

This remarkable rescue operation is a testament to the unparalleled excellence of our Coast Guard personnel. Their efforts in saving these lives reflect the highest standards of service and sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring these courageous men and women of the United States Coast Guard. Their actions over those intense 38 hours exemplify the very best of our Nation's values, and we owe them our deepest gratitude.

COMMISSIONING OF UNITED STATES SHIP (USS) RICHARD M. MCCOOL JR. (LPD-29)

HON. MATT GAETZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 6, 2024

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the occasion of the commissioning of United States Ship (USS) *Richard M. McCool Jr.* (LPD-29) at Allegheny Pier, Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola in Pensacola, Florida, on Saturday, September 7, 2024.

The USS *Richard M. McCool Jr.* is a 680-foot San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock produced by Ingalls Shipbuilding of Pascagoula, Mississippi, and assigned the identification of LPD-29. The vessel was laid down on April 12, 2019, launched on January 5, 2022, and christened on June 11, 2022. The vessel was sponsored by Shana McCool and Kate Oja, the granddaughters of the vessel's namesake.

The USS *Richard M. McCool Jr.* is named in honor of Captain Richard Miles McCool Jr., United States Navy, who received the Congressional Medal of Honor for gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as commanding officer of the USS *Landing Craft Support (Large)-122* during operations from June 10–11, 1945, against enemy Japanese forces in the Ryukyu chain during the Battle of Okinawa.

The commissioning will be attended by the 78th Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Carlos Del Toro; local, state, and federal elected officials; community and military leaders; the vessel's commanding officer, Captain Jeffrey Baker; and the devoted officers and crew of the USS *Richard M. McCool Jr.*

The commissioning of the USS *Richard M. McCool Jr.* is the seventh such ceremony to be planned by the Greater Pensacola Commissioning Committee and the Navy League of Pensacola, led by Rear Admiral Donald P. Quinn, United States Navy (Retired), and it is the fifth to be held at NAS Pensacola. The City of Pensacola and Northwest Florida enjoy a strong Naval heritage and are honored to host this event.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize the momentous occasion of the commissioning of the final USS *Richard M. McCool Jr.* at NAS Pensacola in Pensacola, Florida, the Cradle of Naval Aviation.

CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF TEMPLE EMANUEL

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 6, 2024

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Temple Emanuel. Temple Emanuel is a place of sanctuary and belonging, a place deeply intertwined with the history and culture of Denver, and a spiritual home for countless individuals for many generations. As we mark this milestone, it is important to remember the journey that has brought Temple Emanuel to this occasion. First established in 1866 and officially incorporated in 1874, this congregation predates Colorado's statehood. While the city has changed a great deal over these last 150 years and indeed the location of Temple Emanuel has changed more than once, the heart of the temple—a living connection to millennia of Jewish traditions for congregants—is the same.

Today, the temple is the largest Jewish congregation between Kansas City and the West Coast. For the Jewish community in Denver, Temple Emanuel is a place for life's milestones large and small. From weekly Shabbat Services to the High Holy Days, from celebrations to mourning, this temple hosts countless special memories, moments of deep personal meaning and community healing, and serves as a community gathering place for people from all walks of life.

I have seen firsthand the commitment Temple Emanuel has to bringing our community together through service work and social justice, a role that is particularly impactful during times of uncertainty as the congregation sustains and restores community. They host courageous conversations on social issues and have served as a meeting place for interfaith dialogues. In an era marked by division and discord, Temple Emanuel has emerged as a beacon of hope and resilience, embracing our entire community and providing a sanctuary for those in need of solace and support.

The 150th anniversary of Temple Emanuel helps us reaffirm our commitment to the values of unity, compassion, and understanding that have guided this institution for a century and a half. May Temple Emanuel continue to serve as a shining example of the transformative power of faith and community for generations to come.

I congratulate my friend Rabbi Joseph R. Black and the entire congregation on this incredible milestone of 150 years in service to Denver.

RECOGNIZING ASSEMBLYMAN DEVON MATHIS

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 6, 2024

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Assemblyman Devon Mathis for his dedicated service to the Central Valley and to congratulate him on his retirement from the California State Assembly representing the 33rd District. Mr. Mathis has devoted his entire

career to public service, beginning with 12 years of honorable military service. He completed two combat tours in Iraq. During his deployment, Mr. Mathis was seriously injured in a roadside bomb, for which he received two medals and a Purple Heart in recognition of his bravery and sacrifice.

