

continued to seek opportunities to provide leadership in public service. Upon his official retirement as a teacher, John was elected as the School Board President for the Pomona Unified School District and served for over a decade.

Sadly, our community is now in mourning. On Tuesday, May 7, 2024, John peacefully passed away, surrounded by love and care from his family. He is survived by his wife, 3 children, 10 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren.

For his outstanding accomplishments, it is my honor to recognize John Joseph Avila. His years of service and commitment to the people of Pomona are worthy of the highest commendation.

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RECOGNIZING FORMER IMPD  
POLICE CHIEF, JAMES TOLER

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**HON. ANDRÉ CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 11, 2024*

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of former Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) Chief James Toler who lived a life of selfless and profound service to the Indianapolis community. Chief Toler passed away on June 4, 2024, at the age of 82.

James Toler has been described as a trailblazer. He came from humble beginnings and worked long nights climbing up the ranks from sergeant to major before he was appointed Indianapolis' first Black police chief. Chief Toler understood the magnitude of his service, sharing he "felt a tremendous responsibility to do very well in the position so that if the opportunity comes for the selection of another minority, they would never be able to look at me and look at me as a failure."

During his tenure, Chief Toler implemented community policing within IMPD, improving connections between police and Indianapolis residents. This model was relatively unknown at the time but is now utilized nationwide. He also played a key role in helping IMPD's administration become more efficient. Chief Toler retired from IMPD in 2001 following 38 years of service.

Chief Toler will always be remembered by not only his biological family and loving friends, but also through his special relationship with the entire Indianapolis community. We treasure the legacy he leaves. James' blood, sweat, and tears paved the way for so many, and he will continue to serve as an inspiration to all who want to make a difference in the world.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me honoring a true Hoosier public servant. Our thoughts are with his family during this time.

RECOGNIZING THE MONMOUTH  
COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION  
ADVISORY COUNCIL

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 11, 2024*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Robert Broege, Hope Jones, and Ross Millhiser as they are honored by the Monmouth County Historical Association at its 49th Annual Garden Party. Mr. Broege, Ms. Jones, and Mr. Millhiser are the members of the Association's recently formed Advisory Council and it is a fitting tribute for the Association to recognize their dedication on its 125th anniversary.

Robert Broege is a long-time supporter of the Monmouth County Historical Association. He has served on the Association's Board of Trustees since 1992 and has lent his time and expertise to various committees, including the ethics committee. He and his wife Marilyn are also repeat hosts of the Garden Party. In addition to his work with the Monmouth County Historical Association, Mr. Broege is a trustee of Elberon Memorial Church, Chairman of the Oceanport Environmental Commission, and previously served on several hospital foundation boards. Mr. Broege remains an active and charitable member of the community and his involvement reflects his passion to help others and improve our communities.

The granddaughter of Mrs. J. Amory Haskell who restored and later donated Marlipit Hall to the Monmouth County Historical Association, Hope Jones is dedicated to preserving the history of Monmouth County. Continuing her family's charitable legacy, Hope Jones joined the Monmouth County Historical Association's Board of Trustees in 1976. She was an exemplary leader of the board for many years, serving as secretary and president. Despite no longer residing in New Jersey full-time, Ms. Jones maintains her Monmouth County roots and has continued to support the mission of the Association. Ms. Jones was recognized for her long-time commitment to the Monmouth County Historical Association as the honoree of the 2008 Garden Party.

Returning to his childhood community of Rumson in 2002, Ross Millhiser and his wife Diane reside in the same home that has been in his family for 65 years. In 2008, he joined the Monmouth County Historical Association Board of Trustees in 2008, combining his love of history with service to the community. Over the years, he served as trustee, first vice president, and vice president emeritus, and as a member of several committees. His active involvement and knowledge has been valuable to the Monmouth County Historical Association and the greater community.

For 125 years, the Monmouth County Historical Association has provided Monmouth County residents and visitors with a vast collection of our local history and heritage. Through its programs, exhibits, and resources, the Association continues to educate and enlighten our communities with both a historical and humanities perspective. Its efforts to preserve and promote the region's rich history help to ensure that this important knowledge is available for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, on the 125th anniversary of the Monmouth County Historical Association, please join me in thanking Robert Broege, Hope Jones, and Ross Millhiser for their leadership and contributions to our community.

