

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Pete and Boots Morrison and their 50 years of marriage.

RECOGNIZING IOWA DIVISION OF  
BANKING SUPERINTENDENT  
JEFF PLAGGE

**HON. ZACHARY NUNN**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 19, 2023*

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Jeff Plagge, who will be retiring as Iowa Division of Banking Superintendent at the end of this year, for his outstanding work and service to his state.

Superintendent Plagge was appointed to his position in 2019 by Governor Kim Reynolds. Among numerous achievements, Superintendent Plagge was instrumental in modernizing Iowa's banking code and working to level the playing field for community banks.

As a member of the House Financial Services Committee, I have personally had the privilege of getting to know and partnering with Jeff to fight for Iowa businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in commending Superintendent Plagge for his extraordinary leadership and thoughtful approach to the Iowa Division of Banking. I wish him and his family nothing but the best as he begins his next chapter.

CONDEMNING ANTISEMITISM ON  
UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES, H. RES.  
927

**HON. VAL T. HOYLE**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 19, 2023*

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, last week I voted No on H. Res. 927, a resolution that purports to condemn antisemitism on college campuses. Several of my Jewish colleagues voted against this resolution as well.

I strongly agree that Congress must condemn all forms of antisemitism, including on college campuses. Since Hamas's horrific October 7th attacks on Israel, the U.S. House of Representatives has voted in favor of several resolutions condemning antisemitism on college campuses and throughout the world, multiple of which I've supported and cosponsored. However, this latest resolution, H. Res. 927, is yet another disingenuous resolution that weaponizes the real scourge of antisemitism, uses Jewish people as pawns to play partisan political games, and represents another attack in the extreme right-wing's war on higher education. For this reason, I could not support the resolution.

Among other items, H. Res. 927 calls on specific college presidents to resign, referencing a made-for-TV congressional hearing orchestrated by congressional Republicans last week. I believe it is inappropriate for Congress to inject itself into leadership and personnel decisions at colleges and universities. Doing so creates a slippery slope of Congress meddling in local decisions that the federal government should not be involved in.

H. Res. 927 also appears to be another attempt to police and silence the free speech of

Americans on college campuses. Again, while some demonstrators on college campuses have disturbingly engaged in antisemitic actions that should rightfully be condemned. H. Res. 927 is too broad.

H. Res. 927 also fails to condemn antisemitic acts from those on the far right, including white nationalists who have increasingly promoted antisemitic conspiracy theories and have threatened the lives and livelihoods of Jewish Americans. The lead sponsor of H. Res. 927 has also publicly engaged in antisemitic tropes in the past, including the disgusting "great replacement theory." This resolution appears to be an attempt to cover up extremist right-wing Republicans' flirtation with antisemitic ideology, as well as their support for antisemitic public figures.

Let me be clear: I unequivocally condemn all forms of antisemitism, and I am appalled by the significant rise in antisemitism we've seen on college campuses in recent weeks. Many Jewish college students and faculty do not feel safe on campus, and many Jewish Americans feel unsafe in public. This is absolutely unacceptable. The university presidents who participated in last week's congressional hearing gave insufficient and appalling answers relating to campus speech calling for the genocide of Jewish people. I'm glad that they've since apologized for their statements, and I encourage other colleges not to make the same mistake these presidents did.

However, if the House Republican majority were serious about tackling antisemitism, they would support President Biden's National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism, would quit trying to defund the Office of Civil Rights for Title VI enforcement which protects Jewish students and would increase funding for the High-Risk Nonprofit Grant Program to secure Jewish institutions as a start.

That's why I've cosponsored H. Res. 927, introduced by Representatives NADLER, RASKIN, and GOLDMAN. H. Res. 927 thoughtfully and powerfully condemns the rise of antisemitism in the United States—including on college campuses—and calls on Congress to support the above substantive actions to tackle antisemitism, which congressional Republicans have so far refused to do. I call on my congressional Republican colleagues to put politics aside and work in a bipartisan way to substantively tackle antisemitism.

HONORING THE CAREER OF  
GERALD 'JERRY' GRABAREK

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 19, 2023*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a long-standing public servant to the Town of Preston, Connecticut and pillar of our state's sizable rural population, Mr. Gerald 'Jerry' Grabarek of Preston, Connecticut. Jerry has recently marked his 50th year of community service to the Town of Preston and also just celebrated the 100 anniversary his multi-generational family farm, appropriately named, Preston Farms. Most recently, he has won reelection unopposed to the Board of Selectman, and was sworn in on the 5th of December. Preston and the region are lucky to have such a talented, stalwart advocate.

