

companies in Silicon Valley and Los Angeles. His influence was instrumental in shaping the USC Annenberg experience, establishing economic literacy and entrepreneurial acumen as cornerstones of education there.

As the co-founder and director of the interdisciplinary Media, Economics & Entrepreneurship (M{2e}) program, Christopher led the way in exploring the evolving business models of communication and journalism. This program has been instrumental in cultivating the next wave of media leaders and entrepreneurs, providing them with practical, hands-on opportunities at leading companies.

His academic prowess also extended to research, with his work published in respected journals such as Social Text and the International Journal of Communication. He was frequently sought after by national and international media outlets, including NBC, ABC, NPR, the BBC, and Reuters, to share his insights.

In his capacity as a global intellectual voice, Christopher dedicated himself to cultivating global opportunities for USC. His research presentations at leading universities in Shenzhen, China; Johannesburg, South Africa; Copenhagen, Denmark; and Oxford, England, opened dialogues for further international collaboration.

Christopher's advocacy extended into the realm of diversity and inclusion. He founded the Women's Leadership Society, the first of its kind at USC Annenberg, which focused on promoting female professional advancement within the intersecting fields of technology, media, and entertainment.

His relentless dedication to closing opportunity gaps for women, people of color, and historically disadvantaged groups showcased his unwavering commitment to fostering an equitable and inclusive academic environment.

In his capacity as a faculty member, Christopher served the university and its students in many roles. He was selected to serve on the USC Board of Trustees Development Committee and most recently, served as the chair of USC Annenberg's Faculty Council. Moreover, his influence was felt within his innovative course "TV Strategy: From Broadcasting to YouTube," where he provided students with opportunities to work on real-world business cases and conduct original research projects, fostering an environment that truly combined theoretical knowledge with practical experiences.

Christopher Smith's life was a life dedicated to service, to mentorship, to innovation, and above all, to the pursuit of knowledge and justice. He will be deeply missed; yet his legacy will live on through the countless lives he touched and the profound impact he had on the field of media studies. On behalf of the United States Congress, I extend our deepest condolences to Christopher's wife, Salaam Coleman Smith, their children Asa and Nina, and their extended family and friends. We honor his significant contributions to education and communication, and his enduring legacy will continue to inspire and inform generations to come.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. PRAMILA JAYAPAL

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 31, 2023

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes on May 30, 2023. Had I been present, I would have voted: Yea on Roll Call No. 238, Yea on Roll Call No. 239, and Yea on Roll Call No. 240.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 31, 2023

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I missed this series of votes because of a delay in airline travel to DC. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 238, YEA on Roll Call No. 239, and YEA on Roll Call No. 240.

## JUDGE GREG MATHIS: A PIONEERING FORCE IN JUSTICE AND MEDIA

### HON. JONATHAN L. JACKSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 31, 2023

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in this esteemed body to honor an individual who has left an indelible mark on our society through his unwavering commitment to justice, equality, and public service. I have the distinct privilege of acknowledging the contributions of a man who has shown a remarkable dedication to the ideals of equal justice and opportunity for all, Judge Greg Mathis.

Judge Mathis is not just a well-known figure in the media landscape; he is a pioneer. For over two decades, he has consistently been a source of inspiration and motivation as the longest-running African-American male host on television. His Emmy Award-winning television court show, Judge Mathis, has provided hope and guidance to millions who tune in to witness justice delivered with fairness, empathy, and firmness. A symbol of tenacity and resilience, Judge Mathis's transformation from a street youth to an acclaimed Judge is a testament to the power of redemption and the indomitable human spirit. In 2022, his remarkable contributions to the entertainment industry were rightly recognized with a star on Hollywood's "Walk of Fame," a fitting honor for a man of his stature and impact.

