

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

DESTROYING UNNECESSARY, MIS- ALIGNED, AND PROHIBITIVE RED TAPE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 2, 2025

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, today we will vote on the Destroying Unnecessary, Misaligned, and Prohibitive (DUMP) Red Tape Act, which would require the SBA's Office of Advocacy to codify a Red Tape Hotline to receive submissions on burdensome regulations and to report on those submissions. I will vote "no" because this bill is redundant—there is already a hotline in place for reporting red tape. Rather than improving the process, this bill would create an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy that would hinder, not help, the ongoing work of the SBA's Office of Advocacy.

RECOGNIZING MERCER HEALTH ON THEIR 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the seventy-fifth anniversary of Mercer Health, a dedicated healthcare system in Mercer County, Ohio. For seventy-five years, Mercer Health has been dedicated to providing excellent healthcare to the residents of Mercer County and the surrounding region. The hard work and spirit shown by staff have improved the health and quality of life for countless patients.

Founded in 1950, Mercer Health, known then as Our Lady of Mercy Hospital, was established to provide care to the citizens in Coldwater, Ohio and surrounding area. Seeing a need for a hospital, concerned citizens banded together to open the forty-eight-bed hospital. In 1969, the Sisters of Mercy who operated the hospital approached the board and advised them that they could no longer continue its operations. Over the next few years, seven townships in Mercer County stepped forward and took over the hospital. They created a joint township hospital district and renamed the hospital Mercer County Joint Township Community Hospital in 1972.

Over the decades, the hospital grew into the healthcare system it is today. It began to open new departments and expanded to open new medical centers across the county. By 2004, the remaining townships in the county joined the original seven to help in the operation of the health district. To reflect the hospital and health district commitment to service all the residents of Mercer County, the board renamed the health district Mercer Health. Since then, Mercer Health has continued to expand and grow, opening new offices and campuses to house their network of medical services.

Mr. Speaker, by celebrating the seventy-fifth anniversary of Mercer Health, the county and its residents can recognize the outstanding achievements of the staff and pride that they have in the healthcare system's success. I Congratulate Mercer Health on this momentous milestone. I thank them for all they do to improve our communities' health.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE JACQUALINE BERGER

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Councilmember Jacqueline Berger, a woman whose influence can be seen and felt throughout the Western New York community by colleagues and community members of Amherst, New York.

In 1978, Councilmember Berger earned her bachelor's degree from Lesley University, followed by a master's degree from Tulane University in 1983. For more than two decades, she has dedicated her career to education, guiding and mentoring students at every level and helping them build bright, successful futures.

Councilmember Berger is a lifelong public servant and champion for her community. She has led at both the local and national levels through her work with the New York State United Teachers and the American Federation of Teachers. A dedicated advocate for individuals with special needs, she also runs a local Challenger Baseball program that empowers children and adults with disabilities to play and thrive. In 2017, she was elected to the Amherst Town Board and has dutifully served for nearly a decade. During her tenure, Councilmember Berger was appointed Deputy Supervisor, playing a vital role in the town's operations and acting as a liaison between the Town and Amherst residents.

As we acknowledge the incredible service of Councilmember Jacqueline Berger, let us recognize her dedicated career as a public servant and her service to the Town of Amherst, providing a safe space for all to be seen and heard. Councilmember Berger's leadership is a masterclass, and her service will be seen, felt, and heard for generations to come, and we are all the better for it.

RECOGNIZING THE RECIPIENTS OF FLORIDA'S 16TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT VETERAN COMMENDA- TION

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a group of veterans for their military and community service.

Our veterans have sacrificed much in the defense of our Nation. Many of them retired their uniforms but continue their service by helping others in their community.

Four years ago, I established the 16th District Congressional Veteran Commendation to recognize the heroic wartime sacrifices and admirable peacetime community involvement of my constituents. These are exceptional Americans. I appreciate the opportunity to honor them for their service to the Nation and community.

An independent panel reviewed several nominations and chose the following nineteen veterans for their wartime and post-military service. I include in the RECORD their names:

Nelson Betancourt of Valrico who served in the U.S. Army outside of war time.

Benny Blackshire of Sun City Center who served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War.

Jeffery Camp of Parrish who served in the U.S. Army and Army National Guard during the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars.

Jack Carter of Lakewood Ranch who served in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Vietnam and Gulf Wars.

Charles Conover, Jr. of Sun City Center who served in the U.S. Army outside of war time.

Ronald Cousineau of Sun City Center who served in the U.S. Air Force outside of war time.

Emily Farkas of Brandon who served in the U.S. Air Force during the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars.

Ferris Garrett, Jr. of Sun City Center who served in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War.

William Greer of Wimauma who served in the U.S. Air Force outside of war time.

Brian Hammer of Sun City Center who served in the U.S. Army during the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars.

Nathaniel Hawthorne of Sun City Center who served in the U.S. Navy during the Iraq War.

Roberta Jordan of Riverview who served in the U.S. Army outside of war time.

Robert Lucas, II of Sun City Center who served in the U.S. Army outside of war time.

Danny Melton of Riverview who served in the U.S. Marine Corps outside of war time.

MaryAnn Rowe of Sun City Center who served in the Michigan Army National Guard during the Iraq War.

Richard Steinestel of Valrico who served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War.

Roland Tiso, Jr. of Valrico who served in the U.S. Army during the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars.

Paul Wheat, Jr. of Sun City Center who served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War.

Edward Wudarsky, Jr. of Sun City Center who served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War.

• 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.

CONGRATULATING DR. SHEILA QUIRK-BAILEY ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Dr. Sheila Quirk-Bailey, President of Illinois Central College, for her outstanding leadership and over three decades of dedicated service to higher education. Since becoming president in 2016, Dr. Quirk-Bailey has guided Illinois Central College through a period of significant progress focused on student success, equity, and workforce development.

Under her leadership, Illinois Central College achieved five consecutive semesters of enrollment growth, improved graduation and retention rates, and reduced developmental education placements by sixty-six percent while maintaining strong student outcomes. Dr. Quirk-Bailey led the creation of nationally recognized workforce programs including the Workforce Empowerment Initiative, the Information Technology Workforce Accelerator, and the first prison education program in the Nation funded by federal Pell grants. The Workforce Empowerment Initiative alone has helped lift more than 1,200 individuals out of poverty, with participants seeing an average increase of nearly thirty-three thousand dollars in yearly earnings.

Dr. Quirk-Bailey also laid a strong foundation for ICC's next decade of growth. Through the College's strategic plan, she advanced a year-round eight-week scheduling process, expanded micro and stackable credential pathways, supported the development of boot camps and competency-based education models, and guided the implementation of a new enterprise resource planning platform to modernize operations and meet future workforce demands.

Central Illinois is fortunate to have had a leader whose vision, professionalism, and dedication to expanding educational opportunity, have strengthened our region for many years. Dr. Quirk-Bailey's unwavering commitment to student success and workforce advancement is truly inspiring, and her retirement marks the closure of a remarkable career devoted to improving lives through education. I am honored to recognize her for her extraordinary service and congratulate her on her well-earned retirement. I wish Dr. Quirk-Bailey and her loved ones the very best in the years ahead.

CELEBRATING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS, LOCAL 17

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 125th anniversary of the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 17. For over a century, these skilled workers have ensured the safe and efficient operation of the machinery that powers our re-

gion's progress. Their expertise keeps Western New York's vital projects running—projects that our communities rely on every single day.

As the very embodiment of American blue-collar grit and skill, Local 17 represents the best of who we are. With over two thousand members, Local 17 continues to strengthen our workforce through apprenticeship programs, training programs, and a focus on continuous education. The renaissance of Western New York wouldn't be possible without Local 17's hard work.

Local 17 is led by President Josh Williams and Business Manager William Fekete. The union also operates a training school located in Lake View, New York, under the direction of Vice President James Smolinski, Jr., helping to educate the next generation of operating engineers in the safe usage of their equipment and allowing members to hone their skills.

Mr. Speaker, as we mark the 125th anniversary of the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 17, we celebrate its lasting impact on Western New York. Local 17 exemplifies the best of organized labor and demonstrates that when we invest in our workers, we invest in the success of our entire region.

