

Adel has inspired many, including myself, with her advocacy for individuals with food allergies. I take comfort in knowing there are young citizens stepping up in their communities. Adel has a long list of accomplishments, and I look forward to watching her accomplish even more.

HONORING NICHOLAS NESSLAGE,  
EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 6, 2024*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nicholas Charles Nesslerage. Nicholas is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 495, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Nicholas has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Nicholas has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Nicholas has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Nicholas created a gravel water runoff area at his local park in Weatherby Lake to combat flooding.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Nicholas Charles Nesslerage for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ABILITIES OF NORTHWEST NEW JERSEY

**HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 6, 2024*

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Abilities of Northwest Jersey on their 50th Anniversary.

Over 50 years ago, a group of 14 grassroot advocates, including parents and members of the New Jersey community, came together to incorporate Abilities of Northwest Jersey as an organization fulfilling the vocational needs of adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities. Starting as a small workshop serving 13 individuals in Washington, NJ and partnering with local companies, this group of advocates had a mission to improve the employability and quality of life for people with disabilities, leading to their sense of self-worth and independence. Thanks to their efforts, Abilities was legally incorporated in 1974.

Since that time, Abilities have grown exponentially, serving individuals of all levels of abilities, through the expansion of various programs and services. Abilities now serves over 375 individuals and their families throughout the northwest region of the state. They are not only the disability employment experts for this region, but the professional staff also support those who are significantly challenged with medical or behavioral needs. Their services

are both exemplary and accredited by CARE International. They have also opened a variety of Social Enterprises that offer vocational training opportunities as well as a valued service to our community—PrintAbilities, SustainAbilities Electronics Recycling and PossAbilities Thrift Boutiques.

I am so proud of their accomplishments, the positive impact they have made on thousands of lives, and the exciting future that lies ahead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JASMINE CROCKETT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 6, 2024*

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, on March 5, 2024, I was absent during the time of votes. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 60, H.R. 3391, Gabriella Miller Kids First Research Act 2.0, and YEA on Roll Call No. 61, H.R. 3838, Preventing Maternal Deaths Reauthorization Act of 2023.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF  
CAPTAIN KEVIN MITCHELL

**HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 6, 2024*

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent Captain Kevin Mitchell of the Kingsport Fire Department in Kingsport, Tennessee, who is retiring after more than 26 years of dedicated service to our community.

Captain Mitchell began his Journey with the Kingsport Fire Department on September 2, 1997. Over the span of his illustrious career, he has not only served as a firefighter, but also advanced to become a paramedic serving in this capacity for over two decades. His dedication to continued education extended far beyond his immediate duties as a respected instructor in both fire service and medical fields, where he taught crucial lifesaving techniques such as CPR, Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS), Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS), and more.

Beginning his career as a firefighter, Captain Mitchell was soon promoted to the position of engineer, where he was responsible for driving and operating complex firefighting vehicles. He continued to rise through the ranks in recognition of his exceptional service, culminating in his promotion to Captain, a role he held until his retirement. His commitment to safety and excellence led him to join the Kingsport Fire Department Technical Rescue Team, where he specialized in Search & Rescue, Swift Water Rescue, Confined Space, High & Low Angle Rope Rescue, Trench Rescue, and Structural Collapse. His leadership and expertise in these areas earned him the role of Technical Rescue Team Leader.

In addition to his remarkable service at the Kingsport Fire Department, Captain Mitchell also dedicated eight years as a member of the State of Tennessee Emergency Service Board in Nashville, where he played a pivotal role in regulating EMS activities across the state.

His service to the community extended well beyond his professional obligations to include

his participation with the Big Brother/Big Sister Program of East Tennessee, H.O.P.E. (Help Our Potential Evolve), the Kingsport Life Saving Crew, and the Kingsport Firefighters Association Local 2270. His advocacy efforts also saw him participate in state legislation, lobbying for the rights and welfare of firefighters across Tennessee, advocating on critical issues like PTSD and cancer.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Captain Kevin Mitchell for his outstanding service to the Kingsport Fire Department and the citizens of Kingsport, Tennessee. His retirement marks the end of an era of exceptional service and leadership, and his legacy will continue to inspire current and future generations of public servants. We wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

HONORING EAGLE SCOUT JACKSON  
CHOI OF SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI

**HON. ERIC BURLISON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 6, 2024*

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jackson Choi of Springfield, Missouri, who recently achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. Eagle Scout is the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouts of America program. Since its inception in 1911, only 4 percent of scouts have earned this rank after a lengthy review process.