After returning home, Mr. Mathis received an associate's degree in social sciences from Porterville College and then a Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration from Fresno State University. In 2014, Mr. Mathis was elected to the California State Assembly, representing the 26th District. Over the course of his legislative career, Assemblyman Mathis has built a reputation as a representative with deep roots in the community. He has been a steadfast advocate for the issues that matter most to his constituents, working to address critical issues such as reliable water access and supporting the agricultural sector. His belief in bipartisan cooperation has been at the service of all Californians.

Throughout his time in the State Assembly, Assemblyman Mathis has continually demonstrated his commitment to the success and well-being of all his constituents. Assemblyman Mathis' years of public service serves as a true testament to his character and leadership abilities. I am confident the impact he has left on the Central Valley will be felt by generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in thanking Assemblyman Mathis for his many years of service to the Central Valley and wishing him the best in his future endeavors.

REMEMBERING SHIRLEY COOKS

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 6, 2024

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my first Congressional Chief of Staff, an early activist in the Civil Rights Movement, a life-long public servant, and my friend, Shirley Cooks, who passed on January 19, 2024. A celebration of life will be held for Shirley on Capitol Hill on September 12 with her family, friends and former co-workers gathering to honor a woman of substance, skill and humor who they considered a mentor and hero. Shirley ran my D.C. office with outstanding skill and loyalty, helping me, a first-term congressman, navigate a world she had known and managed relationships in for years. Her sage advice, deep knowledge, and constant grace were invaluable to me. A dedicated public servant all her life, Shirley was an ardent advocate of civil rights and had the achievements and life history to advance them. Shirley was born on August 27, 1944, to Melvina and William Wright in New York City. Her early education was divided between New York and Aboukir, St. Ann, Jamaica. Shirley graduated from St. Paul's School in Los Angeles in 1958. She became acquainted with leaders and staff members of both the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) when she moved from Los Angeles to New York to live with her brother and sister-in-law, entertainer and political activist Harry and his wife Julie Belafonte, and

their children. She studied at Bank Street College, a groundbreaking school advancing early childhood education; the New School for Social Research; and New York University during that time. By the mid-1960s, Shirley had moved to Atlanta to work full-time in the Civil Rights Movement as a member of the SNCC administrative staff with additional work on Voter Registration field projects in Alabama and Mississippi. Her work included liaison outreach with SCLC, where she met her future husband, Stoney Cooks. They were married in September 1970 and settled in Atlanta the following year. Shirley gave birth to her first child in 1972, the year Andrew Young was elected to Congress, becoming the first African American representative from the Deep South since Reconstruction. Shirley worked in the principal's office at Peabody Elementary School on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. in 1974 and gave birth to her second son in 1976. In 1977, when Andrew Young was appointed U.N. Ambassador by President Jimmy Carter, Shirley and Stoney and their two children moved to New York City where she worked at the African American Institute (AAI). In 1981, Shirley gave birth to her third son and the couple returned to Atlanta with their three children where she served in the position of Director, Bureau of Cultural Affairs, in the Parks and Recreation Department for the City of Atlanta. Continuing her work in public service, Shirley returned to work as Legislative Affairs Director at AAI in Washington, then served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs at the U.S. Department of State under Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. She later worked as Chief of Staff for U.S. House Representatives members Juanita Millender-McDonald of California, Laura Richardson of California, and for me, before retiring. Shirley will be remembered as a devoted public servant with a wonderful sense of humor, a serious commitment to justice and good causes, her loyalty and her kindness. I extend my sincere condolences to her sons Caleb, Judah, and Micah; her grandchildren, Stoney Nakoda and Wiyot Adeline; and her many loyal friends and extended family members. May they take comfort in the life she lived. Shirley Cooks made a difference in our world and will continue to be greatly missed.

RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HURON COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 6, 2024

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Huron County Community Foundation. Since 1994, this organization has been a cornerstone of meaningful change and community development throughout Huron County, which I am proud to represent in Congress.

For three decades, the Huron County Community Foundation has made good on their mission to "Invest FOR GOOD . . . FOR EVER." This motto has, without a doubt, fostered legacies that will shape Huron County's future for years to come.

