

Throughout his tenure as president, Robert has distinguished himself by providing exceptional service to the residents of Sun City West, Arizona. As president of the club, Robert has been an advocate for educating members on the civic engagement process and how to interact with elected officials. The efforts of Robert and the Sun City West Republican Club have been pivotal to the success of elected officials and candidates in the Phoenix West Valley.

I am thankful for Robert's leadership and dedication to conservative principles. I sincerely appreciate his service to the 8th Congressional District and the State of Arizona.

COMMEMORATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 20, 2024*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC).

In 1964, Congress and President Lyndon Johnson passed the Urban Mass Transit Act, which pumped \$375 million over three years into public transit projects across the nation. The Virginia General Assembly followed suit by creating the Northern Virginia Transportation District to plan and construct a transportation network that promoted safety, convenience, and economic growth. The Commission did not waste time, starting work on a rapid transit system that first year.

Today, NVTC serves as a regional forum for discussion and analysis of transit issues. NVTC is charged with the funding and stewardship of WMATA and the Virginia Railway Express (VRE), which it co-owns. Northern Virginia is also home to six bus systems, for which NVTC works across jurisdictional boundaries to coordinate transit service.

Over the last six decades, NVTC has been instrumental in transforming transit in the Northern Virginia region. From establishing the WMATA compact in 1966 to working with the Virginia General Assembly to create a bus rapid transit (BRT) system connecting Tysons and Alexandria, NVTC has taken big steps to connect our region in innovative ways. NVTC represents a jurisdiction of 2 million people, with 740,000 households, and over 1.3 million jobs, which is no small undertaking. The half mile of property around Metrorail stations is just 3 percent of the region's land, but it contains 30 percent of the property value, 40 percent of the jobs, and 50 percent of the new apartments. Promoting well-connected and expansive transit creates opportunities for growth, and NVTC has embraced that mission on behalf of our region.

As NVTC begins its next 60 years, the organization is striving to meet its goals for the region. Increasing the capacity of the regional transit network by expanding and improving the quality, coverage, and frequency of new and existing systems is a top priority. NVTC is also continuing to look for ways to improve access and mobility throughout Northern Virginia by connecting regional and local transit systems.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating this milestone for the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission. NVTC has become a champion for commuters across the region, an advocate for sustainable transit funding, and a leading voice on transportation policy throughout the Commonwealth.

RECOGNIZING ANGOTTI'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT

**HON. GREG PENCE**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 20, 2024*

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Angotti's Italian Restaurant in Columbus, Indiana.

Serving the community since 2019, Angotti's moved to its current location downtown last year.

Denise and I are frequent customers, and their gift is that they always make us feel like family.

Angotti's is a blessing for the Columbus area, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to recognize them today.

DEONDRA DIXON INCLUDE PROJECT ACT OF 2024

SPEECH OF

**HON. DIANA DeGETTE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 17, 2024*

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the DeOndra Dixon INCLUDE Project Act.

In 2018, NIH launched the INCLUDE Project to investigate conditions that affect individuals with Down syndrome and the general population, such as Alzheimer's disease, congenital heart disease, and diabetes. Many diseases affect individuals with Down syndrome differently than typical people. This means including individuals with Down syndrome in biomedical research is crucial to understand how to treat them. It also means investigating those differences helps us understand how diseases work generally.

The University of Colorado's Linda Crnic Institute for Down Syndrome Research has been on the forefront of this critical work. Just last month, Crnic Institute scientists published groundbreaking research on the differences in oxygen physiology for people with Down syndrome. This new knowledge will help improve treatments for all people with chronic hypoxia. This is the kind of research we need to foster, and it's why the INCLUDE project needs its own authorization to continue its important work.

I do want to raise one issue I have with this bill as we consider it today. It originally contained an authorization of \$250 million annually, but to conform with the inexplicable rules of this majority which say you can't authorize more than a current appropriation, it was amended in subcommittee to only \$90 million each year. This authorization does not even match the \$125 million included in this year's NIH appropriations bill for the INCLUDE

Project, much less give the program room to evolve. We need to move this important legislation, but we must restore the authorization to \$250 million as consideration of this bill continues.

