

noncombatant evacuation operation in known history, Operation Allies Refuge, ultimately saving over 124,000 lives. The 349th Air Mobility Wing directly supported the evacuation of nearly 13,000 Afghans while simultaneously managing the security and operations at Hamid Karzai International Airport. I have listened to countless stories from this group of brave men and women that exemplify the character, leadership, and bravery that is cultivated at Travis Air Force Base.

Service records only scratch the surface of the courageous actions performed by the 349th Air Mobility Wing. They put their hearts and lives on the line to save so many. These valiant servicemembers like First Lieutenant Kyle Anderson epitomize the values of courage and patriotism.

On behalf of a grateful country and all the constituents of California's Eighth Congressional District, I would like to congratulate First Lieutenant Kyle Anderson of the 349th Air Mobility Wing for receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross and extend my sincere gratitude for his sacrifice and contributions to the defense of this great country.

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HONORING THE THURSDAY LUNCHEON GROUP'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 1, 2023*

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Thursday Luncheon Group, an organization established in 1973 with the goal of increasing African American participation in the formulation, articulation, and implementation of United States foreign policy.

Since joining Congress more than 20 years ago, and as the first African American to lead the House Foreign Affairs Committee, promoting diplomacy, democracy, development, and diversity in U.S. foreign policy has been one of my main priorities. I have seen firsthand the important benefits of the work of the Thursday Lunch Group to ensure that those making and implementing foreign policy are reflective of the diversity of the United States.

The Thursday Luncheon Group celebrates its 50th anniversary this year and as the U.S. Department of State's oldest Employee Affinity Group, the organization has served as a beacon of light by upholding and advocating for more diverse recruitment, retention and leadership at the State Department, and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Two senior officers working at what was then known as the U.S. Information Agency: Mr. William B. Davis and Mr. Robert Duman established The Thursday Lunch Group In 1973. Mr. Davis and Duman gathered friends and colleagues at the Department of State and USAID to explore possibilities for greater inclusion and promotion of African Americans in the international affairs. These two founders and those who organized around this important mission began to meet every first Thursday of every month to share professional development opportunities for Foreign Service and Civil Service personnel, while also created

opportunities to interact with leaders in the foreign affairs community.

Half a century later, the Thursday Luncheon Group has over 600 members, including retired and current Department of State and USAID employees, and dedicated members from 5 other federal agencies. Their members have taken prominent roles in the development and execution of U.S. foreign policy, including Chiefs of Mission, Career Ambassadors, and Assistant Secretaries. TLG members monitor recruitment, assignments, employment practices, training, and other matters of vital interest to historically excluded groups at the State Department and USAID. The organization remains committed to mentoring entry-level and mid-level officers to prepare them to become the future leaders in international affairs. Moreover, TLG members are dedicated to giving back to their communities. The organization raises funds to support paid summer internships at the Department of State and established the Terence A. Todman Book scholarship (named after the first African American to be named Career Ambassador, the highest rank among the diplomatic corps) for students at Historically Black Colleges and Universities. I applaud the Thursday Luncheon Group's efforts to promote excellence and inclusion in international affairs and congratulate the members of the Thursday Luncheon Group for 50 years of service in ensuring our country is represented with excellence around the world.

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REINTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO AWARD THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO HUMANITARIAN AND SPORTING LEGEND MUHAMMAD ALI

**HON. ANDRÉ CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 1, 2023*

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, as we kick off the start of Black History Month, I am proud to reintroduce legislation to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Muhammad Ali in recognition of his contributions to our Nation. I believe it is long past time to recognize this American civil rights activist and sporting legend with Congress' highest honor. Sadly, we were unable to act swiftly enough to honor him prior to his passing at age 74 in 2016, so that is why I am asking my colleagues to join me now in honoring an American hero. Over the course of his illustrious career, Muhammad Ali produced some of our Nation's most lasting and impactful sports memories. From winning a Gold Medal at the 1960 Summer Olympics, to lighting the Olympic torch at the 1996 Summer Olympics, his influence as an athlete and a humanitarian spanned over 50 years.