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HONORING THE LIFE OF NA-  
TIONAL PARK SERVICE RANGER  
TOM LORIG

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**HON. AUSTIN SCOTT**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 11, 2024*

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and career of National Park Service Ranger Tom Lorig, who tragically passed away at the age of 78 on Friday, June 7, 2024, while on the Job in Bryce Canyon, Utah.

Ranger Lorig worked and volunteered as a National Park Service Ranger for fifty-six years. He became involved with the park service in 1968, working at the Carlsbad Caverns National Park in New Mexico for five years. During his career, he served at fourteen national park sites, including Badlands, Bryce Canyon, Yosemite, Zion, and the Dinosaur National Monument, for which he had a particular affection. He also served for over ten years as a permanent, seasonal, and volunteer park ranger across many of these park sites.

Beyond his service to our national parks, Ranger Lorig was also a registered nurse for forty years in the Seattle, Washington area, demonstrating his commitment to helping people and supporting those who needed it.

I want to extend my deepest sympathies to Ranger Lorig's family, friends, and the Bryce Canyon National Park community. His loss will be felt by those who knew him and the many he assisted during his impactful career as both a nurse and a Park Ranger.

It is public servants like Ranger Lorig who truly make our country great.

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HONORING LOIS MADOLYN CROSS  
BROOKS

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**HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 11, 2024*

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I seek to honor Lois Madolyn Cross Brooks, who was born on June 13, 1924, in Durham, North Carolina. At the age of one, her family relocated to Alexandria, Virginia. She attended Parker-Gray School in Alexandria, which in 1932 became the first high school for African Americans in Alexandria, who previously had to travel to Washington, D.C. if they wished to continue their education beyond 8th grade. Mrs. Brooks graduated from Parker-Gray School in 1942 along with 26 other students.

She worked for the Federal government at the Marine Corps headquarters. She was one of nine children and has one child and two grandchildren. Mrs. Brooks still lives in Alexandria and stays active by reading, following politics, and interacting with young people. I wish her a joyous and healthy centennial birthday.

HONORING JOHN FISHER FOR HIS  
INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO  
THE COMMUNITY

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 11, 2024*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with my heartfelt congratulations and gratitude that I rise today to extend my thanks and best wishes to John Fisher, the former Executive Director of New Haven's Shubert Theater. For more than two decades, John led this theatrical landmark with a unique dedication and commitment. Tonight, friends, colleagues and community leaders have gathered to thank him for that leadership and celebrate his contributions to the New Haven arts community.

John's professional career has been dedicated to the arts. Prior to coming to New Haven, he spent six years as the general manager of the Big Apple Circus before spending two years in Atlanta as Director of Satellite Olympic Villages for the 1996 Centennial Olympic Games. He arrived in New Haven in 1997 where he began his career with the Shubert as its general manager. When the Shubert's ownership was transferred from the City of New Haven to the Connecticut Association for the Performing Arts (CAPA), a decade-long process through which John guided and nurtured the historic theater, he became the Executive Director. He would hold this position until his retirement at the end of 2020.

Prior to John's arrival, New Haven's Shubert Theater had been experiencing extreme financial pressures and was in need of serious capital improvements. While it was beloved by the community, the City, which owned it at the time, was not in the position to support the kind of financial investment that was needed. It was John who saw the benefits of transitioning ownership to CAPA and it was his leadership that saw it through.

Over the course of his twenty-four years with the Shubert, John built a strong foundation for the theater, not only by bringing season after season of engaging and exciting performances, but also by building strong partnerships that not only strengthened the Shubert but New Haven's vibrant arts community as a whole. He expanded the theater's community footprint through collaborations with the Board of Education, Cooperative Arts & Humanities High School, the New Haven Free Public Library, as well as arts institutions like the International Festival of Arts & Ideas, the New Haven Ballet, the New Haven Symphony Orchestra, and Yale Opera.

John's contributions to New Haven's arts community extend far beyond his professional career at the Shubert. He is a former commissioner and Chairman of the Coliseum Authority for New Haven and has been a board member of the New Haven Ballet, the Workforce Alliance, the Connecticut Arts Alliance, and the Arts Council of New Haven. Through all of these efforts, his good work has gone a long way in broadening community access to the arts, ensuring that its magic, artistry, and creativity is shared with new generations.

For his innumerable and invaluable contributions, I am proud to stand today and extend my deepest thanks and sincere appreciation to John Fisher. I wish John and his wife, Liz, as well as their family all the best as they enjoy their retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RASHIDA TLAIB**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 11, 2024*

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I was not present during votes on Tuesday, June 4th or Wednesday, June 5th.