Finally, I'd like to thank my constituent Michelle Whitten, founder of the Global Down Syndrome Foundation, whose tireless advocacy for people with Down syndrome has spurred research and led to scientific breakthroughs. It has also helped bring this bill to the floor of the House of Representatives today.

RECOGNIZING JIM LIENHOOP

**HON. GREG PENCE**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 20, 2024*

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize former mayor of Columbus, Jim Lienhoop.

A Columbus native, Jim started his service in city government in 2006 on the city council.

Over his two terms in office, Jim accomplished much, despite the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic.

He prioritized partnerships, leading to successes in infrastructure, health, education, and economic development.

Under his leadership, Columbus was chosen as the Indiana Chamber of Commerce's city of the year.

Today, I recognize those achievements and thank him for his efforts to help my hometown thrive.

RECOGNIZING DR. WILLIAM COLEMAN'S 105TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 20, 2024*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. William Coleman, a veteran of the U.S. Navy and a remarkable constituent of my district as he celebrates the 105th year of his birth.

Dr. Coleman was born and raised on his parents' farm outside of Lawrenceville, NJ. He is an alumnus of Princeton University, where he competed on the track and field team as a freshman. He then attended Temple School of Medicine, interning at Philadelphia General Hospital, and completing his surgical residency at Abington Hospital.

While attending medical school, he entered the U.S. Navy in 1943 under the V-16 program. He served 2 years of active duty at the Veteran's Hospital in Lyon, NJ.

After leaving the Navy, Dr. Coleman opened a general practice in Trenton, NJ. He and his wife, Betty, lived in Morrisville and then Yardley, where they raised their 5 children. Betty and Dr. Coleman were married for 56 years until she sadly passed away in 2007.

Dr. Coleman went from running a surgical practice to a general practice. After practicing surgery for 20 years, he took a position at Meadow Lakes, in New Jersey working for another 20 years as a physician and medical director until his retirement.

Dr. Coleman moved to the community of Pennswood Village in Newtown, PA where he currently resides and is loved and admired by all who know him.

As we celebrate Dr. Coleman's 105 years of life, we are incredibly grateful for the many positive impacts he has made. We want to thank him for his devoted service to our Country and we heartily wish Dr. Coleman continued joy and God's blessings for the future.

COMMEMORATING THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF REV. DR. PAUL SHEPPARD, SENIOR PASTOR OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MERRIFIELD

### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 20, 2024*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Reverend Dr. Paul Anthony Sheppard, a native of Fairfax County, Virginia, who possesses a God-given desire to serve people. He describes himself as "a humble and committed soldier on the battlefield of life trying to destroy the vicious armies of Satan." He attended Howard University, where he received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology and Sociology in 1991.

Pastor Sheppard was licensed to preach the Gospel on March 21, 1993, and was ordained on December 10, 2000, at the Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia. He earned his Master of Theology Degree from Wilbur H. Waters School of Religion and Theological Seminary in 2003.

In April 2017, Pastor Sheppard received an honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree from St. Thomas Christian University in Jacksonville, Florida for his committed service in the community and abroad, and for his preaching ministry.

Pastor Sheppard aims to help people apply timeless truths of Scripture to their everyday lives. He formerly served as a certified instructor and advisor teaching Ministerial Counseling and Psychology of Religion. He was inducted into the Savannah State University Foundation Hall of Fame for his community activism and service. He is especially passionate about youth and elders. He feels: "When you bridge the gap between the two groups, you can create a very powerful society with the youth absorbing much wisdom and knowledge."

Rev. Sheppard has been extremely active in civic and community organizations serving on numerous civic and non-profit advisory boards in the Savannah and Chatham County areas. He was a member of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance (I.M.A.), partnering with several organizations to bring about educational and economic empowerment. Rev. Sheppard also served as President of the Georgia Fellowship of Churches through the National Baptist Convention of America, International, Inc.

Throughout his ministry he has participated in symposiums discussing social issues, economic development, and religious thought concerning the contemporary church in the 21st century. He also worked with the Governor of Virginia where he spearheaded the Voting Restoration Rights for felons through the Peninsula Baptist Pastor's Council.

Pastor Sheppard has established numerous ministries that have transformed congregations and communities throughout the Mid-Atlantic and Southeast. In 2019, after much prayer and fasting, Pastor Sheppard's path guided him to lead the First Baptist Church of Merrifield in Falls Church, Virginia.

