

American Heritage Month, as well as the 75th Anniversary of the establishment of the State of Israel.

Throughout a multitude of sectors in fields like government and military service, science and innovation, business, medicine, and the arts and humanities, Jewish Americans have made a mark on the course of history and have created a strong foundation for future generations to come. On this occasion, we have the unique opportunity to recognize the impact that Jewish American people, organizations, businesses, and more have made, all while connecting people to their heritage.

During Jewish American Heritage Month, we are also reminded that the vibrant culture of the Jewish people has not always been embraced, but it has certainly been a part of enriching our communities' history, values, and culture. In a country where diversity should be cherished and protected, Jewish communities continue to endure hostility, hatred, and narrow-mindedness. Anti-Semitism in any form, by anyone, is simply unacceptable, and it is our job to ensure Jewish Americans can proudly and safely express their faith and identity. Despite experiencing discrimination and adversity, this community has undoubtedly played a central role in the growth and prosperity of our country.

We are proud to celebrate Jewish Americans' legacies and accomplishments during this Jewish American Heritage Month. I look forward to celebrating more notable milestones with Jewish American communities for decades to come.

RECOGNIZING THE 58TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HEAD START PROGRAM

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2023

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 58th anniversary of the Head Start program and the invaluable services it makes available to children and families in need. The Head Start Project was launched in 1965 as a comprehensive child development program. President Lyndon Johnson commissioned Sargent Shriver with the establishment of a comprehensive program that would assist underserved communities in meeting the needs of preschool aged children. With the help of education, psychology, and child experts, the U.S. government initially launched "Project Head Start" as an eight-week summer program that reached 561,000 children. Finding early success, the program was expanded in the fall of 1965 to provide services throughout the entire school year. In the subsequent decades, Head Start has further grown to include bilingual and bicultural programs, as well as services for disadvantaged infants, toddlers, and pregnant women through Early Head Start grants.

Over the last six decades, the Head Start Program has provided a window of opportunity to more than 37 million vulnerable children and their families. Now serving nearly 1 million children and their families annually in all fifty states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. territories. Head Start's exceptional dedication to our children is truly re-

markable, and this year, as it celebrates its 58th anniversary, we express our appreciation for the impact that Head Start has had on communities across the country and especially in Bucks and Montgomery counties.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF GARY SPARKS' 40 YEARS OF SERVICE AS A FIREFIGHTER FOR OXFORD, ALABAMA

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2023

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize Chief Gary Sparks' 40 years of service as a firefighter for the City of Oxford, Alabama.

Chief Sparks began his work with the City of Oxford when he was just 15 years old washing trucks and cleaning the station. On May 12, 1983, He became an official member of the Oxford Volunteer Fire Department.

He later became a full-time member of the Anniston Fire Department on February 13, 1987, rising through the ranks to eventually become Assistant Fire Chief in 2003.

After 20 years of service with the Anniston Fire Department, he retired on February 13, 2007. Chief Sparks became full time Fire Chief for the City of Oxford on March 3, 2007.

Chief Sparks is involved in several civic organizations in his community. He is currently serving on the Alabama Joint Fire Council. He has served Alabama's fire service for eight years with dedication and insight as a member of the Personnel Standards & Education Commission with the Alabama Fire College. He is a Past President of the Alabama Fire Chiefs Association and was voted the 2015 Alabama Fire Chief of the Year.

In addition to being a dedicated firefighter, Chief Sparks is also a dedicated husband, father, and grandfather.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Chief Sparks and his 40 years of service as a firefighter for the citizens of the City of Oxford.

CELEBRATING THE 98TH BIRTHDAY OF TRINI GOMEZ

HON. PETE AGUILAR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2023

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize Ms. Trini Gomez, a constituent and friend, as she celebrates her 98th birthday. We celebrate the remarkable life she has led.

Her dedication to serving the Hispanic community through managing the Inland Empire Hispanic News has made a lasting impact on our community. She and her late husband, Graciano Gomez, provided a platform for voices that needed to be heard, shedding light on important issues, celebrating achievements and fostering a sense of unity among the Inland Empire.

