

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE VISIT OF ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH OF THE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH TO THE UNITED STATES

**HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 17, 2025*

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the visit to the United States of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the spiritual leader of the Orthodox Christian Church.

His lifelong advocacy for religious liberty, interfaith understanding, and international peace has earned global recognition, including the Templeton Prize.

According to Orthodox Christian tradition, the Ecumenical Patriarch is a direct descendant of, and successor to, the Apostle Andrew in the see of Constantinople, and His All-Holiness has devoted his ministry to fostering greater understanding among people of faith.

It is an honor to welcome religious leaders to our Nation's capital. I join my Orthodox Christian constituents and communities across America in celebrating the visit of the Ecumenical Patriarch and commanding his continued work in service of human dignity and peace.

HONORING VILMA AQUINO AS ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S 8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT'S WOMEN OF THE YEAR

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 17, 2025*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Vilma Aquino as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year. Vilma has spent over three decades transforming lives and communities through the power of gardening. Since the 1990's, she has been a passionate educator and advocate for sustainable growing practices, community health, and environmental awareness. In 2009, she founded the Vallejo People's Garden, which provided fresh produce to the Christian Help Center's kitchen for ten years, feeding up to 75 clients daily. For fifteen years, she worked with students from Touro University to teach future healthcare professionals how gardening supports the concept of food as medicine. Her innovative work with Kaiser Permanente's Rehab Department and Residency Program brought healing and hands-on gardening education to patients, caregivers, and medical staff. Over the years, Vilma has helped several community gardens in Vallejo get started, including the garden at the Renaissance Family Shelter in 2014. In 2024 and 2025, she co-founded the Bay Area Butterfly Festival, which attracted thousands of

attendees and raised awareness about the declining Western Monarch Butterfly population and the critical role of native plants in ecosystem health. She coordinates a wide variety of gardening and wellness classes for the community, including culturally relevant offerings such as "Filipino Fruits and Vegetables You Can Grow at Home in Solano County." Vilma is currently a Board Member at the Global Center for Success on Mare Island and continues to work with organizations such as Touro University, Kaiser Permanente, and Solano Community. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Vilma Aquino for her invaluable contributions to our community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PROTECTING HOMES FROM TRAINS ACT OF 2025

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 17, 2025*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Protecting Homes from Trains Act of 2025, which would establish a grant program for the design and construction of barriers to mitigate rail activity that can harm homes and their occupants, including derailments, noise and vibrations. District of Columbia residents frequently tell me about the negative impact of train noise and vibrations on their lives. Train noise and vibrations can harm health and quality of life and can even harm the structural integrity of homes.

As a member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and as the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, I have been working to reduce train noise and vibrations. I have convened community meetings with the Federal Railroad Administration, the District of Columbia Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration. I established the Congressional Quiet Rails Caucus. I introduced a bill directing the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to conduct a study on how to reduce train noise and vibrations near homes. I separately requested GAO to conduct that study, which it has agreed to do.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF ERIC MCARTHUR

**HON. PETE STAUBER**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 17, 2025*

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Eric McArthur, a police officer, veteran, and most importantly, a father and husband. Serving as a police officer

for the city of Saint Paul for over nine years, Eric courageously worked in the K-9 unit at the side of his K-9 companion, Finn. His commitment to service was demonstrated not only by his dedication to his job but also through the support and strength he showed his colleagues by participating in the department's Honor Guard and Peer Support Team.

His dedication to his country didn't stop there. Eric was also a member of the Army National Guard, serving three tours overseas and honorably receiving the Bronze Star for his service. His years in the military forged lifelong friendships through valor and sacrifice. It was Eric's honor to serve his country and community.

Above all, Eric's family was his pride and joy. He was a loving husband to his wife of 18 years, Shanna, and a committed father to his two kids, Caleb and Lila. His presence was evident in all their lives, and his compassion, love, and steadfastness will be deeply missed by them. A leader of his community in the fullest sense and a dedicated father and husband, Eric will truly be missed by all the lives he touched—colleagues, friends, and family alike. May Eric rest in peace.

HONORING WARMINSTER TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFICER ERIC BARANOWSKI'S 35 YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

**HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 17, 2025*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Officer Eric Baranowski for his thirty-eight years of dedicated and distinguished service in law enforcement, including thirty-five years with the Warminster Police Department. His lifelong commitment to public safety and community service exemplifies the very best of American policing.

At a young age, Officer Baranowski knew he wanted to serve his community as a police officer. As a participant in the Warminster Police Explorer Program in the 1980's, he developed a deep respect for the men and women who dedicate their lives to protecting others. After graduating from high school in June 1988, he attended the Montgomery County Community College Police Academy, where he began his journey into law enforcement. In April 1989, at nineteen years old, he was hired by the Bryn Athyn Borough Police Department, beginning a remarkable thirty-eight-year career. Two years later, in February 1991, he joined the Warminster Police Department, where he would faithfully serve his community for the next three and a half decades.

During his time, Officer Baranowski developed a strong interest in accident investigation. At a time when the department did not yet offer specialized training in this field, he

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

took the initiative to attend courses on his own time, using his personal vacation days to become a certified Accident Reconstructionist. His expertise grew to encompass vehicle, motorcycle, and pedestrian accidents, making him a respected authority figure in traffic safety. As a member of the department's Traffic Safety Unit, he also specialized in speed enforcement, truck enforcement, and weighmaster duties.

Officer Baranowski chose to remain on patrol, believing that he could make the greatest impact by being out in the community—seeing, hearing, and engaging directly with the people he served. This philosophy not only guided his career but earned him the respect, trust, and admiration of Warminster residents.

Among his many accomplishments, one of the most memorable occurred roughly ten years ago, when a series of overnight burglaries struck local pizza and convenience shops. Through patient teamwork and surveillance, he and his fellow officers apprehended the suspects after a brief foot pursuit, uncovering stolen property and solving multiple open burglary cases across several jurisdictions. This case remains a testament to his dedication, vigilance, and the power of teamwork.

Having grown up in Warminster, Officer Baranowski possessed a unique understanding of and connection to his community. His familiarity with residents and business owners made him a trusted figure, someone to whom people could turn in moments of both crisis and celebration. Over the years, he built countless relationships grounded in mutual respect, compassion, and service. His chief often remarked that if something was needed, day or night, Officer Baranowski could make it happen.

Throughout his career, Officer Baranowski supported the people of Warminster through their best and worst moments. He attended weddings, funerals, and community events, celebrating and sharing sorrows with the people he served. His empathy and consistent presence left a lasting mark on countless lives. As Officer Baranowski's career comes to a close, this moment is bittersweet. Though retirement marks the end of an extraordinary career, it does not end his commitment to the community that shaped him. Warminster gave him his roots, his purpose, and a life of service that he will always cherish. He leaves behind a legacy of professionalism, compassion, and integrity that will inspire future generations of officers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our deepest gratitude to Officer Eric Baranowski for his exemplary service to the Warminster community and to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. His dedication to justice and his unwavering commitment to the safety and well-being of others represent the highest ideals of law enforcement. We wish him a fulfilling and well-deserved retirement.

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**HONORING THE RAYMONDVILLE HIGH SCHOOL BEARKAT MARCHING BAND**

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**HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2025

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable

achievements of the Raymondville High School Bearkat Marching Band, whose hard work, dedication, and talent have brought immense pride to the community of Raymondville and the Rio Grande Valley.

This year, the Bearkat Band earned an extraordinary honor by placing second in the University Interscholastic League (UIL) State Marching Band Competition in the Class 3A division. Competing among the very best bands in Texas, the Bearkat Band demonstrated exceptional musical talent, discipline, and teamwork that reflect the highest standards of performance and school spirit.

Through the help of their devoted directors and supported by families, teachers, and the Raymondville community, the Bearkat Band advanced to the state level after earning first place in their area competition. Their journey to the Alamodome in San Antonio was the culmination of countless hours of rehearsal and dedication.

On behalf of the 34th Congressional District of Texas, I wish to congratulate the Raymondville High School Bearkat Marching Band, their directors, and everyone who helped them achieve this extraordinary milestone. Their achievement inspires not only their peers across South Texas but students across the state to pursue their passions.

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**HONORING GRIOT ARTS, INC.**

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**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an enthusiastic and self-motivated community organization, Griot Arts Inc. This dynamic organization is composed of dedicated educators, artists, and community leaders who have tirelessly served the youth and citizens in the City of Clarksdale and Coahoma County, Mississippi.

Based in Clarksdale, MS, Griot Arts Inc. is commitment to nurturing creativity, empowering individuals and fostering strong sense of community belonging. The organization's focus lies in the arts education and workforce development—two powerful tools for creating a brighter and more equitable future. Griot Arts is more than an organization; it is a movement where every brushstroke, every melody, and every creative expression contributes to building a better tomorrow. Through its comprehensive arts education programs, Griot Arts inspires and cultivates the next generation of artists, equipping them with the skills and confidence to excel in their chosen fields and to make meaningful contributions to society. They believe that artistic expression is not only a personal outlet but also a powerful catalyst for community growth and positive change.

