

Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services, the Joint Commission, and Magnet underscore the institution's commitment to maintaining the highest standards of medical care. We extend our heartfelt congratulations, paying tribute to its respected history, and acknowledging the profound impact it has had on the people of New Jersey, especially in Atlantic, Cape May, and Ocean County. God Bless AtlantiCare and God Bless the United States of America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 560, H. Res. 559, and YEA on Roll Call No. 561, H.R. 340.

HAMAS AND OTHER PALESTINIAN TERRORIST GROUPS INTERNATIONAL FINANCING PREVENTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, while I agree with the sense of the Resolution that the terrorist organization Hamas must be denied finances, I align myself with an earlier version of this legislation that included language providing a humanitarian exemption for the provision of agricultural products, food, medicine, medical devices, and other similar products to the civilians living in Gaza under Hamas' rule. I will vote No because the Resolution, as offered on the House Floor, is inadequate to support the grave humanitarian needs of the civilian population in Gaza.

AUTOS DRIVE AMERICA 2023 DRIVE-IN

HON. A. DREW FERGUSON IV

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the career opportunities and economic contributions international automakers operating in my home state of Georgia have made to the state and local community. Auto workers from KIA and Hyundai that build vehicles in Georgia have come to Washington, D.C., advocating for policies that enable their employers to continue investing in their communities and American operations. These hard-working men and women are sharing their stories with us—how their jobs are more important than ever as our Nation rises to meet the challenges of a 21st century economy—and how American workers employed by international automakers are driving growth and innovation.

But that leadership takes investment in American workers. Last year's economic im-

pact report from Autos Drive America found that, nationwide, international automakers employ more than 156,000 Americans, with two-thirds of those jobs in manufacturing. In Georgia, these companies employ more than 6,000 Georgians across 30 facilities, in jobs like production, engineering, technical training, and many other career areas. In fact, 45 percent of all cars and trucks made in the United States today are built by international automakers, who have increased their U.S. production by more than 85 percent in the last 25 years alone.

Mr. Speaker, as we recognized Manufacturing Month in October, let's ensure we are doing all we can in this Chamber to enable international automakers to continue to invest in the United States and create 8,888 careers in automotive manufacturing that has changed the lives and communities of those in my state.

HONORING THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF TLC FOR KIDS SPORTS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend TLC for Kids Sports, upon celebrating its 15th anniversary serving the Bay Area community. This outstanding achievement is a testament to the critical work that TLC for Kids Sports has accomplished to give every child the opportunity to safely participate in youth sports.

Originally founded in 2009, TLC for Kids Sports is improving local communities and youth sports by transforming youth sports facilities in underserved neighborhoods. Its work across the Bay Area—including in Antioch, Martinez, and Richmond—helps ensure that every child, no matter where they live, can enjoy the countless benefits of team sports.

TLC for Kids Sports is active in community outreach and frequently collaborates with local businesses and neighborhood volunteers, uniting participants in working toward the common goal of building a better future for our youth. Since its founding, over 5,000 volunteers have worked with TLC for Kids Sports to support communities in need and create safe environments where children can thrive.

The fields built and restored by TLC for Kids Sports are places where our youth can learn sportsmanship, hard work, and confidence, empowering them with the knowledge and skills to build their future. TLC for Kids Sports plays a vital role in improving our communities, supporting our children, and giving youth the resources and space to grow.

On behalf of the constituents of California's Eighth Congressional District, I would like to congratulate TLC for Kids Sports upon its 15th anniversary and extend my sincere gratitude for its years of service to the Bay Area community.

COMMENDING THOMAS POULTON

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend Thomas Poulton for his achievement of the rank of Eagle Scout. Thomas is a senior at Kingsway Regional High School, and he has future plans to pursue a degree in business management. Thomas's academic journey has been marked by excellence, with a particular passion for history, earning college credits through AP History classes. Outside the classroom, Thomas has been an active participant in sports, contributing to his school's cross country, winter track, and tennis teams for three years. Thomas's impressive 12-year scouting journey culminated in achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. His scouting journey is marked with countless hours of community service, numerous leadership positions, and endless outdoor adventures. For his Eagle Scout Project, he built a gaga pit for a local park, a project which he planned and executed himself from beginning to end. His scouting experience has shaped him into a fine young man, emphasizing leadership, a strong moral compass, and a dedication to positive societal influence. Thomas's achievements are a source of pride for his family and his community, and I congratulate him on everything he has accomplished. God Bless Thomas and God Bless the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF DENNIS, GARTLAND, & NIERGARTH

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Dennis, Gartland & Niergarth of Traverse City on their 50th Anniversary. A full-service accounting firm, Dennis, Gartland, & Niergarth (DGN) are committed to serving the people of Northern Michigan and improving its communities.

On October 1, 1973, the late Thomas Gartland founded the firm with an emphasis on teamwork and a focus on client success. Sticking to these founding principles, the company quickly became Northern Michigan's largest, full-service, public accounting firm.

For the past 50 years, DGN has been committed to elevating their clients, providing extraordinary attention to detail, and hands-on service to businesses and individuals in their community. DGN has expanded to boast more than 55 professionals, 2 offices, and 12 partners who serve Northern Michigan. When DGN grew, so did the list of services they provide and today DGN is ready to help from Agribusiness to estate and retirement planning. As exemplified by the staff, DGN's community-centric values are what distinguishes them in their endeavor to serve and improve the lives of those in Northern Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Dennis, Gartland, & Niergarth on their 50th anniversary. I'd like to thank them for their

continued dedication to the people of Northern Michigan and wish them and their staff all the best in their future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSH GOTTHEIMER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Mr. Speaker, I missed the following Roll Call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 560; YEA on Roll Call No. 561; YEA on Roll Call No. 562; and NO on Roll Call No. 563.