While his achievements in the television industry are commendable, Judge Mathis's work in public service is equally, if not more, impressive. He embarked on his journey in public service while in college, leading noteworthy campaigns such as Free South Africa and voter registration movements. After graduating in 1983, Judge Mathis continued his path of public service by joining the staff of Detroit City councilman Clyde Cleveland. His unwavering commitment to justice and equality found a fruitful platform with Reverend Jesse Jackson's PUSH Excel, where he now serves as

Chairman. He has also devoted his time and expertise to the NAACP and the Morehouse School of Medicine as a national board member, championing causes and policies that promote fairness, equality, and justice.

Judge Mathis's deep commitment to the community, particularly his hometown of Detroit, is further underscored by his numerous civic engagements and philanthropic endeavors. In 2001, he opened the Mathis Community Center, providing a platform for community engagement and outreach. In the same vein, he established his non-profit agency, Young Adults Asserting Themselves (Y.A.A.T.). These organizations have opened the doors of opportunity for thousands of Detroit youth, equipping them with the skills and resources they need to improve their lives and achieve their dreams.

His profound contributions to the city of Detroit have earned him well-deserved recognition. In honor of his relentless dedication, a street was named after him, 'Mathis Avenue,' as a constant reminder of his tireless efforts to uplift his community. Alongside his wife, Judge Mathis has further shown his dedication by opening five non-profit preschools in inner-city Detroit, working towards equalizing educational opportunities for the children of Detroit.

Beyond his judicial and civic commitments, Judge Mathis has made a significant impact in the realms of television production and literature. His production company, Mathis Productions, has been responsible for an array of successful television series, many of which underscore transformative and redemptive narratives. He is also the author of two insightful books, Inner City Miracle and Street Judge, in which he shares his journey and sheds light on the complexities of justice and morality in society.

Judge Mathis is not only a man of profound accomplishments; he is a man of immense character. He is a loving husband to his wife, Linda, and a proud father and grandfather. His life is a testament to the power of perseverance, dedication, and an unwavering belief in the pursuit of justice and equality.

It is with deep respect and admiration that I pay tribute to Judge Greg Mathis today. His tireless commitment to public service, his unwavering dedication to equal justice, and his relentless efforts in uplifting communities and empowering youth have already left an enduring legacy.

However, knowing Judge Mathis, I am confident that his future holds further accomplishments. He continues to be a driving force for change, and I eagerly anticipate the positive impact that his ongoing endeavors will undoubtedly have on our society.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 31, 2023

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed suspension votes on May 30, 2023.

Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll No. 238, Nay on Roll Call No. 239, and Nay on Roll Call No. 240.

ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH SPOTLIGHT: DR. VIJAY G PRABHAKAR'S IMPACT IN CHICAGO AND BEYOND

### HON. JONATHAN L. JACKSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 31, 2023*

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as we close Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, I rise to celebrate the remarkable contributions of Dr. Vijay G Prabhakar, a Chicago-based Asian American leader whose dedication to public health, community service, and multi-ethnic unity has enriched our society. The story of his achievements, from the earliest days of his career to the present day, underscores his commitment to our community and the global stage.

As we find ourselves not even midway through the year 2023, I find myself standing in awe of the staggering breadth of achievements already accrued by Dr. Prabhakar. His illustrious record of accomplishments this year alone puts into sharp relief a lifetime's work of many, reinforcing the fact that his relentless dedication and commitment to service is truly unparalleled.

Starting the year with strength and vision, on January 4, Dr. Prabhakar led the successful launch of the GSA India @75 Expo USA Metro Cities Sequel in Washington, D.C. Together with esteemed colleagues including Congressman DANNY K. DAVIS, RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY, DELIA RAMIREZ, Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, and myself, we are aiming to strengthen U.S.—India relations across six major American cities in 2023.

Later that month, on January 28, I had the privilege to launch the Global Eye International Institute of Leadership in New York City. This institute, a brainchild of Dr. Prabhakar, offers short term leadership courses to ethnic minorities on a broad range of subjects, preparing and empowering future minority leaders in America. On the very same day, the World Malayalee Council, New York Province recognized Dr. Prabhakar's efforts with a Distinguished Leadership Award.