In addition to arts education, Griot Arts is deeply dedicated to workforce development. The organization recognizes the importance of preparing individuals for success in today's evolving job market. Through a variety of programs and initiatives, they provide participants with the tools, training, and opportunities needed to achieve economic stability and professional fulfillment.

Furthermore, Griot Arts demonstrates its commitment to community health and wellness

by hosting annual events during October's Breast Cancer Awareness Month, including the Zumba-A-Thon "Glow in the Dark," Sunset Yoga, and Boots & Boogie for the Cure at no charge. These events bring the community together in support of awareness, education, and hope.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Griot Arts, Inc. for their unwavering dedication and commitment to empowering youth through art, education, and workforce development continues to enrich the lives of the people of Clarksdale and Coahoma County, Mississippi.

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**CELEBRATING THE FIRST WOMAN SENIOR PASTOR OF FIRST MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH**

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**HON. EUGENE SIMON VINDMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2025

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a historic moment in our community—the installment of Rev. Dr. Sandra K. James as the first woman senior pastor in the history of First Mount Zion Baptist Church (FMZBC) located in Dumfries, Virginia.

Over twenty-five years ago, Rev. Dr. James began serving at FMZBC, one of the oldest churches in Prince William County. Before her leadership at the church, Rev. Dr. James served our Nation with honor in the United States Army for more than 24 years, retiring with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

After retiring from the U.S. Army, Rev. Dr. James continued her leadership and service to others as Assistant Pastor at FMZBC, where she provided guidance in preaching, teaching, pastoral care, and ministry development.

Rev. Dr. James is also a dedicated scholar of faith. She earned a Master's Degree in Theological Studies from Virginia Union University and later went on to earn a Doctor of Ministry in Pastoral Studies and Ministry from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, which equipped her to serve others with wisdom and compassion.

In 2024, Rev. Dr. James made history when she was appointed Acting Pastor of FMZBC, leading the church with vision and grace. Today, she stands as the 11th Pastor of First Mount Zion Baptist Church, a milestone in the churches' 158-year history.

Mr. Speaker, I want to personally recognize Rev. Dr. James as she makes history as the first woman to pastor First Mount Zion Baptist Church, bringing a fresh vision to meet the challenges of today.

Founded in 1867 by formerly enslaved men and women determined to build a place of worship and community, FMZBC has stood as a symbol of faith and hope in Prince William County. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Rev. Dr. James and the entire First Mount Zion Baptist Church family as they enter this new and inspiring chapter in their church's history.

HONORING JANE CAMPBELL FOR HER SERVICE TO CLEVELAND AND THE U.S. CAPITOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**HON. SHONTEL M. BROWN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2025

Ms. BROWN. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the Honorable Jane L. Campbell for her distinguished career in public office and public service. As a Clevelander, a Member of Congress, and a representative of communities across Northeast Ohio, I truly appreciate the varied ways in which she served the people throughout her many years of service.

In 2001, Campbell became the first woman elected Mayor of the City of Cleveland. As Mayor she helped spur economic development in downtown Cleveland and our lakefront, and stabilized the city's finances. And to date, she remains the only female Mayor in Cleveland's history. Campbell's historic mayoralty was preceded by six terms in the Ohio House of Representatives and two terms as Cuyahoga County Commissioner.

Following her time in office, Campbell also served as Chief of Staff for Senator Mary Landrieu of Louisiana, Senior Advisor to Senator MARIA CANTWELL of Washington, and worked in leadership roles for the National Development Council, the International Economic Institute, and the National Democratic Institute. Through her years of service, uplifting underserved communities has been a consistent theme.

In 2019, Campbell was appointed as the President and CEO of the United States Capitol Historical Society (USCHS). Chartered by Congress, the USCHS was founded to foster patriotism and to connect the American people with the history that is made inside their Capitol here in Washington. As President, Campbell strengthened and expanded the Historical Society's public events, educational programming, outreach to students, online programming and more.

This week, I join people from across Ohio and the country in celebrating her career and sharing my thanks for her dedication to the ideals of our country.

Jane Campbell made history in Cleveland, and in Washington she led the effort to preserve history. From City Hall to the halls of the Capitol, she championed the virtues of our Republic.

I thank the Honorable Jane Campbell for all the ways she has served. We wish her the best upon her retirement.

HONORING THE LATE VINNIE CARR AS HE IS POSTHUMOUSLY RECOGNIZED AS THE 2025 WEST HAVEN ITALIAN AMERICAN OF THE YEAR

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2025

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with both joy and a heavy heart that I rise today to join the City of West Haven and the West Haven Italian Heritage Committee in paying tribute to

the late, great Vinnie Carr as they honor him as this year's Italian American of the Year. This special award is bestowed annually on a West Haven resident or couple of Italian descent who personifies service in the community, celebrating the contributions of Italian Americans to the City and honoring the Italian immigrant experience. Vinnie Carr was indeed a reflection of the spirit in which this honor is bestowed.

The grandson of immigrants from Naples, Vinnie embraced his Italian heritage with a unique zeal and love of family and community. Vinnie's career in music began at the age of five when he began playing the accordion at his parents' restaurant. He joined the United States Army after his graduation from Wilbur Cross High School and during his time in the service he formed a band and began playing the keyboard. Following his honorable discharge from military service, Vinnie enrolled in the Police Academy and served as an officer in the New Haven Police Department. However, his passion for music never waned and he soon began the Vinnie Carr Orchestra and later Vinnie Carr and the Party Band.

Vinnie was best known as an entertainer—the ever-animated leader of Vinnie Carr and the Party Band as well as the Vinnie Carr Orchestra. Both musical groups were known for their renditions of beloved classical Italian standards as well as performing hits from the 40's 50's and 60's. If there was a community event, particularly an Italian heritage event or gathering, in the Greater New Haven area, you could guarantee that Vinnie Carr was providing the musical entertainment. He also served as the West Haven Senior Center's resident musician for more than forty years. For Vinnie, bringing the delight of his ancestral melodies to live audiences, whether a small group at the senior center or a sea of people on the town green, nourished his soul.

We lost Vinnie just a few short weeks ago. His love of music and Italian heritage touched the lives of many and his one-of-a-kind talent that will be missed by many. His loss will be felt by many, but none more so than his beloved wife, Denise, and his two children, Vinnie, Jr. and Daniella. I join many in extending my heartfelt condolences to them as they receive today's honor in his name. Vinnie Carr was an institution, celebrating his Italian heritage through music and sharing his love for both with the community he called home. I cannot think of a more fitting accolade to recognize his dedication and commitment. I am honored to have called him my friend and proud to join the City of West Haven, the West Haven Italian American Heritage Committee, and the many family and friends gathered today in remembering and thanking Vinnie Carr for all that he gave to our community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL DAVID WILLITS SWANSON

**HON. JAMES C. MOYLAN**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2025

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, today I honor and remember the extraordinary life and legacy of Lieutenant Colonel David Willits Swanson, a retired officer of the United States

Army, a decorated patriot, and a beloved mentor and leader.

Lieutenant Colonel Swanson's passing is deeply mourned by his family, his fellow soldiers, and the many communities he served so selflessly throughout his life. His life was defined by duty, courage, and an unshakable commitment to service.

From the beginning, Lieutenant Colonel Swanson lived to serve others. A graduate of the prestigious United States Military Academy at West Point, he pursued one of the most demanding and honorable callings in our Nation: military service. He underwent rigorous training, completing nearly every combat course available like airborne, infantry, ranger, and more.

During his time in uniform, he answered his country's call not once, but three times—serving multiple tours in both Vietnam and Korea. His bravery and valor on the battlefield earned him some of our Nation's highest military honors: the Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, a Purple Heart, seven Air Medals, and three Meritorious Service Medals. These are more than just decorations—they are symbols of sacrifice, of heroism, and of lives protected through his service.

But Lieutenant Colonel Swanson's commitment to our country did not end on the battlefield. After his combat service, he turned his focus to shaping the next generation of military leaders. He taught at the Command and General Staff College in Kansas, then as Professor of Military Science at the University of Hawaii.

Most notably, he pioneered the first ROTC program at the University of Guam, where his very first freshman class went on to win the Warrior of the Pacific Award. Over the course of his academic service, he commissioned 640 students as Second Lieutenants—young men and women who now continue his legacy in service to our Nation.

We do more than mourn his passing. We celebrate his life that embodied the highest ideals of duty, honor, and country. From every soldier he led, every student he taught, and every life he touched, we salute him.

May we honor his memory by continuing to uphold the values he exemplified, and may his legacy of service forever inspire us all.