Jackson is a junior at Kickapoo High School in Springfield, and he has been in scouting since he joined as a Cub Scout in 2013. He is a member of Troop No. 289, where he has held several leadership positions. He also has attended three of the four high adventure camps earning him the Triple Crown Award from the Boy Scouts of America.

To earn the Eagle Scout designation, each individual must complete a project. Jackson's project was to update the bamboo fencing at the Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden at the Nathaniel Green/Close Memorial Park in Springfield. The garden was established by Springfield's Japanese sister city in 1985. The original bamboo fencing had fallen into disrepair, so Jackson studied the process and replaced 100-feet of fencing in the traditional Japanese way.

This accomplished young man deserves our applause for a job well done. I am proud to have him as a constituent.

CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF DR. GUBAD IBADOGLU

**HON. JAMIE RASKIN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 6, 2024*

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on the Government of Azerbaijan to immediately release Dr. Gubad Ibadoglu, a courageous pro-democracy activist, brilliant economist, and beloved husband and father, who has been unjustly detained for over seven months.

On July 23, 2023, Dr. Ibadoghlu and his wife, Irada Bayramova, were forced out of their car near Baku, Azerbaijan, seized by masked individuals, detained, and beaten. Dr. Ibadoghlu had returned to Azerbaijan earlier in July from a visiting fellowship at the London School of Economics to care for his ailing mother. Though Ms. Bayramova was released hours later, Dr. Ibadoghlu was not released. Ms. Bayramova and her family have been denied communication with her husband and she continues to experience Post Traumatic Stress Disorder from this harrowing ordeal. The “charges” that President Ilham Aliyev’s government has used to justify Dr. Ibadoghlu’s detention and imprisonment without trial—that he organized the production of counterfeit money to support a political group and, as an avowed secularist, disseminates material that supports religious extremism—are so dubious and baseless that they would qualify as satire in another context.

Dr. Ibadoghlu’s true “crime” against the Aliyev regime is his devotion to the causes of democracy, freedom and anti-corruption in Azerbaijan. He is detained today because he bravely chose to return to Azerbaijan to care for his mother despite fleeing the country in 2017 to teach abroad after his civic activism prompted threats of retaliation. As an internationally acclaimed economist, he has also served as a visiting professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Duke University, and Rutgers University. He was a 2015 Fulbright Scholar, a 2015 Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow at the National Endowment for Democracy, a 2018 Prague Civil Society Center Fellow, and a recipient of the 2018 Civil Society Scholar Award by the Open Society Fund.

During Dr. Ibadoghlu’s seven-month detention, he has been subjected to crowded and inhumane conditions common to Azerbaijan’s jails and denied sustained access to critical medication. Dr. Ibadoghlu’s family is increasingly concerned that he has been denied the medication and medical treatment that he desperately needs to treat his chronic health conditions. He has additionally been repeatedly denied access to his legal counsel and has not received a fair trial while in custody. I join my fellow Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle, the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Embassy in Baku, U.S. academic institutions and organizations, the European Parliament, and others in the international community to express my deep concerns about Dr. Ibadoghlu’s health and demand his immediate release.

I commend Emin Bayramli, one of Dr. Ibadoghlu’s sons who lives in my district, and his entire family for their steadfastness in seeking their father’s freedom from his unjust imprisonment. I also commend my colleague Congressman CHRIS SMITH of New Jersey for adopting Dr. Ibadoghlu through the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission’s Defending Freedoms Project.

Dr. Ibadoghlu is one of far too many Azerbaijanis that the Aliyev regime has unjustly detained to suppress freedom and civil rights. The Government of Azerbaijan’s poor record of respecting human rights, civil rights and civil liberties is a moral stain that affects free people everywhere. Whether they live in Washington, D.C. or Baku, Hong Kong or Beijing, Moscow or Kyiv, everyone should have the right to determine their own destiny. Dr.

Ibadoghlu’s unjust imprisonment must end immediately.

### MOURNING THE LOSS OF JOE MADISON, “THE BLACK EAGLE”

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 6, 2024*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, the other week, we lost a great American, renowned civil rights activist, and legendary radio host: Joe Madison. He passed away on January 31 at age 74. Some knew Joe as “the Judge” who would hear out his callers and guests even if they had different views but cut them off if they tried to spread misinformation. Others knew him as “the Black Eagle”—his longtime radio nickname. I had the pleasure of knowing him as a friend and as a crucial member of the local community. Regardless of how we knew Joe, however, we all recognized him for who he was: a man of supreme integrity, character, and intellect.

