

Residents across Monmouth County have benefitted from Lillian's courage, tenacity, can-do spirit, wit and determination. Along with helping our veterans, Lillian has expanded services through her work for open lands, libraries, infrastructure improvements, the arts and much, much more. A former Matawan councilwoman, mayor of Colts Neck and the first female Director of the County Board of Chosen Freeholders, Lillian has greatly enhanced our quality of life in Monmouth County.

Thanks to Lillian's unwavering commitment to our veterans and her enduring perseverance, for the first time in years—even decades—many veterans finally have a place to live and hope and thrive in Monmouth County.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF GENE MAURECE HARPER

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2023

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the 100th birthday of Gene Maurece Harper.

Gene was born April 10, 1923, in Ontario, California. He grew up in Ontario and graduated from Chaffey High School. Just months before the attack on Pearl Harbor, on December 7, 1941, Gene had enrolled at Chaffey Junior College. Rather than staying to finish school, Gene felt called to serve and enlisted in the Naval Reserve. Beginning in June 1943, at 20 years old, he served aboard the LST 952 during World War II and was sent to sea in November 1944. On April 1, 1945, his ship sent Marines into Okinawa, Japan where they took Yontan Airfield, which served as an important victory for the United States. After the war, Gene completed his bachelor's degree at Colorado State University. He returned to Ontario, California and worked for the County of San Bernardino as an Entomologist, a scientist who studies insects. Eventually, he became the Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture for the county. He and his wife, Ndala Grace Hall, have been happily married for 67 years. The couple have 6 grandchildren and 9 great-grandsons.

On behalf of the 35th Congressional District, I congratulate Gene on this incredible milestone. It is my honor to represent courageous people like him. I am grateful for his service to this county. I hope that he enjoys much happiness in the coming year.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAKE AUCHINCLOSS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2023

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Mr. Speaker, I was necessarily absent from votes on May 16, 2023. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 215, and NAY on Roll Call No. 216.

RECOGNIZING WORLD NF AWARENESS DAY

HON. MIKIE SHERRILL

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2023

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize World NF Awareness Day. Each year, the Children's Tumor Foundation works to educate the public about this rare genetic condition that causes tumors to grow on nerves throughout the body. One in every two thousand children are born with some type of NF and I am grateful for the opportunity to join in the critical effort to raise awareness of this disease.

NF is a group of genetic conditions that cause tumors to grow on nerves throughout the body. The impacts of NF can lead to long term disabilities and other serious health complications, including blindness, deafness, disfigurement, chronic pain, and cancer. Public awareness is essential to promoting early diagnosis and treatment to mitigate further complications of NF.

NF affects each individual differently and listening directly to NF patients paints a fuller picture of the disease and the continued need for awareness. Mr. Alwyn Dias lives in New Jersey's Eleventh Congressional District with his wife and two children and is a powerful advocate for NF awareness, research, and treatment. Mr. Dias was diagnosed with NF as a child after finding a marble sized tumor on his back. He shared the pain he felt growing up feeling that he needed to hide NF from his peers and the strength he found later in sharing his story. I am grateful for his vulnerability in discussing the impact NF can have on mental health and for his continued advocacy with the Children's Tumor Foundation.

The Children's Tumor Foundation does essential work to support those living with NF. Whether by funding world-class medical research, improving patient experiences in treatment, or offering support groups to patients and their families, the Children's Tumor Foundation provides an invaluable service to our community. They live up to their mission to drive research, expand knowledge, and advance care for the NF community, while working to one day find the cure.

I am grateful to join the Children's Tumor Foundation in recognizing World NF Awareness Day and to support their efforts to make NF visible.

RECOGNIZING TAMIL GENOCIDE REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. WILEY NICKEL

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2023

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Tamil Genocide Remembrance Day, an important occasion that holds great significance for the Tamil people around the world and for all those who advocate for peace, justice, and human rights around the world.

