

telling people that they weren't "saved." Instead, he wanted them to send a message that they were "safe with God."

But this new theology of inclusion and universalism marked his downfall within the evangelical mainstream. Congregants left the church. Preachers like T.D. Jakes spoke out against him; Jakes told *Charisma Magazine*, a popular Christian publication, that Pearson was wrong and had incorrectly interpreted the Bible. Many churches and leaders turned their backs on him. He lost his church, both its members and the building. He was banned from hosting the Azusa conference at the Oral Roberts institution and Roberts, his former mentor, remained silent. At the time, Pearson was also running for the Mayor of Tulsa, the city with the worst race riot in 1922 known as the Black Wall Street massacre. He lost.

"I told Carlton that if he told them he believed there was no such thing as hell and damnation, he will reduce this weapon of fear based religion, which is the foundation of religious institutions money," said Bishop Yvette Flunder, a friend of Pearson and a same gender loving preacher and singer who sung with The Hawkins Family. "His colleagues and the College of Bishops said he was a part of put him on blast and said he was a heretic and excommunicated him."

Charisma Magazine didn't let the issue rest. According to Reid, they wrote about Pearson for two years, demonizing his theology and teachings.

"He was deeply hurt and felt betrayed," his children Majeste and Julian Pearson wrote in an email to Rolling Stone. But Pearson stood by his beliefs. "He internalized a lot of it, resulting in him becoming physically sick. Around that time, he had his first bout with cancer. We were nine and 11 when we knew it was our last service."

While no longer popular in the mainstream church, Pearson's ministry continued through his church New Dimensions, where he preached against homophobia and embraced the LGBTQ community as members. He challenged scriptures used to demonize and oppress their existence. He also authored books like *The Gospel of Inclusion and God Is Not a Christian*, Nor a Jew, Muslim, Hindu. . . . God Dwells with Us, in Us, Around Us, as Us. He also was a minister to many in person.

"Bishop Pearson's ministry was a mirror for me," says Dillard. Back in 2005, Dillard had met Pearson leaving an event and felt inclined to give him a ride back to Atlanta.

"Something very powerful happened in our moment together. I was seeking God in a different way and I had come up with translations that I needed confirmation from. I felt low in spirit that I was not meeting the standards of the Word of God. Bishop said something to me that changed my life that day. He said 'As others have judged you, you have now taken on their judgment and you are judging yourself.' It spoke to my heart."

RECOGNIZING LEAP OF KINDNESS

HON. PATRICK RYAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the Ulster County Chamber of Commerce's Leap of Kindness Day, on February 29, 2024.

Leap of Kindness Day was started in 2016 by the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce and has taken place on February 29th each Leap Year since. The goal of the day

has always been to spend the extra day we are given every four years doing acts of kindness. This initiative has spread throughout the U.S., Canada, and Ireland to help those in need.

Leap of Kindness Day offers community members a chance to do something kind for someone else. It motivates organizations, businesses, and communities to donate clothing, food, and money to local not-for-profit organizations.

This day keeps communities rooted in their values and spreads love to neighbors. Growing up in Ulster County, I have seen how giving, dedicated, and kind my neighbors in the Hudson Valley are to those around them. I hope that everyone can take part in such a great initiative, participating alongside their communities to help others, not just today but every day as we all work to spread more kindness.

I want to recognize Ward Todd and Jess Davis, President and Vice President of the Ulster County Regional Chamber of Commerce, for their work to make Leap of Kindness Day such a meaningful day for our community.

COMMEMORATING THE 32ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE KHOJALY MASSACRE

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 32nd anniversary of the massacre of hundreds of people in the town of Khojaly, Azerbaijan.

On February 26, 1992, Armenian armed forces massacred over 600 unarmed people—including 106 women, 63 children, and 70 elderly people—and left less than 2,000 survivors. Hundreds more became disabled due to their injuries. More than 100 children lost a parent and 25 children lost both parents. At least 8 families were entirely killed. This was the largest killing of ethnic Azerbaijani civilians during the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict.

Although a cease-fire was negotiated in 1994, it is my hope that Armenia and Azerbaijan can come together and find peace. Long-term peace, security, and regional cooperation would greatly benefit the region and the world. As Azerbaijanis throughout the world commemorate the massacre and continue to grieve the loss of loved ones, I hope they can find peace amidst this tragedy.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GERALD "JAY" CIMINO

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the God-honoring life and generous impact of a Pikes Peak community stalwart—Gerald "Jay" Cimino, who died of natural causes on February 24, 2024, at the age of 87. Jay truly was a pillar of the Pike's Peak region, both as a well-known business innovator in the automobile industry as well as a be-

loved and visionary community builder. Jay's leadership of the Phil Long dealerships impacted the automobile industry across the state of Colorado and his love for others led to the creation of numerous veteran-focused groups such as Mt. Carmel Veterans Service Center.

