

Under his leadership, the membership of Sharon Baptist Church has grown immensely. He has encouraged his congregants to practice faith in action, serving the needs of people through several worship and outreach ministries.

Pastor Johnson is married to his loving wife Nakia, and together they are blessed with five children. Supporting his spiritual and charitable journey, he holds a Master of Arts degree in Human Services from Lincoln University of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in celebrating the 10th Pastoral Anniversary of Pastor Conway C. Johnson. His leadership, service, and dedication to the church and community are truly deserving of this body's recognition.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL GIFT SHOP TAX ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Federal Gift Shop Tax Act, which would allow state and local governments to impose a sales tax at gift shops on federal property. These governments would be able to generate millions of dollars in new tax revenue.

When the federal government engages in activity that is not inherently governmental, such as operating a gift shop, there is no reason to exempt customer purchases from a sales tax. The items sold at federal gift shops, such as jewelry, apparel, accessories, games and books, are subject to a sales tax if sold on private property. Customers are often unaware of the exemption from a sales tax at gift shops on federal property, so the introduction of a sales tax is unlikely to have a significant impact on gift shop sales. It would, however, create a valuable revenue stream for state and local governments. In addition, state and local governments often provide uncompensated services on federal property, such as fire service, and allowing them to impose a sales tax at gift shops on federal property would allow them to recoup some of these costs.

This bill is of particular importance to the District of Columbia, which is home to a number of gift shops on federal property, such as at the Smithsonian Institution and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VAN RAALTE FARMHOUSE

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Van Raalte Farmhouse. The Van Raalte Farmhouse has been a staple of our West Michigan community for generations,

and we thank the City of Holland for preserving not only this site but the legacy of the Van Raalte family.

The farmland was purchased by the founder of Holland, Reverend Albertus Van Raalte, in 1847. The Reverend split the land between two of his children, Albertus and Benjamin, as a gift for their valiant service during the Civil War. Benjamin, a soldier in the Union Army who served in Michigan's 25th Infantry, purchased his brother's half of the land and constructed a beautiful neoclassical farmhouse on the property in the early 1870s. Benjamin cultivated the land for the remainder of his life, producing peaches and peony flowers. The farm became known as "The Maples" due to the large sugar maples grown on the property.

The farm stayed in the family for multiple generations until it was sold in the 1980s to the city of Holland, Michigan. Holland helped transform the farmhouse and its land into a beautiful park. In 1989, Van Raalte Farmhouse was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Today, community members continue to enjoy hikes and picnics as well as cross-country skiing and sledding in the winter at the park.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commemorating 150 years of history at the Van Raalte Farmhouse as the Van Raalte family's story and the farmhouse's beauty continue to inspire the people of Michigan's Fourth District.

ISRAEL AT WAR

HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS

OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Mr. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following message I shared on October 11 at a meeting of Jewish leaders with Governor Glenn Youngkin of Virginia at the offices of the United Jewish Federation of Tidewater in Virginia Beach.

Thank you Governor Youngkin for your initiatives to fight the precipitous rise of anti-Semitism in these United States and around the world. Your very timely visit with us so shortly after the October 7 terrorist Hamas vicious attacks on Israel's innocent civilians near the Gaza border is deeply appreciated along with ordering the lowering of the flag throughout the Commonwealth. We turn to our shared one God of life's blessings who always brings us together to be one caring family, gratefully united and gloriously diverse, ever harkening onto the divine commandments of loving-kindness.

At this painfully trying time of excruciating anguish and an over-whelming sense of violation by heartless enemies of humanity and civilized society, evoking terrifying images of the Holocaust deeply seared within us and to which I can personally testify as son of Polish survivors who lost hundreds of murdered relatives, and one who spent his early childhood in Europe's transit and DP Camps, later growing up in Haifa, Israel and serving in the IDF in the 1960s.

Just as we did not allow ultimate victory to Nazism rooted in historical anti-Semitism, so we shall defeat, whatever the cost, those who now shamefully delight in the barbaric slaughter of Jewish babies and their shocked parents, mowing down hundreds of youth celebrating peace at a music festival along with rape and torture; dragging to cruel captivity the young as well as frail

Holocaust survivors who had found refuge in the world's only sovereign Jewish state and the Middle-East's only democracy. We shall never abandon our beloved Israeli sisters and brothers heroically fighting for the very survival of their ancestral homeland which they have already honored with remarkable accomplishments benefiting all humanity.