HONORING ALFRED PONCIA

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Alfred Poncia, who passed away at the age of 83 on August 28, 2023. Al was a farmer, conservationist, and respected community leader.

Born on February 2, 1940, Al grew up on his family ranch in Marin County. He graduated from Tomales High School in 1958 and joined the Army National Guard. He later moved back home to work at his family's dairy and study at Santa Rosa Junior College. While attending college, he met Cathie Brandenburg; they married in 1964 and settled down on the Poncia family farm in West Marin.

While working on his farm, Al also took on leadership roles in both the county and state farm bureaus. He served 18 years on the Marin County Farm Bureau's board of directors, including three years as board president. For decades, Al has been both a formal and informal leader in the local agriculturist community, notably leading efforts to protect open space and family farms in Marin County during successive attempts to develop rural West Marin.

A passionate advocate and an adept communicator, Al worked with a variety of agricultural groups and committees dedicated to conservation, sustainable farming and ranching. He helped lead the Marin County Committee on Small Family Farms, a collection of both conservationists and agriculturists interested in developing solutions to water problems and fair milk prices. In 1971, Al participated in the California Agricultural Leadership Program, an advanced leadership development program for California agriculturists, where he had the opportunity to travel around the United States and the world, meeting with global leaders in farming to learn more about national and international agricultural policy.

In 1981, Al became a founding board member of the Marin Agricultural Land Trust (MALT), the first farmland trust in the nation, representing a broad coalition of ranchers, environmentalists, and community leaders who were dedicated to protecting farming in Marin County. His expertise, insight, and passion were critical to MALT's success at preserving local Marin County farms.

Al is survived by his wife of 59 years, Cathie; three of their children, Jennifer, Melissa, and Loren; and eight grandchildren. Al was predeceased by his daughter, Jessica, and son-in-law, Bill. While he will be greatly missed, Al's legacy will live on through the positive impact he had on his community and beyond.

Today, thanks to Al's lifelong dedication and hard work, Marin County stands as a national example for sustainable agriculture and open space preservation. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you join me in extending condolences to Al's family and friends, and in expressing my appreciation for his decades of work for the public good.

BAPS TEMPLE

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, today, I share an inspiring tale of dedication and unity surrounding the construction of a magnificent Hindu temple in central New Jersey, embodying the values of seva and bhakti. This temple, now celebrated as the largest Hindu temple outside India in the modern era, stands as a tribute to these enduring values. Crafted from marble and limestone, it required about 4.7 million hours of meticulous hand-carving by artisans and volunteers. These stones, originating from Italy and Bulgaria, traveled 8,000 miles to find their place in New Jersey. The Robbinsville temple is one of many built by the BAPS, a worldwide religious and civic organization within the Swaminarayan sect. This project exemplifies volunteerism, personal growth, and universal values that transcend religious boundaries. It symbolizes unity, service, and devotion, reflecting the core principles shared by people worldwide. May it serve as a reminder of the common values that bind humanity together, inspiring us to embrace unity, service, and devotion in our own lives.

DECLARING IT IS THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES THAT A NUCLEAR ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN IS NOT ACCEPTABLE

SPEECH OF

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, while I strongly oppose a nuclear Iran, I will vote against this Resolution because it states that U.S. policy is "to use all means necessary to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon." That language allows for an open-ended war authorization, using all means necessary, which I deem inappropriate. I believe that America's military commitments must be tied to clearly defined strategies, and vague war authorizations have, unfortunately, been used as justifications for unwarranted military actions in recent history. I will vote against this Resolution, the majority of which I agree with, because I do not want to see foreign policy mistakes mirrored.

CONGRATULATING FATIMA SOFTBALL TEAM ON THEIR CLASS 3 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 Fatima High School on their victory in Missouri's Class 3 Softball State Championship.

The team claimed the Class 3 title for the second consecutive year by beating St. Francis Borgia 12–2. Senior Taylor Baumhoer led the way in the circle to finish her season with a sub-1.00 ERA as Fatima cruised in five innings. The Lady Comets have now won 68 of their 75 games in the past two seasons. The team should be commended for all their hard work throughout the past year and for bringing home another state championship to their school and community.

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

DOGS OF HONOR GRADUATION

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, this month, I had the honor of attending the New Jersey Dogs of Honor Graduation ceremony. The New Jersey Dogs of Honor is a nonprofit program founded in 2018 with a noble mission: to provide rescue service dogs, who faced the prospect of euthanasia, to military veterans diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress. This initiative is a collaborative effort involving Maurice River Township Firefighters, Ted's Pet Country Club, Veterans Affairs, local businesses, and individuals who hold a deep appreciation for the courageous men and women who have served our nation. During the recent graduation ceremony on October 14th, we had the honor of witnessing the bond between these veterans and their loyal canine companions. On this day, we celebrated Roger Asher with his dog Gunny, Diana Pitman with Finn, Thomas Huck with Sasha, David Clemenco with Milo, William Hannum with Bailey, and Mario Bellasci with Tucker. These veterans and their dogs represent the spirit of resilience, hope, and companionship. As we commemorate this occasion, let us recognize the significance of such initiatives in supporting our veterans as they navigate the challenges of Post-Traumatic Stress. God Bless the Dogs of Honor and God Bless the United States of America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 552; NAY on Roll Call No. 553; NAY on