He currently serves as the 3rd Vice Moderator of the Northern Virginia Baptist Association and is extremely active in civic organizations that uplift multi-generational interests in topics such as media, politics, and education. In February 2024, he traveled with a missionary group serving an orphanage and community in South Africa.

He is married to the former Esther Morris whom he cherishes dearly. Out of this beautiful union, they are blessed with one son, Justin Gregory Milton Sheppard. Pastor Sheppard's favorite Bible verse: "I can do all things through Christ which strengthened me"—Philippians 4:13.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Dr. Sheppard for his tremendous efforts as a leader in our communities, as he celebrates his 5th Anniversary as Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church of Merrifield.

### RECOGNIZING HENRY SOCIAL CLUB

#### HON. GREG PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 20, 2024*

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Henry Social Club, a restaurant in my hometown of Columbus, Indiana.

Opening in 2014, Henry Social Club is helmed by Gethin Thomas, former executive chef at Columbus-based Cummins.

With an impressive resume including work in New York, Paris, and London, Chef Thomas now calls Columbus home, a testament to the community we have in my district.

Today, I recognize Henry Social Club and Chef Thomas' efforts as he continues to bless the Sixth District.

### RECOGNIZING THREE HEROES FROM BURTCHVILLE TOWNSHIP

#### HON. LISA C. MCCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 20, 2024*

Mrs. MCCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor three exceptional heroes from Burtchville Township who demonstrated extraordinary courage on August 24, 2024.

Early that afternoon, Rick Onyshkevich noticed smoke rising from his neighbor's property on State Road. At first, Mr. Onyshkevich believed that the smoke was a result of yardwork—however, as the smoke grew thicker, he soon realized that it was coming from the house.

Immediately, Mr. Onyshkevich alerted 911 and didn't spare any time before entering the home and removing the occupant. According to Chief Harrington of the Burtchville Township Fire Department, Mr. Onyshkevich was able to remove the occupant from the home but was not able to get her down the steps to fully exit the house.

It was at this time that two deputies, Jacob Garza and Doug Schneider, arrived at the scene where they proceeded to rescue her. Soon after, she was turned over to Burtchville Fire & Rescue and was quickly transferred to the hospital.

Thanks to an extraordinary display of heroism by Mr. Onyshkevich, Deputy Garza, Deputy Schneider, and the dispatchers responsible for coordinating the response, a life was saved. Our community is indebted to every person involved in this rescue.

Mr. Speaker, the actions of these heroes exemplify the very best of our community. Their bravery, quick thinking, and lack of hesitation to act in the face of danger is truly commendable. The actions of these brave men are a fervent reminder of the impact one can have when they put service above self. We should all be inspired by their heroism, and I ask all my colleagues to join me in applauding their efforts.

### RECOGNIZING HOUSING ASSISTANCE'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 20, 2024*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Housing Assistance as it celebrates its 50th anniversary.

Housing Assistance was originally founded in 1974 by Rick Presbrey in a small office converted from a garage in West Yarmouth. At first, the organization's sole program was administering State Chapter 707 Rental Assistance, but in 1975, Housing Assistance also began administering HUD Section Rental Assistance, followed by weatherization services. Over the past five decades the Cape Cod and Islands region has grown and evolved and so has the organization. What began as a rental voucher agency with only a few employees has grown into a regional housing agency and one of the largest developers of affordable housing in the region.

Now with 120 employees and led by CEO Alisa Magnotta and Board Chairman Bill Bogdanovich, Housing Assistance strives to elevate the Cape and Islands economy and community, empower residents of all ages and income levels, and address the root causes of housing shortages and affordability. In addition to its original rental subsidy and voucher program services, Housing Assistance offers homelessness prevention and outreach services, shelter services, and permanent and transitional supportive housing. Further, Housing Assistance offers first time home buyer courses, and as the only HUD-approved housing counseling agency serving the Cape and Islands, the organization provides housing counseling on issues such as foreclosure prevention, reverse mortgages, and other housing related matters.

Through its many services and programs, Housing Assistance works to bridge the gap between homelessness and homeownership to support the vision of a year-round Cape Cod community where everyone has access to housing and a stable place to call home. Over the last 50 years, the organization has assisted more than 200,000 residents, provided shelter to over 20,000 people, and built