Jerry's long history of service begins in the early 1970's when he and his wife, Deb, took a more active role in managing the farm. During this time, they shared responsibility with the farm's original founders, Andrew and Anastasia Grabarek. Jerry used this time to pursue a degree in Biology, Botany, and Zoology from Connecticut College in New London, graduating in 1981. This experience proved beneficial immediately when he and Deb took over Preston Farms upon the death of Andrew in 1984. Jerry's tenure at the farm has been defined by his eagerness to engage with his neighbors, often giving fieldtrips and hay-rides to Preston's elementary school students. Countless generations remember the visit to Jerry's farms with fond memories of tractor rides and cups of ice-cream.

Ever a steward of his community, one of the earliest times Jerry opened his farm and maze to local students was in the wake of the 11th of September terror attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon. Many children of Eastern Connecticut's servicemen and women had to contend with their parents being suddenly mobilized without explanation or words of good-bye. In response, Jerry coordinated field trips to Preston Farms free of charge to give those children a much-needed respite in the month immediately following the attacks. This episode truly epitomizes the selfless, bottom-up service approach which has defined Jerry's life.

In 1978, Jerry began his municipal service in earnest through his being voted on to Preston's Democratic Town Committee. Little did he know at the time that this action would take him on a winding journey of advocacy. By 1982, Jerry served on the Planning and Zoning commission wherein he eventually became chair. Jerry's tenure in town politics oversaw a significant shift in the dynamic of southeast Connecticut living. In 1983, the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe received federal recognition and reservation rights which soon saw the development of the Foxwoods Resort Casino, causing a large increase in the number of visitors to the region. This increase in tourism necessitated enhanced infrastructure to accommodate the additional traffic. Under his chairmanship of the Planning and Zoning Commission, Jerry helped ensure development was executed in a balanced manner to avoid undue burden on area residents while still accommodating the increased travel.

Jerry's advocacy for Preston only increased in 1995 when he successfully ran for the Board of Selectmen, ending his first term in 2009. In his early years on the Board, he continued to advocate for the needs of residents when weighing responses to the increased traffic caused by tribal economic development. In 2020, Jerry rejoined the Board and continues his service today.

Mr. Speaker, I have known Jerry personally for over 30 years and consider myself immensely fortunate to call him a friend. Representing hardworking, good hearted constituents like Jerry Grabarek is an inspiration to me to stay focused on helping people which is his trademark. Amazingly Jerry continues to serve even as he surpasses 50 years of hard work for Preston and the southeast region. I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking Jerry for his decades of dutiful stewardship.

RECOGNIZING DEBORAH GYM'S  
PERFECT PSAT SCORE

**HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 19, 2023*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding academic accomplishments of a constituent from my district, Deborah Gym.

Deborah is a sophomore at Central Bucks South High School who regularly demonstrates a commitment to academic excellence, with this dedication culminating in her achieving a perfect score of 1520 on the Preliminary SAT (PSAT). Deborah demonstrated a proficiency in various focuses of reading, including information and ideas, craft and structure, and expression of ideas, and mathematics, including a remarkable understanding of algebra, advanced mathematics, problem-solving and data analysis, and geometry and trigonometry.

Deborah's performance on the PSAT should serve as a testament to her character as an intelligent and motivated young woman. I am encouraged by her motivation to perform incredibly in her academic career, and I am proud to represent such remarkable young people in my district.

It is my hope that, by Deborah's example, students throughout my district and throughout the country are encouraged to challenge themselves academically, and endeavor to strive for excellence in every facet of their lives. Moreover, the example provided by young men and young women, like Deborah, should serve as inspiration to challenge ourselves and strive for excellence in every facet of our lives.

I would like to wish Deborah the best in her future endeavors, both academically and professionally, and once again congratulate her on her incredible performance on the PSAT.

RECOGNIZING ROBERT CABANA'S  
YEARS OF SERVICE

**HON. BILL POSEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 19, 2023*

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize Robert Cabana for his years of service in the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Mr. Cabana is retiring at the end of this year after serving as the agency's associate administrator, making him the highest-ranking civil servant.

Robert Cabana acts as the agency's chief operating officer and manages more than 18,000 employees. Before serving in his position, Mr. Cabana served as the director of NASA's John F. Kennedy Space Center in my district. There, he oversaw all NASA facilities and activities at the spaceport.