HONORING MONIQUE KOLTERMAN FOR HER DEDICATED SERVICE TO CATHOLIC EDUCATION

HON. LISA C. MCCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Mrs. MCCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Monique Kolterman, an exemplary educator whose unwavering devotion to Catholic education in the Diocese of Arlington has left a profound and lasting impact on countless students, families, and colleagues.

Monique began her service to the diocese in 2009 at Nativity Catholic School in Burke, Virginia, where she worked as an Instructional Aide. From her first days in the classroom, it was clear that she possessed a rare gift: the ability to nurture both the intellect and spirit. Her efforts helped foster a culture of academic excellence and Christ-centered formation, and she served the Nativity community with distinction until 2012.

In August 2015, Monique brought her passion and talents to St. Veronica Catholic School, joining the faculty as an Instructional Assistant for second grade. Her exceptional work, leadership, and rapport with students quickly earned her additional responsibility, and in 2019, she rose to become one of the school's lead fifth-grade teachers. Her influence extended beyond the classroom, most notably in the spring of 2023, when she enriched the school community by leading the after-school Chess Club, offering students a new outlet for strategic thinking and personal growth.

Monique's qualifications reflect not only her expertise but also her deep commitment to the vocation of teaching. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Education and is certified by the Virginia Catholic Education Association through the Diocese of Arlington-credentials that underscore her professional excellence and dedication to lifelong learning.

Her career in Catholic education, however, reaches even further back. Before joining the

Diocese of Arlington, Monique served in a variety of instructional roles across Ohio, including as a Social Studies Teacher, Middle School English Teacher, CD Teacher and Eucharistic Minister, French Long-Term Substitute Teacher, and Learning Resource Assistant. In each role, she exemplified the same hallmarks that define her today: unwavering integrity, intellectual rigor, and a heartfelt commitment to forming young people in knowledge, character, and faith.

Mr. Speaker, today we celebrate Monique Kolterman not only for her years of devoted service but for the extraordinary example she sets. She is a teacher who inspires, a mentor who uplifts, and a servant-leader whose quiet strength has shaped the lives of all who have been blessed to know her. Her contributions to Catholic education will continue to bear fruit for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, we extend our deepest gratitude to Monique—for the inspiration she provides, the steadfast leadership she has shown through trying times, and the enduring mark she leaves on the hearts and minds of so many.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DUSTY JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, due to flight delays as a result of winter weather, I missed Monday evening votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 306, and YEA on Roll Call No. 307.

CELEBRATING 15TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY OF PASTOR CRAIG PRIDGEN

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the remarkable leadership and service of Pastor Craig Pridgen as we honor his 15th Pastoral Anniversary at True Bethel Baptist Church. Pastor Pridgen's influence extends far beyond the walls of the church, making a lasting impact on the lives of those in need.

As a proud Western New York native, Pastor Pridgen was raised with the strong support of his family from the very beginning, helping to shape him into a natural leader in all aspects of his life. He excelled academically, graduating from the Buffalo Academy for Visual and Performing Arts before earning his Associate's degree in Business Administration from Medaille University; and later furthering his education, obtaining his Bachelor's degree in Leadership Studies from Regent University.

More than two decades ago with a unanimous decision amongst his peers, Pastor Pridgen was granted his license to preach. In 2010, Pastor Pridgen was chosen to be the spiritual leader of True Bethel Baptist Church's Niagara Falls, New York congregation, guided by the teachings and carrying the voice and

vision of his father, Pastor Darius Pridgen. As a licensed and ordained minister of the Gospel, Pastor Pridgen embodies the belief that we are all called to be servants of the Lord. His passion for service resonates throughout the Western New York, and his leadership inspires parishioners and visitors of True Bethel Baptist Church to grow in faith and unity.

Pastor Pridgen is supported by his beloved wife, the Honorable Judge JaHarr Pridgen. Together, they have formed a family grounded in faith with the addition of their two blessed children: Jordin and Journey. Their marriage exemplifies the strength found in a family that prays and worships together. Pastor Pridgen has made a priority of reaching out to his community, serving as a mentor and advocate for youth, adults, and our most vulnerable community members through his role as a Senior Community Advisor and Chaplain at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center.

As we celebrate a decade and a half of Pastor Pridgen's unwavering dedication, let us recognize the countless lives he has touched and the profound impact he has made at True Bethel Baptist Church and beyond. I congratulate Pastor Pridgen on this significant milestone. His service is a blessing, and we look forward to many more years of his inspired leadership.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFFERSON SHREVE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Mr. SHREVE. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 305, H. Con. Res. 58.

RECOGNIZING THE ELEVEN NEW-EST EAGLE SCOUTS FROM TROOP 407

HON. SUSIE LEE

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous achievement of eleven young men from Troop 407 in Las Vegas who will receive their Eagle Scout Awards simultaneously on December 6, 2025. This event marks only the second time nationally, and the first in Las Vegas, that a troop has achieved such a feat.

These young men are setting the example of what Scouts and young people can achieve. It is not easy to earn the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout—one must persevere through years of hard work, demonstrate strong leadership, and dedicate countless hours of service to others.

The Scout Motto is "Be Prepared" and becoming an Eagle Scout is one of the best ways for a young person to prepare for a life of service and leadership in their community. Las Vegas is proud to have raised these boys into young leaders, and we are looking forward to seeing what all eleven of them become in the years ahead.

I commend the hard work, dedication, and achievement of Jacob Bennett, Cannon Cas-

tor, Ethan Dastrup, Christian Earl, Jackson Hedin, Nixon Hunt, Jack Hyer, Issac Koval, Seth Leedom, Michael Norton, and Luke Robinson. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing their achievement.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE BRIAN KULPA

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Honorable Brian Kulpa, Supervisor of the Town of Amherst, and a man whose influence can be seen and felt throughout the Western New York community by colleagues and community members alike.

As a Western New York native, Supervisor Kulpa graduated from St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute and later obtained his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Architecture and Urban and Regional Planning from SUNY Buffalo. Supervisor Kulpa has more than a quarter-century of experience as an architect and urban planner, previously serving as a senior associate, architect, and planner at a local Western New York firm. Supervisor Kulpa later established his own company, Waves Architecture and Engineering, of which he serves as Principal Architect.

Supervisor Kulpa's career has been a testament to his love for our community. Supervisor Kulpa served as Mayor of the Village of Williamsville from 2012 through the end of 2017, and played a vital role in the village's day-to-day operations, acting as a liaison between the Village of Williamsville and residents. Due to Kulpa's tenacity and vision, the Village of Williamsville was awarded \$11 million in state and federal funding to focus on enhancements of the Main Street Corridor. This investment led to community and infrastructure projects that will be enjoyed by residents and visitors for decades to come.

In 2017, Kulpa was elected Amherst Town Supervisor, where he has helped transform the Town of Amherst into a center of economic prosperity. Supervisor Kulpa has prioritized investments in neighborhood revitalization projects, economic development, parks and recreation, and transportation and infrastructure. With a focus on leveraging existing spaces within the town, Supervisor Kulpa has worked to make the town a vibrant community with a thriving economy.

As we acknowledge the incredible service of the Honorable Brian Kulpa, let us recognize his dedicated career as a public servant to the Village of Williamsville and the Town of Amherst. Supervisor Kulpa's leadership is truly exemplary, and the impact of his service will be seen, felt, and heard for generations to come, leaving our community stronger and better.

HONORING MARCUS D. YOUNG AND H.F. YOUNG TRANSPORTATION, INC.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Marcus D. Young, whose vision, perseverance, and family legacy have transformed H.F. Young Transportation, Inc. into a leading provider of non-emergency medical transportation across the southern United States.

Fifteen years ago, Mr. Young and his wife, Mrs. Toni Wright-Young, founded the company in honor of his grandfather, Harry Young, Sr. What began as a tribute has grown into one of the largest and most trusted non-emergency medical transportation providers in Mississippi, with operations extending into Alabama, Louisiana, and Arkansas.

