

being allowed to “freely express their beliefs without the fear of retribution from fellow students, faculty, and administrators.” I am glad that the majority has finally woken up to the realization that free speech issues cannot be separated from demographic changes on campus, the legacy of structural racism and the recent explosion in hate speech on campus. I only wish that the majority would realize that the same protections that apply to Jewish students must be enforced for other students as well.

Under the majority’s leadership in the House, we have had multiple hearings and markups where the mere existence of trans students has been questioned. Research shows that due to stigma, trans youth experience depression and suicidal ideation at disproportionate rates compared to their peers. Recent data from the CDC show that transgender youth are 10 times more likely to experience homelessness. Transgender students are also more likely to feel unsafe at school, to experience bullying and other forms of violence including being threatened with a weapon at school, and social isolation. Experiences of a hostile school climate, potentially compounded by an unstable living situation, lead to disproportionate drop out rates for these students. Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, was modeled after Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; in the same way schools have to provide safe learning environments to all students irrespective of race, they must also do so irrespective of sexual orientation or gender identity. Democrats have consistently raised this issue only for it to fall on deaf ears with our majority colleagues.

Our committee has held multiple hearings and markups where the idea of having professionals tasked with making sure our colleges and universities are diverse, equitable, and inclusive (DEI) has been ridiculed. We have attempted to explain that institutions of higher education that were not designed to serve diverse student populations are facing specific challenges related to the changing demographics of their student bodies, and having DEI personnel on hand to address these issues can help schools foster the healthy learning environment all students need. To suggest that efforts aimed at inclusion are somehow responsible for the proliferation of AntiSemitic acts on college campuses, as the sponsor of this resolution suggested in closing debate on the resolution, defies belief.

Under Title VI, institutions of higher education have a duty to provide safe learning environments for all students. What’s true for Jewish students now was just as true for Black and Brown students six years ago. This resolution could recognize the universality of the charge in our civil rights laws and call for an end to hostility towards all students on campus based on race, religion, sexual orientation and gender identity, but it fails to do so, and as such is a missed opportunity.

And while some might claim that antisemitic behavior is what is on the rise now, the Federal Bureau of Investigations Director Christopher Wray in testimony to Congress just this week highlighted that events in the Middle East are resulting in increases in threats against both Jewish Americans and Muslim Americans—explicitly referencing the murder of a six-year old boy for no other reason than

he was Muslim, an incident the FBI is currently investigating as a federal hate crime.

As I did in 2017, I continue to support efforts to ensure that all schools are safe and healthy learning environments for students. For that reason, I support H. Res. 798. Hate has no place on college campuses, and speech that has crossed the line into threats and hostility directed at Jewish students, or any other group of students, must be exposed and denounced. I firmly believe that colleges and universities can live up to their Title VI obligations to all students, provide forums for students to exercise their rights of free speech and free expression, and be the cauldrons of thought that produce the critical thinkers our country needs to solve the challenges of today and the future.

RAISING A QUESTION OF THE
PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

SPEECH OF

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I will vote against this expulsion Resolution as a matter of House precedent and Constitutional due process. To be clear, I find Representative GEORGE SANTOS’ behavior to be disgraceful, and the fact-patterns in the federal indictment against him are serious and worthy of him resigning his seat. Yet, to date, Rep. SANTOS has not been criminally convicted of the offenses cited in the Resolution. The modern House has voted to expel two Members only when they were convicted of a felony in a court of law. At this moment, the status of the case does not support expulsion under House precedent or due process.

Additionally, I served as Chair of the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct (now named the House Ethics Committee) from 2009 to 2011, and I respect the internal House process. This process has the authority to recommend expulsion of a Member after an appropriate bipartisan investigation. Rep. SANTOS has not yet been found guilty of offenses in the ethics probe. The Ethics Committee has stated it will release its investigatory conclusions and recommendations in two weeks.

Once either the court or official committee processes conclude, I am prepared, based on known facts, to vote to expel the Congressman.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, November 1, 2023, I accidentally voted No on H.R. 340—Hamas International Financing Prevention Act. In fact, I intended to vote Yes on the bill.

