

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF ELIM CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 5, 2024

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate ELIM Christian Fellowship on its 25th anniversary. Established November 7, 1999, under the inspirational leadership of Bishop Troy Anthony Bronner, ELIM is known for its joyous worship services, a source of support and encouragement for many, and more importantly, being a cornerstone in the Buffalo community for a quarter of a century.

Over the last 25 years, ELIM Christian Fellowship has been deeply committed to serving the spiritual, social, and cultural needs of the Buffalo community. Through their dynamic ministries and dedicated outreach, they have witnessed the powerful impact of their mission. Each prayer, each act of service, and each moment of fellowship has contributed to a legacy that continues to uplift those around us.

Founded on a vision of love, unity, and service, ELIM Christian Fellowship has been a beacon of hope in Buffalo, New York. Over the past 25 years, countless lives have been transformed, hearts healed, and families strengthened. Their congregation has been a spiritual home to many and a source of support and encouragement.

Today, as we celebrate the next chapter of ELIM Christian Fellowship, we pray that they continue to serve with purpose and continue to grow and make a difference in our community and beyond. Here's to the next 25 years of ELIM Christian Fellowship—may their service continue to be a blessing as we look forward to many more years of their inspired leadership.

HONORING VICTOR BENCOMO

HON. JASON CROW

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 5, 2024

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of an extraordinary leader from Colorado, Victor Bencomo.

When Victor passed away on October 1, 2024, we lost a loving father and husband, a fierce advocate, and a support system for many. Victor is survived by his wife Sara Reins Bencomo and three sons Kyle, Alden, and Beck.

Victor dedicated more than 30 years of his life to public service, including a 22-year career in the Navy as a combat medic. He was a leading advocate for gun violence prevention policy as President of the Colorado Chapter of Giffords Gun Owners for Safety. He testified for sensible gun safety laws at both the Colorado State Capitol and the U.S. Congress. He

was also a consistent advocate for veterans' suicide prevention resources, and even in the last few months of his life, Victor was advocating for glioblastoma research.

Victor dedicated his life in service to others and he exuded love and kindness. He lit up every room and those of us who were lucky enough to see him speak or spend time in his company were better for it. I am proud to have known Victor and to have been part of his journey.

Victor once described his legacy as a "testament to the enduring pursuit of a brighter, fairer, and safer world for all." Our community and our country are grateful for this enduring pursuit.

I honor the life and service of Victor Bencomo and I extend my gratitude to his family for sharing such a bright light with us.

CELEBRATING 555 EAST'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT GARCIA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 5, 2024

Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a Long Beach institution, 555 East, on its 40th anniversary this month.

In 1983, when my hometown of Long Beach faced challenges—boarded-up buildings and a struggling economy—Sam King saw potential in our city and more specifically our downtown.

On the eve of Thanksgiving that year, he signed a lease for 555 E. Ocean Boulevard, a decision that would change our dining landscape forever.

Just months later, as the 1984 Olympics approached, 555 East opened its doors, introducing the prime steakhouse concept to Southern California.

For four decades, 555 East has been more than just a restaurant; it has been a gathering place for family celebrations, business meetings, and everything in between.

It has truly earned its iconic status within our community.

I invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing 555 East for its milestone anniversary.

RECOGNIZING METRA'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 5, 2024

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise today to commemorate the 40th anniversary of Metra Commuter Railroad.

Since its establishment, Metra has been an integral part of the transportation network that connects riders with their workplace, commu-

nity, and loved ones throughout Chicagoland. Metra operates the Nation's largest commuter rail system, as measured by route miles, including 11 rail lines and 243 stations throughout the Chicago metropolitan region, a region that covers more than 3,700 square miles.

Throughout Metra's impressive expansion, Metra's dedication to the communities it serves has been unwavering. As the United States Representative for Illinois 8th Congressional District, I am proud of my strong relationship with Metra and will continue working with them on improving services, as well as securing funding for projects of critical importance to my constituents.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, in Illinois and elsewhere, ridership across every mode of public transportation decreased significantly. The rise of remote and hybrid work meant fewer people commuting each day, leaving transit systems with ridership approximately 40 percent below pre-COVID levels. This decreased ridership had a direct impact on farebox revenue, a major source of funding for transit operations. In the Chicago region, beginning in late 2025 and early 2026, transit operators like Metra will face a \$730 million annual budget gap. I remain committed to addressing the transit fiscal cliff—an issue that will not only impact Illinois transit systems but also the majority of transit systems operating across the Nation.

