

recognizing Mrs. Bonna Jo Tersch for her years of service to the City of Chicago, and her legacy of “leaving things better than you found them.”

CELEBRATING THE NEW TESTAMENT TEMPLE CHURCH OF GOD

**HON. RITCHIE TORRES**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 10, 2024*

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the history of, and the amazing work carried out by the New Testament Temple Church of God (NTT). A Church that has always put community and congregation first, even in its name. In 1976, Jamaican Immigrant, Reverend Albert Edwards and his family founded the church in affiliation with the Church of God. To honor Jamaican naming preferences New Testament was added into the name, and the church added temple to honor the former Synagogue whose space the church bought. The church was officially named the New Testament Temple Church of God in 2013 to reflect the church's rich history. In 1983, the church purchased the location on Seymour Ave. where it resides today.

NTT has always carried the Lord's work across the community. Originally, Edwards attended a church with his family outside of the Bronx, but soon found the travel distance to be too long. So, Reverend Edwards opened his home to provide a space to for a small fellowship to worship. As the congregation grew, so too did the services provided. Since becoming Senior Pastor in 1994, Bishop Paul Peart helped the church establish a non-profit called the Good Neighbors Community Outreach Agency (est. 2002). The organization provides so many social services within the church and to the broader community. Services have included GED courses, computer access, preschool, after school, housing assistance, food assistance, clothing provision, and a host of other critical community services.

NTT played a key role in the community during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the community will be forever thankful for that. The church was deemed an essential organization and provided food pantry services to families. During the pandemic NTT went from assisting 200 families per week to over 2,000 families per week. Without their services many individuals would have been without food, NTT also partnered with United Way of NYC to provide other essential supplies to the community during the pandemic.

Currently NTT is responding to increased migration by hosting up to 120 asylum seekers per week. Giving them access to kitchen and dining facilities, as well as clothing and other necessities. Importantly NTT provides asylum seekers with local community connections.

I thank the New Testament Temple Church of God and reiterate their motto. G—R—O—W—T—H—S Through Joyful Service. G—Glorifying God, R—Religious Life, O—Outreach Evangelism, W—World Missions, T—Training of Disciples, H—Hospitality, S—Supportive Ministries. I look forward to hearing about NTT's continued community leadership.

HONORING CLINT HICKMAN

**HON. DEBBIE LESKO**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 10, 2024*

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Arizona's 8th Congressional District, it is my honor to recognize Maricopa County Supervisor for District 4, Clint Hickman.

Clint, a 4th-generation Arizonan, has served on the Board of Supervisors since March 21, 2013. He also is the Vice President of Sales and Marketing at Hickman's Family Farms, the largest egg producer in the southwest United States. Supervisor Hickman's experience running a business and his deep roots in the West Valley have guided his actions on the Board of Supervisors, leading the Counties' approach to fiscal responsibility and effective governance. He has been a valuable resource to his constituents and small businesses, and helped lead the county through the challenging COVID-19 pandemic.

I sincerely appreciate Clint's service to the 8th Congressional District, Maricopa County, and Arizona.

CONGRATULATING CONGRESSWOMAN CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS ON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AFTER 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 10, 2024*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate my friend and colleague, Chair of the Energy and Commerce Committee, CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS, on her retirement from the House of Representatives after a 20-year career representing the folks of Washington's 5th congressional district.

I've had the pleasure of working closely with CATHY on the Energy and Commerce Committee for a long time and together we've been able to accomplish some amazing things for the American people. I've admired her determination and strength to get our priorities across the finish line and she has never stopped working tirelessly on behalf of the people she was elected to serve. What I most admire about CATHY is her dedication to her family and the Down Syndrome community. Over the years I've had the privilege of becoming friends with her son Cole, who has inspired me and is one of the reasons I'm so passionate about supporting CATHY's work on behalf of the Down Syndrome community. She has been a tireless champion for the community and left a lasting legacy with her accomplishments on behalf of the people who are differently-abled, so they can live their lives to their full potential with no barriers or bias or obstacles standing in their way.

While her colleagues will miss her dearly, we wish CATHY and her family all the best as she begins this next chapter of her life.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating my friend Congresswoman CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS on her retirement from

the House of Representatives after 20 years of service to the people of Washington's 5th congressional district.

