

they celebrate the 100th anniversary of the construction of the Post's building this Veterans Day.

After starting operations in 1919, both veterans and community members of Burlington City came together to erect the building that currently stands today. Originally constructed to honor those who bravely served our nation in World War I and completed in 1923, this weekend marks the Post's 100 years of service to our community and continued mission of honoring the service of our veterans. Named after Captain James McFarland, a resident of Burlington, who served as a medical doctor in the 113th Infantry during the first World War, his legacy lives on today in Post 79 and the veteran community that continues service to others by following in his footsteps.

While many community members locally know Post 79 for their success in maintaining a Drum and Bugle Corps and attending many local events and parades, the Post has also coordinated many efforts to connect our neighbors with crucial resources. From blood drives to their annual Thomas Ryan Scholarship for students, they have made an indelible impact on those around them. Now as an organization consisting of 55 members, Post 79 is undoubtedly an integral part of what makes our community thrive.

Beyond these first 100 years of service to our community, Post 79 is taking even more steps to honor our veterans' stories through establishing their Memorial Walkway. This will provide all families of veterans with a place to reflect and honor our servicemembers' sacrifice for many years to come.

This weekend as we honor both the 100th anniversary of Post 79 and Veterans Day, I wish our veteran community all the best in honoring this momentous occasion. I look forward to continuing to work to honor our veterans' memories for many more years to come.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. ANTHONY D'ESPOSITO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 8, 2023*

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances, I was unable to participate in voting on the passage of H. Res. 845. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on Roll Call No. 622.

#### HONORING THE SERVICE OF MR. LARRY W. SWALES

### HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 8, 2023*

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Larry W. Swales, a vital member of our community in Rankin County, Mississippi. Currently serving our community as the Chancery Clerk of Rankin County since 2008, Mr. Swales is the only person to serve as president of both the Mississippi Association of Supervisors and Mississippi Chancery Clerks Association.

Mr. Larry Swales has been a vital part of his community for many years starting with his

membership since 1977 at the St. Mark's United Methodist Church. He has served as a lay delegate to the United Methodist Church Annual Conference and as an usher, as well as on various church committees through the years.

Mr. Swales is a dedicated Hinds Community College alumnus. Having graduated from Hinds Community College, he was the alumnus of the year in 1998, served on the foundation board, and was named one of the 100 people most passionate about Hinds Community College. Throughout his time, he has served in various other capacities at Hinds, including as a member of the Rankin Alumni Association and as President of the alumni association; and since 2023 he has served on the board of trustees.

As a Veteran of the United States Navy, Mr. Swales is a proud American. He has volunteered with the fire department and the Mississippi State Fire Academy in various roles, saving lives and gaining certificates in EMS, basic firefighting, and a certificate of appreciation for his role in aiding the people of Webster County in recovering from a courthouse fire.

His service continues with the Rankin County American Cancer Society, Rankin County Heart Association, Rankin County Rotary Club, Northwest Rankin High School Football Chain Gang, and other various organizations throughout Rankin County. In 2021 he was named the Citizen of the Year by the Junior Auxiliary of Rankin County.

While his community is important to him, more important is his relationship with his family. He has been married for 53 years to Linda and is the father of Josh Swales and Megan Rushing. Larry is also the loving grandfather of five grandchildren: Jackson, Aiden, Jake, Baker, and Remy.

Mr. Swales' service spans many years and many organizations, and I am proud to recognize his service in Rankin County and the state of Mississippi as he prepares to retire from public office.

#### HONORING MARY ANN GOSSETT MOORE'S LIFE AND LEGACY

### HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 8, 2023*

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Mary Ann Gossett Moore of Tyler, Texas. Mary Ann was born on March 26, 1926, in Troup, Texas and was later baptized and joined Big Springs Baptist Church in Blackjack, Texas. From an early age, Mary Ann had a quest for education and graduated from Troup High School, in Troup, Texas, and later was the second of her ten siblings to pursue a higher education degree.

Mary Ann would go on to spend two years at Texas College in Tyler, Texas, where she majored in Home Economics. Prior to college, Mary Ann worked alongside her siblings and parents in the cotton fields, where her grandfather owned several hundred acres of farmland.

Mary Ann would go on to marry Robert Moore Jr. for 50 years and have two children, Edward Don, and Della Marie. Mary Ann and her husband lived in North Tyler and were ac-

tive members of True Light Missionary Baptist Church, Tyler, Texas, where she served as president of the senior choir and the deaconess auxiliary, and was a trusted member of the Pastor's Aide Committee for over 35 years. She also dutifully worked for Trane Technologies (formerly General Electric) for 26 years, where she later retired.

