

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING THE 120TH ANNI-  
VERSARY OF CATHEDRAL  
INTERNATIONAL

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 13, 2024*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join Cathedral International, the historic Second Baptist Church in Perth Amboy, New Jersey as it celebrates its 120th Anniversary this year. Since its incorporation in 1904, Cathedral International has provided a center for worship, family life, and community development to Middlesex County residents.

The rich history of this church began when an honorable group of 34 African Americans expanded on their membership with the predominantly white congregation of First Baptist Church in Perth Amboy, New Jersey. They established an independent assembly that would become officially incorporated as The Second Baptist Church, later renamed Cathedral International in 2004. The mission of this Church is to Evangelize, Educate, Emancipate, Empower, and Expand in the name of the Lord, Jesus Christ. In 2024, Cathedral International's Mercy House Food Pantry assisted 25,000 people through their food distribution events. Through dynamic leadership, they have lifted and liberated their community.

Over their 120-year history, the work of their vibrant ministry is evident in the glorious expansion of their houses of worship. In New Jersey, Cathedral International has churches in Perth Amboy, Asbury Park, and South Plainfield. The church has an admirable devotion to fostering divine connections between the congregation and the local community. It is believed that American Baptist Churches in the United States are inspiring models for growth, and I join the entire Cathedral International family in acknowledging their 120 years of faith. Currently, Bishop Hilliard stands as the Senior 14th Pastor and is recognized for leading the church through momentous growth. In honor of the unveiling of their Cathedral Legacy Museum this October 2024, I applaud Cathedral International's ongoing commitment to providing soulful service.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in celebrating Cathedral International, as its members and supporters gather to celebrate its 120th Anniversary on September 20, 2024. Cathedral International is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 13, 2024*

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call No. 456, I mistakenly voted YEA when I intended to vote NAY.

HONORING CHIEF JASON MARTIN

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 13, 2024*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Jason Martin and his service to the Napa County Fire Department and extend my best wishes to him upon his retirement.

Chief Martin began his career with CalFire in 1988 and moved to Napa County for a fire-fighting position in 1995. Throughout his time in Napa, he worked in various areas and incident management teams until 2020. In 2019 he was promoted to Assistant Chief, where he oversaw all fire operations for Napa County.

In 2021, Chief Martin was appointed as Napa County's Fire Chief. For the past three years, his leadership has led the Napa County Fire Department to make significant strides to prevent fires in our region. This included the treatment of 2,356 acres of land for shaded fuel breaks, clearing of 219 miles of roadside areas, and management of 353 grazed acres. Chief Martin also oversaw the County Chipping Program, which provides a free chipping service for residents that live in a designated fire hazard zone. In his tenure as Chief, the department helped chip 386,679 cubic yards of potential fire hazards in our area.

Chief Martin has also helped build relationships with community organizations through the expansion of the department's public outreach program. This program offers consulting inspections and instructional videos on YouTube to ensure the community is properly prepared for fires. The department has also partnered with the Napa Communities Fire Foundation to implement the Fuel Mapper program, a resource developed to help residents identify and assess wildfire fuel hazards on their properties.

Chief Martin has also worked to coordinate fire protection measures with Napa County's wine community. Partnering with the Napa Valley Vintners and Napa Valley Grapegrowers, Chief Martin has helped create cohesive coordination for fuel work and open burning in our county. Chief Martin's innovative approaches to fire protection provides an effective roadmap for other counties.

Mr. Speaker, Chief Jason Martin's career in firefighting has left an indelible mark on CalFire and the Napa County Fire Department. Through his leadership, dedication, and commitment to community collaboration, Chief Martin has greatly advanced Napa County's fire safety and awareness of wildfire risks. I extend our community's gratitude for his years of dedicated service to the county. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 13, 2024*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I was absent on November 12, 2024. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 456; NAY on Roll Call No. 457; NAY on Roll Call No. 458.