Born in Trinidad, Colorado, Jay joined the Marine Corps out of high school. Following his service to our Nation, he moved back to Trinidad and attended Trinidad State Jr College and finished his bachelor's degree in business administration at the University of Denver in 1960. Wasting no time after graduation, Jay married his wife, Emily, and they took an active role in their community. Jay became General Manager of Phil Long Ford in 1975 and rose up the ranks to President and CEO of the Phil Long Family of Dealerships. Throughout his time in the automobile industry, Jay lived out the exemplary values of community and customer service as no one had done before him. This emphasis on community service was the basis for how Jay used his time to make and do better for everyone around him.

Jay invested in the economic growth of his hometown of Trinidad as well as his adopted home of Colorado Springs throughout his time at Phil Long Ford. Whether it was bringing automobile dealerships to new communities, creating academic scholarships, or helping build community-focused buildings, Jay took great pride in providing new opportunities and services for others.

Perhaps Jay's most impactful initiative was his creation of Mt. Carmel Health, Wellness and Community Center, Mt. Carmel Center of Excellence of Colorado, and Mt. Carmel Veterans Service Center which provides access to medical care and career change resources to our community and specifically our veterans. Jay truly modeled for all of us how to properly serve in the most caring and generous way for those who have served our nation.

Jay and his wife Emily of more than fifty-five years enjoyed the blessings of their four children and eight grandchildren. The legacy of the Cimino family continues to have an impact in the Pike Peak region following in the steps of Jay's vision and passion.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in Congress join me in honoring and celebrating the exemplary life of Jay Cimino whose fingerprints on the Pike Peak region will remain for the rest of time.

HONORING KENNY AND TRACEY BARR

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Mr. BANKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kenny and Tracey Barr for their fifteen years of service to Northeast Indiana's homeless veterans at Shepherd's House.

Shepherd's House is a not-for-profit facility in Fort Wayne, Indiana founded in 1998 to house homeless veterans who struggle with substance abuse and mental health issues. It has been described as a "lighthouse" and a "beacon of hope in a sea of isolation" by the veterans who have benefitted from their work.

The Barrs serve on staff currently as Directors of Veteran Outreach and Intake Specialists. For twelve of their fifteen years there,

they lived in a small apartment at the Shepherd's House with the veterans they served. This "ministry," as they have referred to it, has not made them wealthy, yet they have pledged to continue supporting our homeless veterans for years to come.

In Tracey Barr's own words, "The men and women have sacrificed so much for our country; we want to do whatever we can." In tending to those who fought for American freedom, they, too, are serving our country. It is this selflessness and devotion to duty that have made Kenny and Tracey pillars of their community and earned them the respect of all who know them.

REMEMBERING U.S. AIR FORCE
GENERAL EARL T. O'LOUGHLIN

HON. JUAN CISCOMANI

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember U.S. Air Force General Earl T. O'Loughlin, who passed away November 10, 2023, at the age of 93 years old. General O'Loughlin was a distinguished four-star general, who commenced his military journey during the Cold War in 1951.

An exceptional pilot, he navigated various aircraft, ranging from the B-29 to the KC-135. Over the course of his career, he accumulated approximately 6,000 flying hours, including 224 combat hours. Beyond his military achievements, Earl was a devoted husband to Thelma Bentley, a loving father to his daughter, Kris Rudin, brother, grandfather, great-grandfather, uncle, and a cherished friend.

The general emphasized the mantra "freedom isn't free" throughout his entire life. Among his numerous accolades are the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, and Air Force Commendation Medal adorned with four oakleaf clusters.

In the hearts of the Tucson community and the residents of District 6, General O'Loughlin remains a true hero.

We extend our gratitude for his dedicated service, and I am eternally thankful for his contributions.

RECOGNIZING MOLLY MILLER'S
ELECTION TO THE INTER-
NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY AND
ENGINEERING EDUCATORS ASSO-
CIATION

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Molly Miller on her election to the presidency of the International Technology and Engineering Educators Association.

Molly is an experienced technology educator at Penn Manor High School who is dedicated to the ideal of technological literacy among students. In an ever-changing world, teachers like Molly prepare students for careers and life beyond the walls of school that will be defined

by the rapidly developing technological revolution.

