological Seminary.

Consecrated to the office of Bishop in 2021, he now serves on the Board of Bishops with the Deliverance Tabernacle Fellowship of Ministries. For 25 years, his church has uplifted Detroit through worship, education, service, and love. I congratulate Bishop Tony Shomari Marshall and the House of Prayer Institutional Church on this extraordinary milestone.

**RECOGNIZING INTERNATIONAL
PLASMA AWARENESS WEEK 2025**

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2025

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate International Plasma Awareness Week, an annual campaign dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of source plasma collection, recognizing the valued contributions of donors, and increasing understanding about plasma protein therapies and the rare diseases they treat.

As co-chair of the Congressional Rare Disease Caucus and a member of the Congressional Plasma Caucus, this annual event, celebrated from October 6 to 10 this year, is close to my heart.

For many people with rare diseases, plasma-derived therapies mean the difference between life and death, or between a life of diminished health and physical limitations and one filled with hope and possibility.

For example, Guillain-Barré syndrome is a rare but serious neurological disorder that can lead to rapid muscle weakness and, in severe cases, paralysis. A related condition, Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyneuropathy (CIDP), is characterized by ongoing nerve inflammation that can significantly impair mobility and quality of life. For both these conditions, immunoglobulins reduce inflammation, regulate the immune system, and help patients regain function. Most patients with CIDP require life-long treatment to manage their symptoms.

In the case of primary immunodeficiencies, hemophilia, alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency, and other conditions, the body does not make important proteins, or those proteins are functionally damaged. These patients also rely on plasma-derived medicine to replace their programs and restore their health. In most cases, plasma-derived therapies are the only available treatment for these conditions. That is why it’s so important that we raise awareness of the importance of plasma-derived therapies this week, and work to improve access to these unique biologic products.

I’m committed to working to ensure that every individual, regardless of how rare their disease may be, has access to the therapies they need to lead healthier, fuller lives.

HONORING THE CITIZENS FOR EAST SHORE PARKS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 40th anniversary of Citizens for East Shore Parks (CESP), an extraordinary community organization founded in 1985 to protect open space and wildlife habitat and to provide recreational opportunities along the eastern shore of the San Francisco Bay.

Through their tireless advocacy and partnership with community allies, CESP was instrumental in the creation of McLaughlin Eastshore State Park, which preserves and protects 8.5 miles of shoreline habitat and open space from the Bay Bridge to Richmond. This remarkable park provides Bay Area residents access to natural beauty and recreational opportunities in one of the Nation's most urbanized regions.

Over four decades, CESP has helped transform the East Bay shoreline from neglected dumping grounds into a connected landscape of parks, trails, and ecological preserves. Their efforts have supported the creation and protection of McLaughlin Eastshore State Park, Point Molate Park, Tom Bates Regional Sports Complex, the Bay Trail connection at Golden Gate Fields, and the Albany Bulb.

Today, CESP continues to lead with vision and purpose, working toward incorporating the Golden Gate Fields property into McLaughlin Eastshore State Park and ultimately restoring the site to wetlands and marshes that will provide a resilient shoreline in the face of sea level rise. In this effort, CESP is committed to collaborating with Native American communities to restore these historically vital landscapes.

CESP's long-term vision is bold and inspiring: a connected, accessible shoreline of open space and parkland stretching from the Carquinez Strait to San Jose. Their work has created a legacy of preservation, environmental stewardship, and public access that will benefit generations to come.

On behalf of the constituents of California's 8th Congressional District, I command Citizens for East Shore Parks for their outstanding contributions to our region and our environment, and I congratulate them on 40 years of remarkable achievement.

HONORING MABLE EMMA JEAN WRIGHT

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2025

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, the 12th Congressional District is proud to celebrate the 100th birthday of Ms. Mable Emma Jean Wright, who was born October 3, 1925. We extend our warmest wishes for this joyful celebration and offer heartfelt congratulations on reaching a remarkable milestone.

As a devoted mother of four, grandmother to seven, and great-grandmother to three, Ms. Wright has been a pillar of her family and

community. For thirty-five years, she was an employee of the DMC Harper University Hospital, as well as the oldest and one of the most cherished members of "I AM" Temple Detroit for nearly forty-three years. Her service to the church has been immeasurable. With deep love and admiration, she is affectionately known as "Mother Wright" by fellow church members and friends alike.