CONGRATULATING ST. JOHNS  
COUNTY CHAMBER OF COM-  
MERCE ON ITS 120TH ANNIVER-  
SARY

**HON. JOHN H. RUTHERFORD**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 13, 2024*

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and congratulate St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, located in St. Augustine, Florida, on its historic 120 years of outstanding service to our community. Since 1904, St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce has played an important role in promoting economic development, business growth, education, and quality of life in St. Johns County.

The Chamber has been a driving force in encouraging collaboration between local businesses, government, and community organizations to help transform our area into a hub for commerce, innovation, and cultural enrichment.

Over the last century, the Chamber has provided essential support to local businesses of all sizes, advocating for policies that foster economic prosperity for our local economy and workforce. Thanks to its exceptional leadership, the Chamber has helped St. Johns County achieve the economic success and vitality we see today.

On this historic occasion, I congratulate and recognize St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce on its momentous 120th anniversary. I thank the Chamber and its members for their dedication and service to St. Johns County as a whole. May our community, with the help of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, continue to flourish and prosper for centuries to come.

DAVID L. HOBSON OBITUARY

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 13, 2024*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, David Lee Hobson passed away on Sunday, October 6, 2024, at Miami Valley Hospital in Dayton, Ohio after a brief illness.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

Born on October 17, 1936, in Cincinnati to Winton Lee Hobson and Florence Todd Hobson, Dave grew up with his sisters, Martha and Susan. His father worked for the U.S. Postal Service and died when Dave was in the eighth grade. He and his sisters were raised in the Bond Hill neighborhood of Cincinnati by his mother, an elementary school teacher, and her sister-in-law. He graduated from Withrow High School in Cincinnati, Ohio Wesleyan University and The Ohio State University College of Law.

He met the love of his life, Carolyn, at Ohio Wesleyan and, after marrying on December 20, 1958, they were inseparable throughout their 65 plus years together. Their marriage blessed them with three children whom they raised in Springfield, Ohio.

Dave served in the Air National Guard and was called up to active duty during the Berlin Wall Crisis. In 1965, he moved his family to Springfield, Ohio to work at the Kissell Company and later for several commercial real estate companies in association with Howard Noonan and Martin Levine, who served as mentors throughout his life. He was a member of Rotary International, a 33rd Degree Mason, and remained active in his college fraternity, Sigma Alpha Epsilon—all experiences that instilled in him a compassion to help others and the value of community service.

At the age of 46, Dave brought his business acumen, developed in commercial real estate and his commitment to community involvement to the Ohio Senate where he served for eight years. During his service, his peers elected him to the leadership positions of Majority Whip and President Pro Tempore.

In the Ohio Senate, his work focused on health and human services. He led the effort to enact the first state law in the nation to provide support to people diagnosed and living with HIV and AIDS, helped increase state resources for Alzheimer's Disease and spearheaded reforms to the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities. In 1990, Dave was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, where he represented Ohio's 7th Congressional District until his retirement in 2009. During his nine terms in Congress, he gained a reputation as a pragmatic and bipartisan lawmaker, committed to fiscal responsibility and a strong national defense. He served as the second-ranking member of the House Budget Committee and helped lead efforts in 1998 to balance the federal budget for the first time since 1969. He also served as a key member of the powerful House Appropriations Committee, where he chaired the Military Construction and Energy and Water Development subcommittees. In these positions Dave championed improvements in housing for military personnel and their families around the world, improved technology for members of the Armed Forces and led new investments in commercial and recreational waterways, the Florida Everglades restoration and natural resources conservation across the country.

Some of Dave's most notable achievements were on behalf of Springfield Air National Guard Base, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, NASA Glenn Research Center in Cleveland and the Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery. His leadership also helped establish the D-Day Visitors Center at the American Cemetery in Normandy, France, and in recognition of these and other contributions, Dave was inducted into the Ohio Veterans

Hall of Fame and the Dayton Region's Walk of Fame. Additionally, Wright-Patterson AFB named a street "Hobson Way" in his honor, Clark State College named its Beavercreek center "Dave Hobson Hall" and several universities bestowed him honorary degrees.