Under Mr. Young's leadership, H.F. Young Transportation has become known for its reliability, professionalism, and deep commitment to serving vulnerable populations. The company provides safe and accessible transportation for seniors, individuals with disabilities, and others in need of medical care. With a fleet of specialized vehicles and a dedicated staff trained in safety and compassion, the company saves thousands of clients each year—offering both logistical excellence and a personal touch rooted in community care.

Although its reach spans multiple states, H.F. Young Transportation remains deeply connected to Yazoo City, Mississippi, where Mr. Young's family and values were shaped. He continues to give back to his community while expanding the company's services and exploring new innovations to improve healthcare access and mobility across the region.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Marcus D. Young for his leadership, his dedication to service, and his remarkable success in building H.F. Young Transportation, Inc. into both a thriving business and a vital community resource.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF HAZEL CHANDLER

HON. GREG STANTON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember Hazel Chandler, a tireless advocate for public health and the environment, who passed away last month at the age of 80.

For nearly six decades, Hazel devoted her life to cleaner air, a safer climate, and a healthier future for generations she would never meet. Hazel's work began long before climate change was a household term. Growing up during the first wave of modern environmental awareness, she saw firsthand how polluted air and water harmed communities and fueled her own health struggles. When she moved to Arizona in the late 1970s, she had already spent years organizing for clean air initiatives. In Phoenix, she brought that passion into public service. At the Arizona Department of Health Services, she rose to lead

health care licensing and later helped launch Phoenix Shanti, a pioneering treatment center for people living with HIV. She worked with Phoenix Children's Hospital and Maricopa County on air quality regulations that helped bring the region into compliance and protect vital federal transportation funding. She later returned to ADHS as part of the First Things First early childhood program.

Hazel never slowed down, even in retirement. She was a key voice for science and climate action with the Union of Concerned Scientists, Moms Clean Air Force, and Elders Climate Action. She helped grow Elders Climate Action into a national network of thousands of older Americans, including many here in Arizona, who refused to stay silent about the climate crisis. Friends and colleagues remember her as a constant presence at the Capitol and in community spaces, recognizable by her red advocacy shirts and the oven mitt she used to grip overheated railings on summer days at rallies and hearings. She even continued her fight for climate justice from hospice, testifying virtually at an EPA hearing to defend federal climate protections and reminding decision-makers that their choices would define the world her grandchildren and great-grandchildren will inherit.

Hazel believed deeply that everyone deserves clean air, access to nature, and a livable planet. She helped advise on Phoenix's tree and shade planning and worked to bring more trees and cooling to neighborhoods that lacked them. She championed practical steps that ordinary people could take to confront climate change, from planting native shade trees to speaking up for strong public health protections. Her leadership earned recognition from leaders across our state, including a proclamation in Phoenix marking "Hazel Chandler Day" and Lifetime Achievement Awards from both the Sierra Club and EDF Action.

Hazel leaves behind more than accomplishments. She leaves behind cleaner skies, stronger community coalitions, and a movement that draws strength from her example. Her insistence that every person deserves a healthy environment will continue to inspire people across Arizona for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering an organizer, mentor, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother whose commitment to public health and environmental justice never wavered. Hazel Chandler gave her voice, her energy, and her last days to the cause of a safer, healthier planet, and we are all better for it.

REMEMBERING MARCUS PLOWDEN

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Mr. Marcus Plowden, a beloved husband, father, and friend whose legacy of love, compassion, and devotion to his family, the Western New York community, and our Nation inspired all who knew him.

Born on August 29, 1950, in Buffalo, New York to Mr. Robert Fortson and Mrs. Dorothy Plowden, Mr. Plowden was surrounded by love from the very beginning. He married the love of his life Brenda, and shortly after their

union, the couple became parents to Anthony Plowden. He is survived by numerous loved ones, including a host of relatives and friends. His love for his family and his desire to be there for his Nation and local community, left a lasting impact on all who crossed his path.

Before beginning his career at General Motors, Mr. Plowden graduated from Emerson High School and immediately enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. His service was marked by extraordinary dedication, earning him the National Defense Service Medal. The discipline, leadership, and resilience he developed during his time in the military, would go on to shape his professional approach and contribute significantly to his success in the automotive industry.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Marcus Plowden lived a life of devotion to his family, community, and Nation. His unwavering commitment to those he loved and his compassion for others made a profound impact on all who knew him. Mr. Plowden was a man who believed in the importance of family above all else and worked tirelessly to support those around him. His kindness, loyalty, and the warmth in his heart will forever be remembered and deeply missed. Let us continue to honor his legacy by carrying forward the values he lived by: integrity, respect, and above all, love.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EMILY RANDALL

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Ms. RANDALL. Mr. Speaker, on December 1, 2025, due to flight delays, I was unable to vote on H.R. 5348 and H.R. 4423. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 306, and YEA on Roll Call No. 307.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DAVID ROSS HOOKS, JR.

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to honor the life and legacy of David Ross Hooks, Jr., lovingly known as "Pop Pop," who was not only a devoted community leader but also a dedicated former staff member in my office.

Born in Jacksonville Florida on May 3, 1945, David was the oldest of three children. In his early years, his family moved to Far Rockaway in Queens, New York, where he graduated from Far Rockaway High School.

David was a veteran and served in the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War as a sharpshooter and a tunnel rat. He served with courage and precision. Though he was honorably discharged in 1969, he remained faithful to the Marine Corps' motto *Semper Fidelis*—Always Faithful—throughout his life. In recognition of his dedication and sacrifice, David was later inducted into the New York State Senate Veteran's Hall of Fame.

David's life after the military was again marked for his dedication to service. After receiving a degree in Political Science from the

College of New Rochelle in 1983, he devoted 20 years to the State University of New York—Queens Educational Opportunity center. David also served on the Community School Board No. 27, the Community Educational Council for Queens County as representative for Queens Borough President Helen Marshall and was a member of the Board of Directors for Blanche Daycare.

David was incredibly devoted to helping the Queens community, even running for New York City Council while championing causes like affordable housing, environmental protection, and small business growth.

After Hurricane Sandy in 2012, David was a source of strength for his community, helping to organize religious services for displaced churches in public schools so that community members and neighbors could continue to come together in the face of adversity.

David's impact extended beyond his community leadership. David was a cherished member of my staff. His intelligence and integrity were demonstrated when he interacted with the people of Queens. His charisma shaped our office and touched the lives of everyone around him.

His loved ones will remember for his humor, charm and undeniable presence. His life was filled with the soulful sounds of Al Green and James Brown, an undeniable reflection of crisp, classic, and sharp style.

A proud Marine, loving mentor, dedicated educator, and devoted family man. David's life was and will remain a testament to service, perseverance, and love. His legacy will continue to live on through those who knew him.

REMEMBERING MRS. ADRIANE Z. WILLIAMS

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Mrs. Adriane Z. Williams, a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and friend, whose love, compassion, and devotion to her family and faith inspired all who knew her. Mrs. Williams passed away at the age of 66, having lived a fulfilling and rewarding life.

Mrs. Williams was born on October 16, 1958, in Buffalo, New York to Mr. David Ross and Mrs. Geraldine Ross. Mrs. Williams cherished every moment spent with her family—a life filled with love and partnership until her passing. Her greatest joy was spent as a devoted wife to her husband, Mr. Harold Williams, and mother to Corey Ross, Chandler Williams, Christopher Williams, Collin Williams, and Ashley Oweazim; later she was blessed to become a grandmother to three beautiful grandchildren, nurturing them with the same kindness and care she gave to everyone in her life.

As a proud Western New York native, Mrs. Williams was raised with the strong support of her family from the very beginning, helping to shape her into a natural leader in all aspects of her life. She excelled academically, graduating from Daemen University, where she earned her Bachelor's degree with a major in Humanities, and a minor in Philosophy and Religious Studies. She later obtained a Master's degree from SUNY Buffalo State in Student Personnel Administration.