HONORING THE BASTROP CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ON RECEIVING OFFICIAL FIVE-STAR ACCREDITATION FROM THE U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**HON. MICHAEL T. McCaul**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2025

Mr. McCaul. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor the Bastrop Chamber of Commerce for achieving one of the highest distinctions a chamber can receive—Five-Star Accreditation from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

This recognition is more than just an award; it reflects years of commitment, professionalism, and a deep dedication to strengthening our local economy in Texas. A Five-Star Accreditation is awarded to chambers that demonstrate exceptional leadership, hard work, and a clear vision for the communities they serve.

Today, the Bastrop Chamber of Commerce stands as a testament to what can be achieved when businesses foster collaboration, champion economic growth, and come together to ensure Bastrop is a place where both businesses and families can thrive.

I would like to extend my sincerest congratulations to the Bastrop Chamber of Commerce for this astounding achievement. I thank them for their exemplary service, their dedication to excellence, and their ongoing commitment to the people of Bastrop.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF PORTER-STARKE SERVICES

**HON. FRANK J. MRVAN**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2025

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I rise today to congratulate Porter-Starke Services as it celebrates its 50th anniversary serving the Northwest Indiana community. Opening in 1975, Porter-Starke Services is a Community Mental Health Center (CMHC) dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in the community through prevention, treatment, education, and research.

Over the past 50 years, Porter-Starke Services has consistently grown and adapted to serve the evolving needs of communities in Northwest Indiana with adults, families, adolescents, and children with mental health or substance abuse issues. With offices in Valparaiso, Knox, Portage, Gary, Hebron, and La Porte, the nonprofit began by providing partial and inpatient hospitalization, outpatient therapy, and psychiatry in Porter County, and outpatient mental health services in Starke County. Today, Porter-Starke Services serves over 20,000 adults, families, adolescents, and children each year, offering a full continuum of care tailored to specific needs. In addition to being a CMHC, Porter-Starke Services operates an inpatient psychiatric hospital, opioid treatment program, and a federally qualified health center (FQHC).

It is because of the organization's dedicated team of doctors, nurse practitioners, nurses, case managers, peer recovery and engagement specialists, medical assistants, administrators, and support staff that Porter-Starke Services is able to provide a comprehensive array of essential mental health services, substance use treatment, crisis care, and primary healthcare services. The passion and commitment of these steadfast team members to address mental illness and substance use within our community is an inspiration to our entire region.

Porter-Starke Services' leadership, including its Board of Directors, work collaboratively to address public health issues and disparities that impact residents. Working with local hospitals, health clinics, social service providers, non-profit organizations, schools, law enforcement, and local businesses, Porter-Starke Services values community collaboration to respond to the health needs of the community. For their efforts to provide care to the most vulnerable in our communities and improve the quality of life in Northwest Indiana, Porter-Starke Services is worthy of the highest praise.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and all my distinguished colleagues join me in honoring the contributions of Porter-Starke Services on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

HONORING YAJAIRA RUBIO MACHADO AS ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S 8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT'S WOMEN OF THE YEAR

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Yajaira Rubio Machado as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year in tribute to her visionary cultural leadership and tireless dedication to her community. Her work has left a lasting impact in Vallejo, California, and beyond. As the Founder and Director of Moon Azteca Dance and Art School, has elevated Mexican heritage and indigenous traditions, bringing their richness to the forefront of community life. Even during times of financial hardship and through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, she remained steadfast in her mission of ensuring that young people stayed connected, creative, and proud of their cultural identity. Among her most notable accomplishments was her leadership in formalizing the Sister City agreement between Vallejo and Ensenada, Mexico. This diplomatic and cultural achievement exemplifies her ability to turn vision into sustained international partnerships bridging communities through shared heritage and mutual respect. Yajaira's service spans numerous civic, business, and cultural organizations, where she continues to empower others and advocate for inclusion and representation. Her contributions have preserved and promoted cultural expression, created pathways for youth development, and inspired civic pride. Yajaira's leadership stands as a shining example of how cultural diplomacy and grassroots engagement can strengthen and transform communities. Her unwavering resilience, community-first mindset, and creative spirit serve as an inspiration to all who know her. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Yajaira Rubio Machado for her invaluable contributions to our community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. RONALD J. VOLINO

**HON. GEORGE LATIMER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2025

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following obituary honoring the life of Dr. Ronald J. Volino:

Dr. Ronald J. Volino, lifelong resident of the City of Yonkers and beloved husband, father, grandfather and podiatric physician and surgeon, went home to the Lord on June 25, 2025 at the age of 83. Ron's sincerity, warmth and genuine care for his fellow man made him widely respected and loved. With his infectious smile and exuberance for life, Ron spread joy wherever he went, leaving an

indelible mark on so many lives. Everyone in his presence felt special.

Born on January 18, 1942, to Dr. Liborio A. Volino and Palma (Traficante) Volino, Ron attended St. Barnabas Elementary School, Blessed Sacrament High School and Manhattan College. Ron grew up spending fabulous summers in the Catskills with his parents, brothers, cousins, aunts and uncles, and the family summer home was filled with laughter, music, food and swimming. After losing his older brother at the tender age of 9, followed by both his parents before the age of 23, Ron showed a remarkable resilience and commitment to live life to the fullest, knowing that tomorrow is never promised. On July 10, 1966, he married his neighborhood sweetheart, Annette Musco, and together they were blessed with four children, the first of which became their special angel shortly after birth.

Following in the footsteps of his father, Dr. Liborio Volino, a family medical doctor who practiced in Yonkers for decades, Ron became a Doctor of Podiatric Medicine in 1971 and dedicated his office to the memory of his father with a beautiful commemorative plaque. Just like his father, he set up a home office to be close to his children so that he could spend more time with them. On breaks, he would take off his white coat and have a tea party in the backyard with his daughters or play basketball with his son. Also like his father, Ron took exceptional and compassionate care of his patients who appreciated his dedication and kind, gentle approach to their care. Ron was proud and happy to make house calls to the home-bound with his father's medical bag in hand and cared for his patients until he became physically unable to do so.

Despite his professional demands, which included the addition of two offices in New York City and his role as an attending physician at Mount Vernon Hospital, Ron always prioritized his family. As a father, he was in the audience at his daughters' dance recitals, and his roaring voice was heard from the sidelines at football games cheering on his son. There was always time to talk after a long day at the office or to roll up his sleeves to work into the wee hours of the night to get a school project completed with his children. Ron loved to celebrate life's special moments with elaborate parties that brought family and friends together in love and joy.

When his five grandchildren came along, his joy and loving heart only multiplied and each one of them grew a special bond with their "Pop Pop." When his children asked him how they could ever repay him for all the love and support he offered them, Ron told them that all he wanted was for them to do the same for their children. As Ron's parents did not have the privilege of meeting his children, Ron felt great satisfaction at having met and shared his love with each of his grandchildren whom he absolutely adored. He relished hugging and kissing them, surprising them with smiley-face bakery cookies, and taking them to Carvel for his favorite "frozen custard."

Ron felt great pride in his Italian heritage and had enormous respect and admiration for his ancestors who overcame obstacles to provide him a life filled with opportunities. He gave them credit for his success and had a moving experience with his wife and children visiting the Italian town his grandfather emigrated from to obtain his grandfather's birth certificate from the town hall. He was a member of the Order of the Sons & Daughters of Italy in America (John D. Calandra Lodge) and served as Grand Marshal of the Columbus Day Parade for the City of Yonkers in 2012. He was recognized as "Man of the Year" by the Congress of Italian

American Organizations (CIAO) in 2005. He had a great devotion to St. Joseph and, carrying on a family tradition, celebrated every St. Joseph's Day by erecting an elaborate altar ordained with candles, flowers and blessed bread to share with guests.

Ron devoted much of his time spent outside of his work and family life to numerous community organizations. A proud and lifelong resident of Yonkers, he loved the City and looked for ways to make it a better place. For the past 40 years he devoted himself to the East Yonkers Kiwanis Club, serving as President many times as well as Lieutenant Governor and bringing his children with him to many of the club's service projects to instill in them the value of service to others. He was also a member of the Hyatt Civic Association, the Yonkers Beautification Conservancy, the Yonkers Animal Shelter Committee, and the Male Glee Club of Yonkers. Ron was honored as "Man of the Year" by the YWCA of Yonkers in 2006. He was active in local politics, enjoying the camaraderie and friendships that came from connecting with others about community affairs, and served on the Westchester County Charter Revision Commission from 2011 to 2013.

Ron's good heart and kind nature were apparent to all who witnessed his volunteer work. Whether it was distributing turkeys before Thanksgiving, working the BBQ grill at a picnic for nursing home residents, honoring nonagenarians at the "90 Plus" event, or even dancing the Macarena as Santa Clause at a YWCA Christmas party, the sincere joy that helping others brought him was palpable. In Ron's work with others, he had an amazing ability to connect with people from all walks of life to make them feel welcome and comfortable in his presence.

