

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Metra for forty years of service. The future of Metra is bright, and I look forward to many more years of reliable, safe commuter rail service for my constituents.

RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL OF SEBASTIAN

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2024

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, December 8, 2024, marks the 100th anniversary of the incorporation of the "Town" of Sebastian, which was followed by the re-incorporation of the "City" of Sebastian in 1925, the same year Indian River County was created by the Florida Legislature. During a meeting on December 8, 1924, at 7:30 p.m., eighty-two of the 105 registered voters were present and voted on motions to incorporate the proposed corporate limits as outlined in the meeting notice, selecting the name of the new municipal corporation as the "Town of Sebastian", creating the official seal for town business, and electing the mayor, five aldermen, a clerk, and marshal.

The town took its name from the St. Sebastian River, which was named for the martyred Roman Christian, who was martyred by the Emperor Diocletian around 288 A.D. The Roman Catholic Church canonized Sebastian in 374, and he has been named the patron saint of archers, athletes, migrants, and pin-makers. Beginning in the 1880s, the community was named New Haven after Thomas New, a retired Methodist minister who moved from Michigan. Mr. New worked to establish the community's first post office and served as the first postmaster. This was the first post office between Melbourne and Fort Pierce.

However, long before European and 19th-century settlers arrived in the area, the indigenous Ais Indians lived on the east coast of Florida between Cape Canaveral and Jupiter for hundreds and possibly thousands of years. The Ais were hunter-gatherers and caught fish, turtles, and shellfish in the St. Sebastian River, Indian River Lagoon, and the Atlantic Ocean, and picked sabal palm berries and other fruit in the area. The Spanish even referred to the Indian River Lagoon as Rio de Ais because the Lagoon was so important to the tribe for food and transportation.

One of the most significant events to happen to Sebastian was the arrival of the Florida East Coast Railway in 1893 to 94. Another major change was the intensity by which commercial fishing started in 1895 after a disastrous freeze in 1894. By the end of 1895, nearly 104,000 pounds of fish were shipped from Sebastian, mostly to New York, Richmond, and New Orleans. Sebastian residents also grew truck crops such as beans, winter vegetables, and pineapples. Resident Paul Kroegel worked to protect local pelicans from being killed for their feathers which were used in the hat industry, which ultimately led to President Theodore Roosevelt creating the first migratory bird refuge in the United States on Pelican Island in 1903.

In the early 20th century, Sebastian, like the rest of the nation, suffered during the Great Depression, but World War II and the postwar era brought immense change. The Mackle

Brothers, a developer based in Miami, which later became General Development Corporation, bought land throughout Florida for planned communities in rural parts of the state, including 1,345 acres in Sebastian in 1957 to develop Sebastian Highlands.

By the 2000 census, Sebastian became the most populous city in Indian River County, and by 2023, the population had grown to 26,825. Besides having the distinction of being the home of Pelican Island, Sebastian has been named a Millenium City and a Tree City USA. The city has a strong retirement community, with 35 percent of the population 65 or older. Almost 21 percent of the jobs are in health care and social assistance, 18 percent in retail, and 12 percent in accommodations and food service. Sebastian has a median household income of nearly \$73,000, and almost 30 percent of residents 25 or older hold a bachelor's degree or other advanced degree. The city also possesses first-class schools, roads, health care and recreation facilities.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Centennial of Sebastian. Here's to 100 more years of memories and community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KWEISI MFUME

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2024

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, due to longstanding obligations in my Congressional District, I was unable to make three votes yesterday.

Had I been present, I would have voted: NAY on Roll Call No. 458 for H.R. 9495; NAY on Roll Call No. 457 for H.R. 5342; and YEA on Roll Call No. 456 for H.R. 82.

THE UNITED STATES MUST JOIN THE TREATY ON THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2024

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the increasing threat of nuclear weapons. Last year, the United States spent \$51.5 billion on nuclear weapons. Imagine if we used even a fraction of that to tackle homelessness, fund healthcare, or address the climate crisis. Instead, we're pouring billions into weapons that could wipe out entire cities in seconds.