In a further testament to his tireless dedication to community service, Dr. Prabhakar launched the Gandhi King Center for Non-Violence in the Englewood neighborhood of Chicago on February 1. This initiative, aimed at reducing gun violence through grassroots community participation, is yet another example of his innovative approach to problem-solving.

March brought a memorable celebration as Dr. Prabhakar organized the India Unity Day to commemorate the historic defeat of the Anti-India resolution in the City of Chicago.

His relentless efforts were recognized by the United Punjabi Association, USA, which honored him with the Distinguished Community Leader Award on April 15.

In May, Dr. Prabhakar represented our nation as a Special Guest of Honor at the dedi-

cation of Asia's largest Christian Church in Warangal District, India. His dedication to public service extended to the sports domain as he met with Mr. Jay Shah, Secretary, Board of Cricket Control of India, to discuss the launch of the North American Cricket Promotion Council in the U.S.A.

Most recently, Dr. Prabhakar was chosen as National Chairman of the Asian American Restaurants Association. This is yet another testament to his remarkable leadership within our Asian American community.

Mr. Speaker, I remind you that these are just a handful of the numerous accomplishments Dr. Prabhakar has achieved in the first few months of 2023. I could stand before you for days, recounting the breadth and depth of Dr. Prabhakar's work. His unwavering dedication to service, community, and global unity is nothing short of inspiring.

His story, filled with resilience, perseverance, and an unwavering commitment to the service of others, stands as a testament to the power of hard work and the impact of purposeful leadership. His achievements reflect not only his exceptional dedication but also his ceaseless drive for the betterment of our communities, both here in the USA and abroad.

Dr. Prabhakar's contributions reach beyond his professional sphere, extending to significant social causes and initiatives. His dedication to public health, community service, and multi-ethnic unity has enriched our society, and his influence continues to inspire countless individuals and communities. Dr. Prabhakar's remarkable journey is a shining example of what can be achieved when passion meets purpose, and when a relentless spirit of service guides every action.

I would like to express my deepest admiration for Dr. Vijay G Prabhakar and his extraordinary contributions. His unwavering commitment to improving the lives of others, his tireless advocacy for unity and inclusivity, and his ability to lead with compassion and integrity make him a true role model for us all.

As we celebrate the Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, we celebrate trailblazers like Dr. Prabhakar who serve as pillars of our society. It is individuals like him who enrich our community and fortify the spirit of unity and diversity in our great Nation. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing and applauding the outstanding contributions of Dr. Prabhakar.

#### 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 committees, 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, June 1, 2023 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

#### MEETINGS SCHEDULED

##### JUNE 7

- 10 a.m.  
Committee on the Budget  
To hold hearings to examine the changing agricultural landscape, focusing on cultivating stewardship. SD-608
- Committee on Environment and Public Works  
To hold hearings to examine perspectives on ecosystem restoration projects of the US Army Corps of Engineers. SD-406
- Committee on Foreign Relations  
To hold hearings to examine Department of State services for the American people, focusing on an overview of consular affairs and programs. SD-419
- Committee on the Judiciary  
To hold hearings to examine pending nominations. SD-226
- 10:30 a.m.  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Defense  
To receive a closed briefing on proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2024 for capacity of the defense industrial base and wartime stockpiles. SVC-217
- 2 p.m.  
Committee on Foreign Relations  
Subcommittee on Europe and Regional Security Cooperation  
To hold hearings to examine aligning transatlantic approaches on China. SD-419
- 3 p.m.  
Committee on the Judiciary  
Subcommittee on Intellectual Property  
To hold hearings to examine artificial intelligence and intellectual property, focusing on patents, innovation, and competition. SD-226
- Committee on Rules and Administration  
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Election Assistance Commission. SR-301
- Committee on Veterans' Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine veterans' access to long term care. SR-418
- ##### JUNE 8
- 10 a.m.  
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine FASTA implementation and optimizing the efficient use of Federal property. SD-562