Ron had a love for the great outdoors and enjoyed many hunting trips with friends and camping with his children. He relished natural beauty and enjoyed taking photos of beautiful scenery. He took his family on so many memorable trips to explore the world, one being a month-long cross-country adventure with the entire family and the family dog and another being a tour of the Canadian Rocky Mountains. As a skilled equestrian, he desired to share his love of horses and the peace and serenity they brought him with visually impaired children by giving them the opportunity to ride a horse. Together with his dear friend Neal Petrucci, these two men of great compassion and heart made that idea into a reality.

Ron is survived by his wife of 58 years, Annette, and his three children Palma McCormick and her husband Paul, Victoria Moore and her husband Edward, and Vincent Volino and his wife Marisa, his five grandchildren, Grace Moore, Rose Moore, Faith McCormick, Anna Volino and Anthony Ronald Volino, extended family and many loyal friends whom he embraced as family. He is predeceased by his parents, his brothers Frank A. Volino and Anton Volino and many dear aunts, uncles and cousins. May all who were touched by Ron's life carry forth his gentle, generous and humble spirit and embody the essence of his favorite quote from his beloved musical, *Les Misérables*: "To love another person is to see the face of God."

RECOGNIZING DETECTIVE GABRIEL GONZALEZ OF THE SAN BENITO POLICE DEPARTMENT

**HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 17, 2025*

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Detective Gabriel Gonzalez of the San Benito Police Department in San Benito, Texas, for his outstanding service and dedication to justice.

Detective Gonzalez currently serves in the Criminal Investigations Division's Special Investigations Unit, where he has demonstrated exceptional investigative skill and leadership. Over the past six years, his work has been instrumental in solving some of the most complex and high-profile cases in our community.

Earlier this year, Detective Gonzalez led the investigation into the tragic fentanyl-related death of a young man in San Benito. Through meticulous investigative work, Detective Gonzalez identified and apprehended the suspect responsible for distributing the narcotics that caused the victim's death. His efforts ultimately led to a confession and a murder conviction, bringing a measure of justice to the victim's family and accountability to those who endanger our communities.

More recently, Detective Gonzalez served as the lead investigator in a fatal shooting in San Benito that left one victim deceased and another critically injured. Working closely with state and federal law enforcement partners, he helped negotiate the successful surrender of the suspect, who had fled across the border into Mexico. The suspect was apprehended within 24-hours and later confessed to his crimes—a testament to Detective Gonzalez's swift coordination and determination to deliver justice.

Mr. Speaker, Detective Gabriel Gonzalez's unwavering commitment to protecting the people of San Benito and the greater Rio Grande Valley embodies the very best of our law enforcement community. His professionalism, courage, and dedication to truth and justice reflect great credit upon himself and the San Benito Police Department.

I am proud to represent Detective Gonzalez and recognize his exemplary service to the people of San Benito and all of South Texas.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF  
REVEREND ADREN BIVINS, SR.

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 17, 2025*

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the memory of a loving husband, dedicated father, former pro wrestler, outstanding Man of God, and devoted spiritual leader, Reverend Adren Bivins, Sr., who passed from labor to reward on November 6, 2025. A funeral service to celebrate his remarkable and committed life was held on Saturday, November 15, 2025, at Emanuel Missionary Baptist Church in Bainbridge, Georgia.

Born to the union of Abraham Bivins and Hazel Sapp Bivins on January 22, 1950, Rev-

erend Bivins was raised in Plant City, Florida before setting down roots and raising his family in Decatur County, Georgia. After losing his father at age nine, young Adren helped his mother support the family by picking strawberries and oranges to help his two younger brothers. A 1968 graduate of Marshall High School, Adren was an accomplished athlete who played football and earned a full athletic scholarship to Prairie View A&M University in Houston, Texas. He later transferred to Florida A&M University in Tallahassee, Florida where he was a member of the amateur wrestling team and majored in Mental Health and Social Work.

After college, Reverend Bivins was offered opportunities to play professional football for both the Chicago Bears and the Dallas Cowboys but instead followed his passion for wrestling. He later enlisted in the United States Army where he would serve as a Military Police officer before receiving an honorable discharge.

At the conclusion of his service in the U.S. Army, Reverend Bivins went on to fulfill his childhood dream of becoming a professional wrestler, performing for over 35 years under the name "The Black Assassin." Standing 6'7" tall and weighing 350 pounds, he was a powerful presence in the ring. Throughout his career, he wrestled across the United States and abroad with major organizations including the WWF, WCW, NWA, WWE, ICW, and Florida Championship Wrestling. He competed alongside many legendary figures such as the Brisco Brothers, Harley Race, André the Giant, Dusty Rhodes, Dick Slater, Wahoo McDaniel, and Rocky Johnson.

It was during a charity wrestling event in Bainbridge, Georgia, that he met the love of his life, Sylvia Jefferson of Fowlstown, Georgia. Reverend and Mrs. Bivins would have celebrated 42 years of marriage on December 27, 2025. The two married and built a life together, raising two beloved sons. During his time in Southwest Georgia, Reverend Bivins held numerous roles in the community, including Health Service Technician at the local hospital, Security Guard, author, pastor, Parent Teacher Organization President, Cub Scout leader, and YMCA football coach. Additionally, before becoming a pastor, he faithfully served at Emanuel Missionary Baptist Church as an usher, chorus member, Sunday School teacher, Vacation Bible School instructor, and Laymen President, where he initiated a church basketball project.

As parents, Reverend Bivins and his wife, Sylvia, worked hard to raise their sons and set them on a path to success. But as their sons grew older, they went the extra mile and answered God's call to start a new community organization that could minister to at-risk youth and alleviate poverty and violence in Decatur County. After he was ordained as a minister, Reverend Bivins began preaching and ministering to the congregations of Emanuel M.B. Church and First Morning Star M.B. Church. Following his pastoral service, Reverend and Mrs. Bivins founded The Laymen Brotherhood Second Chance Outreach Ministry in 2007 and began ministering to young males in the community who were in need of shelter, hot meals, and spiritual mentoring. As a dedicated professional with a diverse set of life skills and experiences—from servicemember to professional wrestler to pastor—Reverend Bivins was uniquely positioned for outreach to disadvantaged young men, and he worked hard

to ensure those he helped got on the right path, stayed out of trouble, and reached for new transformative opportunities like employment, military service, and education. He could often be seen handing a Bible and a belt to the young men he encountered—a Bible to read the word of God and a belt to add to their wardrobe.

Over the next few years, Reverend Bivins worked with local organizations, as well as the Decatur County Board of Commissioners, to expand the ministry's services. With the support of the community, the Ministry began to offer a full range of services to at-risk youth, including bible studies, one-on-one counseling, recreational sports, school supplies, and food baskets. Over the course of its lifetime, The Laymen Brotherhood Second Chance Outreach Ministry has provided guidance and assistance to countless individuals in the community, predominantly young Black men, who otherwise would have had nowhere to turn for help or counsel.

Reverend Bivins received many awards and recognitions throughout his life, including being named the Decatur County Kiwanis Man of the Year (2002), Secretary of State Outstanding Georgia Citizen (2004), NAACP Man of the Year (2007), as well as countless certificates of recognition and appreciation from numerous Georgia and local officials, recognizing his work helping his neighbors in need. In 2018, he was honored with induction into the NWA, WCCW, and ICW Wrestling Halls of Fame. And in October 2025, just a month before his passing, Reverend Bivins was surprised with his induction into the Georgia Old School Championship Wrestling Wall of Fame, an honor that celebrated his mentorship of many wrestlers and his service in the community to help struggling youths.

Reverend Bivins accomplished much in his life, but none of this would have been possible without the Grace of God and the love and support of his beloved wife, Sylvia; his 7 children; and a host of family, friends, church members, and loved ones who will miss him dearly.

Sir Winston Churchill often said: "You make your living by what you get, you make your life by what you give." Reverend Bivins spent his life giving himself to others, and thus truly made his life. His decades of ministry to the people of Southwest Georgia have left his community safer, more connected, and more prosperous, and the loss that is felt reflects the legacy he left behind. Truly, the world is a better place because Reverend Adren Bivins, Sr. passed this way.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with countless others in saluting and honoring Reverend Adren Bivins, Sr. for his remarkable service to his community. We extend our deepest condolences to his family, friends, loved ones and all who mourn his loss. 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 CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2025

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, in 1875, Samuel Johnson, a Yale University educated agricultural chemist, founded the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, the first of its kind in the United States. Agriculture has always been an important economic driver in Connecticut and Dr. Johnson sought to create a space for the purpose of promoting agriculture by scientific investigation and experiments. The Ag Station, as we affectionately call it, began its work in the area of consumer protection with the analysis of agricultural feeds and fertilizers. Today, that work has expanded into a number of fields of study and industry.