I would also like to extend my congratulations to Metra's CEO and Executive Director, Jim Derwinski, on being named as Chair of the Surface Transportation Board's Passenger Rail Advisory Committee. Finally, I would like to recognize the tireless work of Metra's employees, from the ticket agents to the train conductors. Their work is essential to fulfilling the critical transportation needs of our communities.

I thank Metra for 40 years of service. I look forward to their continued success, and many more years of growth.

COMMEMORATING THE BIRTHDAY OF UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS GUNNERY SERGEANT JOHN BASILONE

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 5, 2024

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commemorate the birthday of United States Marine Corps Gunnery Sergeant John Basilone. GySgt. Basilone was a courageous and honorable Marine who was awarded both the Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroism during the Battle of Guadalcanal and the Navy Cross for his actions during the Battle of Iwo Jima. His acts of heroism left him the only enlisted Marine to receive both decorations during World War II. Many others also recognized and sought to memorialize GySgt. Basilone's relentless patriotism and leadership. In 1945, the United

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

States Navy honored GySgt. Basilone's service through the commissioning of the USS *Basilone* (DD-824) and the USS *John Basilone* (DDG-122), which will be commissioned on November 9, 2024. His hometown of Raritan, New Jersey began hosting the annual Basilone Parade in 1981, which continues to be the only annual parade in the United States that honors a war hero. In 2005, the United States Postal Service included GySgt. Basilone as one of the four distinguished Marines commemorated on the 37-cent stamp issued on November 10, 2005. In 2010, Steven Spielberg and Tom Hanks adapted his story as a storyline in the HBO miniseries titled *The Pacific*. Most recently, on March 23, 2016, Congress approved renaming the Raritan Post Office to the Gunnery Sergeant John Basilone Post Office, cementing his memory in brick and mortar within his hometown. GySgt. Basilone has roads, bridges, and highways named after him in several states, and every enlisted Marine is taught about GySgt. Basilone's courageous actions during their time in boot camp. It brings me tremendous honor to commemorate the Birthday of this American hero and native son of New Jersey. I would also like to recognize the Basilone Memorial Foundation for their tireless work honoring GySgt. Basilone and supporting our active military, veterans, and others in need. I am truly honored to represent a district home to such a hero and an organization that continuously works to support our Military.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF CATHERINE O'MALLEY-BASTIAN

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 5, 2024

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Ms. Catherine O'Malley-Bastian on her 100th birthday. As she celebrates her 100th birthday, her life story is a beautiful tapestry woven with love and resilience.

Born on December 13, 1924, Ms. O'Malley-Bastian has not only witnessed a century of history but has also shaped the lives of those around her with her unwavering spirit and dedication to her community.

Ms. O'Malley-Bastian's career with the IRS exemplifies her commitment to service, where she contributed her skills and knowledge for many years. Beyond her professional achievements, she has devoted her time to volunteering with the Red Cross, embodying the true meaning of selflessness and compassion. Her contributions have made a lasting impact on countless lives, showcasing her belief in the power of community and kindness.

As a proud member of the Amherst Garden Club, Ms. O'Malley-Bastian has not only nurtured beautiful gardens but also friendships that have blossomed over the years. Her love of nature and her ability to cultivate beauty reflects her vibrant spirit and zest for life.

Ms. O'Malley-Bastian's faith has been a cornerstone of her life. For the last 50 years, she has been a devoted parishioner at St. Christopher's Church, a testament to her deep-rooted commitment to her faith and community. Her spirituality has been a guiding light, inspir-

ing those around her to embrace love, kindness, and generosity.

Today, as we celebrate this incredible milestone, let us honor not just the years that Ms. Catherine O'Malley-Bastian has lived, but the legacy she has created. Her dedication to family, faith, and community serves as an inspiring example for us all. Please join me in wishing Ms. Catherine O'Malley-Bastian a very happy 100th birthday.