As the Matriarch of the Moore family, Mary Ann, was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and great-great-grandmother. She served her family with a steadfast commitment to her deep-rooted values of respect, hard work, and kindness. Mary Ann was also an avid baker and had a deep love for her church, serving as Church Mother until she departed this life.

I extend my prayers to all Mary Ann's loved ones during this time. May her memory be a blessing.

#### RECOGNIZING THE HEROIC SERVICE OF KADRI CAKRANI DURING THE HOLOCAUST

### HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 8, 2023*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I wish to take this opportunity to recognize the humanitarian efforts of Albanian Commandant-General Kadri Cakrani.

On Saturday, November 11, 2023, the Albanian and Southeastern European Studies Program at DePaul University will host an event entitled, The Cakrani Family of Albania: Repairing the Fabric of History, that will honor the work of General Cakrani in protecting Jews during the Holocaust and advancing Democracy in Albania. Illinois is the home of many relatives of General Cakrani, including my constituents Elizabeth Cakrani Vrato, Evan Metaj, and Abigail Vrato—his granddaughter, great-great-grandson, and great-granddaughter, respectively.

During the German occupation of Albania, Commandant-General Cakrani led the protection of over 600 Jewish refugees and residents in the Berat region from Nazi capture during the Holocaust. At risk of death, General Cakrani lied to Nazi officials about the whereabouts of Jews hiding in Albania and guided efforts to shelter Jews in safe hiding locations, including his own home. His courage and leadership contributed to Albania being the only European country that ended World War II with more Jewish residents than at the start of the war. Further, General Cakrani sheltered three American Army nurses and secretly returned them to Allies after their plane crashed in Albania.

In 1951, General Cakrani moved to the United States after President Harry Truman granted him political asylum. He worked with the U.S. Intelligence to try to bring Democracy to Albania for the remainder of his life. The lives and safety of families and individuals depended on General Cakrani's silence about his efforts during his lifetime. The DePaul event is a step to recognize his humanitarian work during and after the war.

The Auschwitz Memorial Museum, the United States Holocaust Museum, the Illinois Holocaust Museum, the Jerusalem Post, and the Israel Hayom have all recognized General

Cakrani's service and bravery. Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker recently issued an executive proclamation recognizing November 11, 2023, as Kadri Cakrani Day in Illinois.

I wish to add my voice to those recognizing the service and bravery of Commandant-General Kadri Cakrani in the protection of Jews during the Holocaust and his work to promote Democracy in Albania. I wish his family well as they honor his work this week at the DePaul event on Kadri Cakrani Day in Illinois.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 8, 2023*

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained due to local and state elections in my district, and I regret missing the votes on the Amendments to H.R. 4820, and the motion to table H. Res. 845 Transportation, HUD, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call No. 608; Nay on Roll Call No. 609; Yea on Roll Call No. 610; Nay on Roll Call No. 611; and Nay on Roll Call No. 612.

#### RECOGNIZING SFC WILLIAM MONTGOMERY ON RECEIVING THE PURPLE HEART

### HON. LAUREN BOEBERT

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 8, 2023*

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Sergeant First Class William Montgomery, a true American hero who has finally been awarded the Purple Heart for injuries suffered in the line of duty in service to our great country. The price of freedom is not free, and I am overjoyed that my office can help heroes like Sergeant First Class Montgomery receive the recognition they so richly deserve.

Sergeant First Class Montgomery was born in Tucson, Arizona, and graduated high school in Spring Creek, Nevada. He enlisted in the U.S. Army as a 19D Cavalry Scout and attended One Station Unit Training in Fort Knox, Kentucky, graduating with honors. His long and distinguished military career includes deployments in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, where he earned numerous awards and accolades including the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Valorous Unit Award, and the Iraq Campaign Medal with 3 Stars, reflecting his exceptional service to our country. He has now earned the Purple Heart, an award reserved only for those who are wounded or killed in service to our nation. In July of 2015, Sergeant First Class Montgomery was medically discharged from the United States Army and now resides in Colorado's Third District with his six wonderful children: Rain, Porter, Lexington, Izabella, Kai, and Koda.

