

pillar of his church and community, and beloved by all who knew him. His last selfless act was a testament to the caring soul he embodied following a life of dedication and service to his family, friends, community, state, and country.

Mike is survived by multiple loved ones, and memories of him will continue to be shared by Edna, his wife of 33 years; his daughter, Olivia Griffin of Oxford, Mississippi; one brother, Ricky Griffin; two half-sisters, Diane Cost (David) and Nina Lowry (Paul); his father-in-law, Wade Huddleston; sisters-in-law, Linda Bond (Kurt), Laura Green (Scott), and Myra Simmons (Stacy); and a host of nieces, nephews, many friends.

RECOGNIZING CARSON DEVAUL,  
EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2023*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Carson DeVaul. Carson is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Carson has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Carson has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Carson holds the rank of Warrior in the tribe of Mic-O-Say and is an Ordeal Member in the Order of the Arrow. Carson has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Carson, with the help of many fellow Scouts, organized the construction of 2 foot-bridges across a small ditch for the disc golf course at Bennett Park in the City of Liberty, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Carson DeVaul for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS  
OF REVEREND GEORGE FISHER,  
JR.

**HON. PAT FALLON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2023*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend George Fisher, Jr. of Paris, Texas, for being recognized as a Homegrown Hero by the St. Paul Baptist Church. Reverend Fisher joins a select group of exceptional leaders who have dedicated a lifetime of service to the people of Lamar County.

Reverend Fisher attended Paris Junior College and later received an Associate of Science in Biblical Studies from the Southern Bible Institute & College in Dallas, Texas. After graduation, Reverend Fisher worked for the Kimberly Clark Corporation before being elected to serve on the Paris City Council and

as the Mayor of Paris. During this time, Reverend Fisher served both as the President of the Texas Conference of Black Mayors and as a member of the steering committee for the Boys and Girls Club. In this role, he spearheaded efforts to improve youth outreach and community service initiatives by the city of Paris.

In 2003, Reverend Fisher was elected to the Paris Independent School District board. As the School Board President, he worked diligently to improve parental involvement in the educational process. His longtime investments in Paris ISD schools have helped ensure the future success of thousands of students. Moreover, Reverend Fisher is a steadfast man of faith, and he currently serves as the Senior Pastor of New Mount Olive Baptist Church in Grant, Oklahoma. His tireless efforts to inspire and empower the youth of his community have not gone unnoticed. Reverend Fisher has served as a beacon of support and enriched the lives of so many. I'm pleased to give recognition for his outstanding service to students, parents, and worshippers. In his personal time, he is fond of traveling, volunteering, spending time with his family, and visiting new restaurants.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our Nation's Capital to recognize Reverend Fisher's unparalleled commitment to benefit the people of North Texas. May God Bless him.

RECOGNIZING GENE THERAPY

**HON. ROBERT E. LATTA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2023*

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the transformative innovation coming out of Ohio—innovation that saves and improves lives. For families in my district, this scientific ingenuity matters. I'm proud of the evolution of biomedical science and its application to drug development.

To ensure this innovation will benefit our citizens, I encourage my colleagues to support a triad of legislative policies that will expedite market entry, identify patients, and remove barriers to patient access. In an era of government price controls, which are undermining previous congressional efforts to promote innovation, such policies are particularly essential to ensuring continued biopharmaceutical industry investment in new technologies to treat rare diseases. We can work to collectively pass legislative items to increase access to treat rare diseases, as well as enact policies that will improve newborn screening, better facilitate genetic testing, and enhance the level of care disease expertise and experience on Food and Drug Administration review teams to allow for more consistent application of benefit-risk, real world evidence, and patient experience data.

I'd like to flag that gene therapy is the next evolution in treatment for rare diseases like hemophilia, sickle cell disease, cystic fibrosis, phenylketonuria, hereditary angioedema, OTC deficiency, severe combined immunodeficiency disease, Pompe disease, and muscular dystrophy. It has the potential to be the first type of therapeutic intervention for hundreds of rare pediatric disorders that lack or

had lacked any treatment option, including AADC deficiency, epidermolysis bullosa, metachromatic leukodystrophy, and adrenoleukodystrophy.

The biopharmaceutical industry has invested billions of dollars in gene therapy clinical trials for such conditions at institutions throughout Ohio, including Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Cleveland Clinic, Cincinnati Children's Hospital, Akron Children's Hospital, and Dayton Children's Hospital.

