

come, first served" basis. Despite these challenges, these brave men always answered the call and served their community valiantly. Today, the fire department has expanded and ensures that their firefighters have all the necessary gear, enhancing their reliability in Northfield. Recently, the department dedicated its new fire truck, Ladder 63, in honor of Jake Eggie and Robert Leeds, both of whom dedicated 50 years of service to the community. Fire Captain Flaherty and Chief Cummings have emphasized that you cannot celebrate 100 years without remembering those who made this achievement possible. Congratulations on 100 years of exemplary service. God bless the Northfield Volunteer Fire Company, and God bless our United States of America.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 19, 2024*

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call Vote No. 465 on H.R. 8932, the FAFSA Deadline Act, I mistakenly pushed the wrong vote button. I intended to vote Aye and I support the bill.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 19, 2024*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from votes on November 14, 2024. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 461; NAY on Roll Call No. 462; YEA on Roll Call No. 463; and NAY on Roll Call No. 464.

I was absent from votes on November 15, 2024. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 465.

I was absent from votes on November 18, 2024. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 466; and YEA on Roll Call No. 467.

#### RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF CORAL SPRINGS, FLORIDA CITY MANAGER, FRANK BABINEC

### HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 19, 2024*

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend the 30 years of dedicated public service of Mr. Frank Babinec, the City Manager for Coral Springs, Florida. Over the years, Frank has displayed an unwavering commitment to the community's safety, well-being, and prosperity.

Frank's journey in public service began as a volunteer in 1993 when he joined what is now known as the Coral Springs-Parkland Fire Department, putting his life on the line to protect others. His hard work and dedication led him to be appointed to Fire Chief in 2014. His commitment to public safety went beyond fire-

fighting. He championed emergency medical services and advanced training programs and strengthened partnerships with other public safety organizations, raising the department's standards and response capabilities.

In his role as Fire Chief, Frank supported the community through a tragic shooting that took place at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in 2018. His leadership in the aftermath demonstrated his ability to provide calm and competent direction in times of crisis, encouraging a sense of resilience and unity within the community.

In 2019, Frank was appointed City Manager of Coral Springs. He has guided the city through unprecedented challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic, and focused his commitment to the city's health and economic stability. Over the years, Frank has worked tirelessly to promote sustainable growth, improve city services, and address the needs of residents while fostering transparency and accountability in local government. During his distinguished career, he has earned numerous accolades and awards through his service over the last 30 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Frank Babinec's invaluable contributions to the City of Coral Springs and his exemplary public service career. Frank's legacy in Coral Springs is one of compassion, strength, and deep commitment to serving others. I wish him all the best in his retirement.

#### RECOGNIZING HAROLD HIRSCH FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION OF THE UNITED STATES

### HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 19, 2024*

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, with Ranking Member NEAL, to commend Harold Hirsch on his service to the United States Congress for over 47 years. Mr. Hirsch served as a lawyer and tax expert on the staff of the nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation of the United States Congress from the beginning of 1977 to October, 2024, when he retired. Prior to 1977, Mr. Hirsch had worked as a lawyer for the office of the Judge Advocate General and for the Legislation and Regulations section at the Internal Revenue Service, government service for which we also thank him.

The staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation performs useful or at times indispensable functions to Members of Congress as the Legislative Branch develops tax policy. Mr. Hirsch's legal acumen, drafting brilliance, and deep understanding of tax issues contributed to the quality of tax legislation in numerous tax bills over the period he served on the JCT staff. Though reserved, even self-effacing, Mr. Hirsch brought thoughtful commentary to the development of proposed tax legislation. He gave an extremely careful reading of proposed legislative text, and his keen eye for possible statutory errors averted problems that would otherwise have plagued taxpayers, practitioners, and government administrators alike. Mr. Hirsch's technical skills and expertise in the craft of helping Congress produce the best statutory representation of Members' intent

redounded to the benefit of the American taxpayer.

This dedicated work should not go unknown and unrecognized. I thank Mr. Hirsch for his service in the field of tax legislation.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF BERNARD MARCUS

### HON. STEVE SCALISE

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 19, 2024*

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Bernard 'Bernie' Marcus and his many contributions to our great nation.

Bernie was not only the co-founder of The Home Depot; he was also a self-made man, born to an immigrant family, who on many occasions turned adversity into opportunity.