Mrs. Williams had great love and compassion for all people, working nearly three decades at Daemen University, culminating with her role as the Assistant Director of Academic Advisement. She worked closely with students addressing their immediate needs, including helping to establish the Daemen University pantry, which was later named the 'Adriane Z. Williams Campus Care Cupboard' in her honor in 2019. In her time of leisure, Mrs. Williams was a faithful member of CrossNation Church. Perhaps one of the most treasured memories for those who knew her was active participation in Bible Study Academy, and her visits to senior living homes where she ministered and prayed with the residents.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Adriane Z. Williams lived a life of devotion to her family, community, and faith. Her unwavering commitment to those she loved and her compassion towards others made a profound impact on all who knew her. Mrs. Williams was a woman who believed in the importance of family above all else and worked tirelessly to support those around her. Her kindness, loyalty, and warmth will forever be remembered. Let us continue to honor her legacy by carrying forward the values she lived by: faith, respect, and above all, love.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, due to illness, I was not able to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 308, and YEA on Roll Call No. 309.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF AMBASSADOR AND GOVERNOR TERRY E. BRANSTAD

HON. ZACHARY NUNN

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Ambassador and Governor Terry E. Branstad, a lifelong Iowan whose leadership has left an enduring mark on our state and our country.

Terry Branstad was born in 1946 in Leland, Iowa, and grew up on his family farm. After earning a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Iowa and before his Juris Doctor from Drake University Law School, he served in the United States Army as a military policeman, earning the Army Commendation Medal for meritorious service. His commitment to faith, family, and country has been a guiding principle throughout his life.

Branstad began his political career in the Iowa House of Representatives and then served as Lieutenant Governor before being elected Iowa's 39th governor in 1982. During his campaign, Branstad often brought a spark of energy to the podium and ran to the stage, inspiring crowds across the state. At the time, outgoing Governor Robert Ray tried to convince Branstad that running was not gubernatorial—but he did it anyway, and I carry that

same energy every time I take the stage or meet with Iowans.

He went on to become the longest-serving governor in U.S. history, with over 22 years in office across two tenures. Branstad led Iowa through remarkable economic growth, fiscal responsibility, and educational reform, leaving a lasting legacy of service to Iowa families. But his contributions did not end there. In 2017, Branstad strengthened Iowa's role on the international stage upon being appointed as U.S. Ambassador to China, continuing a lifetime of public service.

Terry has also been a mentor, a friend, and a boss to me personally. I had the privilege of interning in his office in 1995, where I learned firsthand the values of servant leadership and integrity. We share a connection through Drake University, our Catholic faith, and military service. I was proud to support his continued leadership when he served as President of the World Food Prize Foundation from 2023 to 2025.

Mr. Speaker, Terry Branstad's life is a testament to the power of service, leadership, and friendship. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Governor Branstad, a remarkable Iowan, mentor to so many, and a true friend of mine, for his decades of service to Iowa and to our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE HARIDOPOLOS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, due to the death of Deputy Sheriff Terri Sweeting-Mashkow and my attendance at her funeral, I had to miss votes on December 1 and 2, 2025, for Roll Call Nos. 306, 307, 308, and 309.

Deputy Sheriff Sweeting-Mashkow died in the line of duty while serving an eviction notice when she was shot and killed. This is the second death of an active-duty Indian River County police officer in the department's nearly 100-year history. This horrific incident highlights the importance of supporting local law enforcement officers.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 306; YEA on Roll Call No. 307; YEA on Roll Call No. 308; and YEA on Roll Call No. 309.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMMUNITY MISSIONS OF NIAGARA FRONTIER

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Community Missions of Niagara Frontier, a beacon of light and service in Niagara Falls, New York. As we honor this momentous occasion, may we reflect on its incredible history, its unwavering commitment to supportive community services, and the transformative impact it has had on the lives of countless individuals.

Founded a century ago, Community Missions of Niagara Frontier has lived up to its mission to provide "integrated human services that meet people where they are and help them find and elevate their place in the world." Community Missions of Niagara Frontier has continuously shown its unwavering commitment to community members throughout Niagara County, providing a unique blend of services to address their needs; including faith, family, youth, mental health, and community services.

To date, Community Missions of Niagara Frontier serves as the largest private provider of mental health and human services. It has offered nearly two hundred thousand meals, more than eight thousand care days of youth services, and twelve thousand nights of shelter for those in need.

As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of Community Missions of Niagara Frontier, let us acknowledge its ongoing success and advocacy for community members throughout Western New York. The organization's leadership is a shining example of service that will be seen, felt, and heard for generations to come.

HONORING THE DEUTSCHER CLUB IN CLARK, NEW JERSEY

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Mr. KEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 90th anniversary of The Deutscher Club in Clark, New Jersey.

On September 30, 1935, a group of dedicated men came together with a singular purpose: to preserve the rich heritage and powerful cultural tradition of the German people. From this commitment on, this club has grown to be the largest German club in New Jersey. The club's first gathering took place in the welcoming walls of Nick Grunwald's delicatessen in Rahway, New Jersey. Shortly after this, the first official meeting was held at the Grevens Hotel. At this meeting Karl Krumer was elected as the organization's first president and the name "Deutscher Club of Rahway" was formally adopted. During the early 1940s, the club was such an outstanding success it moved into Eagle's Hall in Rahway to keep up with its increase in members. By the 1950s this growth showed no signs of slowing down. In response, the Deutscher Club purchased a farmhouse sitting on acres of beautiful land. With their dedication and outstanding effort by the members, the humble "Ole House" was turned into a beautiful and expansive Club House, reflecting the club's impressive progression and commitment to the German heritage. In 1955, The Ladies Division was established and reactivated again in 1979. Throughout the years, the ladies of this division have played a vital role in emphasizing the club's culture by organizing card parties, fashion shows and other cultural events. The club has maintained a bi-annual blood bank named "The Deutscher Club Blood Bank", which ensures the blood donations are reserved and ready for its members and families. To advance the German Culture and education, the club provides financial support to multiple organizations, schools, and other cultural institutions. The Deutscher Club will continue to be

an "Oasis for German-Americans in New Jersey." We take great pride and are deeply proud of what this club and its members have accomplished.

Mr. Speaker, as The Deutscher Club celebrates their 90th anniversary of German-American cultural and communal excellence, I am pleased to commend all members of The Deutscher Club for being an integral part of the Clark area. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring this community truly dedicated to faith, culture and education.

HONORING ABIGAIL PROVOST

HON. NICHOLAS A. LANGWORTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Abigail Provost, who was awarded the National Bronze Cross Lifesaving Award from the Girl Scouts of the USA.

Lifesaving Awards are national awards given to registered Girl Scouts in recognition of independent acts of extraordinary bravery that were essential to a lifesaving rescue. These awards acknowledge Girl Scouts who have saved or attempted to save a human life, with or without risk to their own lives, and under circumstances that most people of their age and life experience may not be able to function.

Health and safety training is an essential part of the Girl Scout program. In accordance with the Girl Scout Promise, Law, motto, and slogan to which she has subscribed, a Girl Scout is expected to be resourceful, skilled, and competent. She is also expected to have a presence of mind and to be of service to others. Each lifesaving situation is unique and there are many considerations determining if the Girl Scout led actions that were essential to the rescue.

On November 11, the Provost family indulged in a typical evening together immersed in their favorite television program. As the evening progressed, Abigail's father excused himself to bed, and Abigail eventually decided it was time for her to do the same while her mom and siblings stayed comfortably in front of the TV. Abigail's rest was soon interrupted when she began to smell smoke. In a panic, she began screaming to get her family's attention and followed the pungent smell down to the basement where Abigail's father met her. Fire extinguisher in hand, Abigail bravely took on the breaker box, which she had correctly assumed to be the source of the fire. The Provosts had recently installed solar panels, so Abigail suggested that she and her father cut that power source too. It turned out these new panels were the source of the sparks and smoke.

Abigail's quick-thinking, sharp instincts, and clear mind in this high stress situation saved not only her family home, but also her entire family's lives. This is Abigail's second Lifesaving Award in six months after her and her Girl Scout troop saved a man having a heart attack using the skills they had learned through their Girl Scout training.

I thank Abigail Provost for going above and beyond to make a difference in our community. I congratulate her on receiving this well-deserved honor.