As the first U.S. legislator to officially acknowledge the Tamil Genocide in Sri Lanka and as a steadfast supporter of the Tamil

community in North Carolina and Sri Lanka, I'm proud to offer this statement in commemoration of this solemn day.

The Tamil Genocide Remembrance Day is observed on May 18th of each year to mark the events of mass atrocities that unfolded during the final stages of the Sri Lankan Ethnic War in 2009. It serves as a day of remembrance for the tens of thousands of innocent lives lost. It's a reminder that we must express solidarity with the survivors who continue to grapple with the painful memories and consequences of this devastating conflict.

The Sri Lankan Ethnic War, which spanned nearly three decades, resulted in immense suffering and loss of life. We must recognize and remember these tragic events to foster healing and justice and to ensure non-recurrence. The final months of the conflict were particularly brutal. Mullivaikkal, a small coastal strip in the northeastern part of the country, became the site of a large-scale offensive that led to the ethnic slaughter of tens of thousands of Tamil civilians.

We must acknowledge the pain and suffering endured by the Tamil People on the island and ensure that the voices of survivors are heard to foster healing, justice, and reconciliation.

I commend the Tamil Americans working tirelessly to promote awareness of the Tamil Genocide and advocate for the rights of the Tamil community. Their dedication and commitment to justice and peace are commendable.

As we observe Tamil Genocide Remembrance Day, let's remember the lives lost, the families torn apart, and the enduring resilience of the Tamil people. May this day remind us of our responsibility to stand against injustice and work towards a world where everyone can live in peace, equality, freedom, and dignity.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Tamil Genocide Remembrance Day.

HONORING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2023

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bethel Baptist Church of Orange County, Virginia in honor of its 125th anniversary.

Founded in 1898, Bethel Baptist Church was founded to "satisfy and meet a spiritual need in the small community fondly known as Little Petersburg." The church immediately emerged as a critical site of community and spiritual enrichment for many Black residents of the area, including some who were formerly enslaved and others who served as soldiers during the Civil War.

Many decades later, Bethel Baptist Church continues its work of spiritual enrichment, community engagement, and social outreach under the stewardship of Reverend Dr. Willie Elder and First Lady Angenette Elder. From baptism services held in the Little Petersburg River to the rich pastoral lineage that has grown the church, the flame of spiritual service and community dedication is alive and well.

The resilience that is necessary to achieve a milestone of this order, 125 years of service,

is remarkable. Such resilience must endure difficult times, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, and I applaud the grace and resolve this congregation demonstrated to emerge from those times stronger, more connected than ever before, and with a renewed sense of purpose.

Bethel Baptist Church has been a blessing to Orange County, Virginia, Virginia's Seventh District, and our entire Commonwealth. As the U.S. Representative for the Seventh District, I am honored to congratulate Bethel Baptist Church on its 125th anniversary, and I wish them many more years of growth, impact, and service to the community.

CONGRATULATING MORRIS
PORTON ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2023

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my constituent, Morris Porton, on his retirement from the Greater Hernando County Chamber of Commerce. Morris has been a resident of Hernando County since 1972, spending much of his time giving back to our community through his involvement and support of various nonprofit organizations.

Being a part of the Hernando County Chamber since 1995, and having served as the President of the Chamber for many years, Morris has played an instrumental role in the economic development of Hernando County. His strong leadership has helped to recruit high skill/high wage businesses to the area and he has consistently advocated for the infrastructure improvements needed to attract and sustain smart growth. Additionally, he has been an unwavering champion for workforce development through the creation of quality educational opportunities for all. Through his tireless service, Morris has carefully executed his vision of building a community in which small businesses can thrive and residents can work, play and live. I can unequivocally confirm that Hernando County is a better place because of Mr. Porton's work.

I thank Morris for his dedication and service to our community. He has laid a solid foundation for success for those who come after him, and I wish him the very best in his well-earned retirement.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint commit-

tees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, May 18, 2023 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 31

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water, and Wildlife

To hold hearings to examine water affordability and small system assistance.

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