The foundation's impact covers a wide array of needs throughout our community, from

healthcare to education and beyond. Through grants and other donations, the foundation has empowered countless families and organizations to succeed in their charitable goals. It goes without saying, but the amount of work that goes into an organization like this should be inspiring to us all. As we honor this milestone, it is important to recognize how the foundation—and all its beneficiaries—have played a central role in nurturing Huron County. The very spirit of the foundation, coupled with their dedication to their community, has been central in guaranteeing a bright future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Huron County Community Foundation on 30 years of outstanding service. I look forward to their continued success for many years to come.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
KIMBERLY DREW WRIGHT

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 6, 2024

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mrs. Kimberly Drew Wright, a vibrant member of the Chesterfield County community who touched countless lives through her passion for advocacy. Kim passed away on July 5, 2024, after a courageous battle with breast cancer.

Kim was a talented author and entrepreneur, a determined advocate for social justice who inspired thousands of women to become leaders in their communities, and a beloved wife and mother. She formed and organized the Liberal Women of Chesterfield County & Beyond (LWCC), inspiring change and fostering hope across the Commonwealth.

Kim went above and beyond for her community. She, alongside LWCC, played a significant role in local, State, and national elections by encouraging more women in Chesterfield County to serve as volunteers, activists, and candidates for elected office. She also worked to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment in Virginia in 2020, seeing our Commonwealth become the 38th State to ratify the amendment.

Among many awards and accolades, Kim received the 2019 Newsmaker of the Year award from Virginia Professional Communicators for her achievements as the leader of LWCC and for sharing her vision, story, and impact with local, national, and international media. Based on her personal experiences with Pediatric Acute-onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome (PANS), Kim also became an outspoken advocate for recognition, research, and treatment of this rare but potentially devastating condition, and she was a fierce champion for children affected by PANS and their families.

Kim is the reason I am here today—serving Virginia's Seventh District in the U.S. House of Representatives. Her dedication, passion, and love instilled a confidence in me and touched the hearts of so many. When she got sick, she demonstrated true strength and grace.

I am honored to recognize my dear friend, Kim Wright. She will be greatly missed by her husband, children, friends, and all those who will remember her strength, courage, and pure humanity. Kim's legacy will be felt in our communities for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating Mrs. Kimberly Drew Wright.

HONORING MARK FRITTER AS HE
RETIREES AFTER 25 YEARS OF
SERVICE ON CAPITOL HILL

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 6, 2024

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor one of my constituents who has been a valued member of our community here on Capitol Hill for the past quarter century: Mark Fritter from Anne Arundel County, Maryland. He is retiring after providing crucial technical support to numerous congressional offices over the past 25 years. We ought to give thanks for his many contributions to his community, his Congress, and his country.

Mark is a bit of a kindred spirit. Like me, Mark was raised in Prince George's County. He is also a fellow Terp, having earned his degree in marketing from the University of Maryland, College Park. He kicked off his career on Capitol Hill in 1999 as a consultant helping congressional staff use the customer relationship management (CRM) software "Capitol Letters." Following a merger, he pivoted to consulting staff on how to use Intranet Quorum (IQ). Back then, computers were still a relatively new technology. Mark played a vital role in helping staff harness the power of these new tools and integrate these innovations into Congress' day-today work.

In the past 25 years, Mark provided invaluable support to hundreds of legislative coordinators, communications directors, and other top staff. He has taught communications professionals how to use IQ's newsletter software to keep constituents informed and to expand Member offices' subscriber base and digital reach. His work has helped Members engage more closely with the people they represent. Mark has been particularly adept at helping set up new Member offices on these technologies and has helped facilitate more than a dozen congressional transitions during his tenure on the Hill.

Mr. Speaker, Mark is one of the thousands of people who work tirelessly behind the scenes to help this Congress fulfill its responsibilities For the People. His commitment to service goes beyond his professional career, however. From supporting his local church to serving as Assistant Scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop 403 based out of Bowie, Maryland. Mark has devoted much of his free time to giving back to his community. He has also been a tremendous husband to his wife, Rhonda, and father to their son, Ben. Crucially, I hear Mark has been an excellent owner to their dog, Pepper, and their two cats, Lilly and Zoe-Zoe.

I know that many here on Capitol Hill and back in Maryland appreciate Mark's warmth, good humor, and willingness to lend a hand. Mark may be moving to Indiana to be closer to family, but he'll always be a Marylander at heart. It is a privilege to represent kind, generous, and hardworking people like Mark from Maryland's Fifth District.

I ask that all my colleagues join me in congratulating Mark on this milestone and in wishing him and his family all the best.