The 12th Congressional District honors Ms. Wright's blessing of longevity, her legacy of faith and service, and with great pride, we celebrate 100 remarkable years of her life. I thank her for being a light in many individuals' lives and wish her a wonderful birthday.

COMMEMORATING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2025, AS NATIONAL ORANGE SHIRT WEEK

HON. SHARICE DAVIDS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2025

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the week of September 30, 2025, as National Orange Shirt Week. Also known as National Week of Remembrance, this designation aims to honor those who were forced to attend Indian boarding schools.

From 1819 through the 1960's, thousands of Indigenous children were forcibly removed from their traditional homelands to attend U.S. boarding schools. At these schools, countless children were stripped of their cultural identities, often through physical, sexual, psychological, industrial, and spiritual abuse and neglect, all with the goal of assimilation into non-Native culture.

This issue is personal to me. My grandparents, Ruth Stacy and Lawrence Little George, both survived Indian Boarding Schools. I would not be here today if not for the resilience of my ancestors and those who came before me. Tragically, many other children of these schools never got to return to their families or their communities.

Hearing the experiences of Indian boarding school victims and survivors serves to not only honor the Native spirit, but also to ensure that these types of injustices can never repeat themselves. It is for these reasons that I heartily support National Orange Shirt Week.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2025

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I regrettably missed 4 votes on September 10, and September 11, 2025.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 261; NAY on Roll Call No. 262; YEA on Roll Call No. 263; and NAY on Roll Call No. 264.

HONORING MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH OF DETROIT'S 105TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2025

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today, the 12th Congressional District proudly honors Macedonia Baptist Church as they celebrate 105 years of spiritual worship and leadership in our community. As part of their milestone celebration, we recognize the unveiling of the new historical marker, commemorating the profound impact the Macedonia Baptist Church has had on the city of Detroit and beyond.

Since its founding in 1920, the Macedonia Baptist Church has remained steadfast in its commitment to serving the spiritual and moral needs of Detroit and its surrounding communities. The church has consistently demonstrated deep roots and has always cared for the well-being of the community, engaging in meaningful outreach and service projects.

Their 105th anniversary shines a spotlight on the legacy of those whose labor and devotion have made the Macedonia Baptist Church a pillar in both Hamtramck and Detroit. This ceremony marks a historic occasion of remembrance, celebration, and renewed commitment to building a stronger future together through faith. The 12th Congressional District honors their service and dedication to creating a place of friendship and learning for our community. I thank them for being a guiding light rooted in faith and service to all.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF BRYAN SAKUMA

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2025

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Bryan Sakuma's service as Chair of the U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council (USHBC).

Born and raised on the Sakuma family farm in Washington State, Bryan proudly represents the third generation of his family in the agriculture industry. From an early age, Bryan demonstrated a deep devotion to agriculture, spending weekends during his college years working the fields alongside his father and uncles while earning a degree in Agricultural Economics from Washington State University. He went on to earn a master's degree from WSU in 1980 and is a distinguished alumnus of the Washington Agriculture & Forestry Leadership Program, Class 12.

Following graduation, Bryan joined the family business full-time, operating a nursery. By 1998, he became President of Sakuma Bros. Processing, Inc., where he led fresh and IQF processing operations and expanded the company's Japanese export program. Since 2016, he has served as Vice President of Sales and Marketing, continuing to lead with the same dedication, integrity, and strategic vision.

Throughout his professional life, Bryan has exemplified leadership and service. In addition to his recent tenure as Chair of the U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council, he has served as

Chair of both the Washington Blueberry Commission and the Washington Red Raspberry Commission. He has also contributed his expertise as a member of the Washington State Commission on Pesticide Registration and the Washington State Strawberry Commission, among numerous other roles.

Bryan Sakuma's work has had a profound and lasting impact not only on the Pacific Northwest but on berry growers and agricultural communities nationwide. He has been a tireless advocate for growers, working to strengthen markets, support research, and promote the health and sustainability of the industry.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Mr. Sakuma's greatest pride is his family. He is a devoted husband to his wife, Barbara, and a loving father and grandfather. Two of his sons, Nathan and Noel, have continued the Sakuma tradition of stewardship, innovation, and service to the community.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to commend Bryan Sakuma for his outstanding leadership, his dedication to American agriculture, and the enduring legacy he has helped to cultivate. I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our deepest gratitude for his service.