Despite having been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in the 1980s, Ali devoted his life to charitable endeavors. Ali, and his wife Lonnie were founding directors of the Muhammad Ali Parkinson Center and Movement Disorders Clinic in Phoenix, AZ and helped raise over \$50 million for Parkinson's research. In addition to helping families cope with illness, Ali led efforts to provide meals for the hungry and

helped countless organizations such as the Make-A-Wish-Foundation and the Special Olympics.

Muhammad Ali's humanitarian efforts went beyond his charitable activities in the United States. In 1990 Muhammad Ali travelled to the Middle East to seek the release of American and British hostages who were being held as human shields in the first Gulf War. After his intervention, 15 hostages were freed. Thanks to his devotion to diplomatic causes and racial harmony, Ali was the recipient of many accolades, including being chosen as a "U.N. Messenger of Peace" in 1998 and receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2005 from President Bush.

Through his unyielding dedication to his sport and to struggling populations around the world, Muhammad Ali still serves an example of service and self-sacrifice for generations of Americans. The Congressional Gold Medal is a fitting commemoration of his life and work, for which he is deservedly known as "the Greatest."

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing one of our Nation's most lasting and influential figures by signing on to this important legislation.

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RECOGNIZING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF UPS AIRLINES

**HON. MORGAN MCGARVEY**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 1, 2023*

Mr. MCGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize UPS and celebrate the 35th anniversary of UPS Airlines' first flight. From its founding as a small bike messenger operation, UPS has grown into one of the most recognized brands in the world, and it continues to be a shining example of good corporate citizenship.

Thirty-five years ago, UPS did what many, including the Federal Aviation Administration, said could not be done—it built an airline in less than a year. UPS Airlines remains the fastest built airline in FAA history, and 3 decades later, it is one of the world's largest, safest, and most on-time airlines, moving the equivalent of 6 percent of the U.S. economy and 2 percent of global economy in goods and services through its supply chain each day.

Louisville is the proud home of UPS Airlines' primary global hub, Worldport, a facility that processes more than 2 million packages every day, employs more than 20,000 hardworking Kentuckians, serves nearly 800 airports worldwide, and plays a critical role in the supply chain ecosystem year-round. Over decades of global supply chain changes, UPS Airlines has remained a constant, providing good-paying jobs for hardworking Louisville families and adapting to ensure reliability for both customers and consumers.

On this 35th anniversary, I'm honored to recognize the tireless work of UPS Airlines serving our communities and creating pathways to success for thousands of employees across the Nation.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL  
DOMINIC CALDERON UPON RE-  
CEIVING THE DISTINGUISHED  
FLYING CROSS

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 1, 2023*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Lieutenant Colonel Dominic Calderon of the 349th Air Mobility Wing upon receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service, dedication, and sacrifice during Operation Allies Refuge. He exemplifies the best of America, and his tireless efforts guarantee the safety of all those who call America home.

Last year, the servicemembers of the 349th Air Mobility Wing met a challenge of colossal scale when they played a pivotal role in completing the drawdown of forces from Afghanistan. This command was critical in the largest noncombatant evacuation operation in known history, Operation Allies Refuge, ultimately saving over 124,000 lives. The 349th Air Mobility Wing directly supported the evacuation of nearly 13,000 Afghans while simultaneously managing the security and operations at Hamid Karzai International Airport. I have listened to countless stories from this group of brave men and women that exemplify the character, leadership, and bravery that is cultivated at Travis Air Force Base.

Service records only scratch the surface of the courageous actions performed by the 349th Air Mobility Wing. They put their hearts and lives on the line to save so many. These valiant servicemembers like Lieutenant Colonel Dominic Calderon epitomize the values of courage and patriotism.

On behalf of a grateful country and all the constituents of California's Eighth Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Lieutenant Colonel Dominic Calderon of the 349th Air Mobility Wing for receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross and extend my sincere gratitude for his sacrifice and contributions to the defense of this great country.

**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, February 2, 2023 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

**MEETINGS SCHEDULED**

**FEBRUARY 7**

Time to be announced

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

Organizational business meeting to consider committee rules and an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the committee for the 118th Congress.

TBA

**FEBRUARY 9**

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Organizational business meeting to consider committee rules and an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the committee for the 118th Congress; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the state of the U.S. Territories.

SD-366

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine U.S.-China policy in the era of strategic competition.

SD-419