

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

victory in Missouri's Class 3 Volleyball State Championship.

The team claimed the Class 3 title for the third straight year by beating the Ursuline Bears in a tightly contested match. After falling behind early, Seniors Gabby Horn and Autumn Bax led the Lady Falcons to an improbable comeback in the final three sets. 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 Blair Oaks volleyball team for a job well done.

#### HONORING RIVER ROCK OUTFITTER

### HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 8, 2023*

Ms. SPANBERGER Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate April and Keith Peterson and the River Rock Outfitter team on their hard-earned nomination for the United States Chamber of Commerce's 2023 Top Small Business award.

Located in Downtown Fredericksburg, River Rock Outfitter provides apparel, gear, and guided outdoor experiences to customers while bringing awareness to local recreational opportunities in the region. River Rock Outfitters is committed to supporting access to recreation and conservation efforts in the community and is widely known for its friendly and knowledgeable staff. Notably, over 70 percent of its staff are women—actively challenging gender biases in the outdoor sector and creating an inviting environment for women to explore the outdoors through their programming, like their GirlsGO! initiative.

In response to supply chain backlogs and an increased interest in the outdoors during the pandemic, April and her team implemented the "Re-Boot with River Rock consignment program." This initiative expanded River Rock Outfitter's reach to a national level, encouraged people across the country to explore the outdoors, and promoted sustainability.

April's contributions as an owner extend past River Rock Outfitter's storefront—she has become a prominent fixture in the community as an active member of the Fredericksburg Virginia Main Street, serving as its president from 2020 to 2021. She has also earned multiple accolades from organizations such as the Rotary Foundation, Chesapeake Conservancy, and Blue Ridge Outdoors, for her contributions to the community and philanthropy.

River Rock Outfitter has embraced community, inclusivity and representation, and sustainability throughout their journey. These attributes distinguish them as an outstanding small business, and Fredericksburg is lucky to have them in our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating River Rock Outfitter, a finalist for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's 2023 Top Small Business award.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 8, 2023*

Ms. STEFANIK Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call No. 611, I mistakenly voted Aye when I intended to vote Nay.

#### SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF DON- ALD JAMES KEEHAN UPON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE OHIO VET- ERANS HALL OF FAME

### HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 8, 2023*

Mr. LATTA Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and remember the life of a dedicated veteran upon his induction into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame. Donald James Keehan, who sadly passed away last year, has been inducted posthumously after his years of service and contributions to his community and Ohio.

Donald's leadership both in and out of uniform was exemplary, whether it was through his service to our nation in the Korean War or as founder and CEO of globally recognized Advanced Polymer Coatings. His work as an entrepreneur in the polymers and resins industry included numerous patents and the development of multiple companies that employed many Ohioans.

It was Donald's philanthropic work with youth and military families that established him as a community leader when it came to support for military families, military transition issues, and the broader Northeast Ohio veterans' community. He was instrumental in providing housing for wounded warriors with his rental properties in northeast Ohio. He was also a tremendous mentor to both the professional business community and to the youth of the area.

Passionate about philanthropy, Donald supported education by providing more than one million dollars to St. Edward High School in Lakewood, Ohio, where he served as a trustee, for students to study innovative engineering and entrepreneurship. He also supported and helped grow Young Men's Chance for Change whose mission is to help inner-city young men achieve better lives and opportunities.

Donald's life also revolved around his family. He was married to his wife, Arlene, for 63 years. During that time, they raised six children and became grandparents and then great-grandparents.

Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to the life and service of Donald James Keehan. On behalf of the people of the Fifth Congressional District of Ohio, I recognize the devotion and compassion that Donald had for his family, community, and Nation. I applaud the special acknowledgment that accompanies his induction into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. MIKE FLOOD

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 8, 2023*

Mr. FLOOD Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call No. 610, I mistakenly voted no when I intended to vote aye.

#### RECOGNIZING AMERICAN AMBU- LANCE ASSOCIATION STAR OF LIFE NOMINEE TOM FENNEL

### HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 8, 2023*

Mr. EMMER Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a first responder in my district, Tom Fennell. Tom has been nominated for the American Ambulance Association's Star of Life Award; a prestigious recognition given to those who have made exceptional contributions to the emergency medical services (EMS) community.

Tom's journey into emergency medical services began in his childhood, growing up with ambulances in his garage. His father owned a local ambulance service, instilling in Tom a deep appreciation for the lifesaving work of EMS providers.

After leaving home, Tom continued to his involvement in EMS, working with a Basic Life Support ambulance service which he helped evolve into an Advanced Life Support service.

Tom's dedication and expertise were evident and he quickly became recognized as a leader in the field. He went on to serve as a regulator for the State of Minnesota's EMS Section, gaining valuable insights into the challenges faced by ambulance service providers across the state.

Tom has made a profound impact on the emergency medical services community in St. Cloud and across Minnesota. He is an inspiration to all those who have had the opportunity to work alongside him.

Throughout the years, we have been grateful to see many exceptional Minnesotans honored as American Ambulance Association Star of Life recipients. America's first female Emergency Medical Technician and Star of Life Recipient, Rose Pelzel, and her fellow Star of Life recipient, Marcia Anderson, were both panelists in our office's Young Women's Leadership Program. Both women are pioneers in the emergency medical services field, and we were lucky to have them participate.

Congratulations to Tom on joining these impressive ranks, and I thank him for all his work on behalf of EMTs and first responders in Minnesota.

#### CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEG- ACY OF PASTOR RALPH E. KELLY, SR.

### HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 8, 2023*

Mr. LAMBORN Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and legacy of Pastor Ralph