HONORING HOOKSETT LIONS CLUB'S 2025 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR, JOHN DANFORTH

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2025

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize John Danforth, Hooksett Lions Club 2025 Citizen of the Year.

John Danforth exemplifies the community spirit that makes Hooksett and New Hampshire such special places to live, work, and raise a family.

John is dedicated to serving the community of Hooksett, including holding leadership roles in Cub Scout Pack 292, Boy Scout Troop 292, and as a founder of Troop 603. John has also served on the town's Transfer and Recycling Committee, Budget Committee, Cemetery Commission, and as a Town Councilor.

Additionally, he has held significant positions in the Daniel Webster Council of the Boy Scouts of America, the Hooksett Lions Club, and the Hooksett American Legion, where he helped establish a Gulf War monument at Veterans Park.

A proud U.S. Army veteran, John served during Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and he continues to support veterans as the Acting Veteran Service Center Manager at the Manchester VA Regional Office.

It is thanks to the hard work and dedication of community leaders like John Danforth that the Town of Hooksett and the state of New Hampshire continue to thrive.

On behalf of the constituents of New Hampshire's 1st Congressional District, I congratulate Mr. Danforth for being named the Hooksett Lions Club 2025 Citizen of the Year. I wish him and his family all the best in the years to come as they continue to work to make Hooksett a better place.

REMEMBERING NORLAN GUZMAN-FUENTES

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2025

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I am profoundly saddened by the heartbreaking loss of Norlan Guzman-Fuentes, whose life was tragically taken in the recent attack at the Dallas ICE facility. His death is a sobering reminder of the human toll that violence leaves behind and the fragility of life when communities are confronted with such senseless acts.

At a time like this, my deepest condolences go out to Mr. Guzman-Fuentes's wife, Berenice Prieto, loved ones, and all who knew him. Their grief is immeasurable, and they deserve the comfort, compassion, and solidarity of their community as they endure this painful loss. My prayers are with them, and I hope they find strength in the love and memories they shared with Norlan.

As a community, we must stand together to reject violence and embrace peace and humanity. Every life lost diminishes us all, and we honor Norlan's memory by recommitting ourselves to building a safer, more compassionate future where gun violence must end. May his family be surrounded by support and healing in the difficult days ahead.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MICHAEL "MIKE" FRIEDMAN

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2025

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today, the 12th Congressional District honors the extraordinary life and legacy of Michael "Mike" Friedman, a tireless champion of economic justice and workplace democracy. From his early days as a truck driver and founding member of Teamsters for a Democratic Union to his

distinguished legal career. Mike's life was rooted in advancing the rights and dignity of working people.

As General Counsel at the Center for Community-Based Enterprise, Mike dedicated himself to helping businesses transition to worker ownership, empowering employees, and strengthening communities. His leadership extended beyond C2BE to the Michigan Center for Employee Ownership, Jewish Voice for Peace, and the Detroit Community Wealth Fund, where he shared his expertise and vision for a fairer, more just world.

Mike believed deeply in the power of unions to transform lives, which was reflected in his lifelong advocacy and teaching. His legacy will continue to inspire all who fight for justice, equity, and workers' rights. Our thoughts are with his wife Barbara Harvey.

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

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JOHN J. MEYERS, III

HON. MIKE HARIDOPOLOS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2025

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the life and legacy of John J. Meyers, III, a decorated veteran of the United States Navy who passed away on September 14, 2025, at the age of 87 in Sarasota, Florida.

John answered the call to serve his country as a naval aviator. He trained in Pensacola, flew with Squadron VS-34 aboard the USS Essex, and later served as an instructor pilot at NAS Meridian. His skill and leadership reflected the very best of our Nation's military tradition.

After his service, John carried those same values into civilian life. He built a respected career in aviation and financial services, retiring as a financial advisor at Merrill Lynch in Sarasota. But beyond his profession, he was known for his mentorship and kindness.

John J. Meyers lived a life of honor, both in uniform and in his community. Today, we remember him not only for his service to our Nation but for the positive impact he left on those around him. May his memory be a blessing, and may his family find comfort in knowing his legacy of service will endure.