HONORING MR. RENALDO SCOTT

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Mr. Renaldo Scott, a distinguished citizen and veteran whose life reflects exceptional service to his community, his State, and the United States of America.

Mr. Scott, a native of Mound Bayou, Mississippi, has devoted his career to military service, aviation maintenance, community engagement, and public safety. A 2014 graduate of John F. Kennedy High School in Mound Bayou, he enlisted in the Mississippi Army National Guard soon after completing his studies. Trained as a helicopter mechanic, Mr. Scott served his State and Nation for years through deployments and specialized technical assignments, including a deployment to Afghanistan. While deployed, he was a UH medevac/combat search and rescue chief.

Seeking to deepen his knowledge and advance professionally, Mr. Scott pursued and completed a degree in Aviation/Aerospace Management with a minor in Business Administration. Over the course of his military and technical career, he served in multiple states and capacities, supporting aviation operations in Mississippi, Louisiana, California, and Texas. His duties included working for the Army Aviation Support Facility in Jackson and supporting aircraft maintenance operations in San Antonio.

Despite building a respected career away from home, Mr. Scott ultimately returned to Mound Bayou in 2022 to support his family and re-establish roots in the community he cherishes. He subsequently completed a deployment to Sinai, Egypt, in 2023.

Mr. Scott's path reflects the best of American values: service, sacrifice, and leadership. He has balanced demanding careers in the military, aircraft maintenance, and public safety—joining the Lincoln-Parker Fire Protection District as a volunteer firefighter and continuing his long-term goal of enhancing safety and opportunity in his hometown.

Mr. Scott has expressed that helping others is a deeply personal calling. He states that while he grew up in Mound Bayou, his life experiences have strengthened his commitment to serve the community that raised him. Whether through emergency response, local engagement, or mentorship, Mr. Scott exemplifies the spirit of duty and the enduring value of public service.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Renaldo Scott—a son of Mississippi, a dedicated servicemember, and a community leader, whose contributions bring honor to his family, his State, and this Nation.

RECOGNIZING MRS. EMILY MONDSCHNEIN

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mrs. Emily Mondschein, the

Executive Director of Gigi's Playhouse. Emily is a woman whose compassion and advocacy can be seen throughout Western New York, through parents and children of all ages, and far beyond the walls of Gigi's Playhouse.

As the proud mother of two sons, Samuel and Paul, Mrs. Mondschein, alongside her husband, Mr. Will Mondschein, set out on a mission to ensure that individuals with Down syndrome are treated with equality and respect in all areas of society. Inspired by her son, Paul, Mrs. Mondschein wanted to establish an organization for families and community members throughout Western New York to empower individuals with Down syndrome and increase positive awareness through educational programs.

After visiting Gigi's Playhouse in Syracuse, Mrs. Mondschein was more inspired than ever and determined to open her own location in Western New York. Through Gigi's Playhouse, community members are offered one-on-one literacy tutoring, discovery arts and science, and group music therapy. Each program is dedicated to helping community members with Down Syndrome reach their full potential.

As we recognize the incredible service of Mrs. Emily Mondschein, let us not only acknowledge her dedicated career as an educational leader and her steadfast commitment to children in need, but also her unwavering advocacy for accessible and inclusive community programming where every individual is celebrated for who they are, providing a safe space for all to be heard. Mrs. Mondschein's service is a blessing, and we look forward to many more years of her inspired leadership.

HONORING THE NORTHERN MACOMB REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to proudly recognize the Northern Macomb Regional Chamber as it marks a significant milestone, its fiftieth anniversary. This stands as a testament to five decades of dedicated service, principled leadership, and an enduring devotion to the residents, businesses, and communities of Northern Macomb County.

Originally established as the Greater Romeo-Washington Chamber of Commerce in 1975, the organization later expanded and rebranded as the Northern Macomb Regional Chamber of Commerce to better reflect its broader service area. Over the decades, it has adapted to changing economic and community needs while helping to connect businesses and stakeholders across Northern Macomb County.

For fifty years, the Northern Macomb Regional Chamber of Commerce has supported local engagement through practical business programs and community events, including ribbon cuttings, business networking opportunities, and its annual EMMA Awards. These activities reflect the Chamber's ongoing role in convening businesses and community leaders across Northern Macomb County.

Mr. Speaker, today's recognition marks an important anniversary for an organization that

has served the Northern Macomb area for five decades. On behalf of Michigan's 9th Congressional District, I congratulate the Northern Macomb Regional Chamber of Commerce on this milestone and wish it continued success in the years ahead.

WELCOMING HIS ALL-HOLINESS
ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW
OF CONSTANTINOPLE

HON. THOMAS R. SUOZZI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Mr. SUOZZI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, His All-Holiness Bartholomew I, who is the spiritual leader and the Primus inter Pares (First among Equals) of Orthodox Christianity worldwide, a Church of 300 million people. This September, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew visited our Nation's capital, continuing his longstanding practice of meeting with the President and engaging with Members of Congress from both political sides.

His All-Holiness is the spiritual leader of more than 300 million Orthodox Christians worldwide, representing faith's ability to bring people together across borders and generations. His leadership has fostered dialogue among faith communities and highlighted the positive role moral guidance can play in promoting cooperation and understanding.

His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople, has been called the Bridge Builder and the Patriarch of Peace by Christians and non-Christians alike. I am proud to welcome a peacemaker of his caliber to the Capitol.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF NATIVE AMERICAN
COMMUNITY SERVICES

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of Native American Community Services, a not-for-profit organization in Western New York. For half a century, Native American Community Services has provided high-quality health and social services to the Native American community throughout Western New York.

Guided by its mission of a "Tradition of Caring," Native American Community Services has built a lasting legacy of service through four essential programs: Economic Self-Sufficiency, Family Services, Health and Wellness, and Community and Cultural Services. These initiatives strengthen families, empower individuals, and enrich the fabric of the Buffalo-Niagara region. Through decades of dedicated work, Native American Community Services has shown a tireless commitment to compassion, inclusion, and community well-being across Western New York.

As we celebrate a half century of Native American Community Services contributions to

our region, let us acknowledge its ongoing success and advocacy for Native American community members throughout Western New York. The impact of the organization's work will be seen, felt, and heard for generations to come, enriching the lives of all who call this region home.

RECOGNIZING FLORIDA'S 16TH
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT FIRE
AND RESCUE EMS AWARDS RECIPIENTS

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize fire, rescue and EMS personnel who have provided distinguished service to the people of Florida's 16th Congressional District.

First responders, fire departments and emergency medical service teams are summoned on short notice to serve their respective communities. Often, they arrive at scenes of great adversity and trauma, to which they reliably bring strength and composure. These brave men and women spend hundreds of hours in training so that they are prepared when they get "the call."

Thirteen years ago, I established the 16th District Congressional Fire and Rescue and EMS Awards to honor officers, departments, and units for outstanding achievement.

On behalf of the people of Florida's 16th District, it is my privilege to congratulate and include in the RECORD the following honorees, who were selected this year by an independent committee comprised of a cross section of current and retired fire and rescue personnel living in the district:

Associate Service Award: Adam Nover of Manatee County Department of Public Safety.

Dedication and Professionalism Award: Firefighter Rob Day of East Manatee Fire Rescue, Firefighter/Paramedic—Company Fire Captain Ralph Mascaro of Hillsborough County Fire Rescue, and the Sun City Center Emergency Squad.

Preservation of Life Award: Firefighter/Paramedic Jacob Campbell, Fire Captain Clifford Davis, Firefighter/Paramedic Anna Inman, and Firefighter Maurice Swan of Hillsborough County Fire Rescue, Charge Paramedic Peterson Gustave, District Chief William Thayer, and District Chief Beth Tucciarone of Manatee County EMS.

