

on behalf of New Jersey police will be honored and appreciated for years to come.

Patrick Colligan began his career in law enforcement in August 1992 at the age of 27 with the Franklin Township Police Department. He graduated from Class 9-92 of the Somerset County Police Academy, where he served as class president and was the recipient of an academy leadership award.

During his law enforcement career, Patrick received more than a dozen awards, citations, and commendations. He is a founding member of the County Firewatch Program, a preventive program for juvenile fire setters. He also is a charter member of the County Arson Task Force. During his storied thirty-year career in law enforcement, Patrick has worked on and has taken part in thousands of investigations as a Detective from thefts to homicides.

On July 1, 2014, Patrick became President of the 32,000-member-strong New Jersey State Policemen's Benevolent Association, one of the largest in the country. In his capacity as PBA President, Patrick has developed very strong relationships throughout New Jersey. Within just a few years in his role, Patrick made a significant mark on the organization. Since 2017, he has been consistently ranked in the Insider NJ "100 Policymaker Power List" and the NJ Globe "100 Power List."

Patrick was appointed by Governor Jon Corzine to the Task Force on Police Suicides, which developed a successful video and program to curtail what was an alarming trend of police suicides. Governor Corzine also appointed him to the New Jersey Public Employment Relations Commission (PERC) where he proudly served from 2009 to 2011.

I salute Mr. Colligan for his steadfast leadership of New Jersey State PBA and his lifelong commitment to public service. He has notched an amazing record of legislative accomplishments that help keep our communities safe and ensure law enforcement have the resources they need to protect and serve. Jersey is truly lucky to have Patrick as a champion of what I believe are the greatest law enforcement officers in the country. I wish him a restful retirement with his wife, Lynette, and his wonderful family.

#### HONORING FATHER NICHOLAS PETROPOULAKOS' RETIREMENT AFTER 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

#### HON. NICOLE MALLIOTAKIS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 3, 2024*

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I proudly join the Greek-Orthodox community of Staten Island to honor the service of Father Nicholas Petropoulakos and celebrate his retirement this month after 50 years of service to the Greek Orthodox Church of America. Therefore, I include in the RECORD the following Proclamation:

Whereas Father Nicholas Petropoulakos was born in Lowell, Massachusetts, and entered Hellenic College Holy Cross School of Theology in 1967 to fulfill his calling of becoming an Orthodox priest;

Whereas Father Nicholas was ordained to the Holy Diaconate in 1973 at Holy Cross Chapel on the campus of our seminary by His Eminence, Metropolitan Iakovos of Chicago,

and was named assistant to the Pastor of Annunciation Church in Woburn, Massachusetts;

Whereas on June 1, 1974, he was ordained to the Holy Priesthood at his home Parish, Holy Trinity in Lowell, Massachusetts, again by His Eminence, Metropolitan Iakovos. In 1987, Father Nick received a M.A. in Biblical Theology from the University of Notre Dame;

Whereas since accepting the pastorate of Holy Trinity—St. Nicholas in August of 1996, Father Nick has been heavily involved in education ministries, leading Bible study sessions, and teaching in youth ministries. He helped develop the parish website further to bring the community together and introduced the Junior Hellenic Dancers as well as a dance ministry for 3- to 6-year-olds;

Whereas Father Nicholas established the ELEOS Ministry for illness support, organized monthly healing services, and initiated THARROS for divorced Orthodox Christians. He oversaw the completion of the Community Center building program and led the renovation of the church, which was adorned with iconography for its consecration on June 3, 2013, conducted by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America.

On behalf of the Greek-Orthodox community of Staten Island, I want to thank Father Nicholas for his years of devotion, dedication, commitment, and spiritual guidance.

#### THANKING TOM COYNE FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

#### HON. BRYAN STEIL

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 3, 2024*

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, to celebrate his retirement, I rise to thank Mr. Tom Coyne for 33 years of outstanding service to the U.S. House of Representatives. Tom has served this great institution as a valuable employee of the House Chief Administrative Office, both in the Office of Logistics & Support, and the Office of Finance. His journey was not without its challenges, but his resilience and dedication have been unwavering, and we are all the better for it.

Before embarking on his 33-year journey with the U.S. House of Representatives, Tom Coyne dedicated four years of his life to the U.S. Army, serving with honor in the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment, "The Old Guard" Unit. His military service concluded in 1984, and he then pursued his passion for numbers, earning a degree in Accounting from George Mason University.

Tom began his career at the House in February 1991 as an equipment counselor in the Office Equipment Services, and due to his excellent service, he was promoted through many positions, leading up to his role as Chief Logistics Officer. Tom assisted with multiple computer system implementations, which include the fixed asset and inventory management system (FAIMS), work ticketing, point of sale, finance, and online flag ordering systems. Additionally, Tom was instrumental in initiating and managing the first Office Services department, allowing offices to request CAO support and services more quickly.