The airwaves defined Joe’s life, and Joe’s life defined the airwaves. From the start of his radio career as a DJ for the campus station at Washington University in St. Louis to its end on SiriusXM’s Urban View with a daily listenership in the tens of millions, Joe captivated his listeners. They knew they could trust Joe. He made a point never to violate that trust.

Joe understood both the nuances of radio as a medium and its power to change minds and change the country. Before his radio career took off, Joe was a leading figure in the Detroit chapter of the NAACP. He was only 24 when he became executive director of the Detroit branch of the organization—the youngest person in history to hold the position. Never losing sight of his roots in advocacy, Joe used his platform on the radio to highlight the most pressing challenges of the day, especially those facing the Black community. His perspective was invaluable in an era when conservative talk radio dominated the airwaves.

Throughout his life, Joe proved to be a powerful force for change both on and off the air, always asking his famous question, “What are you going to do about it?” He posed that question not only to others but to himself. In 2001, he was arrested for protesting human rights abuses in Sudan. Breaking records with a 52-hour long broadcast in 2015, Joe raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for the new Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. He went on a 73-day hunger strike in 2021 to protest Republicans’ legislative blockade of the Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.

I saw his passionate advocacy firsthand when we worked together on the historic Emmett Till Antilynching Act. Joe and I, along with many others, were frustrated that America still lacked a law that made lynching a federal crime more than a century after the idea was first proposed. During the 116th Congress, we worked with Rep. Bobby Rush and then-Representative Karen Bass to rectify that failure. After Republicans blocked the bill’s passage in 2020, we renewed our push in the 117th Congress. At long last, President Biden signed the Emmett Till Antilynching Act into law on March

29, 2022. It wouldn’t have been possible without Joe Madison. Joe’s work on the bill and on a variety of other causes over the years drew the admiration of millions. Listeners were excited to tune in every day and guests were eager to come on Joe’s show because they knew the commentary and conversation would be just as meaningful as his principled advocacy.

Whether discussing the opportunities that the new FBI consolidated headquarters will create for Greenbelt, Democrats’ efforts to address inflation, or my longstanding work to protect voting rights, I had the pleasure of coming on Joe’s show many times over the years to talk about critical issues in Maryland’s Fifth District and beyond. Many other leaders sought out these meaningful conversations with Joe, from former President Barack Obama to Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi. He inspired each of his guests—and each of his listeners—to reflect more deeply on their principles, their politics, and their perspectives.

Mr. Speaker, Joe’s voice was defined not by its earthy baritone but by its moral clarity and commitment to truth. Like so many others across the country and around the world, I will miss hearing it crackle through the radio in the morning. Joe may be gone, but the question he posed to his listeners remains: “What are you going to do about it?” Although he can no longer ask us that question, we can still answer.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my prayers to Joe’s incredible wife of 47 years, Sherry; his three daughters, Monesha Madison Lever, Shawna Collins and Michelle Borleske; his son, Jason Madison; his four half-siblings; his five grandchildren; and his great-granddaughter. I ask that all my colleagues join me in wishing them strength and in mourning Joe Madison—a titan of the airwaves. May God bless and keep Joe Madison.

### HONORING EAGLE SCOUT FRANKLIN LUCORE OF MONETT, MISSOURI

**HON. ERIC BURLISON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 6, 2024*

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Franklin Lucore of Monett, Missouri, who achieved the rank of Eagle Scout just prior to his 15th birthday. Eagle Scout is the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouts of America program, and since its inception in 1911, only 4 percent of scouts have earned this rank after a lengthy review process.

Franklin is a freshman in the International Baccalaureate Program at Central High School in Springfield and a member of BSA Troop 38 in Monett. He began his scouting career as a Cub Scout at the age of seven and since then has held numerous leadership positions with the troop, while also maintaining a 4.0 grade point average in school. He is a member of the Brotherhood of the Order of the Arrow, scouting’s National Honor Society, and a member of the Tribe of the Lone Bear, an honors program of the Ozark Trails Council’s Camp Arrowhead. He also has earned 36 merit badges, camped out more than 50 nights, hiked more than 100 miles and performed more than 36 hours of community service.