Her life journey is an inspiration to all of us. On this special day we honor her incredible achievements and the inspirational person she is. I hope her birthday is filled with joy, surrounded by loved ones who cherish and admire her.

Today, I thank her for being an extraordinary role model and for inspiring us all with her unwavering dedication and love for our community. May the coming year bring her good health, happiness and many more cherished memories.

HONORING THE 55TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE USS SCORPION'S DISAPPEARANCE

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2023

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 55th anniversary of the tragic loss of the USS *Scorpion* and its crew of 99. On this solemn occasion, we remember the valiant submariners who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving our great Nation.

The USS *Scorpion*, a distinguished vessel within the Skipjack-class of nuclear-powered submarines, disappeared on May 22, 1968, during a deployment in the Atlantic Ocean. It took several months to locate its remains, and despite multiple investigations from the Department of Defense, we may never know what truly resulted in this steep loss to our Nation's fighting force. This somber event serves as a stark reminder of the inherent risks and sacrifices associated with submarine operations, and the bravery of Americans who step up to serve underseas in the Silent Service.

The USS *Scorpion* was a vessel that symbolized American strength, technological prowess, and the courageous spirit of our servicemen. It was manned by a highly skilled and dedicated crew who embarked on perilous missions in defense of our Nation. As we honor the 55th anniversary of the USS *Scorpion's* disappearance, let us reaffirm our commitment to the safety, readiness, and well-being of our submariners. We must ensure that those who choose to serve are equipped with the resources, training, and support necessary to carry out their vital missions.

Mr. Speaker, the USS *Scorpion* crew's unwavering dedication to duty and defending our Nation overseas deserves our eternal gratitude. We must continue to remember their legacy. To that end, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring the 55th anniversary of the loss of the USS *Scorpion* and etching the sacrifice of its 99 servicemembers into our collective memory.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA TRANSPORTATION FUNDING EQUALITY ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2023

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the District of Columbia Transportation Funding Equality Act. The bill would make the District of Columbia eligible for three federal programs that support the development and revitalization of public transportation systems in the same manner that states are currently eligible for these programs. It would also make D.C. eligible for a transportation program that

would support the replacement and removal of infrastructure that damages the ecosystems of the Anacostia and Potomac rivers. D.C. residents pay the same federal taxes as residents of the states. In fact, D.C. pays more federal taxes per capita than any state. D.C. should be treated as a state in federal programs.

First, the bill would treat D.C. as a state in the High-Density States Formula for certain grants from the Mass Transit Account of the Highway Trust Fund. Currently, only states are eligible for these grants. Second, the bill would treat D.C. as a state under the Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program. Under this program, each state is authorized to receive a minimum amount of \$4 million per year, while D.C. is authorized to receive a minimum of only \$1 million. Third, the bill would treat D.C. as a state under the National Culvert Removal, Replacement, and Restoration Grant Program. Currently, only states and units of local government are eligible for these competitive grants, and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has held that D.C. does not qualify, even though it operates as the functional equivalent of a joint city, county and state. Fourth, the bill would treat D.C. as a state for the purposes of the Safe Streets for All Program. Cities, counties and political subdivisions of a state are eligible for these grants, but DOT has held that D.C. is ineligible.

The programs in the bill fund the modernization of bus and rail fleets, the purchase of zero-emission transit vehicles, the improvement of station accessibility for all users, the extension of transit service to new communities, the replacement and repair of culverts, and the implementation of roadway safety improvements for all road users. They especially benefit communities of color, since these households are twice as likely to use public transportation.

Last Congress, the House's surface transportation reauthorization act, the INVEST in America Act, would have made D.C. eligible for these four programs in the same manner as states. Unfortunately, the enacted surface transportation reauthorization act, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which the Senate wrote, did not.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

CELEBRATING MAX COOK AND HIS 32 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE MISSOURI BANKERS ASSOCIATION

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2023

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Max Cook and his 32 years of service at the Missouri Bankers Association. His leadership, dedication, and advocacy for community banking has strengthened business throughout Missouri.

Under his stewardship, Max led the effort to forge the next generation of banking professionals in Missouri. In celebration of his retirement, an endowment established in his name will send emerging industry leaders to meet policymakers here in Washington. Max's legacy will be felt throughout Missouri for years to come.

