

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SETH MOULTON

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2025

Mr. MOULTON. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present on November 20, 2025. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 303 and NAY on Roll Call No. 304.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF JAMES M. "JIM" BERNHARD**HON. CLEO FIELDS**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2025

Mr. FIELDS. Mr. Speaker, the state of Louisiana recently lost a visionary leader and titan of industry whose impact was profound, far-reaching, and enduring. James M. "Jim" Bernhard dedicated his life to advancing opportunity, strengthening communities, and demonstrating what determined, principled leadership can achieve. Though his accomplishments in business and public service were vast, his most meaningful legacy is found in the countless lives he improved and the deep affection he held for the people of Louisiana.

Jim Bernhard was born on April 9, 1954, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. From an early age he showed the traits that would define his lifelong service to his home state: energy, intellect, and a steadfast commitment to community. A proud graduate of Louisiana State University, Jim combined his entrepreneurial drive with a disciplined work ethic to build one of the most successful industrial enterprises in the Nation.

He founded The Shaw Group and guided it from a small pipe-fabrication business in Baton Rouge into a Fortune 500 global industrial services firm. Under his leadership, the company grew to employ thousands and to serve major sectors including energy, engineering, and construction. Jim's deft vision transformed The Shaw Group into a major economic engine for Louisiana, creating jobs, attracting investment, and elevating the state's prominence in national and international markets.

After the sale of The Shaw Group, Jim continued to innovate and lead. He co-founded Bernhard Capital Partners, an internationally recognized private-equity firm managing billions of dollars in assets with investments in energy services, industrial operations, and utility infrastructure. Through this transformative work, he continued to strengthen critical industries, support innovation, and expand economic opportunities across Louisiana and beyond.

Jim's extraordinary professional achievements were matched only by his deep commitment to civic life. He was a trusted mentor to many young leaders and a steadfast supporter of numerous charitable, cultural, and educational causes. His philanthropy played a defining role in the revitalization of downtown Baton Rouge through his pivotal support of the Shaw Center for the Arts, a landmark institution that continues to enrich the region's cultural landscape.

He was a champion for education at every level, frequently advocating for stronger invest-

ment in both K-12 schools and higher education. Jim's generosity made significant financial support possible for schools and students throughout the Baton Rouge area, and his advocacy helped strengthen public understanding of the critical link between education, workforce development, and long-term state prosperity.

Jim's compassion reached far beyond Louisiana's borders. He provided vital assistance to communities recovering from hurricanes in North Carolina, supported a nonprofit organization in California dedicated to assisting people experiencing homelessness, and contributed to relief efforts throughout the United States, the Caribbean, and other regions across the globe. His philanthropy was often quiet and unpublicized, guided by a belief that those blessed with success have a duty to help those in need.

At the center of Jim's life was his family. He was a devoted husband to his beloved wife, Dana, and a proud father to his five children: Benjamin Bernhard, Michael Bernhard, Patrick Bernhard, Kathryn Gerry, and Tres Bernhard. He was equally proud to be the grandfather of eight grandchildren, each of whom brought him tremendous joy and inspiration.

Jim Bernhard's unwavering love for Louisiana, his commitment to public service, and his conviction that the state's potential is limitless will continue to shape the region for generations to come. His legacy is one of leadership, generosity, innovation, and hope—a legacy that will forever enrich the state he cherished and the people for whom he worked tirelessly.

Louisiana deeply mourns the loss of Jim Bernhard, honors his remarkable life, and celebrates the enduring impact he leaves behind.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE MAMMOTH
CAVE PARK ASSOCIATION**HON. BRETT GUTHRIE**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2025

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate an extraordinary milestone of the Mammoth Cave Park Association. Today, we are celebrating not only 100 years of the Association, but a century of guardianship, protection, and partnership. The Mammoth Cave Park Association ensures one of the world's greatest natural wonders remains preserved and protected. Mammoth Cave is the longest known cave system in the world, with over 400 miles surveyed to date.

Mammoth Cave is more than just a place, it is a testament to Kentucky's history. This natural wonder has inspired people for thousands of years, playing a foundational role in the culture of our region. Established as a National Park in 1941, it hosts incredible amounts of biodiversity and history. 40 years later, the park was named a World Heritage Site, and in 1990 a Biosphere Reserve. It encompasses approximately 52,830 acres in Hart, Edmonson, and Barren counties in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

The Mammoth Cave Park Association is deeply woven into the identity of our Commonwealth. It has witnessed thousands of years of

human history from its discovery to the visitors that walk its passages today. To continue preservation of this national treasure, Senator McCONNELL and I introduced the bicameral Mammoth Cave National Park Boundary Adjustment Act to provide the park the ability to acquire an additional 551.14 acres of land from the Nature Conservancy. This newly acquired land would enhance protection in the Green River watershed, further conserving the area's wildlife and cultural heritage while generating additional tourism to Kentucky's 2nd District. I am proud to have introduced the Mammoth Cave National Park Boundary Adjustment Act to expand protection for the cave system's important biodiversity and rich history, ensuring that it can be studied, maintained, and enjoyed by future generations of Americans.