Perhaps I am a bit biased, as the Ag Station is a former neighbor of mine, but I have always been fascinated by both the unique architecture of its buildings as well as the research that is conducted throughout its historic halls. In fact, due to its preeminence as the first of its kind in the United States, the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1964. Should you have the chance to tour the Station, you will find lab facilities filled with all kinds of invasive species—Insects like beetles, mosquitoes, and ticks as well as aquatic plants like hydrilla, water fern, and Carolina fanwort. And should you be in Connecticut during the first week of August, you can join the Ag Station's team for their Annual Plant Science Day at Lockwood Farm. It is a wonderful showcase of the staff's incredible work.

The Ag Station has made tremendous contributions not only to agriculture but to the fields of health, forestry, and plant science as well. From researching methods to combat tick-borne illnesses like Lyme Disease and the West Nile Virus to identifying invasive plant, animal, and insect species like Hydrilla and the Emerald Ash Borer to providing analytical data in food safety and vector-borne illness, the critical work done at the Ag Experiment Station not only impacts our local communities, but those across the nation. The commitment, dedication, knowledge and expertise of its staff have made a real difference in the lives of millions.

Today, as this unique and important agency marks its 150th Anniversary, I am honored to have this opportunity to extend my thanks and appreciation to the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station and its team of scientists and researchers for their extraordinary work. Over the course of its one-hundred-fifty-year history, it has changed and expanded its work, but, at its heart, the Ag Station continues its mission to promote agriculture. Over the course of my tenure in Congress, I have been so proud to work with them in leveraging federal resources to improve the quality of life for Americans throughout the country. My heartfelt congratulations to this extraordinary organization and, as we say in Italian, "C'ent Anni!"

HONORING YVETTE WILLIAMS-BARR AS ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S 8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT'S WOMEN OF THE YEAR

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Yvette Williams-Barr as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year for her extraordinary dedication to education, community revitalization, and public service in the City of Richmond. As Senior Administrative Analyst for the City's Literacy for Every Adult Program (LEAP), Yvette brings leadership, innovation, and compassion to one of Richmond's most impactful educational initiatives. Her work empowers adult learners through literacy and lifelong learning, opening doors to opportunity and personal growth for countless community members. A lifelong Richmond resident, Yvette has played a pivotal role in the city's cultural and economic renewal through more than a decade of service as an Executive and Board Member of the Richmond Main Street Initiative. With deep expertise in media and communications, she has shaped the organization's public presence, strengthened outreach efforts, and served as a dynamic spokesperson on behalf of Richmond. Yvette's commitment to advocacy continues through her leadership as President of Local 21 IFPTE, where she represents fellow union members with integrity, fairness, and a spirit of collaboration. In every role, she uplifts others connecting people, mentoring colleagues, and helping build a stronger Richmond. Equally inspiring is Yvette's devotion to her family. As the proud mother of five, including a son currently serving in the United States Coast Guard, she exemplifies resilience, generosity, and balance. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Yvette Williams-Barr for her invaluable contributions to our community.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VALLEY BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTER

**HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2025

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Valley Baptist Medical Center in Harlingen, Texas, as it celebrates its 100th anniversary of service to the Rio Grande Valley.

Valley Baptist first opened its doors in 1925 as Valley Baptist Hospital, a modest 35-bed facility on "F" Street. From those humble beginnings, the hospital quickly became an essential institution for Harlingen and South Texas. Today, as it marks its centennial, Valley Baptist Medical Center houses 586 beds and serves as one of the Valley's most critical healthcare providers.

The hospital is commemorating this milestone with a centennial history project—a wall installation that will tell the story of Valley Baptist's evolution and its partnership with the city

of Harlingen. The project highlights the hospital's role in guiding the community through defining moments, from the Great Depression to hurricanes, the polio epidemic, and modern medical breakthroughs.

For 100 years, Valley Baptist Medical Center has been more than a hospital. It has been a place where families have welcomed new life, where loved ones have received life-saving care, and where generations of healthcare workers have built meaningful careers in service to others. Its legacy is woven into the history of the city itself.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 100th anniversary of Valley Baptist Medical Center and in recognizing the extraordinary contributions it has made to the Rio Grande Valley. May its next century be marked by continued growth, innovation, and service to our community.

**RECOGNIZING THE NEABSCO BAPTIST CHURCH FOR SERVING FAMILIES IN NEED**

**HON. EUGENE SIMON VINDMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 17, 2025*

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Neabsco Baptist Church located in Woodbridge, Virginia for their extraordinary commitment to serving families in need.

During the height of pandemic, the church created the Food Giveaway Program to help members from the congregation put food on their tables. As the harmful impacts of the pandemic spread throughout the Prince William County, the church expanded its mission—opening its doors to the entire community.

As of today, volunteers come together once a week to package and distribute food boxes to families across the community. What started as a small operation has now grown into a critical lifeline for thousands. The Neabsco Baptist Church has now provided food to over 5 million families, ensuring that no one goes hungry.

I want to personally thank the Neabsco Baptist Church and all the volunteers for their unwavering commitment and generosity. Having had the opportunity to join them alongside my team to pack food boxes, I have witnessed firsthand their compassion and dedication.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Neabsco Baptist Church for the lasting impact it has made on the lives of families throughout the Prince William County community.

**HONORING JOYCE T. ARCENEAUX-MATHIS**

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 17, 2025*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable servant, Joyce T. Arceneaux-Mathis.

Joyce Arceneaux-Mathis is a cum laude graduate of Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where she earned a degree

in Music Education. She later received a magna cum laude Master of Music Education degree from Loyola University.

Mrs. Arceneaux-Mathis has 38 years of experience in education, including 30 years of dedicated service to students in the Natchez-Adams County School District, four years in the Detroit Public Schools, and four years as President of the Mississippi Association of Educators. She currently serves as an adjunct instructor at Copiah-Lincoln Community College's Natchez Campus, where she teaches Music Appreciation.

In 1996, Mrs. Arceneaux-Mathis became the first Black woman elected to the Natchez Board of Aldermen, representing Ward 1. In that position, she has chaired the Utilities, Public Properties, Fire, and Recreation Committees. In 2008, she was selected by the Board of Aldermen to serve as Mayor Pro Tempore, a role she held until 2020. She was inducted into the Mississippi Municipal League's Hall of Fame in 2016.

Mrs. Arceneaux-Mathis has also been deeply involved in civic and political engagement. She was elected as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention for three assemblies—1992, 1996, and 2000—and served as an At-Large Member of the Democratic National Committee from 1993 to 2001. In 1998, she made an historic run for Congress to represent Mississippi's Fourth Congressional District.

Joyce is the daughter of Eddie and Thelma Turner. She is married to Jewell Mathis and is the proud mother of Joycelyn Yvette Hooker. She is a member of St. John United Methodist Church, a retired member of the Retired Education Personnel of Mississippi, and Director of The Mathis School of Music. She currently serves as President of the Natchez NAACP and is a founding member of the Natchez Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

Mrs. Arceneaux-Mathis has been named Woman of the Year by the Bluff City Post and has received three citations from the Natchez NAACP, including the Medgar Evers Award for "Enhancing the Dream" (2014), Woman of the year (2016), and the Phillip "Bucket" West Public Official Award (2018).

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Joyce T. Arceneaux-Mathis for her outstanding leadership, dedication, and lifelong service to the Natchez, Mississippi community.

**CELEBRATING THE MINNEAPOLIS AMERICAN INDIAN CENTER'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY**

**HON. ILHAN OMAR**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 17, 2025*

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Minneapolis American Indian Center on its 50th anniversary. Since opening its doors on Franklin Avenue in 1975, the Center has been a cornerstone of support, empowerment, and cultural preservation for the more than 35,000 tribally diverse American Indians living in the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area.

Guided by strong Native values, the Minneapolis American Indian Center has carried

out its mission through a wide range of programs and services that preserve cultural traditions and create pathways for opportunity. Its youth, elder, and intergenerational programs provide stability, encourage academic achievement, improve health and wellness, and help break the cycle of generational poverty. Importantly, all programs and services are provided at no cost to participants, ensuring equitable access to resources.

Over the past five decades, the Center has developed and expanded initiatives that address the holistic needs of community members. Programs such as Family Services, Youth Services, the Culture Language Arts Network, Native Fitness and Nutrition, and more all reflect the Center's broad impact. The Family Stability Program, for example, provides case management, financial aid, and critical connections to prevent families from entering the child protection system. Meanwhile, the Native Fitness and Nutrition Program successfully promotes physical activity and healthy nutrition among Native families by providing free gym and fitness center space and exercise and sport activities.