We are uplifted and reassured at this fateful hour of existential threat to Israel's very well-being by the incomparable Israeli-American alliance of shared values and interests that, no doubt, makes a critical difference for the defense of the entire free world. The Ford and Eisenhower strike groups whose homeport is Hampton Roads are truly a source of swelling pride. The recent historic strides toward lasting Middle East peace with the major inclusion at last of Saudi Arabia, likely pushed Iran and its proxies—the enemies of peace who glorify death and dying while the West sanctifies life and living—to this inhuman cowardice massive assault on a holy Jewish day—50 years and a day since the other traumatic surprise of the Yom Kippur War—with total disregard for basic human norms.

They will be held accountable. Perhaps it was also a failed attempt of divergence from the Ukraine tragedy. Restoring Israel's damaged deterrence is a must priority. The internal Israeli bitter divisions around misguided Judicial Reform were perceived to reflect a weakened society, though Israel unites in a national security emergency, but a heavy price is nonetheless exacted by an enemy tragically neglecting and sacrificing its own Palestinian people.

Oh God sustain our sacred resolve to face evil and subdue it with Shalom's eternal blessings that we shall not compromise over, of healing, hope and harmony. Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman is founder and spiritual leader of Temple Lev Tikvah in Virginia Beach.

HONORING WHITNEY ANDERSON'S APPOINTMENT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FEDERALLY-INSURED CREDIT UNIONS

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Whitney Anderson on her recent election to the Board of Directors of the National Association of Federally-Insured Credit Unions (NAFCU). Credit unions play a vital role in our nation's banking ecosystem allowing more people to access capital, obtain mortgages, and receive other financial tools that are otherwise difficult to obtain. Additionally, I've seen firsthand in my district, how credit unions provided vital services during the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure that the smallest of businesses received the necessary aid to assist during such trying times.

Whitney currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer of Elements Financial, headquartered in Indianapolis, Indiana. She previously served as Chief Community Development Officer at Michigan State University Federal Credit Union, served as President of the Desk Drawer Fund, and President of Ever Green 3C. Additionally, Whitney has had significant community involvement on boards such as the African American Credit Union Coalition (AACUC) National Board, MLK Commission of Mid-Michigan, and United Way. Her

years of leading a broad range of teams, projects, and responsibilities provide a solid foundation and will add a unique perspective in her new role.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Whitney Anderson and wishing her the best of luck in her new role on the NAFCU Board of Directors. I look forward to working with her and NAFCU members to better serve our constituents across Indiana's 7th Congressional District.

HONORING THE REMARKABLE
LIFE AND LEGACY OF ELVIRA
"VERA" TAMARGO GARCIA

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Elvira "Vera" Tamargo Garcia, who passed away at the age of 88 on August 8, 2023. She was a lifelong Tampa native and devoted teacher who dedicated her life to civic service. Vera's contributions and tireless dedication to the Tampa Bay community will forever be remembered.

Vera embodied the true spirit of public service, exemplifying the values of compassion, dedication and mentorship. Throughout her 48-year career as a teacher at Broward, Ballast Point and Mendenhall elementary schools, she left a mark on hundreds of students she taught, their parents, and new teachers she mentored. Throughout her career, Vera taught in every elementary grade. Her passion was for early childhood education, and she played an important role in launching kindergarten instruction in Hillsborough County schools. Her talent and experience as an educator were evident in the numerous accomplishments she achieved. Vera's recognitions included Florida's Outstanding Young Educator in 1966 and was ranked fourth at the national level.

She attended the University of Tampa for her bachelor's degree and subsequently earned a master's degree from the University of South Florida. In her classroom, Vera strived to teach her students the values of respect and friendship along with phonics and counting, and her selfless service is manifested in the good principles of my Tampa Bay neighbors. Her tenacious determination as an instructor to future generations shaped much of her perspective and identity, but her work as a caregiver extended beyond the classroom.

Many knew Vera for her work advocating for Tampa's Latino heritage, protecting and preserving the Centro Asturiano de Tampa's original cemetery and its 121-year-old building. Vera took the role of president for the historic social club for immigrants and their descendants, making her the first woman to hold that position at the "Centro." She and her husband, attorney William F. "Willie" Garcia, devoted their later years to the preservation of the "Centro." Earlier in their lives, Vera and Willie were active in state and local politics, running campaigns, attending rallies and always supporting Democratic candidates at the local, state and federal levels. At home, they would adorn Christmas gifts with handmade themed ornaments that they would spend

months creating. Their marriage was filled with love and support for each other, accompanied by humor that made their bond stronger.

