

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING REVEREND DR. CECIL  
L. "CHIP" MURRAY

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2024*

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Reverend Dr. Cecil Murray, who passed away at the age of 94 on April 5, 2024.

Reverend Murray was born on September 26, 1929, in Lakeland, Florida. He graduated from Florida A&M University and served in the U.S. Air Force for ten years after graduating before moving to Los Angeles to earn a Ph.D. in religion from Claremont College's School of Religion.

He then became a pastor at the First African Methodist Episcopal Church, where he served for 27 years. He built the church up from a small congregation of 250 members to over 18,000 members by the time he retired. He used his time at the church to inspire and give back to his community. During his tenure at the church, he established a non-profit investment arm that brought \$400 million in investments to Los Angeles's minority and low-income neighborhoods.

Reverend Murray was also known for being an influential voice of reason during the 1992 Rodney King riots in Los Angeles, when he called for calm during a time of chaos and helped to rebuild the city following the riots.

Upon Reverend Murray's retirement from the church at age 75, he joined the University of Southern California's faculty, and started the Passing the Mantle Program, which later became known as the Cecil Murray Center at USC's Center for Religion and Civic Culture. He became a beloved and respected mentor at the university for future pastors who wanted to create projects to serve their communities.

Murray was preceded in death by his wife Bernadine, and is survived by his son Drew, niece Tammie, nephews Anthony and Kevin, grandniece April, and grandnephews Isaiah and Corey.

Pastor Murray touched many lives throughout his time as a pastor and university mentor, including my family's. He was my mother's pastor and was always very supportive of my family and me. He was a giant, but he was also a kind and gentle man who demonstrated what a purposeful life meant by living his faith each and every day. His compassionate mentorship and guidance helped make this a better world. He will be deeply missed. May he Rest in Peace and Power.

RECOGNIZING LAKE COUNTY,  
FLORIDA LAW ENFORCEMENT  
OFFICERS

**HON. DANIEL WEBSTER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2024*

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Lake County Sheriff Peyton Grinnell, City of Clermont Police Chief Chuck Broadway, City of Leesburg Police Chief Rob Hicks, City of Fruitland Park Police Chief Gary Barrett Jr., City of Tavares Police Chief Sarah Coursey, City of Mascotte Police Chief Eric Pedersen, City of Groveland Police Chief Shawn Ramsey, Town of Astatula Police Chief Wally Hoagland, Town of Howey-in-the-Hills Police Chief Rick Thomas, and the law enforcement officers who keep Lake County safe every single day.

This week marks the annual observance of Police Week. Though we set aside one week a year to honor law enforcement, I encourage all Americans to join me not only this week, but every day, in recognizing the honor, courage, and commitment of America's law enforcement.

Our law enforcement officers are heroes in the community. They keep us safe and are willing to put their lives on the line every day in the course of their duties. It is impossible to fully express our gratitude or adequately recognize the professionalism of the men and women who voluntarily put their lives on the line for our safety and security. It is with deep respect that we pause today to honor the memory of the heroes who gave the last full measure of devotion and made the ultimate sacrifice.

I want to extend my sincere appreciation to all the law enforcement officers who bravely and selflessly serve throughout Lake County. It is an honor to recognize them and all men and women in law enforcement.

RECOGNIZING BARRY MEINDL

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2024*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions of one of my constituents, Barry Meindl, who serves as a volunteer Board Member for the local non-profit, Brooksville Main Street. These outstanding volunteers put in hundreds of hours while running their businesses and organizations. They have all come together for a common cause— to serve the community by bringing much-loved events to downtown Brooksville. Each of these board members have servant hearts, and their dedication and commitment to our community is impressive. Barry is always the first one to arrive and the last to leave. He has the most amazing heart

and compassion for this community. He astounds me with his boundless energy. Part of what makes our country so great is the willingness of ordinary Americans to go above and beyond to selflessly give back to others. Volunteerism is one of the cornerstones of our society and part of the fabric that unites us.

It is clear that Mr. Meindl and his fellow board members have made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for his service.

CONGRATULATING DAVID SCOTT  
SIMPSON

**HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2024*

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to congratulate David Scott Simpson on his "Book of Golden Deeds Award" presented by the Ocean City Exchange Club. This award goes to individuals who have selflessly and continuously served their community in South Jersey as Scott Simpson has done for many years. Scott is a native of Ocean City where he attended Ocean City High School and was a notably great baseball player and a member of the choir. After graduation, he attended the University of Delaware where he majored in business before returning to Ocean City to join his father at the family business, Play land Pier. A few years later he took over as the Chief of the company, all while continuing to serve his community by putting forth countless hours volunteering and donating to the local community organizations. Scott has volunteered for organizations such as the Ocean City Exchange club, of which he was a member for many years, the Ocean City Tourism Board, New Jersey Amusement Association, Ocean City Boardwalk Merchants Association, and served as a member of the Ocean City Chamber of Commerce. He has been married to the love of his life, Linda, for 32 years and they have two beautiful children together, Allison and David, who both graduated from Ocean City High School. I have no doubt that Scott will continue to showcase his outstanding leadership to his community by showing the great value of giving back to the community. Congratulations to Scott on receiving the highest honor, The Book of Golden Deeds. God Bless Scott and God Bless the United States of America.

OPPOSITION TO H.R. 7109, THE  
EQUAL REPRESENTATION ACT

**HON. VAL T. HOYLE**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2024*

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, last week I voted against H.R. 7109. This is yet

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

another performative messaging bill brought by House Republicans. It would add a citizenship question in the census and then require congressional districts to be drawn based on the number of self-identified citizens.

