

progress. Esther Haywood's life exemplifies the power of purpose, passion, and perseverance.

As an educator, Esther broke barriers in the Shelby County Public School System, becoming one of the first African-American teachers to integrate its classrooms in 1967. Her pioneering efforts set the stage for generations of students and educators who followed. Her passion for educational equity continued in East St. Louis, Illinois, where she dedicated over 27 years to uplifting young minds as a math specialist, an organizer of student trips to Washington, D.C., and a mentor to countless youth.

Beyond education, Esther's service extended to leadership in civic and community organizations. As President of the St. Louis County Branch of the NAACP, she reactivated and expanded its influence, earning national acclaim. Her tenure as a Missouri State Representative demonstrated her commitment to justice and equity through legislation combating hate crimes, advocating for educational funding, and commemorating the contributions of civil rights icons. Esther's advocacy reached global audiences through her role as an Ambassador for Peace, reflecting her belief in the universal power of community and unity.

Esther Haywood's legacy is a testament to her boundless love for her family and community. Her devotion to her husband, Edward, their two daughters, and her grandchildren, exemplified the values of family, mentorship, and enduring strength. Her unparalleled contributions, whether in education, public service, or civil rights, will forever inspire those who follow in her footsteps. On behalf of Missouri's First Congressional District, I am honored to celebrate the life of a truly remarkable woman who embodied the spirit of service and uplifted everyone around her.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 16, 2024*

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I had an emergency medical procedure and was absent from votes on December 10, 2024. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll call No. 493; YEA on Roll call No. 494; YEA on Roll call No. 495; YEA on Roll call No. 496; YEA on Roll call No. 497; and YEA on Roll call No. 498.

#### CELEBRATING DR. CHARLES BREITHAUP

### HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 16, 2024*

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Dr. Charles Breithaupt for a lifetime of service to Texas education and student athletics. His active leadership in advancing interscholastic opportunities for young people and his steadfast commitment to student safety exemplify the very best of Texas.

Dr. Breithaupt has dedicated over 16 years as the Vice President of the University of

Texas at Austin and as the Executive Director of Texas' University Interscholastic League (UIL), supervising academic, athletic, and music competitions at thousands of schools across Texas. Throughout his tenure, he has made several pioneering achievements, including the implementation of a six-conference alignment, the establishment of the National High School Football Summit and the formation of the UIL Medical Advisory Committee. The Committee, under his leadership, has developed protocols mitigating health risks for students in high-impact sports.

Dr. Breithaupt's 50-year career exemplifies his passion for student success. Before working as Executive Director, Dr. Breithaupt served 17 years as a public-school teacher, coach, athletic director, and principal in Southeast Texas. He currently serves on the Texas Interscholastic League Foundation Board, which awards hundreds of scholarships annually to students attending Texas colleges and universities.

Dr. Breithaupt's numerous accolades include being named 1991 Texas State Coach of the Year, inductions into the Texas Basketball and Texas High School Football Halls of Fame, and two Lone Star Emmy Awards for his role as Fox Sports Southwest High School Spotlight Show Executive Producer.

I join Dr. Breithaupt's family, friends, and colleagues in celebrating his unwavering dedication and contributions. His efforts reflect his outstanding leadership and commitment to fostering a legacy of opportunity and achievement for Texas students.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. NICK LaLOTA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 16, 2024*

Mr. LaLOTA. Mr. Speaker, I regret to have missed this vote. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 499.

#### RECOGNIZING GRAYFORD F. PAYNE ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 16, 2024*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Grayford F. Payne on the occasion of his retirement from the U.S. Department of the Interior after 38 years of Federal service.

Grayford Payne has spent his career serving the American people in a number of roles within the federal government. Shortly after graduating from George Mason University in 1980 with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting, Mr. Payne served as an Auditor-in-Charge in the Naval Audit Service. In this role, he was responsible for audit and program reviews of Department of Defense National Security Science and Technology programs.

After eight years, Mr. Payne joined the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission where he served seven years as Director of Financial Services. During his time there, he was in

charge of the Commission's financial accounting system and its automated revenue billing and collection system.

In 2002, he joined the Department of the Interior as the Deputy Chief Financial Officer for Indian Affairs where he was responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Office of the Chief Financial Officer which included all financial, accounting, budget, procurement, and property functions. He was promoted just three years later to the role of Chief Financial Officer and then again to the Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary-Management in 2008.

There, he oversaw the planning and execution of the Indian Affairs \$4.5 billion annual budget, and his organizational responsibilities encompassed all administrative functions to include finance, budget, acquisition, property management, human resources, homeland security, planning, audit and evaluation, and more.