Unit Citation Award: Engineer Joshua Eriksen, Engineer Zachary Gilbert, Firefighter Bo Gurskis, Lieutenant Jared Manning, Engineer Louis Chiochio, Firefighter George Norris, Captain Jonathan Turpin, Battalion Chief Barry Cornelison, Lieutenant Matthew McCabe, Engineer Brandon Beals, Firefighter Ricardo Rivera, Firefighter Luke Marvin, Lieutenant Scott Viehman, Lieutenant Thomas Ferrett, Lieutenant Robert Hinton, Firefighter Shawn Heinlein, Engineer Michael King, Firefighter Christopher Mundell, Firefighter Isaiah Cress, Lieutenant Lionel Harrison, Firefighter Jordan DeSear, Firefighter Brendan Lewellen, and Firefighter Aaron Wright of the Bradenton Fire Department, Firefighter Jacob Dillard (2), Lieutenant Daniel Dunkum (2), Battalion Chief Craig Madsen, Captain Steven Baker, Engineer Ben Stasurak, Engineer Bret Kanapaux, Fire-

fighter Chad Strauser (2), Firefighter Maciej Borawski, Deputy Chief Paul Wren, Battalion Chief Casey Lambert, Lieutenant Mike Hamilton, Engineer Derek Parker, Firefighter Jared Hoopingarner, Lieutenant Timothy Bedell, Firefighter Tony Mroz, Firefighter Nicholas Miller, Lieutenant Steve Ryckman, Firefighter Kyle Lamson (2), Firefighter Jason Burnside, and Engineer Jesse Reasoner of East Manatee Fire Rescue, District Chief Beth Tucciarone, Paramedic James Bryant, EMT Rachel Swim (2), Charge Paramedic Michael Gorman, EMT Zachary Tocco, District Chief William Thayer, Specialty Charge Paramedic Sasha DeAngelis, Charge Paramedic Caitlyn Roskovich, EMT Simon Klimov, Specialty Charge Paramedic Kevin Guido, Charge Paramedic Anthony Tino, EMT Germaine Bolanos, EMT Robert Anderson, District Chief Troy Dufrane, and District Chief Keith Lock of Manatee County EMS, Lieutenant Casey Schue, Engineer Wade Hoopingarner, Engineer Joe Jago, and Firefighter Anzozoni Hause of Parrish Fire Rescue, Captain Andrew Clark, Firefighter Charlie Childress, and Engineer Justin White of North River Fire District, Telecommunicator Derek Turner, Telecommunicator Adam Bruner, ECC Supervisor Tracey Haas, and Telecommunicator Brady Trott of Manatee County Emergency Communication Center, Pilot Stu O'Shannon, Flight Nurse Alisha Burnett, Flight Paramedic Chuck Nelson, Flight Paramedic Oriente Luis Vazquez, Pilot Mark Boudreau, Flight Nurse Rob Freas and Flight Paramedic Kelly Curren of Tampa General Hospital Aeromed, Firefighter Jerrod Apple, Firefighter Tyler Snyder, Captain James Leigh, Firefighter Dane Miller, Firefighter Christopher O'Kelly, Fire Marshall Rodney Kwiatkowski, Training Chief Mark Tuttle, Battalion Chief Ryan Moore, Battalion Chief Derek Bill, Captain Tyler MacDonald, Firefighter William Bowen, Firefighter Clayton Lease, Firefighter David Miller, Firefighter Zack Misiura, Firefighter Aaron Reese, Lieutenant Inspector Keith Miller, Inspector Josh Adkins, Inspector Lisa Brooks, and Inspector Nicholas Riffe of West Manatee Fire Rescue District, Captain Marshall Greene, Lieutenant David Snyder, Lieutenant Luke Hitchins, Lieutenant JC Rapier, Lieutenant Jose Garcia Santos, Lieutenant Michael Patterson, Lifeguard Jack Bratcher, Lifeguard Josh McCarthy, Lifeguard Nate Hilbrands, Lifeguard Shannon Cielinski, Lifeguard Marek Drastich, Lifeguard Mark Mol, Lifeguard Patrick Curran, Lifeguard Kaylin Weiskopf, Lifeguard Allie Updike, Lifeguard Owen Munday, Lifeguard AJ Nelson, and Lifeguard Isabelle Pellegrin of Manatee County Beach Patrol.

Career Service Award: Battalion Chief Jeff Martin of Hillsborough County Fire Rescue.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE
OF LIBYA'S RETURN TO STABILITY

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to include in the RECORD the following article titled *Libya Has a Deal for Trump That Could Reshape Africa and Europe* by Tom O'Connor of Newsweek on how important it is for Libya to return to stability:

As a divided Libya lies between two deepening crises in Africa and the porous southern flank of Europe, representatives of the

nation's internationally recognized government told Newsweek they were looking to President Donald Trump to strike a deal that could have profound effects across two continents.

The appeal from the Tripoli-based Government of National Unity that controls much of Libya's northwest involves seeking U.S. support in pressuring countries—namely Russia, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt—accused of aiding the rival Government of National Stability that controls much of the rest of the nation, including Libya's second city of Benghazi, and is backed by the military support of influential Libyan National Army chief Field Marshall Khalifa Haftar.

In exchange, the Government of National Unity envisions boosting business and investment ties—particularly regarding Libya's vast reserves of oil—with an administration known for its deal-based transactional foreign policy. The Libyan authorities also aim to solidify security ties that may bolster NATO's position in the Mediterranean, curb the free flow of fighters and arms to conflicts raging in the neighboring Sahel region and Sudan while also easing the large-scale migration of African refugees to Europe.

"We would like to have the involvement of United States. And, especially with this government, they are always looking for deals, there are a lot of deals that we can do, and we keep mutual interests," Mahmoud Ahmed Alftise, economic adviser to Government of National Unity Prime Minister Abdul-Hamid Dbeibah, told Newsweek. "Of course, we have our sovereignties, but we would like to have a good friend, a strong friend."

"We would like to have a friend's mutual interest, so we can go ahead and move, so people have their prosperities," Alftise said, "because the Libyan people are really suffering from this regional interference in Libya."

LIBYA'S FRACTURE

The roots of Libya's schism can be traced back to a 2011 rebellion against longtime leader Muammar al-Qaddafi. Qaddafi, who had ruled the nation since seizing power in a 1969 coup against the monarchy and later adopted the titles of "brotherly leader" and "King of Kings" of Africa, had for decades molded a seemingly invincible cult of personality bolstered by grand infrastructure projects and iron-fisted suppression of dissent until widespread unrest swelled around the Arab Spring movement.

As Qaddafi's forces attempted to extinguish the uprising, NATO intervened directly with a crushing air campaign in support of the rebels, leading to the Libyan leader's downfall and ultimate slaying at the hands of opposition fighters.

Libya's initial post-Qaddafi steps appeared hopeful as the temporary National Transitional Council handed the reigns to the elected General National Congress in 2012, marking the nation's first-ever peaceful transfer of power. But new elections held in 2014 produced the first major crisis as political feuds and opposing interpretations of the nascent constitution led to the establishment of the House of Representatives to rival the General National Congress as Libya's legislative body.

Haftar, a former close Qaddafi confidant and commander who fled to the U.S. in the 1990s to begin orchestrating efforts to oust his ex-ally, emerged as a powerful military figure in support of the House of Representatives. As head of the Libyan National Army, he declared a military operation against the General National Congress, and Libya thus devolved into a second civil war, this time with no clear victor.

The conflict continued for six years until a 2020 ceasefire that once again inspired cautious optimism toward a political solution, with the establishment of the Government of National Unity as the new Tripoli-based authority aimed at unifying the nation. But the House of Representatives rejected the Government of National Unity's mandate the following year, leading to the creation of the Government of National Stability in the east and entrenching the dual power system that continues to divide Libya to this day.

Sporadic clashes also persist, sometimes among internal factions of the two major governments that claim legitimate authority in Libya, such as occurred between military and militia units in Tripoli in May. Without a mutually agreed framework for Libya's unification and a United Nations road map left sidelined, both parties remain locked in their feud, though Alftise argued the Government of National Unity remained more open to a negotiated solution.

"Our government is more flexible, there are even some thoughts that maybe we can merge the two governments in order to have an election, and then we will have, of course, parliamentary elections, and then we have a presidential election, or maybe together," Alftise said.