For 33 years, Tom's logistical, technical, analytical, communication, and financial skills have not just served the House, they have enriched it. His commitment and dedication have

provided a wealth of institutional knowledge, resulting in numerous successful initiatives and programs. He has been a pillar of support during all significant events over the past three decades, such as 9/11, Anthrax, the pandemic, 17 Congressional transitions, five Inaugurations, and nine House leadership changes. His professionalism, solid presence, and unwavering confidence has been a source of reassurance for his team, the Chief Administrative Office, and the U.S. House of Representatives.

While Tom's physical presence will be missed in the halls, his legacy will continue to guide us. The Logistics & Support employees will continue to rely on his example, asking themselves daily, "What would Tom do?" This commitment ensures that the House Members will continue to receive the best service, a testament to Tom's lasting impact.

In retirement, Tom looks forward to embarking on new adventures. He plans to spend more time exploring the world with his wife, Susan, and cherishing family moments with his sons, Tom and wife Amanda, Joe, James, and daughter Jennifer. The most recent addition to the family is his grandson, Henry, who will undoubtedly bring joy and laughter to their lives. Tom is excited about the opportunities and future endeavors that retirement will bring, and we wish him all the best in his new chapter.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend our warmest congratulations to Tom Coyne. We celebrate his many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the U.S. House of Representatives. We wish Tom many wonderful years in fulfilling his retirement dreams. May this new chapter be filled with joy, adventure, and fulfillment.

#### COMMEMORATING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TIANANMEN SQUARE MASSACRE

#### HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 3, 2024*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, on June 4, we commemorate the 35th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre, an event that serves as a stark reminder of the brutality of authoritarianism and its tragic human costs.

Thirty-five years ago in 1989, in the heart of Beijing, the world witnessed a military crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy protesters in Tiananmen Square. The Chinese government's violent suppression of student-led demonstrations shook the world's conscience, leaving a permanent scar on the collective memory of humanity and reminding us of the lengths to which authoritarian regimes will go to maintain their grip on power. There are credible estimates that more than 200,000 Chinese army soldiers killed nearly 1,000 people and wounded many thousands more. In the decades since the massacre, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has relentlessly pursued its agenda of control and repression, which has stifled dissent and trampled on the fundamental rights of its citizens. Freedom of speech, assembly, and religion remain severely curtailed, with censorship and surveillance pervasive throughout the country. Dissidents, human rights activists, and religious

minorities continue to face persecution, imprisonment, and even disappearance simply for expressing their beliefs or advocating for change.

The CCP continues its efforts to control the political discourse across the entire country and in every territory under its control. The crackdown in Hong Kong is one such example. The imposition of the draconian National Security Law in 2020 marked a turning point in the erosion of the city's autonomy and freedoms. Pro-democracy activists, journalists, and political figures have been arrested, charged, and silenced under the guise of national security, while Beijing tightens its grip on the former British colony. The passage of the Article 23 legislation, which further restricts basic freedoms of speech and assembly, will continue the erosion of the "one country, two systems" principle, undermining the aspirations of the people of Hong Kong and threatening the stability and prosperity of the entire region. For this reason, I, along with Congressman GUS BILIRAKIS, introduced a House Resolution that condemns the promulgation of the new Article 23 legislation and calls on other members of the international community to similarly condemn the process of undermining freedoms in Hong Kong.

While the total number of lives impacted by China's suppression of basic freedoms may never be fully known, I am honored to serve as an advocate for one person who has witnessed firsthand the brutality of the regime. Mr. Ding Jiaxi, a prominent human rights lawyer and democracy advocate was wrongfully imprisoned in 2019 for his peaceful activism and charged for the crime of "subversion of state power." Mr. Ding's courageous efforts to defend the lights of marginalized communities and promote greater government accountability made him a target of the regime's ruthless crackdown on dissent. His arbitrary detention, which included solitary confinement and physical abuse, serves as a stark reminder of the grave risks faced by those who dare to challenge the authoritarian rule of the CCP. Together with the Congressional Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission's Defending Freedoms Project, I am committed to advocating for his release and reunion with his family.

As we remember the victims of the Tiananmen Square massacre and honor their memory, we must reaffirm our commitment to the values of democracy, human rights, and freedom. We stand in solidarity with the people of China, Hong Kong, and all those around the world who continue to courageously resist oppression and dream of a better future. Let us continue to pursue a world where freedoms are protected, and people like Mr. Ding Jiaxi, are not wrongfully imprisoned and silenced, but instead honored for their work to improve society. The image of a single protestor who stood in the way of a column of tanks rolling through the streets of Beijing in June 1989 will continue to inspire those who will bravely face brute force for the sake of freedom. In confronting tyranny and injustice, we draw inspiration from the courage and resilience of those who have dared to challenge authoritarian rule. Their struggle is our struggle, and their cause is our cause.