HONORING DR. ROBERT LEE WEST

HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 5, 2024

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished fellow physician and beloved friend, Dr. Robert Lee West, of Greenville, NC. Dr. West grew up working on his family's farm and received his medical degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1959. He certainly left his mark on the Tarheel medical community, serving a year as the Chief Resident.

After receiving his certification from the American Board of Pathology in 1964, Dr. West committed to serving our Nation by enlisting in the U.S. Army. He was assigned to Walter Reed Memorial Hospital, and we as a nation are forever indebted to Dr. West for his contributions to the health of our soldiers, as he helped establish the hospital's first Clinical Research Unit.

Following his military service, Dr. West relocated to Greenville with his business partner, Dr. Charles Gilbert, where he practiced for 47 years. Together, they helped establish the Department of Pathology at Pitt County Memorial Hospital, providing pathological services throughout Eastern North Carolina. Dr. West brought his decades of clinical experience to educate aspiring physicians by joining the faculty at the ECU Brody School of Medicine in 1983. While he was a professor, Dr. West was recognized by Cambridge's Who's Who for his leadership in higher education.

Upon his retirement in 2013, he was granted the title of Professor Emeritus and received the Clinical Faculty Development Award for the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. West made remarkable and enduring contributions to the field of pathology at every stage of his career.

Words do little justice when trying to fully capture the profound impact he had on our Nation, his community, and the medical field. Dr. West went to be with the Lord on September 28, 2024, leaving a void felt deeply by all who knew him. I hope that we can all learn from his legacy and strive to meaningfully contribute wherever we are, whenever we can, and to whomever we can, just as he did. I am honored and humbled to extend this chamber's recognition to this incredible, faithful servant leader. May Dr. West forever rest in peace.

PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY WITH PSYCHEDELICS ADVANCING THERAPIES (PATH)

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 5, 2024

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include in the RECORD an updated open letter from myself and Congressman CORREA, the founders of the PATH Caucus, to ensure stakeholders have a voice in crafting the rules and regulations surrounding psychedelic-assisted treatments. This is an updated version of the letter from my previous submission to the RECORD on August 9, 2024. It serves to extend our requested deadline for responses to February 28, 2025.

DEAR COMMENTER: In 2022, a new Congressional caucus was created to raise awareness among federal lawmakers about the therapeutic potential of psychedelic and entactogenic drugs to treat several mental health conditions that were refractory to contemporary evidence-based therapies. The Congressional Psychedelics Advancing Therapies (PATH) Caucus aimed to accelerate and support clinical research in the use of these novel substances, specifically psilocybin and 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA).

To better inform Congressional members, the bipartisan PATH Caucus is seeking input on how to implement programs and policies that address the range of complex issues with potential novel therapies that may use a psychedelic or entactogenic drug in medically supervised and interpersonally supportive settings.

To gain a more complete understanding of the issues associated with use of these substances, the PATH Caucus believes that taking an inclusive, intentional, and reasoned approach to gathering input from the public may engender valuable insights that can more accurately and comprehensively characterize how different modalities incorporate the use of these substances while also ensuring responsible, accountable, safe, and ethical use. We seek information from the general public, those who have received psychedelic-assisted therapies as an intervention, interested stakeholders, and those individuals and entities working within the bio-psycho-social-spiritual behavioral health ecosystem (e.g., palliative care, addiction services), which stresses a holistic system of care comprised of clinical providers, counseling, and peer support (Courtney et al., 2023; D'Souza, 2007; Urutia et al., 2023).

It will be essential to receive input from people and organizations with specialized experience in implementing therapies where psychedelic or entactogenic drug substances are administered, such as in clinical research protocols (e.g., depression, palliative care, substance use disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)), or experience in training others for such therapies. As a part of the PATH Caucus information gathering effort, we acknowledge the significant anthropological role of certain psychedelic substances such as ayahuasca, peyote, and Psilocybe mushrooms. Some indigenous peoples of the Americas have extensive traditions dating back hundreds to thousands of years, where they incorporated these substances into spiritual ceremonial or ritual healing practices. The PATH Caucus believes that respectful, inclusive, cultural knowledge sharing from these communities may provide substantial insights, further informing our overall understanding, and we welcome their input.