Molly's recent election to the presidency of the International Technology and Engineering Educators Association, where she will serve during the 2025–2026 term, comes after years of working with the Association's Pennsylvania board.

In her new role, Molly will oversee 1,500 members worldwide, ensuring that the next generation's innovative skillset will accommodate the needs of the 21st century.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend Molly for her dedication to her students and preparing them to enter the technological workforce. I wish her all the best in her new position, in addition to her work at Penn Manor High School.

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF THE
BRADY BILL AND BRADY BACK-
GROUND CHECKS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of 30 years of Brady Background Checks.

The landmark Brady Bill, championed by Jim and Sarah Brady, was enacted 30 years ago on February 28, 1994.

This historic legislation established our nation's background check system for guns sold at licensed firearms dealers.

The Brady Bill is named after Reagan White House Press Secretary Jim Brady.

After Jim Brady survived a bullet to the head during the 1981 assassination attempt of President Reagan, he and his wife, Sarah Brady, knew our country urgently needed common-sense solutions to prevent guns from falling into the hands of those who intend to cause harm.

Since its enactment, the Brady Bill has blocked almost 4.9 million prohibited gun transactions.

Thirty years later, the Brady Bill continues to save countless lives each day because background checks work.

As we celebrate enduring milestones that have transformed our country, I cannot help but remember the lives that have been selfishly lost to inaction and negligence.

So, in addition to celebrating the success of the Brady Bill, I would like to take a moment to urge the passage of an additional, necessary piece of gun violence prevention legislation—H.R. 52, The Kimberly Vaughan Firearm Safe Storage Act.

This bill was named after Kimberly Vaughan, a 14-year-old girl, who was among the ten lives we lost during the devastating Santa Fe High School shooting on May 18, 2018.

H.R. 52 will establish best practices for firearm storage to protect children from improperly stored or misused firearms and establish a grant program for local government and nonprofits to distribute safe storage devices.

In particular, the Attorney General is directed to establish voluntary best practices relating to safe firearm storage and publish them on a website and in print.

Secondly, it will require most weapons to have a clear written notice on the packaging

that says, "Safe Storage Saves Lives" and how to obtain the best practices established by the Attorney General.

Additionally, the bill will provide grants to states and local governments with a ten-year, \$10 million grant program to distribute safe storage devices.

As Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Government Surveillance, member of the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force, and co-founding member of the Children's Caucus, gun violence prevention and the protecting of children is deeply important to me.

And so, in highlighting the importance of passing bills, such as H.R. 52, we must also reflect and remember the lives of those lost to senseless gun violence.

Kimberly Vaughan loved cats, Harry Potter, and regularly took trips to the library.

She was drawing geometric shapes in her first period art class when she was tragically killed by a 17-year-old student who was on a shooting rampage.

That student ultimately massacred 8 students, 2 teachers, and wounded 13 others at Santa Fe High School in Texas.

It was the worst school shooting since 17 people were killed at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida just two months prior.

The shotgun and the .38 caliber pistol the shooter took to school belonged to his father and were available to him at his home.

Firearm injury is the leading cause of death for children and young adults in the United States.

Although American children are "twice as likely to be shot and killed as they are to die drowning," there are more safety regulations for pools than gun storage according to a report by Everytown for Gun Safety.

Every year, almost 20,000 children are shot and killed or wounded by a firearm, and 3 million are exposed to gun violence.

One in three U.S. households with children have firearms and firearms accounted for nearly 19 percent of childhood deaths in 2021, a 50 percent increase since 2019.

On average, 9 minors are killed by improperly stored or misused guns every day.

In my home state of Texas, more than 4,000 Texans are shot and killed each year.

Safe storage practices are critically important to keep firearms away from dangerous individuals and to keep children and families safe from senseless gun violence.

In the last decade, nearly 2 million firearms have been reported stolen.

Between 2010 and 2016, police recovered more than 23,000 stolen firearms that were used to commit kidnapping, armed robberies, sexual assaults, murders, and other violent crimes.

An estimated 4.6 million minors live in homes with at least one unlocked, loaded firearm; on average, 9 children are killed by improperly stored or misused guns every day.

The passage of the Brady Bill reminds us that bold action to prevent gun violence is possible.

Americans should be safe from gun violence in their homes and neighborhoods.

Americans should not be shot at Super Bowl parades.

Americans should not be shot in their schools.

Americans should not be shot at their places of worship.