Robert has spent countless years serving his country, graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1971 and commissioning as a second Lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps. Robert Cabana retired from the U.S. Marine Corps in September 2000 as a colonel.

Robert Cabana has recorded four space flights, logging a total of 38 days in Space.

Cabana was inducted into the Astronaut Hall of Fame and named an Associate Fellow in the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and a Fellow in the Society of Experimental Test Pilots. He also received the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Presidential Distinguished Rank Award, and the National Space Club Florida Committee's Dr. Kurt H. Debus Award. Col. Cabana is also a recipient of the Rotary National Award for Space Achievement's National Space Trophy.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Col. Robert Cabana and his dedication to serving his country. While he will be sorely missed, I would like to wish him well in his retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF  
MR. KERRY ARMSTRONG

**HON. BARRY LOUDERMILK**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 19, 2023*

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. W. Kerry Armstrong, Chairman of the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC), for skillfully shepherding the ARC forward as its chairman for the past ten years. Kerry will conclude his chairmanship at the end of this year, and I know the other members of the Georgia Congressional Delegation, who represent the greater Atlanta region, will join me in thanking Kerry for his dedicated service on the ARC Board, which will continue even as he departs the chairmanship.

The ARC plays an invaluable role in the health of the Atlanta region. Under Kerry's leadership, my colleagues and I have worked successfully with the ARC on numerous initiatives important to the region, including delivering Older Americans Act services, workforce development, regional transportation planning, and homeland security. However, when it comes to Kerry and the ARC leadership, there is perhaps no issue as singularly important as the protection and preservation of our state's water supply. In this very critical area, the ARC's work is unrivaled.

Kerry Armstrong came to Atlanta over thirty years ago, attracted by the beauty of the region, and I dare say, of his wife, Wendy, whom he met there. Kerry has pursued a successful career in real estate development and finance; and over time has served in numerous public-private roles, including chairing notable community improvement districts (CIDs) in the region.

As Kerry turns the page on this chapter in his life, I want to congratulate him, Wendy, their daughter Jenny, and her husband Ben, and let Kerry know how much we value him and count on him for advice and support. The Atlanta region is richer for his efforts.

Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens takes up the gavel this January, as incoming Chair; and he will be fortunate to be working alongside ARC Executive Director Anna Roach, whose selection Kerry spearheaded. On behalf of the citizens in the Atlanta region, we thank Kerry for his guiding hand at the ARC, his dedication to our communities, and his service to the great state of Georgia.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT  
OF COLUMBIA SPECIAL ELEC-  
TIONS HOME RULE ACT

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 19, 2023*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Special Elections Home Rule Act. This bill would give the District of Columbia complete authority to set the date of special elections for local offices, like other jurisdictions. This bill would remove a limitation in the D.C. Home Rule Act that is not only inconsistent with the self-government granted by the Home Rule Act, but is also harmful.

In 2012, I got legislation enacted that gave the D.C. Board of Elections (Board) more flexibility to set the date of special elections for local offices. Although I sought complete authority for D.C. to set the date of special elections, the 2012 law did not include this home-rule principle.

The Home Rule Act originally required the Board to hold special elections on the first Tuesday occurring more than 114 days after a vacancy and allowed the Board to schedule special elections on the same day as the next general election if that election occurred within 60 days from when a special election would otherwise have been held. This inflexibility led to special elections being held on religious holidays and forced D.C. to hold a special election separate from an upcoming general election, costing D.C. hundreds of thousands of dollars. The 2012 law requires the Board to hold a special election on a Tuesday occurring between 70 and 174 days after a vacancy.

This bill is an important step to perfect home rule for D.C. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING CENTRAL PHENIX  
CITY HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL  
TEAM FOR WINNING THE 7A  
STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 19, 2023*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Central Phenix City football team for winning the AHSAA Class 7A state title.

On December 6, 2023, The Central Phenix City Red Devils left no doubt as to who deserves to be state champion, prevailing in a close game against four-time-champion Thompson 21 to 19 to secure their title win. The game was played at Bryant-Denny Stadium in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

The Central Phenix City Red Devils finished their championship season undefeated. This was head coach Patrick Nix's first state title victory at Central Phenix City and the Red Devils' third football state title in school history.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Coach Nix, the Central Phenix City High School football team, students, faculty and all the fans. Go Red Devils.