The simple truth is, as long as nuclear weapons exist, humanity is at risk. One miscalculation, one malfunction, one act of aggression, and we're looking at a disaster that could end civilization as we know it. Keeping these weapons isn't about strength or security—it's about holding on to outdated Cold War fears.

The only sane position is the complete abolition of these weapons of mass destruction from the face of the planet. But this will only happen with bold leadership from the United States.

As tensions rise with adversaries like Russia and China, and concerns grow about nuclear

proliferation in volatile regions like the Middle East, the threat of nuclear war is more urgent than it has been since the Cuban Missile Crisis.

That's why I'm grateful to my colleague, Congressman JIM MCGOVERN, for his tireless work in drawing attention to this critical issue. He understands that we have a moral imperative to act.

It's time for the United States to join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and take a real stand for disarmament. Maintaining an arsenal of world-ending weapons is not a sign of strength—it is a terrifying vulnerability.

The American people deserve leaders who will prioritize human lives over outdated Cold War posturing. We have the chance to make the world a safer place, redirect resources to pressing domestic needs, and fulfill our obligation to future generations.

The time for action has never been more pressing.

RECOGNIZING BEN JACKSON

HON. LIZZIE FLETCHER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2024

Mrs. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise with deep gratitude to Ben Jackson for his many years of service and exceptional work for Texas' Seventh Congressional District. After working in Congress for more than 13 years and for our district for almost six years, Ben is leaving my office this year.

Ben has served Texas' Seventh Congressional District for as long as I have, joining our staff as Legislative Director when we opened our office in January 2019. An integral part of my team from the start, he has worked tirelessly and effectively, handling issues of all kinds. As our office grew, so did Ben's role in it, as he moved from Legislative Director to Deputy Chief of Staff and Senior Advisor. He has worked on issues of great importance to our district with a portfolio that includes energy, tax, financial services, and economic issues. While working in my office, Ben also grew in his personal life and became a father to his son, Charles.

Throughout his almost six years serving our district, Ben has built meaningful relationships across our community and has led the way on efforts to ensure our district's and our region's priorities are included in our work, and that our work in Washington delivers meaningful progress back home.

Outstanding in his policy work, Ben was also an outstanding team member who always remained supportive of his colleagues and served as a mentor for many of them. His work and his positive contributions have had—and will continue to have—a lasting impact on our team and on our district, and we will miss him.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Texas' Seventh Congressional District, I express my deep and sincere gratitude and best wishes to Ben Jackson as he begins a new chapter.

HONORING JOSE “MOKE” SIMON III

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 Jose “Moke” Simon III upon his retirement after two terms as a Lake County Supervisor and to recognize his contributions to the Middletown Rancheria and the Lake County community. Mr. Simon, born and raised in Middletown, California, has dedicated his life to the advancement and well-being of his community.

As Middletown Rancheria’s Tribal Chairman, Mr. Simon oversees Tribal Government Operations and represents the Tribe in all critical decision impacting Middletown Rancheria. During his tenure, Mr. Simon successfully guided the investment of \$47.5 million dollars in the construction of Twin Pine Casino. As Chairman, he also successfully negotiated with the State of California to secure the gaming compact for the Middletown Rancheria, leading to substantial economic development for his tribe. Furthermore, Mr. Simon’s leadership was critical to the Tribe’s acquisition of the Mount St. Helena Brewing Co., marking the first off-reservation business owned by Middletown Rancheria.

In recognition of his commitment to Middletown Rancheria’s economic development, in 2016, Mr. Simon received the Wendall Chino Humanitarian Award, the highest honor for tribal leaders and awarded by the National Indian Gaming Association.

In 2017, Mr. Simon became the first Native American elected to the Lake County Board of Supervisors representing District 1, where he has continued to work tirelessly for his constituents and contribute to local governance.

In times of crisis, Mr. Simon’s leadership has been invaluable. During the catastrophic Valley Fire of 2015, which devastated over 76,000 acres, he provided stability to his district as they faced one of California’s most destructive wildfires. Governor Gavin Newsom later named Mr. Simon to the State Board of Fire Services in September 2019.