Mr. Speaker, Sergeant First Class Montgomery's service is a shining example for all Americans. His distinguished career has been marked with selfless courage and an unwaver-

ing willingness to put everything on the line for our nation and everything it stands for. I urge all Americans to join me in congratulating Sergeant First Class Montgomery for receiving the Purple Heart and for being a beacon of American pride and inspiration for Colorado's Third Congressional District and America.

#### CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

### HON. GREG CASAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 8, 2023*

Mr. CASAR. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Mt. Zion Baptist Church on the celebration of its 150th anniversary this year.

Founded 1873 in Williamson Creek, this church soon faced its first challenges. Only 10 years after its founding, a flood destroyed the church building. Through resilience and faith, the congregation worshipped and held services in their homes while their community rebuilt what was lost.

In 1948, the old walls of Mt. Zion Williamson Creek were transported and reinstalled at their new home in Austin, where it became Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church. Beginning in 1970, under the leadership of the late Rev. Dr. G. V. Clark, the church experienced a large increase in membership and expanded its facilities on and around East 13th Street. With a deep commitment to his faith and community, Dr. Clark served the congregants of Mt. Zion for five decades. Our whole community is greatly indebted to him for a lifetime of service.

For over 150 years, Mt. Zion has been a pillar of East Austin. Under the current leadership of Reverend Dr. Daryl Horton, Mt. Zion continues a tradition of commitment and service to our community through charity and volunteerism, like housing the elderly, feeding children, and the poor. As the Congressman for the 35th District of Texas. I am proud to congratulate them on their 150 years of faithful service and dedication to improving the lives of so many in Austin.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 40TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY OF BISHOP DONALD HILLIARD, JR.

### HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 8, 2023*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with the congregation of Cathedral International in honoring Bishop Donald Hilliard, Jr. on his 40th Pastoral Anniversary. Bishop Hilliard's dedication to faith and community are truly deserving of this body's recognition.

As Senior Pastor of Cathedral International, Dr. Hilliard has ushered immense expansion of the church. When Dr. Hilliard became Senior Pastor at the age of 26, there were 125 congregants; today membership has grown to 10,000 and serves the communities of Perth Amboy, Asbury Park, and Plainfield. His vision to embrace technology and add streaming capabilities to the church not only allows the church to reach those who are unable to wor-

ship in person, but also served the full congregation during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Throughout his tenure, Dr. Hilliard has encouraged his congregants to practice faith in action, serving the needs of people through several worship and outreach ministries. Likewise, the Cathedral Community Development Corporation that Dr. Hilliard founded provides support and services to uplift the local community. His leadership has fostered greater spirituality, fellowship, and community involvement of diverse populations.

His contributions to the community have been recognized with several awards and board positions, including the Drew University Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award, the National Conference for Community and Justice Humanitarian Award, and the Perth Amboy Chamber of Commerce Executive of the Year Award. Additionally, he is a lifetime member of the NAACP.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating Bishop Donald Hilliard, Jr. on his 40th Pastoral Anniversary. Dr. Hilliard continues to provide outstanding spiritual leadership to the Perth Amboy, Asbury Park, and Plainfield communities and his service is to be celebrated.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 8, 2023*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, had I been present for votes on November 2, 2023, I would have voted in the following manner: Roll Call No. 579 on the Crane Amendment No. 85, I would have voted No; Roll Call No. 580 on the Crane Amendment No. 86, I would have voted No; Roll Call No. 581 on the Fulcher Amendment No. 89, I would have voted No; Roll Call No. 582 on the Gosar Amendment No. 91, I would have voted No; Roll Call No. 583 on the Greene Amendment No. 94, I would have voted No; Roll Call No. 584 on the McCormick Amendment No. 101, I would have voted No; Roll Call No. 585 on the McCormick Amendment No. 102, I would have voted No; Roll Call No. 586 on the Miller Amendment No. 103, I would have voted No; Roll Call No. 587 on the Nehls Amendment No. 107, I would have voted No; Roll Call No. 588 on the Norman Amendment No. 110, I would have voted No; Roll Call No. 589 on the Norman Amendment No. 112, I would have voted No; Roll Call No. 590 on the Norman Amendment No. 113, I would have voted No; Roll Call No. 591 on the Norman Amendment No. 115, I would have voted No; and Roll Call No. 592 on the Ogles Amendment No. 116, I would have voted No.

#### CONGRATULATING BLAIR OAKS VOLLEYBALL ON THEIR CLASS 3 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

### HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 8, 2023*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Blair Oaks High School on their