

RECOGNIZING THE CAPE HENRY  
COLLEGIATE GIRLS LACROSSE  
TEAM

**HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2024*

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Cape Henry Collegiate Girls Lacrosse team on winning the 2024 Tidewater Conference of Independent Schools (TCIS) Championship.

As their Congresswoman, I am proud of these young athletes and their recent achievement.

Located in Virginia Beach, Virginia, the Cape Henry Collegiate Dolphins were able to bring the TCIS Championship back home to their fellow students, faculty, families, and friends through their hard work and dedication to their team. The Cape Henry Collegiate Girls Lacrosse Team defeated their opponents in overtime, finishing the game eight to seven. Coach Ashmore Standing received the TCIS co-coach of the year award, and her student, Madeleine Keogh, won TCIS's Player of the Year.

As a former athlete myself, I want each of these young women to know Virginia's 2nd District is extremely proud of their accomplishment and applauds them on their well-earned victory. Again, congratulations to the Cape Henry Collegiate Girls Lacrosse team on the 2024 TCIS Championship.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF JOHN C. ELLIS LODGE NO. 17 BASED IN DECATUR, ILLINOIS

**HON. NIKKI BUDZINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2024*

Ms. BUDZINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 150th anniversary of John C. Ellis Lodge No. 17 based in Decatur, Illinois. John C. Ellis lodge, a part of Prince Hall Freemasonry, is the oldest active fraternal organization in the State of Illinois. Since Decatur Lodge No. 17 was founded on July 18, 1874 they have worked to promote service to their community and mankind.

In 1966, Decatur Lodge No. 17 voted to change its name to John C. Ellis Lodge No. 17 after Dr. John C. Ellis, who was a member and one of the longest serving Grand Masters in Illinois history. Dr. Ellis was also the first African American medical doctor in Decatur, Illinois and dedicated his life to serving his community in Central Illinois.

A century and a half after its founding, John C. Ellis Lodge No. 17 is still dedicated to perpetual improvement in their community. They work together to reach the principles of brotherly love, fellowship, and service. I want to thank the generations of Decatur-area residents who have made up John C. Ellis Lodge No. 17 for their dedication to serving Central Illinois and their commitment to bettering their community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2024*

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for the following roll call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 336 and YEA on Roll Call No. 337.

COMMEMORATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF VISIT FAIRFAX

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2024*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of Visit Fairfax.

Visit Fairfax, established in July 2004, is a 501(c)(6) non-profit organization that works in conjunction with their stakeholders to distinguish Fairfax County as a premier tourist destination. Their mission is to promote, market, and sell Fairfax County as a year-round destination for visitors from all market segments including all business travel, leisure, and sports travel.

Tourism is a proven economic development strategy for Fairfax County, bringing in over \$3.3 billion annually. Within the entire Commonwealth of Virginia, Fairfax County is the third largest contributor of expenditures to Virginia's tourism industry. In 2022, visitors to Fairfax County directly supported approximately 22,000 local jobs. While the majority of these jobs were in the leisure and hospitality industries—accommodations, food service, arts, entertainment and recreation—tourism impacts a multitude of businesses and crosses numerous industries.

Those figures are largely due to the work of the talented tourism professionals at Visit Fairfax. Based on the principles of partnership, cooperation and mutually beneficial alliances, their program of work is managed by objectives, and accountable for tangible, measurable results ensuring a significant Return on Investment.

Staff of Visit Fairfax work tirelessly to achieve the mission of the organization throughout the county. This includes sales calls, trade and travel shows, and one-on-one appointments with hospitality partners to increase leisure travel to Fairfax County. They also have to work closely and proactively with meeting planners and event coordinators to bring groups and organizations to Fairfax County, and they actively pursue adult and youth sporting events and activities to maximize the usage of local sports facilities.