Beyond his work with the Tribe and the Board of Supervisors, Mr. Simon is a former professional football player. During his football career, Mr. Simon played with the NFL’s Indianapolis Colts, AFL’s Arizona Rattlers, WFL’s Barcelona Dragons in Spain, and the Scottish Claymores in Scotland. An avid sports enthusiast, Mr. Simon continues to serve his community as the defensive coach for the local high school’s varsity football team.

Mr. Simon currently resides on the reservation with his wife Nancy, son Joshua and daughter Theresa, cherishing time with his grandchildren Taylor and Bently, and staying deeply involved in family and community life.

Mr. Speaker, as we bid farewell to Supervisor Jose “Moke” Simon III, we thank him for his service, his contributions to the economic and cultural advancement of his Tribe, and his dedication to public service in Lake County. His leadership has uplifted our community, and it is only fitting that we honor him here today as he embarks on this new chapter of his life.

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. 457, I mistakenly voted NAY when I intended to vote YEA.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE YMCA OF GREATER MONMOUTH COUNTY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2024

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to congratulate the YMCA of Greater Monmouth County on its 150th Anniversary and continued endeavor to strengthen the individuals, families and communities it serves. During their 150th Anniversary Dinner, they plan to commemorate this milestone with the pursuit of offering expansive access to fitness, mental health, and education. It is my privilege to recognize the outstanding efforts of the YMCA of Greater Monmouth County.

Since March 16, 1874, this commendable organization has nurtured children and families while fostering strong connected communities throughout the Monmouth County area. The long history of this YMCA providing youth enrichment to families includes access to summer camp, preschool, and before and after care. It is truly honorable to fathom the transformation of countless lives across generations from this last century and on. It is honorable to recognize the community organizers who have demonstrated resilience and unity, as this remarkably shapes the impact of their chapter.

Begun in efforts to support youth in the local area, the YMCA of Greater Monmouth County now stands as a community center. The acquisition of resources necessary and otherwise inaccessible can be attributed to invaluable growth. Affordable childcare is one of the most appreciated programs, with therapeutic counseling, tutoring, teen leadership and college pathways tightly following. I applaud this organization’s beloved endless engagement and remarkable success in reaching the Monmouth County community.

Once again, I sincerely hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating the YMCA of Greater Monmouth County on its 150th Anniversary of service. The commitment to wellness has contributed support to help families thrive in our community, and therefore is truly deserving of this body’s recognition.

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 Com-

mittee—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, November 14, 2024 may be found in the Daily Digest of today’s RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

NOVEMBER 19

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting to consider S. 254, to amend the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 to provide for the establishment of a Ski Area Fee Retention Account, S. 373, to modify the disposition of certain outer Continental Shelf revenues and to open Federal financial sharing to heighten opportunities for renewable energy, S. 482, to amend the Klamath Basin Water Supply Enhancement Act of 2000 to provide the Secretary of the Interior with certain authorities with respect to projects affecting the Klamath Basin watershed, S. 620, to provide for the distribution of certain outer Continental Shelf revenues to the State of Alaska, S. 739, to clarify jurisdiction with respect to certain Bureau of Reclamation pumped storage development, S. 914, to establish an energy threat analysis center in the Department of Energy, S. 1553, to amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to improve the management of grazing permits and leases, S. 1764, to improve Federal activities relating to wildfires, S. 2132, to require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a pilot program for the establishment and use of a pre-fire-suppression stand density index, S. 2151, to amend the Southwest Forest Health and Wildlife Prevention Act of 2004 to require the establishment of an additional Institute under that Act, S. 2156, to amend the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act to authorize additional entities to be eligible to complete the maintenance work on Bolts Ditch and the Bolts Ditch Headgate within the Holy Cross Wilderness, Colorado, S. 2160, to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to authorize certain extraordinary operation and maintenance work for urban canals of concern, S. 2169, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to carry out watershed pilots, S. 2506, to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Route 66 National Historic Trail, S. 2620, to establish the Chesapeake National Recreation Area as a unit of the National Park System, S. 2742, to establish the Fort Ontario National Monument in the State of New York as a unit of the National Park System, S. 2743, to amend the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act to designate as a component of the National Heritage Area System the Finger Lakes National Heritage