Previously in 2019, the U.S. Supreme Court rejected an attempt to add a citizenship question to the census. The fact is House Republicans want to use this bill to redraw congressional districts to their advantage.

It's shameful that House Republicans continue to waste time pushing this unconstitutional bill as part of their nonsense conspiracy theory that non-citizens are voting in federal elections.

Time and time again, post-election reviews have proven that our elections are secure and voter fraud is exceedingly rare. This bill is attempting to solve a problem that doesn't exist, all for political games.

Even more concerning is the fact that actions like this undermine the public's confidence in our elections. This is a grave and dangerous issue. Elections are the foundation of our democracy, and the U.S. House of Representatives should be protecting the voice and vote of every American.

#### HONORING BRENNTAG ON 150 YEARS AS A LEADER IN THE CHEMICALS INDUSTRY

**HON. CLAY HIGGINS**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2024*

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Brenntag for 150 years of service as a market leader in chemical and ingredients distribution.

Founded in 1874, Brenntag offers a comprehensive portfolio of chemicals and ingredients, market solutions, applications, and regulatory know-how for a wide range of industries. The company has a global footprint, operating in over 70 countries with more than 17,500 employees. This includes sites in the South Louisiana communities of Abbeville, Broussard, and Maurice.

Last year, I toured Brenntag's new cutting-edge facility in Maurice, Louisiana, and participated in a town hall meeting with employees. I enjoyed the opportunity to visit with the men and women of Brenntag and see firsthand the important work being carried out at facilities in South Louisiana.

The chemicals industry is essential to modern society. The industry's contributions can be found in every aspect of our lives—our clothing, our electronics, household goods, and many other daily products. While many Americans take this for granted, we should not forget the men and women who keep our supply chains running and make everyday life possible.

Brenntag's employees, like those I met in Maurice, are responsible for the company's status as an industry leader in quality, safety, and innovation. Their hard work is critical to America's continued success and economic prosperity.

On behalf of Louisiana's 3rd District, I commend Brenntag on its 150th anniversary. I offer my gratitude to Brenntag's employees, and I thank them for the vital part they play in America's economy.

#### RECOGNIZING ANGELINA THURBER

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2024*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Angelina Thurber for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Angelina has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Angelina, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Angelina's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Angelina Thurber on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

#### RECOGNIZING PUBLIX FOR THEIR REMARKABLE WORK WITH COMMUNITY FOOD BANKS

**HON. SCOTT FRANKLIN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2024*

Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of a stellar community partner and to extend my heartfelt appreciation to Lakeland, Florida's own Publix Supermarkets for their efforts to support Florida agriculture and address food insecurity across our communities.

Today Publix will surpass a remarkable milestone in their commitment to help meet their neighbors' needs, donating their 100 millionth pound of produce to community food banks across the Southeast. Since 2020, Publix has partnered with 35 different foodbanks and donated more than 23 million pounds of fresh produce to food banks serving the eight rural communities in my Congressional District.

In the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, when Florida farmers were facing serious losses and business was drying up due to shutdowns, Publix began buying surplus produce at fair market value. What began as a small idea has given way to an innovative program that makes an irreplaceable impact to our local communities.

Mr. Speaker, if you ask anyone from Florida—and increasingly all over the South—Publix is a fixture of our State's identity and culture. That's not just because shopping there is a pleasure—but because they have proven a consistent dedication to the communities they serve.

I once again commend Publix on this important milestone.

#### CONGRATULATING CARY FOWLER ON BEING NAMED A WORLD FOOD PRIZE LAUREATE

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2024*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my friend and former Memphis neighbor Cary Fowler, currently serving as the U.S. State Department's Special Envoy for Global Food Security, who was recently named a World Food Prize Laureate at a ceremony at the State Department. Dr. Fowler is perhaps best known as the "father" of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault, which United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon described as an "inspirational symbol of peace and food security for the entire humanity." The facility on a Norwegian archipelago between mainland Norway and the North Pole opened in 2008 and provides ultimate security for more than 1.2 million unique crop varieties, the biological foundation of agriculture and the raw material for all future plant breeding. Dr. Fowler is the former Executive Director of the Global Crop Diversity Trust, an international organization based in Rome cosponsored by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (UN FAO) and the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). Prior to leading the Crop Diversity Trust, Dr. Fowler was a Professor at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences, and a senior staff member of Bioversity International. Earlier, he oversaw the U.N.'s first global assessment of the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources. He was responsible for drafting and negotiating the first FAO Global Plan of Action on the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources, formally adopted by 150 countries in 1996. Following this, Dr. Fowler twice served as Special Assistant to the Secretary General of the World Food Summit and represented the CGIAR in the multi-year negotiations on the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources. In 2015, Dr. Fowler was appointed to the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development by President Obama. He is a former board member of the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center and former chair of the Livestock Conservancy. Dr. Fowler is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, has delivered a TED Talk, and is a frequent lecturer at universities around the world. He is the author of *Shattering: Food, Politics and the Loss of Genetic Diversity*, and *Unnatural Selection: Technology, Politics and Plant Evolution*, as well as *Seeds on Ice: Svalbard and the Global Seed Vault*. He is also the recipient of several awards including the Right Livelihood Award, the Vavilov Medal, the Heinz Award, Bette Midler's Wind Beneath My Wings Award, the William Brown Award of the Missouri Botanical Garden, the Proctor Medal of the Garden Clubs of America, the Thomas Jefferson Medal in Citizen Leadership, and three honorary doctorates. He is one of two foreign elected members of the Russian Academy of Agricultural Sciences. In his spare time, he and his wife, Amy, an heirloom plant conservationist, tend an apple orchard with more than 100 varieties in New York's Hudson River Valley. In their marriage, one plus one equals three. They are a simpatico couple,