Beyond his legislative accomplishments, Dave was known for his humility, integrity, and kindness, all of which he expressed in his careful dedication and attention to constituent service and being accessible to the people of his district.

Dave is survived by his beloved wife, Carolyn (Alexander) of 65 years, children Susan (Jeff) Nunner, Lynn (Jay) Foran and Doug (Stephanie) Hobson; grandchildren Katherine, Alexander (Summer) and Samuel Nunner, Whitney (Alex) Fagan, Jameson, Callan and Brennan Foran, and Evan Hobson; great-grandchildren Ryker, Declan and Finn Fagan, sisters Martha Lampe and Susan Hoerner, and a loving nephew and nieces. A memorial service celebrating Dave's life and legacy will be held on Saturday, November 2, 2024 at 11:00 am at High Street United Methodist Church, 230 East High Street, Springfield, Ohio. The service was live-streamed on the High St. United Methodist Church's YouTube channel.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to The Springfield Foundation, c/o the Dave and Carolyn Hobson Charitable Fund, 333 N. Limestone Street, Suite 201, Springfield, OH 45503-4250, [www.springfieldfoundation.org](http://www.springfieldfoundation.org).

In honor of Dave's life, the family hopes that you will be inspired to carry forth his mission of helping people and bringing together others for positive solutions for all.

#### RECOGNIZING METRA COMMUTER RAILROAD'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

##### HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 13, 2024*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Metra Commuter Railroad as it celebrates its 40th anniversary. Over the last four decades, Metra has provided hundreds of millions of rides to its passengers while gaining a reputation for timeliness, reliability, and safety. At its inception in 1984, Metra faced multiple challenges. It inherited an under-invested rail system and was immediately tasked with addressing a history of unstandardized fares and services in addition to stabilizing struggling private rail lines. Through acquisitions, subsidizations, and streamlining of services, Metra delivered on unifying commuter rail across the Chicago region.

Though Metra still faces steep funding challenges for its capital and operational needs, it remains a steady, reliable source of transportation for its riders. It continues to rebuild and replace downtown stations, outlying stations, track and signals, and other infrastructure. Metra has purchased new locomotives and railcars, modernized and expanded service, and has survived through underground floods, polar vortexes, and a global pandemic.

I commend Metra's workers for continuing to provide rides every day to my constituents, and I thank Metra's leadership for continuing

to push innovation in Chicago's commuter rail system. I congratulate Metra on its 40th anniversary and look forward to many more years of reliable commuter rail service.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 13, 2024*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I was unexpectedly held up and missed two roll call votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 456; and YEA on Roll Call No. 457.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 13, 2024*

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, on November 12, 2024, I was not recorded on Roll Call Nos. 456, 457 and 458.

Had I been present, I would have voted "YEA" on Roll Call No. 456, "NAY" on Roll Call No. 457, "NAY" on Roll Call No. 458.

#### RECOGNIZING METRA COMMUTER RAILROAD'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

##### HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 13, 2024*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and congratulate Metra on its 40th anniversary. For the last forty years, Metra has provided safe, reliable commuter rail and hundreds of millions of rides to the communities it serves in the Chicago area, including many in the 9th Congressional District.

The first Board meeting of the newly formed Commuter Rail Division, created as part of a reform of the Regional Transportation Authority, was held in June of 1984. That Board adopted "Metra" as a unifying name for all the disparate parts that made and still make up the commuter rail system in the region.

At the time, Metra inherited a threadbare system and was tasked with modernizing and unifying commuter rail in Chicagoland.

Since then, Metra has come a long way, acquiring new lines and subsidizing operations on others owned by freight railroads, continuing to improve the rider experience, and expanding the communities it serves.

Most recently, Metra purchased zero-emission, battery-powered trainsets. I am proud to share that Metra will be one of the first in the nation to operate this innovative technology.

The trainsets will also have low-level boarding and will be equipped with lifts to make them ADA-compliant. They will include features like passenger information signs, bike racks, luggage racks, and more. The purchase demonstrates Metra's commitment to cleaner, more inclusive, and rider-friendly transportation options.