The Minneapolis American Indian Center has also made significant contributions to arts and culture. The renovated facility includes expanded gallery and studio spaces, language classes, dance, and film festivals. The Two Rivers Gallery nurtures emerging Native artists by offering exhibition opportunities, creativity support, and professional development. Through the Boys & Girls Club of the Minneapolis American Indian Center, Native youth are empowered with culturally relevant opportunities to grow, lead, dream, and realize their full potential.

I am proud that my office was able to secure \$3 million in federal funding to support the renovation and expansion of the Minneapolis American Indian Center. These investments have created new health and wellness facilities, strengthened youth programming, and ensured that this vital institution will continue to thrive for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the Minneapolis American Indian Center's 50 years of service. Its tireless work has strengthened families and enriched cultural traditions across Minnesota. The Center stands as a powerful example of resilience, community, and the enduring strength of Native nations.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. JOHNNY OLSZEWSKI, JR.**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 17, 2025*

Mr. OLSZEWSKI. Mr. Speaker, I necessarily missed the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 284.

**CONGRATULATING CALVO ENTERPRISES, INC. ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY**

**HON. JAMES C. MOYLAN**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 17, 2025*

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, the year 2025 marks a major milestone in Guam's history—

the 50th anniversary of Calvo Enterprises, Inc., a family-owned company that has become a cornerstone of our island's economy and community life.

The story of Calvo Enterprises begins nearly a century ago, in 1938, when Eduardo "Jake" Calvo founded Guam's first locally owned insurance agency. At the time, he could not have imagined that his vision would grow into a multi-generational enterprise shaping so many aspects of life on our island. Yet from those modest beginnings, the Calvo family built a foundation of entrepreneurship and service that continues to this day.

Over the decades, the family's ventures expanded beyond insurance into wholesale distribution, retail, broadcasting, healthcare, real estate, and tourism. By the 1970's, under the leadership of Jake's sons Paul, Edward, and Jerry, these businesses were formally brought together under one structure—Calvo Enterprises, Inc. (CEI, established in 1975).

Since then, CEI has become one of Guam's most dynamic business groups. It secured the Pepsi bottling franchise, making Mid-Pacific Distributors a household name. It acquired KUAM, Guam's oldest television and radio station, ensuring that local voices would continue to have a strong platform. It transformed PayLess Supermarkets into the island's leading grocery chain. And it launched Calvo's SelectCare, which today provides health coverage for thousands of individuals and families.

But what makes this 50-year milestone so significant is not just the breadth of the businesses, it is the enduring impact on Guam's people. Through its companies, CEI has created jobs, modernized industries, and introduced new consumer choices. Through its civic partnerships, it has helped develop cultural and tourism landmarks such as Two Lovers Point. And through its philanthropy, it has stood beside families in times of hardship, most notably through the Edward M. Calvo Cancer Foundation, which continues to support patients and their loved ones.

The Calvo family's contributions have also extended into public service. Governor Paul M. Calvo and Governor Eddie Baza Calvo each brought their business experience to government, guiding Guam through periods of challenge and transition. Their leadership reflected the same qualities that defined their family business: fiscal discipline, innovation, and a belief that Guam's future is worth investing in.

Today, CEI is led by the third generation—Leonard P. Calvo, Jake Calvo, and Eddie Baza Calvo—who continue to steer the company with the same values their grandfather instilled: hard work, integrity, and care for community. Their recent acquisitions and ventures, from Tokio Marine Pacific Insurance to the opening of Guam's first Daiso store, demonstrate a forward-looking vision while staying rooted in Guam's needs.

Anniversaries are not just markers of time; they are reminders of legacy. For fifty years, Calvo Enterprises has helped build the economy of Guam, but more importantly, it has helped build trust, resilience, and opportunity for the people of Guam. Few companies can claim such a wide-ranging and positive impact.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Calvo family and to every employee, past and present, who has contributed to this extraordinary journey.

#### HONORING THE 2025 WORTHWHILE GALA'S SPEAKER: T ORTIZ

#### HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2025

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary woman whose courage, compassion, and unwavering commitment to justice have transformed countless lives across our Nation and around the world. It is my distinct honor to recognize T Ortiz, who is the Guest Speaker at the 2025 Worthwhile Gala.

Ms. Ortiz's story is one of profound resilience and relentless hope. As a survivor who turned her most difficult experiences into a lifelong calling to protect others, she stands as a powerful reminder of the strength of the human spirit. For more than 15 years, she has been a leading force in the fields of anti-trafficking, juvenile justice, and child welfare systems reform. Her expertise is not merely professional. It is deeply personal, driven by empathy and the belief that every child deserves safety, every survivor deserves dignity, and every community deserves the tools to stand against exploitation.

Her impact is felt in boardrooms, classrooms, courtrooms, and every space where decisions about vulnerable children and survivors are made. Ms. Ortiz has shaped policies at the highest levels of government, ensuring that survivor voices are not just included but are central in the fight against trafficking and exploitation. Her insights have informed national and international strategies, and her leadership has guided lawmakers, agencies, nonprofit organizations, and service providers toward more humane and effective practices.

The world has taken notice of her extraordinary contributions. Ms. Ortiz has earned global recognition from prestigious institutions such as TIME Magazine, GLAMOUR Magazine, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, and many others who have celebrated her as a trailblazer and a beacon of hope. These honors speak not only to her achievements but also to her heart. Her heart has compassion, humility, and an unwavering devotion that guides her work every day.

Mr. Speaker, what sets Ms. Ortiz apart is not just her expertise, but her spirit. She leads with grace. She advocates with love. She carries the stories of survivors with her, and she ensures those stories fuel lasting change. At the 2025 Worthwhile Gala, her presence reminds us that progress is possible when we listen, when we care, and when we choose to fight for those who cannot always fight for themselves.

As Co-Chair of the Bipartisan Task Force to End Human Trafficking, I am especially grateful for leaders like Ms. Ortiz. Leaders who illuminate the path forward and inspire all of us to do more, try harder, and serve better. Her voice has strengthened our Nation's efforts to confront injustice, and her example challenges each of us to act with greater compassion and courage.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating T Ortiz for her remarkable achievements, her transformative leadership, and her profound dedication to creating a world where every person, especially every

child, is protected, valued, and free. Her work embodies the very best of who we aspire to be.

#### CELEBRATING COALITION FOR FAMILY HARMONY'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2025

Ms. BROWNLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Coalition for Family Harmony as it celebrates its 50th anniversary, marking five decades of unwavering service, compassion, and commitment to protecting survivors, rebuilding lives, and strengthening families across Ventura County.

For half a century, the Coalition for Family Harmony has stood as a lifeline for those in crisis and a guiding light for survivors seeking safety, strength, and healing. Since 1976, the Coalition has provided life-saving and life-changing support to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse. Based in Ventura County and operating the county's only rape crisis center, the Coalition helps survivors rebuild their lives and create healthier, safer futures. Through its tireless work, the Coalition not only restores hope and independence but also helps end the patterns of abuse that have long harmed families and communities.

What began as a small grassroots effort to provide safety and shelter has grown into a steadfast source of care, understanding, and healing for our community. Over the course of five decades, the Coalition has gone far beyond providing shelter and counseling. It has offered a path forward. Out of the bleakest of moments, the Coalition has provided survivors light, and in their most difficult hours, it has been there with the support that many never knew was possible. Through its 24-hour bilingual crisis hotline, community education, prevention programs, and trauma-informed services, the Coalition has made it possible for survivors and their loved ones to rebuild their lives with dignity and resilience.

This extraordinary work would not be possible without the dedicated staff, volunteers, and advocates who carry out a mission that truly changes lives. Their compassion, perseverance, and unwavering commitment to justice have touched countless individuals and strengthened our entire community. As the Coalition celebrates this remarkable milestone during Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we are reminded that its mission to build stronger, safer, and more resilient families has never been more vital.

Mr. Speaker, it is with deep admiration and heartfelt gratitude that I recognize the Coalition for Family Harmony for fifty years of extraordinary service. I thank every staff member, volunteer, and supporter who has carried this mission forward for being a beacon of hope and healing in Ventura County and beyond.

RECOGNIZING OFFICER JACKLYN RODRIGUEZ OF THE PHARR POLICE DEPARTMENT

**HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2025

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Officer Jacklyn Rodriguez of the Pharr Police Department in Pharr, Texas, for her exceptional courage, professionalism, and dedication to service as a Mental Health Officer.

Officer Rodriguez embodies the compassion and commitment that defines the best of law enforcement. Each day, she responds to some of the most difficult and unpredictable situations. Through her calm demeanor and skilled communication, she has helped de-escalate countless mental health crises, ensuring that vulnerable individuals receive the care they need while keeping our community safe.

Her leadership has transformed how the department approaches mental health intervention. Under her guidance, the Pharr Police Department's Mental Health Unit earned statewide recognition, receiving the Martha Arbuckle Award from the Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities. Officer Rodriguez also spearheaded the department's first "Walking to Wellness Fair," an event that brought residents together to promote wellness, awareness, and unity across the community.