## HONORING BERNICE TROTTER

### HON. KEVIN HERN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 3, 2024*

Mr. HERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bernice Trotter, a World War II veteran, and Tulsa native, who turned 100 years old yesterday.

Ms. Trotter was a member of the U.S. Marine Corps Women's Reserve from 1944 to 1946. She enlisted within a few weeks of her brother, Franklin, who was killed in action in Germany in 1945.

Ms. Trotter completed basic training at Camp Pendleton, California and she remained there to faithfully execute her duties driving a jeep for a Major she was assigned to. The only problem was that she didn't know how to drive. Ms. Trotter and the other 18,000 women that joined the Marine Corps Women's Reserve didn't make excuses, they learned, and did their jobs with honor.

Our Nation stands on the strong shoulders of courageous, determined, and resourceful women like Ms. Trotter who answered the call to serve our Nation in one of our greatest hours of need. Happy birthday to Miss Minnie. She has done Franklin, and this entire Nation proud.

## INTRODUCTION OF THE PROMOTING NATIONAL SERVICE AND REDUCING YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT ACT

### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 3, 2024*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Promoting National Service and Reducing Youth Unemployment Act to address one of the greatest workforce tragedies—our unemployed young people—while filling vacancies in the public sector. Youth unemployment is harming our young people and costing our country billions of dollars each year in lost productivity and tax revenue, among other costs. Although the total unemployment rate has reached a relative low (3.9 percent), the youth unemployment rate is 8.2 percent. These young people have not had a fair chance to use the high school or college education we strongly urged them to obtain.

By adding 500,000 new members to AmeriCorps, this bill would need no new administrative structure or bureaucracy, and would allow unemployed youth to earn a stipend, obtain work experience and develop a good work history to help secure future employment. This bill would significantly expand job opportunities for young people who have done what they could to get a job, but, despite their best efforts, remain unemployed. AmeriCorps participants receive a living allowance and are also eligible for an education award equal to the value of a Pell grant, school-loan forbearance, health care benefits and childcare assistance. By expanding AmeriCorps, we would reduce the number of unemployed young people, provide them work skills and experience and help understaffed state and local governments provide services.

This bill would also establish that the minimum wage for any AmeriCorps State and National member would be 200 percent of the federal poverty line, and would not allow for a decrease in that amount, as is allowed under current law. AmeriCorps members serve their country and gain skills, but we should increase the minimum wage for everybody, including national service members.

For some time, it has been clear that policies to address the most stubborn forms of unemployment need to be targeted in order to be effective. Without significant targeting, many young people will continue to face their first years as adults without jobs and with no way to acquire necessary work experience. They deserve a better start in life as adults.

I ask my colleagues to support this urgently needed, targeted assistance for our unemployed youth.

## HONORING DR. BOBBY KALOTEE

### HON. ANTHONY D'ESPOSITO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 3, 2024*

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Bobby Kalotee, a distinguished civic leader on Long Island who has lived the American dream. He came here from India as an immigrant with a desire to serve the communities he now called home. For over four decades now, he either led or participated in a multitude of community projects, organizations and charitable work for the people of not just Nassau County but across New York State and beyond. Though he chaired several political parties, he never viewed politics as a sport for gain but as a vehicle for advocacy and civic duty. He sought to address the issues that afflicted countless lives regardless of their zip code or social status.

As a Major in the New York State Guard, Dr. Kalotee serves in the Division of Military and Naval Affairs and as a General in the United States Disaster Relief Command, which oversees operations that are vital to all Long Islanders. Here at home, Dr. Kalotee served as the Director and Vice Chair of the Counsel for Stony Brook University's Brookhaven National Labs and continues to serve on the board of the New York Institute of Technology. As the Chairman of the Nassau County Human Rights Commission, Dr. Kalotee has even personally witnessed many elections both here and abroad and has been invited to attend the inaugurations of several esteemed heads of state. As mentioned, Dr. Kalotee has also been involved in work overseas, having been appointed as a special liaison to South Asia and an advisor to the United Nations' Grenada Mission and providing medical services to over 7,000 people in cities across Central America. His humanitarian efforts and work with the UN even earned him the privilege to be a guest speaker before the General Assembly for multiple sessions.

Dr. Kalotee is an American with a passion to serve and look after his communities, a duty of which I understand and appreciate the importance. In the words of his organization's motto, "there is no better gift one can give to humanity than good health."

On behalf of myself and all Long Islanders, we give Bobby, my brother, our upmost gratitude for his service.