HONOR FLIGHT OF SOUTHERN
OREGON

HON. CLIFF BENTZ

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Mr. BENTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Vietnam and Korean War Veterans from Oregon’s Second Congressional District who, through the efforts of Honor Flight of Oregon, are visiting their memorials on the National Mall. When I meet these heroes, I am reminded of the enduring words of George S. Patton Jr., who said, “The highest obligation and privilege of citizenship is that of bearing arms for one’s country.” These words, Mr. Speaker, still ring true today. Those who value liberty are indebted to these heroes, for each one of them defended our freedom through acts of service, sacrifice, and bravery on behalf of our country. It is my privilege to include in the Record their names.

The Veterans on this Honor Flight from Oregon are: Joshua Alvarez, Army; Dennis Anderson, Navy; Thomas Beckley, Army; Jerry Chattier Sr., Marine Corps; Fred Conn, Marine Corps; David Cunningham, Navy; William Duncan, Army; Richard Gehrke, Navy/Marine Corps; Edward Goodman, Navy; Roger Haynes, Air Force/Army; Robert Howerton, Navy; Michael Hoffman, Navy; David Johnson, Army; Earl Kilpatrick, Air Force; Jesse Redding, Navy; Paul Lofland, Army; Robert Long, Marine Corps; Jesus Lopez, Air Force; Preston Manville II, Marine Corps; William Mathews, Army/Air Force; Lawrence Mixon Jr., Army; Charles Owen, Army; Robert Rammin, Army; Steven Rolston, Army; Loyd Thurman, Army; Jerry White, Army; and Otto J. Williman, Air Force. These heroes join over 260,000 Veterans, who since 2005, have been honored through the nationwide Honor Flight Network of volunteers. I would also like to recognize the volunteers and guardians traveling on this trip: Janet Wilkerson, and the guardians who have also served our country: Kathrine Berg, Army; Jody Williman III, Marine Corps.

Mr. Speaker, in his 1983 Memorial Day address, Ronald Reagan said, “We are forever indebted to those who have given their lives that we might be free.” As a nation, we must never take for granted the liberties we enjoy today, recognizing that these freedoms have been hard-won by the honor, commitment, and sacrifice of our Veterans. Each Member in this chamber and citizen in these United States should be humbled by the courage of the brave Veterans who voluntarily underwent the dangers necessary to preserve our country. Colleagues, please join me in thanking these Veterans and the volunteers of Honor Flight of Oregon for their remarkable service and devotion to our great country.

RECOGNIZING JAMAR MACK

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, today, I want to celebrate an act of exceptional sportsmanship witnessed at the Cape Atlantic Cross-Country Championships, highlighting the true

spirit of unity and compassion within our community. During the race, Cam Koryga, a star-runner from Egg Harbor Township High School encountered difficulties, stumbling and falling as he neared the finish line. In an inspiring act, Jamar Mack, a freshman on the Middle Township High School cross country team, came to his aid and guided him down the course, even though they were rival runners. Jamar's support for Cam continued throughout the race, and in a touching moment, Jamar allowed Cam to cross the finish line ahead of him. This act of sportsmanship is a shining example of the values we hold dear in our community—compassion, selflessness, and unity. It reminds us of the positive impact of sports beyond competition. It is my privilege to recognize and celebrate Jamar Mack's outstanding sportsmanship and I wish this exemplary young man all the best in his future. God Bless Jamar and God Bless the United States of America.

CELEBRATING SECOND
BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER
OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Second Bethlehem Baptist Church's Centennial Celebration that commemorates the lives and accomplishments of Second Bethlehem Baptist church.

Founded in 1923, right in the heart of Savannah, this church has been committed to serving its community for a century. The influence that the Second Bethlehem Baptist church has in its community is outstanding, positively influencing over 40,000 individuals in the region, and over 100,000 worldwide.

The church has numerous outreach achievements, one being the establishment of Life Skills for Empowerment Center Inc., a non-profit organization that is working to fight against violence in Savannah.

Second Bethlehem Baptist Church also offers feeding programs, clothing closets, and various types of assistance to those in need.

I thank the Second Bethlehem Baptist Church for being a beacon of hope in our community, and congratulate them on 100 amazing years.

CONGRATULATING FRANCIS HOWELL SOFTBALL TEAM ON THEIR CLASS 5 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Francis Howell High School on their victory in Missouri's Class 5 Softball State Championship.

The team claimed the Class 5 title for the first time and exacted a measure of revenge by beating the same team they lost to in last year's championship game. Senior Lorin Boutte led the way to an 8-0 victory by tossing a four-hit shutout and adding a grand slam

for run support. The team should be commended for all their hard work throughout the past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the Francis Howell softball team for a job well done.