Officer Rodriguez's service reflects the highest ideals of her profession: courage, compassion in moments of crisis, and an unwavering commitment to the people of Pharr. Her example reminds us that true public safety is rooted in understanding your community and humanity.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent Officer Jacklyn Rodriguez and to recognize the profound impact she continues to have on the people of Pharr and all of South Texas.

**HONORING THE VICTIMS OF THE 1961 PLANE CRASH**

**HON. RYAN MACKENZIE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2025

Mr. MACKENZIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on behalf of the people of the Lehigh Valley and the Poconos, to honor the memory of the 29 victims who lost their lives in a tragic plane crash on November 8, 1961, including fourteen young men from Bethlehem.

These young soldiers, most just out of high school, were on their way to basic training at Fort Jackson when their flight went down outside Richmond, Virginia. In an instant, families lost sons and brothers. Our community lost neighbors, classmates, and friends. And our Nation lost young patriots preparing to serve in defense of freedom during one of the darkest chapters of the Cold War.

In the aftermath, their sacrifice led to reforms in military air transport standards—changes that have saved countless lives in the decades since. What was once a devastating loss became a catalyst for increased accountability and safety.

Today, a monument in Bethlehem stands as a reminder of the price these families paid and the values these young men embodied: service, duty, and love of country.

May we never forget their names, their courage, or the community that still feels their absence more than sixty years later. And may their memory continue to inspire gratitude and resolve in all of us who benefit from the freedoms they never had the chance to fully experience.

We remember them and include their names in the RECORD:

Albert W. Andreas, Robert S. Bedics, Barry A. Brandt, Donald F. Doyle, Thomas D. Gasda, Richard W. Jones, Joseph J. Kobli, Stephen M. Kobli, Leroy Kranich, Jr., Thomas A. Motko, Michael Placotaris, Albert J. Rice, John D. Schuler, and Charles D. Yeakel.

**HONORING TSGT NY VU AS ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S 8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT'S WOMEN OF THE YEAR**

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of TSGT Ny Vu, as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year for her extraordinary service, leadership, and innovation which have had a lasting impact on our military and our community. As the Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge of Financial Operations for the 60th Comptroller Squadron, Sergeant Vu leads the largest financial team in Air Mobility Command, supporting over 16,000 personnel and managing a \$1 billion civilian pay portfolio. Her leadership ensures financial readiness across three wings and 11 Combatant Commands. During a critical staffing shortage, Sergeant Vu stepped into a Company Grade Officer role, executing over \$1 million in payments and restoring financial mobility for 7,000 members in just 12 days. She has led joint-service financial operations, standardized procedures, and mentored junior officers, strengthening leadership across the force. Her innovations, including an Air Force-wide fraud detection tool and deployment of mobile financial systems, have modernized operations and reduced pay errors to a five-year low. She also contributed to designing a new global disbursing system now in use at 78 bases.

Born in Rach Gia, Vietnam, Sergeant Vu immigrated to the U.S. after spending time in a refugee camp. Her service since 2006 includes assignments in Europe, Asia, and four deployments to the Middle East. Her resilience and excellence have earned her multiple awards and promotions. Her service embodies the highest ideals of the Air Force and the American spirit. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize TSGT Ny Vu for her invaluable contributions to our community.

HONORING COLONEL RICHARD S. FRANKS ON THE CELEBRATION OF HIS 86TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. ROSA L. DELAUR**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2025

Ms. DELAUR. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to join family, friends, and the congregation members of Zion Baptist Church in Waterbury, Connecticut as they gather to celebrate the 86th birthday of Colonel Richard S. Franks.

The third of six children and the eldest son, Colonel Franks was born and raised in Waterbury, Connecticut, spending his childhood in both the North End and the City's southern section of Town Plot. He attended Walsh Grade School and graduated from Leavenworth High School before pursuing his collegiate studies. Colonel Franks went on to earn his Bachelor's Degree from North Carolina Central University and then his Master's Degree from Howard University. His studies prepared him for a career in social work, where he specialized as a psychiatric social worker.

As was the same for so many at the time, the Vietnam War played a defining role in Colonel Franks' life path. It was either get drafted and almost certainly be sent straight to the front lines or seek assistance in finding a way to use his professional skills to aid in the war effort. He sought the advice and guidance of then Congressman John Monagan. It was through these conversations and the efforts of Congressman Monagan that he joined the United States Army. Though his enlistment committed him to four years of service, it also allowed him to quickly earn the rank of 2nd Lieutenant enabling him to be assigned to a stateside military/veteran hospital where his professional background was put to good use working with injured and returning soldiers.

He served four years active duty and then joined the Army Reserves where he continued to serve and earn the rank of full Colonel. After his honorable discharge and while serving as a reservist, Colonel Franks also worked for the Connecticut Veterans' Affairs Department using his skills to help his fellow veterans. Today, he is without doubt the oldest Black retired Colonel in Connecticut and likely one of the nation's as well.

In addition to his service to our nation and his fellow veterans, Colonel Franks has also been an active member of his community, particularly with the Zion Baptist Church, serving in a number of leadership roles including as a Trustee and Deacon. He and his wife, Dolores, have lived in the quaint community of Prospect, Connecticut for more than fifty years, raising two children and relishing the joys of being grandparents to three and great-grandparents to two. He continues to enjoy time with his five siblings as well—three sisters, Joan, Bonita, and Ruthie—as well as his two brothers, Marvin and former Connecticut Congressman Gary Franks. Today, as he marks his 86th birthday, he can reflect on a life well-lived and know that his many contributions have enriched countless lives and left an indelible mark on his community. I am honored to have this opportunity to rise today to wish Colonel Richard S. Franks a very happy birthday.

## HONORING THE MEMORY OF RUDY CORDOVA

## HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2025

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Rudy Cordova, a beloved figure in Santa Ana whose spirit, vision, and generosity left a profound mark on our city and the 46th Congressional District. Rudy was a community builder. He believed in the power of culture, art, and connection to bring people together. He created space for artists, for creativity, and for community to flourish. His work gave life to possibilities for those who may have otherwise gone unseen or unheard. His voice became the voice of those around him.

Rudy lived as a proud “Santanero,” someone rooted in the place and people he loved deeply. He drew people in by opening doors, literally and figuratively, to opportunities, gatherings, dialogue, and artistic expression.

The canvas of his life was colored by commitment to cultural heritage, to mutual respect, and to inclusion of everyone in our community.

His legacy will be measured in the moments of human connections he fostered. The young artist who found a gallery wall because of him. The neighbor who found a place at the table because he made it available. The community that felt supported and heard.

As we commemorate Rudy’s legacy, let us also commit ourselves to carry forward his vision of open-hearted community and to serve with the same kindness and courage that Rudy embodied. In the days ahead, may we honor his memory by continuing the work he started—by making room, by creating connection, and by telling our stories together.

Rudy Cordova may no longer be with us in person, but his presence lives on in the lives he touched, the art he nurtured, the community he strengthened, and the promise he gave to every person who dared to imagine a better tomorrow.

Let us remember him, celebrate him, and act in his spirit.

## TRIBUTE TO DONALD L. CARLSON

## HON. MARK E. AMODEI

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2025

Mr. AMODEI of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Donald L. Carlson, who passed away peacefully at his home in Carson City, Nevada. Mr. Carlson was a native of rural Davis County, Iowa, but I believe he would have considered Nevada his true home. His son, Clifford D. Carlson, shared that his father described Nevada as “the land of opportunity, not only for others who migrated to the Silver State, but particularly for himself.”

He moved out west in 1974 to pursue a career in education, specifically a professor of sociology at Western Nevada Community College. During his tenure, he served on WNCC’s Faculty Senate, was recognized as an Outstanding Faculty Member in 1991, and received the Nevada Board of Regents’ Academic Advisor Award in 2003.

Mr. Carlson also owned Survey Research Systems, a political opinion research company, to study and analyze what motivates voters. While he agreed to represent clients all over the Nation, his particular interest was polling the needs of Nevadans and ensuring their policy goals for elected officials were heard.

I owe immense gratitude to Mr. Carlson, who played a pivotal role in both my personal and professional life. He was deliberate in choosing whom to support, and I am deeply thankful for his support of me over the years. While we did not always see eye to eye, I always valued his insight, honesty, and the lessons he shared. He was an exceptional teacher, not only in the classroom, but also to countless individuals he inspired and guided with principle in their pursuit of public service throughout our great state.

On behalf of the 2nd Congressional District of Nevada, I want to recognize and honor the extraordinary life of my friend Don Carlson, and the lasting impact he made on our community. He was a remarkable man, and while he will be deeply missed, his legacy will not be forgotten.