"But what happened is the House of Representatives is under the control of Mr. Haftar," he added. "They cannot say something that he does not like."

FOREIGN INTRIGUE

While a return to large-scale fighting has thus far been avoided, fears loom over such a scenario plunging the country into another period of civil strife. Alftise suggested the decision of peace and war may ultimately be influenced by the whims of foreign powers, who have increasingly spread their influence in Libya.

For the Government of National Unity, this includes Turkey, which deployed personnel and drones among other assets to aid the Tripoli-based administration against the Libyan National Army's advances in 2020. Ankara's role is defended by the Government of National Unity as a necessary bulwark against the presence of Russia's Wagner Group private military company—largely since rebranded and reorganized under the Russian Defense Ministry as the Africa Corps—among the ranks of Haftar's forces.

Ibrahim Sahad, a member of Libya's High Council of State that succeeded the General National Congress in 2016, stated that Russian personnel had established "three or four air force bases in Libya," including in "very sensitive areas," such as the central district of Jufra, Benghazi's Benina International Airport and in Tobruk, where the Government of National Stability and Libyan National Army are headquartered. He warned such maneuvers should raise alarms in Europe and the U.S., though warnings have thus far gone unheeded.

"When we talk about the Russian presence and involvement, I see there is lack of sensitivities from the American side with that regard, as if it is something we can live with," Sahad told Newsweek. "No we cannot live with that."

"And even the future, not for us, also for the West, for NATO," he added. "Libya used to be the flank of NATO."

And elsewhere on the continent itself, he predicted that inaction on Russia's projection of influence through the deployment of personnel in regions like the Sahel could precipitate a broader geopolitical shift for Africa at a time when many nations have already abandoned ties with Europe.

"The Russian presence in Libya is not only controlling Libya. No, they are controlling Africa," Sahad said. "They are sending

troops to other African countries, and they want to be in control of them. And if this continues, if we allow that to continue, they will find one time that Africa will come to the other side."

The Kremlin's interest in Libya is deep-rooted as NATO's intervention prompted a severe backlash from Russian President Vladimir Putin, who went on to double down on back for another Soviet-era ally facing an Arab Spring revolt, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. Assad's downfall at the hands of an Islamist-led rebel offensive last year has reportedly been followed by an uptick in contacts with Haftar, who met Putin in May at Russia's 80th anniversary World War II Victory Day parade.

It's not just Moscow or even adversaries of Washington that the Government of National Unity suspects of seeking a lasting piece of Libya. Sahad argued that the United Arab Emirates had thrown its weight behind Haftar in a bid for port access and other shares of the country.

"The UAE has this sickness of wanting to control harbors. They came to buy New York Harbor one time," Sahad said. "The control of the Libyan harbors, some of them is to be part of the Libyan oil industry, and to be part of the financial sector, especially the banks, and there are other things, and I have no doubt that they have this ambition, and I have no doubt that Haftar agrees with that."

Egypt, too, has expressed its ambitions to stake control over parts of eastern Libya, according to Sahad, who cited Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi's 2020 remarks calling any attack by the Government of National Unity's forces against the Government of National Stability-held coastal city of Sirte a "red line" that would result in direct Egyptian military intervention.

Russia and the UAE have rejected allegations that they provided direct support for the Libyan National Army during its westward offensives, while Egypt has framed its stance as necessary for maintaining security along its border with Libya.

Still, Sahad argued that addressing runaway foreign influence was key to unlocking progress on other fronts, including reconciling the split nature of Libya's governance and paving the way for U.S. investment in Libya's resource industry.

"If we put an end to this interference, our situation will be better," Sahad said. "Maybe it will be easier for us to reach an agreement and unify the institutions. A lot of things could happen by then. But with this interference we have, we have real big problems in that regard. The U.S. can help a lot."

"Another sphere is our oil industry faces a lot of problems because of a lack of experts," he added. "The American companies started the oil industry in the 50s, now we have a lot of fields not explored yet. I think United States companies have a big interest there. And it's not only oil, we have other minerals."

To address the growing presence of foreign actors, Sahad called on the U.S. to crack down on the nations suspected of playing destabilizing roles in Libya. While he said he was encouraged by moves such as the Libyan Stabilization Act that passed the House of Representatives in 2021 but was never signed into law, he argued he has not "seen any real effort from either this administration, nor the administration before, to put some pressure on the United Arab Emirates or Egypt to stop their interference in Libya."

Attention to foreign influence in Libya has also sparked some acknowledgment within the Government of National Unity regarding Turkey's growing role, particularly after Ankara began fostering closer dialogue with the House of Representatives as part of what Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan referred to in August as a step in line with his

nation's "multidimensional diplomatic efforts."

"Of course, the Turks always like to have some existence in the area, because they feel they are a power in the area. And nowadays they are," Alftise said. "They were, of course, in the Ottoman Empire, and now they are trying to have a new history there."

AT THE CROSSROADS OF CRISES

Risks posed by Libya's fractured state and the presence of foreign actors are compounded by instability in neighboring nations—some of which can be traced back to the initial shock of Qaddafi's sudden downfall and the subsequent vacuum of power.

The collapse of Libya in 2011 sparked a major influx of arms and fighters through the Sahel, with ethnic Tuareg fighters who once fought on both sides of the Libyan Civil War staging a 2012 uprising in Mali. This was followed by an explosion of Islamist insurgency, including groups linked to Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State, that is spreading across the region today.

To the southeast, Haftar's troops have been accused of aiding the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces against the Sudanese Armed Forces in the civil war that first erupted in Sudan in 2021. The Government of National Unity has further alleged that Haftar supported the Rapid Support Forces with fuel transfers backed by the United Arab Emirates, though UAE officials have repeatedly rejected direct involvement in Sudan's civil war.

The conflict in Sudan is considered to be the world's worst humanitarian crisis today, driving millions of people out of the large African nation. Many of these refugees from Sudan and others fleeing conflicts and harsh conditions elsewhere in Africa find their way to Libya, taking advantage of the country's disunity and unpatrolled borders to embark on a treacherous trip across the Mediterranean to Europe.

Nearly 60,000 people survived the journey and another 1,500 are known to have perished in 2025 alone, according to the European Union's Frontex border security agency, which identifies Libya as the primary departure point. The total number of those who fled from Libya by sea since 2011 is believed to at least be in the hundreds of thousands, with potentially more unreported.

"Europe has a big problem with the immigrants who come with ships," Sahad said. "Why do we have these immigrants? Because we could not control the borders, our southern borders. We cannot control them. We need help in that regard. We need technology."

"We cannot control the vast borders in the south, but with technology, you can, and Europe is not giving us that help," he added.

Yet there's hope Washington may be able to step in here, as Sahad believes this is another thing the United States can help us with, and do so with a promise of reciprocal benefits.

"We're not saying that we are demanding or asking, but also Libya will give the United States the energy, and we will give their states the stability of that region," Sahad said. "If Libya is stable, then there are big advantages for Northern Africa, for Africa."

Alftise reiterated this point, arguing that, while the Government of National Unity has so far been able to keep the threat of Islamist militant resurgence in the west at bay, the lack of control over the southern border and growing jihadi infiltration of nations such as Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger meant U.S. support was necessary not only for safeguarding Libya, but far beyond as well.

"It's not only for the sake of Libya," Alftise said, "it's the sake of Africa and the sake of southern Europe."

UNITY FIRST

As the 15th anniversary of the uprising that toppled Qaddafi nears in February, uncertainty prevails over the nation of roughly 7.5 million people once considered one of the richest nations in Africa that has still yet to rebound from its pre-2011 economic performance.

Alftise said that "there is still a big hope that things will be okay," though he acknowledged a wave of nostalgia for Qaddafi's rule, fueled largely by social media and foreign outlets. In response, he said, "we're trying to tell the people that era has more bad things than good things."

And while the cautious calm that continues to hold has produced some positive growth in the economy and social development in recent years, so much potential is hindered by the still-unwavering split. And while the cautious calm that continues to hold has produced some positive growth in the economy and social development in recent years, so much potential is hindered by the still-unwavering split between the opposing governments.