He earned his degree from Rutgers University where he enrolled in pharmacy school. He went on to work in both the manufacturing and retail industries before becoming Chairman of the Board and President of Handy Dan Improvement Centers in 1972.

At age 49, Bernie, alongside his friend Arthur Blank, sought to bring to life a "vision of a one-stop shop for do-it-yourselfers"—The Home Depot. The pair opened the first two Home Depot stores in Atlanta, Georgia in 1979. Today, there are over 2,300 stores worldwide.

Despite all of his success, Bernie remained humble and always sought to live up to his mother's approach of "the more you give, the more you get."

His generosity to numerous charities undoubtedly helped so many throughout his lifetime. He supported causes like helping Jewish communities, our military veterans, and children with autism, just to name a few. He also started the Homer Fund to help The Home Depot associates who fell on hard times.

He built The Home Depot with the core values of giving back, excellent customer service, entrepreneurial spirit, respect for all, and doing the right thing according to their website. These values hold extra meaning for me as well.

When I was working my way through college at LSU to become the first in my family to earn a degree, I worked as a Home Depot associate and experienced firsthand the embodiment of these values. They still hold true for me today as they did back then.

Bernie truly believed in giving back, and his legacy of generosity and philanthropy will outlive him in the lives of people he has touched.

Bernie helped create a "nation of doers" and our world is certainly a better place because of him.

#### IN REMEMBRANCE OF SERGEANT ARTHUR O. McNITZKY

### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 19, 2024*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor U.S. Army Sergeant Arthur Othello McNitzky. Arthur was the first Denton County soldier to die in combat in World War I. His

call to service and sacrifice made a lasting impact on multiple generations.

McNitzky was raised in Denton, Texas and answered the Nation's call to service, enlisting in the U.S. Army on June 30, 1917. He was listed as a Private in Company M, 142nd Infantry Regiment, 36th Division, U.S. Army. After enlisting, McNitzky was sent for training to Camp Bowie in Fort Worth.

McNitzky was killed in action during the Battle of Argonne Forest in St. Etienne, France. The Battle of the Argonne Forest, also known as the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, is recognized as a major part of the final Allied offensive of World War I. The Battle of Argonne Forest was hard fought over an agonizing 47 days, from September 26, 1918 until November 11, 1918.

For his valiant service in action, Sergeant McNitzky was awarded the Croix de Guerre by the French government. His mother, Emma McNitzky, and her daughter, Rosa, traveled to France to claim Arthur's body and bring his remains home. He was buried beside his father, August McNitzky, and shares a headstone with him in the McNitzky family plot in the I.O.O.F. Cemetery in Denton, Texas.

Sergeant McNitzky's selfless sacrifice is to be respectfully reflected upon and remembered more than one hundred years later. We are forever grateful to the many men and women who have served and continue to serve in our nation's armed forces.

On Veterans Day 2024, Judge Forrest C. Beadle, Denton County Criminal Court No. 3, and Commander of American Legion Post 71, presented me with a United States flag that had been planted at Sergeant McNitzky's gravesite. The label reads "SGT Arthur O. McNitzky The American Legion, Post 71 Denton, Texas Remembrance Day October 8, 1918–October 8, 2018". STILL SERVING. It is my honor to recognize Sergeant McNitzky's sacrifice and the continuing service of Denton's Post 71, in honor of Sergeant McNitzky, with donation of this special American flag to the Denton County Office of History and Culture.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 19, 2024*

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, on November 18, 2024, I was not recorded on Roll Call vote No. 466.

Had I been present, I would have voted "YEA" on Roll Call vote No. 466.

RECOGNIZING THE ASSOCIATED BUILDERS & CONTRACTORS FLORIDA EAST COAST AND THE ASSOCIATED BUILDERS & CONTRACTORS INSTITUTE (ABCI) DURING NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

### HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 19, 2024*

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Associated Builders & Con-

tractors Florida East Coast and the Associated Builders & Contractors Institute (ABCI), which are both based in my District and provide not only my constituents but all of South Florida, the Treasure Coast, and some of the Space Coast with construction workforce. This week is National Apprenticeship Week, and recently, I had the opportunity to visit ABC Florida East Coast and ABCI to see first-hand the apprenticeship education program provided to my constituents in seven high-demand fields in construction.