HONORING THE LIFE OF WILLIAM
"BILL" CZMYR, JR.

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of William "Bill" Czmyr, Jr., who passed peacefully at the age of ninety-one. Bill has been a long-time friend of my office and is affectionately remembered by all who knew him. Through his life, Bill has been a true patriot and model citizen, serving in the United States Navy during the Korean War and dedicating himself to veteran's advocacy back home. His presence will be sorely missed in the Eastern Connecticut community.

Born in 1932 to William and Viola Czmyr, Bill learned early on the value of volunteering and sacrifice for causes greater than oneself. Transitioning away from his work as a maintenance foreman, Bill enlisted in 1955 to serve in the Navy aboard the YAGR-1 *Guardian*. On this ship, Bill helped ensure that the airspace of the United States remained safe from enemy aircraft through its radar monitoring technology.

Shortly after his honorable discharge from the Navy in 1957, Bill continued his service to his country—this time by building the boats which keep our shores safe. He joined General Dynamics, Electric Boat in Groton and worked for an impressive 37 years as an outside machinist, retiring in 1994.

Bill did not squander his newfound time in retirement, dedicating his life to stewarding former servicemembers of all creeds. 'No' was not a word in Bill's vocabulary, and he garnered a well-earned reputation for his tenacious advocacy for veterans who needed it the most. His championing of the needs of his fellow veterans starts with American Legion Post 15 in Jewett City, Connecticut. In 1993, a year before Bill's retirement, the post was forced to close. Immediately recognizing the need for a new, rejuvenated Post, Bill got to work raising money to erase the old Post's debt and repaint the headquarters from top to bottom. By 1995, Post 15 was back in working order.

Remaining active in Post 15, Bill embarked on his next big project to support former servicemembers: the rehousing of 18 homeless veterans. Bill was able to help facilitate the construction of two-room, furnished apartments in a building attached to the Post's headquarters, providing much needed access to medical care, shopping facilities, and a public library. Some of the residents of this new community were homeless for over a decade, and thanks to Bill's tireless efforts, they had a safe place under a roof to call their own.

Bill worked with my office to make this dream a reality where he helped foster a multi-level partnership with the Department of Veterans Affairs and Connecticut Housing Finance Authority to secure funding for the

project. For his monumental efforts, Bill was rightly named the Veteran of the Year in 2012.

Mr. Speaker, I count myself incredibly fortunate to represent constituents like Bill Czmyr. Bill's patriotism and dedication to those who sacrificed the most in defense of liberty is an example all citizens should aspire to. The hole left by his passing will not soon be filled, though the Eastern Connecticut community can take solace in the fact that his legacy lives on through the lives of the countless people he has touched. We mourn with Bill's family, including his three sons Mark, Luke, and John, his six grandchildren, and all of their respective spouses.

RECOGNIZING JORDAN WERNER

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, today, I want to recognize the outstanding achievements of a remarkable young man, Jordan M. Werner. Jordan's scouting journey began in Troop 416 in Greensburg, Pennsylvania. After relocating to Pittsgrove, South Jersey in 2019, he continued his Scouting efforts as a member of Scout Crew 58. It is within this crew that he diligently fulfilled the requirements necessary to achieve the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout. His Eagle Scout project involved the transformation of a storage shed at Emanuel Lutheran Church in Elmer, South Jersey, into a Disaster Warehouse for The North American Lutheran Church. This warehouse serves as a vital resource, storing essential items required by individuals and families who find themselves facing the aftermath of a disaster. These items include health kits, school kits, blankets, flood buckets, and Bibles, providing critical support to those in dire need. Jordan's dedication to service and his selfless commitment to helping others in times of crisis exemplify the highest ideals of the Scouting movement. I congratulate him on this important milestone and wish him all the best in his future. God Bless Jordan and God Bless the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING DR. DAVID WAIN COON

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. David Wain Coon upon his retirement as the President and Superintendent of the College of Marin after 13 years of exceptional professional service.

Dr. Coon earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Central Washington University, Master of Education degree from Western Washington University, and Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Seattle University. He served in prominent administrative roles in colleges throughout Washington State before moving to the California Community College system. After five years as the President of Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Dr. Coon joined the College of Marin in 2010.