In the east, Haftar continues to entrench his position, promoting at least two of his sons, Saddam and Khalid, to senior military positions and a third, Belqasim, as his top political adviser. Critics accuse of him emulating Qaddafi in his dynastic tendencies and strongman persona that overshadows Government of National Stability Prime Minister Osama Hammad.

In the west, Dbeibah faces not only the rival government in Tobruk and its foreign backers but also a complex array of internal factions, including Islamist forces who seek to push their own vision of Libya in backing the Government of National Unity. His leverage is further challenged by incessant clashes over Libya's oil and gas infrastructure, a backbone of the national economy that has been sapped by the dual power rivalry and rampant fuel smuggling.

Nevertheless, Dbeibah's administration continues to enjoy international recognition and his outreach to the White House has not gone unnoticed. Trump's senior adviser on Africa affairs, Massad Boulos, traveled to Tripoli in July to hold talks with Dbeibah that reportedly included a Libyan offer to forge a \$70 billion economic partnership with the U.S.

But Libya has also caught the eye of the administration on another matter often tied to Trump's diplomatic efforts in the Middle East and North Africa. In April, Trump's special envoy to the Middle East, Steve Witkoff, named Libya as among six nations that could potentially join the Abraham Accords, a series of agreements through which the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan and Morocco established diplomatic ties with Israel in late 2020 and early 2021.

The deals marked the first Arab-Israeli normalization pacts since those struck by Egypt in 1979 and Jordan in 1994, save for Mauritania's short-lived recognition offered in 1999 and rescinded amid a war in Gaza a decade later. Like the rest of the Arab world and many Muslim nations, Libya has never recognized Israel and has consistently expressed support for Palestinians, once constituting a major source of Palestinian militia funds and arms throughout the Qaddafi era.

Even years from Qaddafi's ouster, the Israeli-Palestinian issue remains a sensitive one for Libya. Both Alftise and Sahad said unifying and stabilizing the nation remained the first order of business before such decisions could be taken.

"The important thing for us at the moment is to revive Libya as a country with a civil government, with democracy, so we can have our country in a sovereign situ-

ation, and it could take whatever decisions built on, one, the sovereignty of the nation, and, two, the agreement of the people, because that's democracy," Sahad said. "So, this is what we are facing."

CELEBRATING PASTOR PAUL JACKSON

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the remarkable leadership and service of Pastor Paul Jackson as we honor his spiritual guidance at Jefferson Avenue Community Church. Pastor Jackson's influence extends far beyond the walls of the church, making a lasting impact on the lives of those in need.

As a proud Western New York native, Pastor Jackson was raised with the strong support of his family from the very beginning, helping to shape him into a natural leader in all aspects of his life. After graduating from Emerson High School, where he excelled academically, Pastor Jackson answered the call to begin his spiritual journey at Moody Bible Institute, Pentecostal Temple Bible Institute, and later earned his Bachelor's degree in Ministry from Antioch Bible College.

Pastor Jackson is supported by his beloved wife, First Lady Vivian Ann Jackson. Together, they have formed a family grounded in faith with the addition of the "second love of their lives", Bridgette Nicole Jackson. Their marriage exemplifies the strength found in a family that prays and worships together. Pastor Jackson has made a priority of reaching out to his community, serving as the Spiritual Advisor for the Canisius High School football team for nearly two decades.

As we celebrate Pastor Jackson's unwavering dedication, let us recognize the countless lives he has touched and the profound impact he has made at Jefferson Avenue Community Church and beyond. Pastor Jackson's service is a blessing, and we look forward to many more years of his inspired leadership.

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 Thursday, December 4, 2025 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

DECEMBER 8

5:30 p.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Business meeting to consider the nominations of John DeLeeuw, of Texas, and Michael Graham, of Virginia, both to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board, Steven Haines, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce, Robert Harvey, of Florida, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner, Jared Isaacman, of Pennsylvania, to be Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Richard Kloster, of West Virginia, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board, Admiral Kevin Lunday to be Commandant of the United States Coast Guard, and Ryan McCormack, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy. S-216

DECEMBER 9

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Subcommittee on National Parks

To hold hearings to examine S. 290, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to upgrade existing emergency communications centers in units of the National Park System to Next Generation 9-1-1 systems, S. 332, to require a study on Holocaust education efforts of States, local educational agencies, and public elementary and secondary schools, S. 446, to prohibit Big Cypress National Preserve from being designated as wilderness or as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System, S. 573, to designate a mountain in the State of Alaska as Denali, S. 601, to remove restrictions from a parcel of land in Paducah, Kentucky, S. 730, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of establishing the African Burial Ground International Memorial Museum and Educational Center at the African Burial Ground National Monument, S. 791, to establish the Justice Thurgood Marshall National Historic Site in the State of Maryland as an affiliated area of the National Park System, H.R. 186, and S. 858, bills to authorize the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation to establish a commemorative work on the National Mall to honor the extraordinary acts of valor, selfless service, and sacrifice displayed by Medal of Honor recipients, S. 1088, to provide that the memorial to commemorate the sacrifice and service of the women who worked on the home front to support the efforts of the United States military during World War II may be located on the National Mall, S. 1131, to establish the Ocmulgee Mounds National Park and Preserve in the State of Georgia, S. 1135, to amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the feasibility of designating the Bonneville Shoreline Trail, S. 1280, to designate six creeks in North Carolina in honor of the lives lost in a plane crash in Carteret County, North Carolina, on February 13, 2022, S. 1353, to extend the authority for modifications to the Second Divi-

sion Memorial in the District of Columbia, S. 1377, to ensure the maintenance of a herd of horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park, S. 1518, to redesignate the Saratoga National Battlefield Park as the "Saratoga National Battlefield Park", S. 1777, to amend the California Desert Protection Act of 1994 to expand the boundary of Joshua Tree National Park, to redesignate the Cottonwood Visitor Center at Joshua Tree National Park as the "Dianne Feinstein Visitor Center", S. 1870, to adjust the boundary of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to include the Rim of the Valley Corridor, S. 1926, to encourage reduction of disposable plastic products in units of the National Park System, S. 2270, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate the portion of the Myakka River in Sarasota County, Florida, as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, S. 2308, to amend the Federal Land Recreation Enhancement Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to collect a surcharge from international visitors to units of the National Park System, S. 2369, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to remove or permanently conceal the name of Francis Newlands on the grounds of the memorial fountain located at Chevy Chase Circle in the District of Columbia, S. 2385, to codify Executive Order 14253 relating to restoring truth and sanity to American history, S. 2546, to provide for an extension of the legislative authority of the National Emergency Medical Services Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, S. 2708, to enhance the preservation, maintenance, and management of national historic trails and national scenic trails, S. 2970, to authorize the use of off-highway vehicles in certain areas of the Capitol Reef National Park, Utah, and H.R. 249, to redesignate certain facilities at Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park in honor of Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr. SD-366

10:15 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine protecting children online against offenders. SH-216

2 p.m.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Subcommittee on Education and the American Family

To hold hearings to examine building pathways, focusing on advancing workforce development in the 21st century. SD-430

3 p.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Intellectual Property

To hold hearings to examine balancing the interests of local radio, songwriters, and performers in the digital age. SD-226

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters. SVC-217

4:30 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine a review of the activities and fiscal year 2026 funding priorities of the Office of the United States Trade Representative. SD-138

DECEMBER 10

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine arms race. SD-419

10 a.m.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the future of retirement. SD-430

2 p.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

To hold hearings to examine defining our healthcare problem, and principles we should follow to solve it. SD-342

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health Policy

To hold hearings to examine maritime security in Africa, focusing on assessing threats to United States commercial diplomacy and national security interests. SD-419

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine running government like a small business, focusing on waste and fraud. SR-428A

3 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters. SH-219

3:30 p.m.

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine aging with purpose, focusing on the positive impact of seniors in today's economy. SH-216

4 p.m.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine pending calendar legislation. SR-418

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

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold oversight hearings to examine the Federal Reserve's big bank welfare program, focusing on the IORB regime. SD-342

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Frank Weiland, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs). SD-419