Gene therapy is the focus of the nearly \$100 million in grants that the National Institutes of Health has awarded in recent years to researchers throughout Ohio. For example, Dr. Krystof Bankiewicz from Ohio State has received nearly \$15 million for researching a gene therapy to treat AADC deficiency, which is a fatal neurodevelopmental disorder with only 135 identified patients in the world. Due to an enzyme deficiency, "children lack muscle control, and are usually unable to speak, feed themselves or even hold up their head," according to Dr. Bankiewicz. By transferring a functional copy of the AADC gene to allow for endogenous AADC enzyme production, clinical trial data have demonstrated that this gene therapy prevents oculogyric crises, allows the child to develop control, sit up, and walk, and generally improves quality of life.

Our institutions and clinicians in Ohio are truly the leaders among peers in biopharmaceutical innovation for rare disorders. The development and commercialization of safe, effective, and durable gene therapy for these rare disorders is precisely what Congress intended when it enacted the 21st Century Cures Act (including the Regenerative Medicine Advanced Therapy program), the Orphan Drug Act, the Breakthrough Therapy program, and the Rare Pediatric Disease Priority Review Voucher program.

The American people deserve a return on the biopharmaceutical industry investment in bringing gene therapies to patients, as well as the NIH support of basic research and early-stage clinical studies. If patients have an incomplete diagnosis or if diagnosed patients are subject to step therapy or other coverage restrictions or denials, gene therapy will not benefit those who need it.

HONORING METLIFE FOUNDATION  
FOR \$1 BILLION IN ALL-TIME  
GIVING

**HON. BRANDON WILLIAMS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2023*

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor MetLife Foundation on its landmark achievement of \$1 billion in all-time giving.

MetLife Foundation was established in 1976 as the charitable arm of Metropolitan Life Insurance Company (MetLife), a leading financial services company founded and headquartered in New York for over 155 years. The Foundation is focused on driving economic mobility around the globe and has partnerships with nonprofit organizations globally.

Since its founding, MetLife Foundation has made significant contributions to communities in New York State. MetLife recognizes it has

an important role in communities and is committed to supporting them through the Foundation. Through this commitment and its ongoing work, MetLife Foundation has helped improve the financial health and well-being of New York State residents and provided millions in relief during challenging times, COVID-19, Hurricane Sandy and September 11 among them. MetLife Foundation has also made significant impact investments over its 47-year history to nonprofits of importance to residents of New York State.

On behalf of New York's 22nd Congressional District, I would like to commend and congratulate MetLife Foundation on its landmark achievement of \$1 billion in all-time giving. I applaud the commitment and efforts of the Foundation which has resulted in the achievement of this significant milestone.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON AN OPEN SOCIETY WITH SECURITY ACT OF 2023

#### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2023*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the United States Commission on an Open Society with Security Act of 2023, which would create a commission to investigate how we can maintain our democratic traditions while actively responding to the real and substantial threats posed by foreign and domestic terrorism.

The impetus for this commission was the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995, its importance grew after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, and has reached peak urgency since the insurrectionist attack on the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021. The succession of tragic events endured by our Nation has led to a series of sweeping security increases that are deemed both necessary and temporary in the moment but create lasting security infrastructure that is difficult to dismantle and infringes on our open, democratic society.

We must acknowledge and accept that we have entered an era of constant internal and external threats, requiring ever-higher levels of security for our people and public spaces. What we thought would be a temporary infringement on our open society has turned into a permanent restriction on how our citizens interact with each other and our democratic institutions. Because emergencies typically dictate security decisions, essential discussions on the proper balance between security, individual rights and the freedoms enjoyed in an open society have been repeatedly deferred.

This bill would ensure that these long overdue discussions take place in a public forum with experts drawn from across the spectrum. To date, security planning has been delegated almost exclusively to security, intelligence and military experts. Although their input is indispensable, they cannot be expected to consider matters outside of their expertise. To strike a better balance that gives sufficient importance to our democratic traditions, we need to invite experts from diverse fields to the same table to work together. Therefore, the commission would be composed not only of security, intel-

ligence and military experts, but also experts from such fields as business, architecture, technology, law, city planning, art, engineering, philosophy, history, sociology and psychology.