In addition to congratulating him on his illustrious career, I thank Max for his friendship. He's a good man who has done great things for many people.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in wishing Max Cook a very happy retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAKE AUCHINCLOSS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2023

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Mr. Speaker, I was necessarily absent from votes on May 18, 2023. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 226 and YEA on Roll Call No. 227.

HONORING JUDGE ANTHONY J. DENNIS

HON. DAVID N. CICILLINE

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2023

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, this month, Rhode Island District Court Judge Anthony J. Dennis celebrated his 98th birthday and remains an important and active member of his community.

Born in Bristol, Rhode Island on May 15, 1925, Judge Dennis was raised in Naugatuck, Connecticut. In 1942, at the age of 17, he made the brave decision to enlist in the Navy Seabees.

During World War II, he was stationed in the Pacific Theater on Tarawa in the Gilbert Islands and on Kwajalein in the Marshall Islands with Unit CBMU 549. His unit's courageous efforts helped lead to the Japanese surrender of Wake Island in 1945. Judge Dennis returned safely to the United States and was honorably discharged in 1946.

After the war, he resumed his education at Bristol's Colt High School and then continued to Providence College. At the age of 29, Judge Dennis obtained his law degree from Boston University Law School and then became a member of the Rhode Island bar in 1954.

He was elected Bristol Town Clerk in 1956, serving in this role until 1969. He was also a member of the Rhode Island Democratic Party Executive Committee, serving as Secretary from 1963 to 1969.

Judge Dennis was appointed by Governor Frank Licht and confirmed by the Rhode Island Senate in 1969 as a District Court Judge where he served honorably for 21 years before retiring in 1990. During those years, I had the privilege of appearing before Judge Dennis as a practicing attorney. He was always a compassionate, profound, and thoughtful Judge with a deep commitment to justice.

Rhode Island thanks the Honorable Anthony J. Dennis for his dedicated service to our state and country and wishes him a happy birthday.

CELEBRATING UCLA MENS VOLLEYBALL TEAM FOR THEIR 2023 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIP VICTORY

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2023

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the men's volleyball team from the University of California, Los Angeles. They took home the 2023 NCAA Men's National Collegiate Volleyball Championship on the 6th of May. UCLA defeated the men's volleyball team from the University of Hawaii at EagleBank Arena on the campus of George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia.

This year's championship is the program's 20th national title win and the 121st overall NCAA title win by a UCLA Bruin team in any sport.

The men's volleyball team should be proud of their achievement in earning the distinction of being national champions, amongst the more than half a million student-athletes who participate in NCAA events each year. The team ended their season with 12 straight wins, which marked the longest streak by the program since their last 2006 national title win. With guidance from Coach John Speraw, the team was able to defeat the two-time defending champions, Hawaii, with a 3-1 win.

I would like to sincerely congratulate the UCLA's men's volleyball team once again on winning the national championship and wish them the best of luck next season. This win is a special moment in the collegiate athletic careers of each individual UCLA player and marks an exceptional accomplishment and historic achievement for the UCLA community. Go Bruins.

RECOGNIZING LEAH PEER

HON. JASON CROW

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2023

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Leah Peer, Founder and Music Director of Kol Nashim, the Women's Choir of the Colorado Hebrew Chorale.

Leah founded Kol Nashim in the fall of 2013 with the mission to preserve, promote, and celebrate the Jewish experience through song by performing with and for diverse audiences. In 2014, Kol Nashim performed its first benefit concert to raise awareness for women in need and has since continued to spread its dual message of presenting Jewish music while expressing the life experience of women.

A notable history with music, Leah is an active performing pianist and has established several chamber ensembles around the U.S. Additionally, she holds a Master of Music in piano performance from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York and a Bachelor of Music in piano performance from the Rubin Academy of Music in Jerusalem, Israel.

Leah is a teacher, leader, and musician. Her dedication to music is apparent and undoubtedly led to the beautiful cultivation of her art. I want to congratulate Leah on her many accomplishments as we celebrate 10 years of Kol Nashim.