From funding projects to community engagement, the Mammoth Cave Park Association has been a cornerstone of Mammoth Cave's success, thanks to the dedication of countless individuals who continue giving their time and heart to this cause. Their dedication is not overlooked, and we appreciate their hard work. They have helped ensure that both the cave and Kentucky's history are protected for future generations to come.

TRIBUTE TO DUANE R. ROBERTS

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2025

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to my good friend, a visionary entrepreneur, civic leader, and philanthropist, Duane Roberts, who passed away on Saturday, November 1, 2025. Duane was a dedicated leader in Riverside County, and he will be deeply missed.

Duane was born and raised in Riverside, California. His parents, Harry and Mary Roberts, instilled in him the values of hard work and generosity. Duane graduated from Riverside Polytechnic High School, where he competed on the swim team and participated in the ROTC. He ultimately joined the family business—meat provider Butcher Boy—after high school, in addition to serving his country in the Army National Guard. Duane keenly identified an economic opportunity and seized on it by developing the frozen burrito. After surging into popularity, the frozen burrito propelled Butcher Boy Food Products into the world's largest frozen Mexican food manufacturer before the company was sold by Duane.

In 1992, Duane launched himself into a challenge that has forever changed downtown Riverside. By acquiring the Historic Mission Inn, he took on a rescue and restoration project of epic proportions. Duane's vision and determination have transformed the Mission Inn into a jewel and world-renowned destination that has hosted presidents, dignitaries, and guests from across the world. Together with his wife, Kelly, the Roberts established the Historic Mission Inn Hotel & Spa's Festival of Lights, which has become one of the most cherished holiday season traditions in the region.

Duane, a lifelong philanthropist, established the Mary S. Roberts Foundation in honor of his mother, supporting children and families in

need, victims of crime, the hungry and homeless, and the care and protection of animals. He also supported numerous organizations, including Olive Crest, UC Riverside, Riverside City College, and Pepperdine University, where he and Kelly endowed the position of Dean of the School of Law. To support conservative causes and campaigns in Riverside County, Duane and I worked together to establish the Lincoln Club of Riverside County.

Duane is survived by his wife, Kelly Roberts; his stepchildren, Casey Brown and Doug Reinhardt; his grandchildren; and countless friends and colleagues. He was predeceased by his sons Duane, Jr. and Darrell. I extend my personal and heartfelt condolences to the Roberts family, his friends, and everyone fortunate enough to know Duane. Although he may be gone, the many contributions he made to our community have left an enduring legacy.

RECOGNIZING VANNAH HEIL

HON. BRAD FINSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2025

Mr. FINSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding young leader from southern Minnesota, Vannah Heil of St. James. This November, Vannah will join more than 700 youth from across the Nation at the National 4-H Congress in Atlanta.

Vannah is one of only nine students selected to represent Minnesota at this prestigious event, where she will take part in work-

shops, service projects, and opportunities to strengthen her leadership and communication skills. As a Minnesota 4-H State Ambassador, Vannah has already shown her commitment to building stronger communities and inspiring her peers.

The 4-H program has a long tradition of equipping young people with the tools they need to succeed in school, careers, and civic life. Vannah embodies the very best of that mission. I am proud to represent her and look forward to seeing the great things she will accomplish in the years ahead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RANDY FEENSTRA

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2025

Mr. FEENSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for these votes. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 303, and YEA on Roll Call No. 304.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2025

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call No. 305, I voted Nay, but I intended to vote Yea.

RECOGNIZING KAITLYN PETERSON

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2025

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kaitlyn Peterson for her service to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

A graduate of the University of Minnesota and native of Massapequa, Long Island, New York, Kaitlyn began her career in Washington, D.C. as a Staff Assistant and Deputy Scheduler for former Chairman of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Rep. Fred Upton (MI-06). She later became his Legislative Correspondent and Special Projects Director before joining the House Committee on Energy and Commerce as Lead Legislative Clerk for the Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and Grid Security and the Subcommittee on Environment, Manufacturing, and Critical Minerals under Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers. She then joined my team and became Policy Analyst for the Subcommittee on Environment where she led the committee efforts behind H.J. Res. 87, H.J. Res. 88, and H.J. 89 which were signed into law in June of this year.

After serving the U.S. House of Representatives for nearly four years, Kaitlyn will depart the House Committee on Energy and Commerce to take a position with the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, handling a portfolio of energy, fish, and wildlife issues. I thank her for her service to the committee and wish her well in her new endeavor.