Had I been present, I would have voted: NAY on Roll Call No. 242, and NAY on Roll Call No. 247.

**COURAGEOUS BENJAMIN  
NETANYAHU**

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 11, 2024*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, congratulations to courageous Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on the successful rescue of four hostages from Iranian puppets.

Despite biased, fake news, Netanyahu knows the Hamas Covenant of August 18, 1988, Article 7 which states, "The Day of Judgement will not come about until Moslems fight the Jews (killing the Jews), when the Jew will hide behind stones and trees. The stones and trees will say O Moslems, O Abdulla, there is a Jew behind me, come and kill him."

A Netanyahu victory is essential, as we are in a war we did not choose of Dictators With Rule of Gun invading Democracies With Rule of Law, exemplified by war criminal Putin invading Ukraine on February 24, 2022 with mass murder.

I was grateful to be invited by Speaker MIKE JOHNSON to attend the D-Day 80th Anniversary in Normandy, France, to be reminded of President Reagan's historic speech of 1984, "... isolationism never was and never will be an acceptable response to tyrannical governments with an expansionist intent."

Every day we are reminded of corrupt, unethical Judge Merchan and his unintended achievement of re-electing Donald Trump with the judge earning my invitation for the Trump Inauguration. The unfairness of a Democrat prosecutor, Soros financed; a Democrat judge Biden contributor; and a Democrat jury in an old Democrat jurisdiction which should require a change of venue.

In conclusion, God Bless Our Troops who successfully protected America for 20 years as the Global War on Terrorism moves from the Afghanistan safe haven to America. We do not need new border laws; we need to enforce existing laws. Biden shamefully opens borders for dictators, as more 9/11 attacks across America are imminent, as repeatedly warned by the FBI.

**NEWSLETTER FROM  
CONGRESSMAN CHUCK EDWARDS**

**HON. CHUCK EDWARDS**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 11, 2024*

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following newsletter to give an

update to my constituents to bring awareness to issues surrounding the federal spending process, standing with Israel, and supporting our men and women in blue.

DEAR FRIEND: Washington is broken. If we're going to change what Washington does, we must fix how it works. That's my goal as your representative.

As a member of the House Appropriations and Budget committees, I am now in the thick of the federal spending process, which provides opportunities to reinforce our support for veterans and those currently serving to defend our freedoms.

In setting the spending allocations for each of the 12 subcommittees for the coming fiscal year, the House Appropriations Committee adhered to the caps established under the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023. These caps are projected by the Congressional Budget Office to reduce discretionary spending by \$246 billion for fiscal years 2024 and 2025.

This is proof that we can exercise fiscal restraint while still advancing critical priorities, as funding for our national security will increase by nearly \$9 billion, and veterans' medical care and benefits will be fully funded.

Non-defense programs will be reduced by six percent, with cuts distributed in a measured and thoughtful way. Years of overspending have led us to this point, but I am helping to flip the script on how the federal government spends hard-earned tax dollars.

Under the previous House majority, you would most often see the annual appropriations process end with an omnibus spending package, rushed through usually right before Christmas and with little time for Members to know what they were voting on.

Here again, House conservatives are flipping the script. We avoided an omnibus last year, and I am optimistic that the Appropriations Committee, which is returning the House to "regular order" by marking up each subcommittee's bill and passing them individually on the House floor, will be able to do the same for FY25.

**PRIORITIZING AMERICA'S STRENGTH AND  
SAFETY**

The House took up the first in a series of appropriations bills, the FY25 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

The bill reflects and is a product of the committee's commitment to our service members both during active duty and as they become veterans, and addresses critical national security challenges in the Pacific.

This legislation would honor our commitment to veterans, bolster our national security, focus the executive branch on its core responsibilities, and support American values and principles. Some of the specifics of the bill, including conservative wins, are:

Fully funding veterans' health care programs, veterans' benefits, and VA programs.

Blocking the administration from using funds to promote or advance critical race theory.

Prohibiting the implementation, administration or enforcement of the administration's executive orders on diversity, equity and inclusion, or DEI, initiatives.

Banning taxpayer dollars from being used for abortion.

To no one's surprise, the president already issued a Statement of Administration Policy on the funding bill, threatening to veto this legislation that would fully fund the health care and benefits of our veterans that they have earned.

This sends a terrible message by prioritizing radical and woke policies over the safety and well-being of the men and