ABCI is Florida's single largest apprenticeship provider out of hundreds of apprenticeship programs. More than 800 students are enrolled at ABCI, benefiting from state laws that keep education tuition-free and guarantee progressive wages. ABCI provides robust job placement services, helping students secure employment before completion and during their education journeys.

ABCI programs are accredited by the National Center for Construction Education and Research, ensuring apprentices graduate with credentials recognized nationwide. Today in South Florida, there is much growth in population and commercial construction; the industry-driven curriculum is critical and is designed in collaboration with top industry leaders, so therefore, ABCI's programs meet the ever-evolving needs of the construction sector, producing highly skilled, growth-ready graduates.

As we commemorate National Apprenticeship Week, I'd like to once again recognize the Associated Builders & Contractors and ABCI for the positive impact apprentices have on the South Florida and American economies. ABCI's role in preparing the next generation of skilled workers is a testament to that success.

#### CUMBERLAND COUNTY TECH AP U.S. GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

### HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 19, 2024*

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to address the next generation of American leaders from the AP United States Government and Politics class at Cumberland County Tech. Today, I stand before them as their Representative in the United States Congress, and I want to thank them for their decision to take a college-level course that deepens their understanding of American government and politics. Learning civics is an important step toward becoming informed citizens and future leaders of our nation. It is essential for people to understand how laws are made, to participate in the political process, and to know their rights in order to make a positive impact on their community and country. The House of Representatives, where I serve, is one of the two chambers of Congress that form the federal government's legislative branch. This branch plays a crucial role in creating laws, declaring war, and overseeing the Executive Branch. By understanding how this process works, they enhance their ability to become our country's next leaders and to make meaningful contributions as outstanding Americans. I thank them for taking this important first step toward making a significant difference. God bless Cumberland County Tech, and God bless our United States of America.

#### WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP DAY 2024

### HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 19, 2024*

Ms. MENG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 11th Anniversary of Women's Entrepreneurship Day, celebrated globally on November 19.

In the United States alone, over 12 million of our nation's 33.1 million small businesses are owned by women, employing around 10.7 million workers and contributing an astounding \$2.1 trillion in revenue. These women-led businesses are a cornerstone of our economy, and I extend my deepest commendation to the women behind them.

Today, I celebrate the Women's Entrepreneurship Day movement, founded by Wendy Diamond. Eleven years ago, Wendy launched the Women's Entrepreneurship Day Organization (WEDO) with an unyielding commitment to elevate and empower women in entrepreneurship—at a time when their vital role in the global economy was still underappreciated. Since its inception, WEDO has led transformative initiatives, including providing microloans to over 20,000 women in need, launching the WEDO Entrepreneurial Arts Education Program for disadvantaged female students, and sponsoring those students to attend the United Nations. WEDO has also been instrumental in supporting the Restart Academy, which serves students ages 13 to 21 in transitional environments, and leading the "Women's Disability Startup Cohort," the first Accelerator Program for disabled women in business—supported by Google for Startups. This past year, WEDO launched a groundbreaking AI education program with world-renowned experts, aimed at empowering 1 million disadvantaged women entrepreneurs with cutting-edge skills. To date, 55,322 women have already enrolled in this transformative program.

WEDO has also partnered with Defy Ventures to drive the Entrepreneurs in Training (EIT) program, achieving an outstanding 84 percent success rate among formerly incarcerated women by providing them with a path to opportunity and reintegration. Over the past decade, WEDO has ignited a global movement with over 300 ambassadors across 144 countries, impacting 112 international universities and colleges.

In recognition of this extraordinary milestone, the Women's Entrepreneurship Day Organization Pioneer Awards honor exceptional women leaders who have pioneered new frontiers across various fields. This year's honorees include Reta Jo Lewis, President and Chair of the Export-Import Bank of the United States; Marilyn Simons, Co-Founder and Board Chair of the Simons Foundation; Suneera Madhani, Founder & CEO of Worth AI and CEO School, and Founder of Stax Payments; Tina Nova, Co-Founder of Genoptix Medical Laboratory; Angeline Mikiri, Founder of Rock Solid Trust and Shekinah Media; María del Rosario Velasco Lino, Founder & General Director of the Sanctuary of the Queen Bee; Tanis Jorge, Founder of the Cofounder's Hub and Co-Founder of Trulioo.com; and Helena Christensen, supermodel, former Victoria's Secret Angel,