We have used commissions before to deeply investigate and address unprecedented challenges, such as the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (also known as the 9/11 Commission), the Commission on the Intelligence Capabilities of the United States Regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction (also known as the Silberman Robb Commission) and the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders (also known as the Kerner Commission). The commission created by this bill would seek to avert a crisis in basic freedoms before their infringement becomes entrenched. We cannot allow security protocols to proliferate without informed civilian oversight and a thorough analysis of alternatives that might better safeguard freedom and commerce.

Furthermore, we have had decades to develop security strategies and technologies that do not deprive our citizens of access to institutions and personal liberty. Thus far, we have either relied on imprecise, medieval approaches like crude barriers or on intrusive new technologies that treat privacy like a privilege instead of a right. We can, and must, do better.

As the home of our federal government, the District of Columbia's residents have suffered disproportionate infringement on public spaces, personal rights and freedoms in the name of security. Public spaces that serve as the heart of our local communities have become restricted zones characterized by a heavy security presence, with individuals liable to be reprimanded for walking on the wrong side of the street or marveling too long at the architecture. Barriers such as walls and fences are touted as essential security features while our citizens are left peering at their democracy from a distance.

Security is not only about reducing lives lost and costs. It is also about safeguarding the institutions, freedoms and values that anchor our country, not only for ourselves but for future generations. The social compact between government and the people should not be the result of a series of hostage negotiations. We must resume reasoned and deliberative decision-making, beginning with a high-level commission composed of experts from diverse disciplines charged with developing a new course that will protect both our people and our precious democratic institutions and traditions.

#### RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT GENERAL MATTHEW G. GLAVY

#### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2023*

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant General Matthew G. Glavy, who serves his country with the pride and honor befitting the highest ranks of the United States Marine Corps.

Born in 1963 at Mercy Hospital in Buffalo, New York, Lieutenant General Matthew Glavy grew up with his 3 siblings under the name "Jerry." Calling Western New York home,

Lieutenant General Glavy finds comfort in Buffalo style wings, the Buffalo Bills, and the cold winter climate of Western New York. As a child, Lieutenant General Matthew Glavy was an avid sports fan, having played youth league football in his childhood, later lettering in cross country and track in high school before graduating in 1981.

Lieutenant General Glavy exemplifies every aspect of courage, determination, and service denominated in the timeless motto of the Marine Corps, "Semper Paratus." having served in all 3 designations: the operating forces, the supporting establishment, and in the headquarters. As a member of the operating forces and supporting establishment, Lieutenant General Glavy served "at the heart of the Marine Corps" in various assignments, including as an aircraft maintenance officer, weapons and tactics officer and embark officer, and current operations officer, eventually climbing the ranks to commanding general and U.S. Marine Corps Forces Cyberspace Command and Space Command. General Glavy also supported his troops, his country, and his family, in the USMC Headquarters, where he served, among many impressive assignments, as platoon commander, White House liaison officer, and presidential command pilot. Lieutenant General Glavy currently serves as the Deputy Commandant for Information and 2nd Commander of the Marine Corps Forces Strategic Command. Lieutenant General Glavy will be returning to the Buffalo area as the keynote speaker at the reunion of the 3rd Battalion, 26th Marines.

Today, I'm asking all present to join me in honoring Lieutenant General Matthew G. Glavy for his lengthy service and dedication to our great Nation.

#### RECOGNIZING THE INDONESIAN COMMUNITY CONNECT FOR A DECADE OF CELEBRATING INDONESIAN CULTURE

#### HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 12, 2023*

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Indonesian Community Connect in New Hampshire as they celebrate a decade of promoting Indonesian culture. This also marks the sixth anniversary of ICC's initiatives as a non-profit organization and the second year of the momentum of the Little Indonesia Project. The Little Indonesia Project, the first of its kind in our Nation, embodies art, culture, and opportunity, forging connections between Indonesian culture and New Hampshire, directly contributing to the revitalization of the Downtown Somersworth business district.

ICC, a non-profit organization headquartered in New Hampshire, has dedicated itself to showcasing the rich diversity of Indonesian culture while fostering mutual understanding among various cultures and values. Operating from Somersworth, NH, the ICC team has diligently linked the Indonesian community with the Granite State and its support services. They have gone the extra mile in assisting the Indonesian community with accessing local resources, including healthcare, education, food, festivals, and much more.