The eldest of three girls, Vera was born to Francisco "Pancho" and Honorina "Nora" Tamargo. She and her two sisters, Junis and Sandra, shared a room as children and their lives as adults. Her devotion to her family was shown in her commitment to spend Christmas together with her two sisters and cousin Mary Louise. Vera was beloved by her many nieces, nephews and cousins who could call or stop by her home to say hello, help with a chore, or take her to a family gathering.

For her two sons, William and Joseph, Vera was that unshakable support who got them where they needed to pursue their interests from swim meets to Scouting camping trips. Her grandchildren called her "Bueli", and they will remember her love and the way she lit up just hearing their voices.

Vera is survived by her sons, daughters-in-law, grandchildren and many loved ones to whom I extend my deepest sympathies. She will be remembered not only for her many years of selfless service, but also for her genuine compassion and kindness.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my sincere condolences to Vera's family and friends. She impacted the lives of countless members of the Tampa Bay community and her steadfast leadership and patient mentorship undeniably enhanced the lives of my neighbors. Tampa Bay is grateful for her contributions and the legacy she leaves.

HONORING COOK OUT BEING
NAMED ONE OF THE TOP TEN
FAST-FOOD RESTAURANTS IN
THE COUNTRY

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Cook Out on being named one of the top ten regional fast-food restaurants in the country according to USA Today's Readers Choice 2023.

Cook Out opened in 1989 in Greensboro, North Carolina and has since spread nationwide, operating more than 300 locations across the Southern United States. However, Cook Out has remained true to its Carolina roots and is a regional staple, best known for its famous tray combos and delicious milkshakes.

I have been a big fan of Cook Out since I was growing up in North Carolina. To this day, one of my favorite parts about going home after a long stint in Washington is being able to sit down and enjoy Cook Out with my family, friends, or staff.

Cook Out is a cultural icon and an esteemed member of our community in North Carolina. Its economic and community impact on our state is astounding and I look forward to continuing to work with them to see what they will accomplish in the future.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in recognizing Cook Out, its leaders, and employees on this momentous occasion and thanking them for all they do for our shared home of North Carolina.

RECOGNIZING COVENANT
COMMUNITY CARE

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize Covenant Community Care, a well-known and trusted healthcare provider, as they celebrate the grand opening of their newest health clinic on Joy Road in Detroit in the 12th Congressional District.

Covenant Care grew from humble beginnings in southwest Detroit when a doctor and pastor joined forces to with the simple idea of providing free healthcare access to the uninsured. The doctor delivered on her promise to provide free healthcare to the uninsured and many more rallied behind the cause, creating Covenant Community Care in 2000. The need for more resources was evident, and Covenant Community Care has been steadfast in its mission to remove barriers to high quality healthcare services. Over the years, Covenant Community Care has leveraged partnerships with other medical service providers and now has several locations across metropolitan Detroit.

I had the honor of securing House-appropriated Community Project Funding for Covenant Community Care in FY2023 to support the construction of their newest clinic to provide critical services to our community. Covenant has operated a small health clinic at 18917 Joy Rd in Detroit for nearly eight years that has limited their ability to expand services. This project will be impactful not only tripling the clinical footprint in the community but providing accessibility to essential care like primary medical, dental, and behavioral health services to the Cody-Rouge neighborhood and surrounding communities.

I am always incredibly honored to serve as a partner for the Covenant Community Care team and appreciate the ongoing high level of care and compassion you provide to our communities across the district and region. We offer congratulations and wish them well on the opening of their new clinic.

HONORING MRS. LORI DOBRATZ

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Mrs. Lori Dobratz on more than 37 years of service to our country.

Lori's career with the federal government began in February 1986 with the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington, D.C., where she worked as the Secretary to the Division Chief in the medical unit. In May 1995, Lori joined Capital District Contracting Center, which later became the Fort Belvoir Mission and Installation Contracting Command. Throughout her 28 years there, Lori has played a critical role as a Management Support Assistant.

As part of the U.S. Army Contracting Command, Lori supported efforts to ensure Army readiness at all times. Her hard work and contributions in service to the U.S. Army have not