## RECOGNIZING OFFICER PEDRO BALDERAS, JR. OF THE ALAMO POLICE DEPARTMENT

## HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2025

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Officer Pedro Balderas, Jr. of the Alamo Police Department in Alamo, Texas, for his exceptional service to his community.

Since joining the department, Officer Balderas has gone above and beyond the call of duty, earning the respect of his colleagues and the gratitude of the community he serves. From his early days as a patrol officer, he demonstrated initiative, integrity, and a tireless work ethic. Through his proactive policing and sharp investigative instincts, he quickly became known for his ability to identify criminal patterns, develop intelligence, and pursue offenders with determination.

As a Major Crimes Investigator, Officer Balderas has played a pivotal role in solving complex cases that require persistence, analytical skill, and sound judgment. His leadership has contributed to numerous successful prosecutions and the dismantling of criminal operations that have threatened the safety of our communities.

In addition to his service with the Alamo Police Department, Officer Balderas has distinguished himself as a Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force Officer. Through close collaboration with state and federal partners, he has led major narcotics investigations that resulted in significant drug seizures, arrests of key figures in organized crime, and the recovery of substantial assets through federal and state forfeiture processes.

Beyond his investigative accomplishments, Officer Balderas is known for being a mentor to his colleagues and upholding the highest professional standards. His integrity and commitment to justice embody the very best of South Texas.

Mr. Speaker, Officer Pedro Balderas, Jr. is a shining example of the courage and dedication that define South Texas law enforcement. I am proud to represent Officer Balderas and recognize his outstanding contributions and thank him for his continued service to our region.

## HONORING MARY DAVIS AS SHE RETIRES

## HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2025

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a leader who has been a tremendous advocate for the disability community: Mary Davis. After more than four decades of working for the Special Olympics, including ten years as its Chief Executive Officer, she will start her much-deserved retirement at the end of this year. In that time, she has accomplished a great deal for people with disabilities in America and around the world.

A proud daughter of Ireland, Mary first became involved in the Special Olympics as a volunteer when she was studying physical education as a university student. In 1985, she helped organize the Special Olympics European Games in Dublin—the first regional games the organization ever hosted. She continued to rise through the ranks, eventually receiving an appointment to serve as National Director of Special Olympics Ireland in 1989. She further distinguished herself during her tenure as CEO of the 2003 Special Olympics World Summer Games and later as President and Managing Director of Special Olympics Europe-Eurasia, which led to her appointment as CEO of Special Olympics International in 2016. I remember seeing Mary not long after, in 2018, at the 50th anniversary celebration of the Special Olympics. I was greatly impressed with her leadership, vision, and passionate commitment to creating opportunities for these Special Olympians to demonstrate their talent.

The first Special Olympics World Summer Games, held in Chicago in 1968, featured roughly 1,000 athletes from the U.S. and Canada competing in three sports. The most recent World Summer Games, held in Berlin in 2023, saw nearly 7,000 athletes from 176 nations compete across 24 different events. Crucially, local, national, and regional Special Olympics events are organized every single day around the globe, with more than 100,000 held each year. We owe the growth of this remarkable tradition in no small part to Mary Davis. She has helped show the world all that these Special Olympians are capable of, and she has shown them and the rest of the disability community how much we value their contributions to society.

For that, she has my thanks and the gratitude of this Congress. Eunice Kennedy Shriver—the founder of the Special Olympics and my dear friend—once said: ‘do it well, finish it properly, and move on.’ Mr. Speaker, Mary has done well, finished properly, and now is moving on to what I hope will be a relaxing and meaningful retirement. I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing her all the best as she starts this next chapter.

## CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF ST. THERESA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

## HON. CARLOS A. GIMENEZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2025

Mr. GIMENEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of St. Theresa Catholic School, a pillar of faith, education, and community in the heart of Coral Gables, Florida.

In 1925, the Sisters of St. Joseph of St. Augustine opened a single building with seventy students. From that humble beginning, they planted the seeds of Catholic education that grew into one of South Florida's most distinguished Catholic schools.

On July 16, 1991, the Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Los Angeles arrived in Coral Gables to begin administering and teaching at St. Theresa—a mission they continue faithfully to this day.

For a century, St. Theresa has remained true to its mission: faith formation, academic excellence, and service in a nurturing, Christ-centered environment. Over the years, the school has expanded its facilities, embraced innovation in technology, and prepared its students to face the future while staying rooted in faith.

Now serving more than 900 students, St. Theresa continues to shine as a beacon of excellence in Catholic education. Its enduring legacy is carried forward by devoted teachers, parents, and generations of alumni who embody the values instilled within its halls.

I congratulate St. Theresa Catholic School on a century of service.

## SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

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

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

## MEETINGS SCHEDULED

## NOVEMBER 19

Time to be announced

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Scott Mayer, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board, Mary Anne

Carter, of Tennessee, to be Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts, and pending calendar business.

TBA

9:30 a.m.

## Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine how the BLM land use planning process under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) affects permitting for energy, mining, grazing, and infrastructure projects on public lands.

SD-366

9:45 a.m.

## Committee on Finance

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Arjun Mody, of New Jersey, to be Deputy Commissioner Social Security, Jeffrey Goettman, of Virginia, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative (Africa, Western Hemisphere, Europe, the Middle East, Environment, Labor, and Industrial Competitiveness), with the Rank of Ambassador, Julie Callahan, of the District of Columbia, to be Chief Agricultural Negotiator, Office of the United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador, and Thomas Bell, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services.

SD-215

10 a.m.

## Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the future of PFAS cleanup and disposal policy.

SD-562

## Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine the rising cost of health care, focusing on considering meaningful solutions for all Americans.

SD-215

## Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Tammy Bruce, of California, to be the Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador; the Deputy Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations; and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, during her tenure of service as Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, and Darryl Nirenberg, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to Romania, both of the Department of State.

SD-419

## Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Charlton Allen, of North Carolina, to be General Counsel of the Federal Labor Relations Authority, John Walk, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of Agriculture, and Thomas Bell, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services.

SD-342

## Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine pending calendar nominations.

SD-106

10:30 a.m.

## Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Joseph Gormley, of Maryland, to be President, Government Na-

tional Mortgage Association, Francis Cassidy, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Paul Hollis, of Louisiana, to be Director of the Mint, and Travis Hill, of Maryland, to be Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

SD-538

## Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Stephen Carmel, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Maritime Administration, John DeLeeuw, of Texas, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board, Laura DiBella, of Florida, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner, Ethan Klein, of New Jersey, to be an Associate Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, Ryan McCormack, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy, Trent Morse, of Florida, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, Timothy Petty, of Indiana, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, and Michelle A. Schultz, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board.

SR-253

11 a.m.

## Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Admiral Kevin Lunday, to be Commandant of the United States Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security.

SR-253

2 p.m.

## Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Border Security and Immigration

To hold hearings to examine Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

## Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Aviation, Space, and Innovation

To hold hearings to examine how shutdowns threaten air safety, travel, and the economy.

SR-253

## Committee on Rules and Administration

Business meeting to consider S. Res. 493, reducing the annual rate of pay of Senators if a Government shutdown occurs during a year.

SR-301

## Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine Trump's regulatory rollback, focusing on saving Americans \$907 billion and counting.

SR-428A

3 p.m.

## Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Michael Selig, of Florida, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

SD-G50

## Select Committee on Intelligence

Closed business meeting to consider pending calendar business; to be immediately followed by a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

3:45 p.m.

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine made in America, focusing on restoring trust in our medicines.

SH-216

NOVEMBER 20

9:15 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Andrew Duva, of Florida, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Robert P. Chamberlin, and James D. Maxwell II, both to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Mississippi, William J. Crain, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana, Alexander C. Van Hook, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana, William Boyle, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina, Erin Creegan, to be United States Attorney for the District of New Hampshire, Ryan Anthony Kriegshauser, to be United States Attorney for the District of Kansas, James Kruger, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Mississippi, Scott Leary, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Mississippi, and Richard

Price, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri.

SH-216

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Brent Christensen, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Benjamin Leon, Jr., of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Spain, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Principality of Andorra, and Leo Brent Bozell III, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of South Africa, all of the Department of State; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine reviewing implementation of the Taiwan Enhanced Resilience Act, and future opportunities for U.S.-Taiwan cooperation.

SD-419

10 a.m.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the future of retirement.

SD-430

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Charlton Allen, of North Caro-

lina, to be General Counsel of the Federal Labor Relations Authority, John Walk, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of Agriculture, and Thomas Bell, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services.

SD-342

10:30 a.m.

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings to examine Syria, focusing on lifting sanctions for peace and prosperity.

CHOB-210

DECEMBER 9

10:15 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine protecting children online against offenders.

SH-216

DECEMBER 11

10 a.m.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the future of the U.S. organ procurement and transplantation network.

SD-430