Behind the scenes, staff from Visit Fairfax compile events and attractions, update information on restaurants and hotels, and much more to create a comprehensive database for those visiting Fairfax County, as well as residents looking to make the most of their community. With countless activities going on year-round, it is no small undertaking to have everything accessible and organized. Visit Fairfax's website also includes tools that allow people to plan a trip to Fairfax County and has

potential itineraries for everyone. These resources make it easier for people to access all that Fairfax County has to offer.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Visit Fairfax on their 20th Anniversary. This milestone would not have been achieved without the dedication of the staff and Board of Directors of the organization. Fairfax County is an incredible place to live, work, and play, and thanks to Visit Fairfax, our residents and visitors have the chance to see that for themselves. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding this organization and wishing them the best for their next 20 years.

RECOGNIZING THE GRASSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL TEAM

**HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2024*

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Grassfield High School Softball team on winning the Class 6 Region A Championship.

As their Congresswoman, I am proud of these young athletes and their recent achievement.

Located in Chesapeake, Virginia, the Grassfield High School Grizzlies were able to bring the Class 6 Region A Championship back home to their fellow students, faculty, families, and friends through their hard work and dedication to their team. They are a group of strong women who had a near-perfect record going into their state championship game. They have not won the regional championship game since 2018 and assistant coach, Larry Murphy, led these women to a four to one victory.

As a former athlete myself, I want each of these young women to know Virginia's 2nd District is extremely proud of their accomplishment and applauds them on their well-earned victory. Again, congratulations to the Grassfield High School Softball team on winning the Class 6 Region A Championship.

RECOGNIZING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE VICTORY CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL OF WOODBRIDGE, VIRGINIA

**HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2024*

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and celebrate the 19th anniversary of the opening of the Prince William County, Virginia branch of Victory Christian Ministries International. This milestone represents nearly two decades of dedicated service, spiritual guidance, and community support to the Prince William community.

With humble beginnings in Clinton, Maryland, Pastors Tony and Cynthia Brazelton have dedicated themselves to growing and nurturing the Victory Christian Ministries International community. VCM's story began in the Brazeltons' Maryland basement where they hosted simple, yet powerful prayer meetings that rapidly grew. Soon, people from different

parts of the Washington, D.C. metro area began to join. To accommodate their growth, they incorporated Victory Christian Ministries International of Woodbridge, Virginia in July 2005. Over the years, VCM has grown from a single church to an international ministry with several locations across our nation and in Europe. This growth is a testament to the positive influence and transformative power of their message.

Since its establishment, the Woodbridge branch of VCM has been a beacon of hope and a source of strength for many in the community. Through their dynamic Sunday services and engaging weekly activities, they have offered spiritual nourishment and guidance to countless individuals and families. VCM's commitment to youth development is particularly noteworthy. Their Christa Teens program has provided a safe and nurturing environment for our young people from all walks of life to explore their faith, develop leadership skills, and give back to their community.

As we commemorate this 19th anniversary, we celebrate not just the longevity of an institution, but the countless lives that have been touched, the families that have been strengthened, and the communities that have been enriched by their work.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Victory Christian Ministries International's Woodbridge branch on their 19th anniversary. I applaud Pastors Tony and Cynthia Brazelton as well as the entire VCM community for their contributions to Prince William County—guided by the values of love, compassion, and community service.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF JAMES HATCH

#### HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2024*

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of James "Jim" Hatch.

Jim was dedicated to serving our community and was always kind and helpful. Included in his long career, he assisted with former Congressman George Miller's campaign and the Youth Fund. Additionally, Jim was incredibly hardworking and was a skilled handyman. He also enjoyed traveling the world and was a proud dog parent to Minnie the Pooch. Jim will be remembered for his optimism, positivity, and the impact he's had on countless lives.

Jim is survived by Carol, his loving wife of 60 years, and his children Suzanne (Rob) and Jill (Steve), grandchildren Sophie (Joshua), Sarah (Rick), Matthew, Lauren, Kristi (Ben) and Sarah (Jason Henry), great grandchildren Olivia and Cameron, his sister Sandra, brother Robert, and bonus daughter and grandsons Tomoko, Hiro, and Akira Tamura.

Please join me in honoring my friend Jim Hatch. He will be remembered for his outstanding character and his commitment to his community.

#### RECOGNIZING THE GREAT BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' SOCCER TEAM

#### HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2024*

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Great Bridge High School Boys' Soccer team on winning the Class 5 Region A Championship.