Mr. Payne moved to the Bureau of Reclamation within the U.S. Department of the Interior in 2010 and was named Reclamation's Deputy Commissioner for Policy, Administration and Budget, a role he held until his retirement. He oversaw agency resources, policy formulation, finance, law enforcement, dam safety, program and budget, and more. He also served as Reclamation's Chief Financial Officer.

Throughout his public service, Mr. Payne received numerous awards for his dedication and leadership. He was honored with the Secretary of the Interior's Gold Leadership Award in 2007, Bronze Leadership Award in 2006, and Silver Leadership Award in 2005.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Grayford F. Payne on his retirement. I am proud to represent Mr. Payne in Congress, and I thank him and his family, wife Sharon and children Robert, Katherine, Elizabeth, and Carolyn, for his honorable 38 years of service to our Nation.

#### RECOGNIZING MATTHEW GLEASON—EAGLE SCOUT

### HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 16, 2024*

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon, I have the privilege of recognizing and celebrating Matthew Gleason for achieving the great rank of Eagle Scout after 13 years of steadfast commitment to the Scout Oath and Law. Matthew's scouting career began as a Cub Scout in the fall of 2011, where he rapidly ascended to leadership roles, including Assistant Patrol Leader and Patrol Leader. Early on, he earned the prestigious Arrow of Light award, a testament to his dedication and hard work. Matthew's commitment to community service has been nothing short of exemplary. He logged nearly 200 hours helping neighbors, friends, and strangers alike, demonstrating an inspiring dedication to those around him. In addition to his service, he has shown impressive physical fitness by completing a challenging 33-mile hike through rigorous terrain, successfully reaching every mission-required destination. For his Eagle Scout project, he dedicated over 160 hours to the Aura Volunteer Fire Company, where he built a shed for their antique fire truck, preserving

and honoring the department's rich history. Beyond his scouting achievements, Matthew is a remarkable student. He has consistently made the honor roll ten times and has been recognized on the Superintendent's List five times. As a standout soccer player, he has lettered three times at Delsea Regional High School and has earned a spot on the All-County team for all three years. Looking ahead, Matthew has clear and ambitious goals: he plans to pursue a degree in Civil Engineering and eventually establish his own engineering firm. In a beautiful full circle moment, inspired by the tremendous support he received from firefighters during his project, Matthew is determined to serve his community as a volunteer firefighter. I am confident that Matthew will excel in any path he chooses, and I eagerly anticipate the significant impact he will make in our world. May God bless Matthew and God bless our United States of America.

COMMENDING JIMMY "MRBEAST"  
DONALDSON

HON. WILEY NICKEL

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2024

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Jimmy Donaldson, better known as MrBeast, a remarkable North Carolinian who has significantly impacted both the digital world and our local communities.

Raised in Greenville, MrBeast has become one of the most influential figures in digital media while embodying the values of entrepreneurship, innovation, and philanthropy that drive North Carolina forward.

MrBeast's ventures, including the Team Trees and Team Seas campaigns, have drawn attention to critical environmental causes. Team Trees raised over \$24 million to

plant more than 24 million trees worldwide, and Team Seas collected over \$30 million to remove 30 million pounds of trash from our oceans.

His commitment to giving back is also seen through the MrBeast Philanthropy channel, which has delivered over a million meals to those in need across eastern North Carolina. These efforts have not only rallied millions of supporters but have set a new standard for global activism.

With over 330 million YouTube subscribers and millions more on other platforms, MrBeast has turned his success into an opportunity to bring industry, jobs, and creativity to our state.

I honor Jimmy Donaldson today not only for his entrepreneurial success but for his philanthropic endeavors and his efforts to create a more connected and inspired community.

Please join me in recognizing Jimmy Donaldson for his contributions to North Carolina and beyond.

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 Committee—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 Tuesday, December 17, 2024 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

DECEMBER 18

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Caroline A. Crenshaw, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission, and Gordon I. Ito, of Hawaii, to be a Member of the Financial Stability Oversight Council.

SD-538

10 a.m.

Committee on the Budget

To hold hearings to examine the climate-driven insurance crisis.

SD-608

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of James Bernard Coughlan, of Illinois, Halie L. Craig, of Pennsylvania, and William Patrick J. Kimmitt, of Virginia, each to be a Member of the United States International Trade Commission.

SD-215

2 p.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Intellectual Property

To hold hearings to examine the RESTORE Patent Rights Act, focusing on restoring America's status as the global IP leader.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine trade wars and tariffs.

210-CHOB