CELEBRATING THE HOMECOMING OF MR. TIGRAN GAMBARYAN

**HON. RICHARD McCORMICK**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 10, 2024*

Mr. McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Tigran Gambaryan and celebrate his return home to the United States of the America, and to his friends and family.

Mr. Gambaryan is an American citizen, a resident of Georgia, and a dedicated former public servant. While on a business trip to Nigeria in February, he was arrested and charged with false accusations of tax evasion and money laundering. Tigran was detained in the notorious Kuje Prison for months, repeatedly denied access to medical care as his health deteriorated, denied basic due process rights, and otherwise treated inhumanely. Despite these severe hardships, Mr. Gambaryan displayed remarkable resilience and an unwavering determination to return home.

Finally, on October 23, 2024, Nigeria dropped all fraudulent charges against Mr. Gambaryan, and he was able to return safely to the United States. I want to thank the hard work and dedication of the Department of State officials for the role they played to bring Mr. Gambaryan home. I also want to extend my deepest gratitude to my colleagues on the House Foreign Affairs Committee for their unwavering support and advocacy in urging the Nigerian government to secure his release. Most importantly, I want to commend Mr. Gambaryan for his courage and for never losing hope during this tumultuous situation.

It is an honor to represent brave individuals like Tigran Gambaryan in Congress, and I celebrate his return home to his wife Yuki and their two young children. God bless their family.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COPS/METRO ALLIANCE

**HON. GREG CASAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 10, 2024*

Mr. CASAR. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to call the attention of the House in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Communities Organized for Public Service/Metro Alliance. Since 1974, the COPS/Metro Alliance has invested billions of dollars into San Antonio families and have fought to make the City a place where everyone's voices are heard.

Led by a West-Side native organizer named Ernesto Cortés Jr., church leaders across the City began to organize and work with one another to secure more opportunities for working class residents. They used their newfound voices to fight for housing for seniors, environmental protections, and safer streets. Members of COPS/Metro Alliance even began running for office, and successfully secured funding for libraries, parks, and public services.

When factories and plants closed in San Antonio, they created job-training programs and worked with businesses to bring more high-paying jobs to the City. In the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, the COPS/Metro Alliance founded an unprecedented education and job placement program called "SA Ready to Work", offering over 28,000 San Antonio residents job placement, support, and retention services, and tuition for high school equivalency, college degrees, and industry-recognized certifications: the first of its kind in the Nation.

While great strides have been made in the last few decades to make San Antonio a more equitable city, there is still more work to be done. As the Representative for Texas's 35th Congressional District, I know that the COPS/Metro Alliance will continue its incredible legacy of uplifting the most disadvantaged among us, and work to create an even greater San Antonio.

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RECOGNIZING CHRISTIAN COUNTY,  
MISSOURI, TREASURER KAREN  
MATTHEWS ON HER RETIREMENT

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**HON. ERIC BURLISON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 10, 2024*

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Karen Matthews, the Christian County, Missouri, Treasurer, on her retirement. Christian County is home to nearly 90,000 citizens in the southwest part of Missouri, and Ms. Matthews has served as an elected official there for 22 years.

During her tenure, Ms. Matthews has achieved many accomplishments. She manages nearly \$50 million annually in county revenue and transitioned the county's operations from a third-class county to a first-class county due to the area's population growth. She initiated online banking for the county, direct deposit payroll for county employees and implemented premier financial software. She also saved the county thousands of dollars by implementing a more efficient time and attendance software. Finally, despite the millions of annual transactions, the county has successfully passed all of its dozens of audits with 100-percent compliance.

Ms. Matthews was honored by her peers by being elected as the treasurer for the Missouri County Treasurer's Association, a position she has held since 2012. She also is the treasurer for Mt. Zion Baptist Church, serves on the Missouri County Treasurer's Association legislative board and is a member of several area chambers of commerce. In addition to her public service, she has been the co-owner of several small businesses in the construction and home design fields.

I'd like to congratulate Ms. Matthews on her well-deserved retirement. She has faithfully executed her responsibilities as county treasurer and she will be missed. I wish her the very best in the next phase of her life.

RECOGNIZING MY SUBCOMMITTEE  
STAFF DIRECTOR, SOPHIE  
MIRVISS, FOR HER EXCELLENT  
WORK ON BEHALF OF MIN-  
NESOTA'S THIRD CONGRES-  
SIONAL DISTRICT

**HON. DEAN PHILLIPS**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 10, 2024*

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my Staff Director, Sophie Mirviss, for her work on behalf of every constituent in Minnesota's Third Congressional District. In October, Sophie departed my office for a new opportunity to serve as the Chief of Staff to the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for the Middle East and I could not be more proud or grateful for her service.