As their Congresswoman, I am proud of these young athletes and their recent achievement.

Located in Chesapeake, Virginia, the Great Bridge High School Wildcats were able to bring the Class 5 Region A Championship back home to their fellow students, faculty, families, and friends through their hard work and dedication to their team. The Great Bridge Boys' Soccer team is undefeated this season, and goalie, Griffin Thomas, recorded a shutout in the net, and Carson Danner scored the game winning goal to secure their championship.

As a former athlete myself, I want each of these young men to know Virginia's 2nd District is extremely proud of their accomplishment and applauds them on their well-earned victory. Again, congratulations to the Great Bridge High School Boys' Soccer team on winning the Class 5 Region A Championship.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE MAJOR GENERAL DAVID F. WHERLEY, JR., DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA NATIONAL GUARD RETENTION AND COLLEGE ACCESS PROGRAM ACT

#### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2024*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Major General David F. Wherley, Jr., District of Columbia National Guard Retention and College Access Program Act. This bill would permanently authorize funding for the Major General David F. Wherley, Jr., District of Columbia National Guard Retention and College Access Program, which provides financial assistance for higher education to members of the D.C. National Guard, which is an exclusively federal entity.

This program and bill are named for Major General David F. Wherley, Jr., former Commanding General of the D.C. National Guard, who, along with his wife, Ann, and seven others were tragically killed when Metro trains collided on the Red Line on June 22, 2009. I named this bill for Major General Wherley because he worked tirelessly with me for many years to get funding for this program, and because of his devotion to D.C. youth and to the D.C. National Guard.

This program was recommended by Major General Wherley and his successor at the D.C. National Guard, Major General Errol Schwartz, to stem the troublesome loss of D.C. National Guard members to other units, including National Guards in surrounding states that offer financial assistance for higher education to their members. I am grateful that Congress has consistently provided funding for this program, most recently \$600,000 in fis-

cal year 2024. Permanently authorizing this program will help ensure that members of the D.C. National Guard receive the same benefits as members of other National Guards and help the D.C. National Guard recruit and retain members.

This program not only benefits D.C. National Guard members, the great majority of whom live in Maryland or Virginia, but also helps the D.C. National Guard to maintain the force necessary to protect the federal presence in D.C. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

#### HONORING AND CONGRATULATING JUDGE ROBERT O. BOWEN ON HIS RETIREMENT

#### HON. RUDY YAKYM III

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2024*

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Judge Robert O. Bowen of the Marshall County Superior Court No. 1 as he prepares to retire from serving on the bench.

A 1974 graduate of Indiana University, Judge Bowen obtained his Juris Doctor from Valparaiso University in 1977. In addition to his service on the bench, Robert also served as a Legislative Assistant in the Indiana General Assembly. Since his tenure on the Marshall County Superior Court No. 1 began on January 1, 1995, Judge Bowen has dedicated himself to advancing the principles of justice and ensuring that Hoosiers get a fair shake before the law.

The Rule of Law tradition we have inherited helps secure individual liberty and promotes the conditions necessary for human flourishing. It is incumbent on us to do our part to make sure these principles of justice and Rule of Law precepts are passed seamlessly from one generation to the next. That mission is one Judge Bowen has embraced wholeheartedly and worked tirelessly to advance.

While serving on the Court, Judge Bowen has also demonstrated his steadfast commitment to the local community, most especially in his church membership where he taught adult education over the years. Additionally, the Sagamore of the Wabash Award he has been honored with is another testament to Judge Bowen's leadership abilities and his civic-oriented nature.

As Judge Bowen's career comes to a close, I have no doubt that the Marshall County community is better off because of his service. I know that Robert's wife Patty and their three children—Andrew, Chris, and Betsy—are all very proud of him, and I am too. I join Hoosiers throughout Indiana's Second Congressional District in expressing our gratitude to Judge Robert O. Bowen for his service and in wishing him a very happy retirement and all the best going forward.

#### RECOGNIZING THE NANSEMOND-SUFFOLK SOFTBALL TEAM

#### HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2024*

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the