Sophie's journey as a public servant began just after she graduated from Johns Hopkins University in 2018 with a bachelor's degree in international studies and a minor in economics. Though she was initially hired as my scheduler, her expertise in foreign policy led her to become my National Security Legislative Assistant. Soon after, she joined the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Middle East, North Africa, and Global Counterterrorism in which she served under Reps. Ted Deutch (FL-22) and David Cicilline (RI-01). In this time, she worked her way up from Professional Staff Member to the Subcommittee Staff Director all the while pursuing a master's degree in defense and strategic studies at the U.S. Naval War College. As a Minnesota District Three native, Sophie understands how diplomacy and conflicts in far-away lands can impact our own communities, which has made her a wonderful advocate for our constituents in the foreign policy sphere.

Sophie is a powerhouse. She is not only a master knitter, but also an embodiment of what every congressional staffer strives to be. Confident in her abilities and fearless in her pursuit of peace through better policy, she brings a fire and intensity to her work that inspires everyone to be the best version of themselves. Sophie is just the type of person you would want with you in the case of a zombie apocalypse—she is smart, determined, loyal, and a joy to be around. For that, we've been extremely grateful to have her on our team.

The people of Minnesota's Third Congressional District were lucky to have her dedication and leadership, and she will be dearly missed. However, I'm extraordinarily happy that she will continue to do this work and serve the Nation. I wish Sophie all the best in her future endeavors and thank her for six years of faithful service to this Nation.

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CELEBRATING DETECTIVE EDWIN  
HUGH

**HON. NICK LaLOTA**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 10, 2024*

Mr. LaLOTA. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to celebrate Detective Edwin Hugh of the Suffolk County Police Department, who has been honored with the 7th Annual U.S. Attorney

General's Award for Distinguished Service in Community Policing. This prestigious recognition highlights Detective Hugh's outstanding contributions to community safety and his unwavering commitment to making Suffolk County a better place to live. His achievements exemplify the core values of law enforcement: integrity, dedication, and an unrelenting drive to protect and serve.

Detective Hugh has proven himself to be a leader in law enforcement, building trust with residents and strengthening public safety across Suffolk County. Whether pursuing justice for victims of crime or engaging directly with the community to foster partnerships, Detective Hugh consistently goes above and beyond the call of duty. Suffolk County is a safer place because of Detective Hugh's hard work and steadfast dedication to better our communities.

His efforts to combat crime, reduce harm, and improve the lives of residents reflect his dedication not only to the badge he wears but also to the people he serves. He understands that effective policing is not just about enforcing laws—it is about creating an environment where families feel secure, businesses can thrive, and communities can flourish.

On behalf of the people of Suffolk County and the 1st Congressional District of New York, I extend my sincere congratulations to Detective Edwin Hugh and my heartfelt gratitude for his exceptional service. His work serves as a model for law enforcement professionals across the country, and his contributions to Suffolk County are a source of pride for us all.

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RECOGNIZING MONIQUEC CONNER  
AS OHIO'S 13TH CONGRESSIONAL  
DISTRICT CHAMPION OF THE  
WEEK

**HON. EMILIA STRONG SYKES**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 10, 2024*

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Moniquec Conner as Ohio's 13th Congressional District Champion of the Week.

Moniquec is a trailblazing civil rights activist. She was recently recognized with a Humanitarian Stone Award from the National Action Network, an organization dedicated to advancing civil rights issues.

This award reflects the years of hard work, dedication, and perseverance that she has invested in our community and fighting for the advancement of civil rights. Her commitment has remained steadfast—the hallmark of concerned and responsible citizenship.

Moniquec is currently the chair of the Ohio Women in the NAACP, and in 1999, she revitalized the Stark County branch of the NAACP, serving as its president in 2000.

In addition to her work for the NAACP, she is also the interim president of the National Action Network chapter that serves Stark and Summit counties.

As she has throughout her remarkable career, Moniquec continues to focus on issues such as police accountability, voting rights, corporate responsibility, pension diversity, youth leadership, crisis intake, victim assistance, and bridging the digital divide.

I would like to thank Moniquec for her dedication to fighting for change, and the amazing