

the title of Chief Government Relations Officer. She has excelled in this role and provided my staff and myself with outstanding service.

With many accomplishments, Virginia notably has more than 30 years of experience in the nonprofit community, senior levels of federal service, state government, and the private sector.

Since joining the USO, she has been a strong and steady champion for service members and their families, earning the deep respect of her colleagues and those she interacted with.

As we wish the best to Virginia, I am grateful to continue working with Clint Cowan, who currently serves as Senior Director of Government Relations and External Affairs at the USO.

America values Virginia's leadership, knowledge, and dedication. I wish for her continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2025

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast votes on December 9, 2025. If I were present for Roll Call votes, I would have voted aye on: Roll Call No. 315, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, S. 356, Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization Act of 2025, and Roll Call No. 316, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 1676, Make SWAPs Efficient Act of 2025.

TRIBUTE TO MS. ESSIE M. RICHARDS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2025

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Mother Essie M. Richards, a devoted woman of faith, a respected community leader, and a beloved matriarch who will celebrate her 100th birthday on January 26, 2026. Her century-long journey stands as a remarkable testament to service, perseverance, and unwavering faith.

Born the seventh of twelve children in Colleton County, South Carolina, Mother Richards was raised in a Christian home that instilled in her strong values of devotion, humility, and responsibility. She joined Jerusalem A.M.E. Church in 1937, beginning what would become more than eight decades of dedicated spiritual service.

After relocating to Savannah, Georgia, she joined Flipper Chapel A.M.E. Church, where she distinguished herself as a committed leader and servant of the church. She served as Sunday School Teacher and Superintendent, Church Secretary, Trustee, President of the Lay Organization and Flower Club, and sang faithfully in the Senior Choir. She worked tirelessly with the Missionary Society and Youth Department, earning well-deserved recognition in 2006 for outstanding humanitarian and community service.

Her faithful service continued when she transferred to Julia Fountain A.M.E. Church in

1986. Nearly twenty years later, in 2005, she returned home to Jerusalem A.M.E.—now White Hall A.M.E.—under the leadership of Reverend Robert K. White, where she was appointed to the Steward Board.

Her professional life was marked by excellence and integrity. She spent 35 years as an Office Manager with the United States Air Force and the United States Army, gaining the respect and admiration of colleagues for her professionalism, reliability, and leadership.

Perhaps her most enduring legacy is her transformational impact on the Carver Heights Community, where she served from the late 1960's through 2006. She was Community President for 23 years and served as Community Secretary. She was a driving force behind the neighborhood's development into a thriving historic community. Her leadership helped bring about vital improvements, including the establishment of the Carver Heights Community Center—breaking ground in 1994 and opening in 1997.

Mother Richards led and supported countless initiatives: Neighborhood Watch and National Night Out, senior services, Meals on Wheels, youth programs, home repair projects, community beautification, historic research, block captain programs, and numerous acts of benevolence that strengthened families and neighborhoods.

Her decades of service earned her extensive recognition, including the 1995 Block Grant Award, the Environmental Justice Pioneer Award, multiple Outstanding Community Service Awards, National Exchange Club leadership honors, and numerous certificates of appreciation from the City of Savannah. Her family affectionately named her the "World's Greatest Grandmother" in 1994.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in celebrating the 100th birthday of Mother Essie M. Richards. Her life of faith, leadership, and community uplift continues to inspire all who know her, and her legacy will endure for generations.

RECOGNIZING DR. KAROL B. WIGHT ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. NICHOLAS A. LANGWORTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2025

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the outstanding leadership and service of Dr. Karol B. Wight, who retires this year after fifteen years of exceptional stewardship at The Corning Museum of Glass. Since joining the Museum in 2011 and becoming president and executive director in 2015, Dr. Wight has guided the institution with vision and distinction, advancing its mission and inspiring countless visitors through her deep expertise in ancient artwork.

During her tenure, Dr. Wight curated landmark exhibitions, strengthened the Museum's research and educational programs, and championed initiatives that broadened public appreciation for the art and history of glass. Her scholarly leadership and dedication to her work have left a profound impact on the Museum and the community she has served.

In addition to her executive achievements, Dr. Wight has been an influential figure in the museum field. She has served on the board of

trustees of the American Alliance of Museums, played a leading role within the Association of Art Museum Directors, and contributed her expertise to organizations dedicated to the study of classical antiquity and the history of glass. Through these roles, she has strengthened professional collaboration, supported emerging leaders, and advanced the highest standards of museum practice.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the United States House of Representatives join me in recognizing Dr. Karol Wight for her exemplary contributions and in celebrating her well-earned retirement. Her legacy will endure in the institutions she strengthened and the communities she inspired.

CELEBRATING DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF MICHAEL MOSER

HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2025

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Coral Springs/Parkland Deputy Fire Chief Michael Moser for more than two decades of an exceptional career and distinguished service to his department, his community, and the residents of Broward County.

Deputy Chief Moser's career began in August of 2000 when he first volunteered with the department, followed by his hiring in July 2001. From those early days, he demonstrated a commitment to service that would shape not only his career but the very culture of the department. Over the years, he has served with distinction as a Firefighter Paramedic, Driver Engineer, Lieutenant, Captain, and later as Division Chief, a role he assumed in 2014. In 2020, he was promoted to Deputy Chief, where he continued to exemplify professionalism, integrity, and leadership.

Throughout his exemplary career, Deputy Chief Moser has earned numerous commendations, including one Lifesaving Commendation, seven Unit Citations, one Meritorious Duty Commendation, two Administrative Service Commendations, and three Team Citations. These honors represent not only his technical proficiency, but his bravery, his steadiness under pressure, and his ability to lead others in moments of crisis.

Deputy Chief Moser has also served in several leadership roles that have had lasting regional impact, including as co-chair of the Communications and Mutual Aid Subcommittee for the Fire Chiefs Association of Broward County and Chair of the Joint Media Subcommittee for the Regional Domestic Security Task Force. He has been a dedicated member of multiple county committees, a founding member of the department's Honor Guard, and a board chairman of the Parkland 17 Memorial Foundation, ensuring the legacy of that community remains honored and remembered.

His service extends far beyond local boundaries. He has received numerous awards, including the Fire Chiefs Association of Broward County President's Award in both 2018 and 2022, EMT of the Year in 2005, and the Firehouse Magazine Heroism and Community Service Award in 2002. As a member of USAR, he responded to major crises across the country and abroad, including deployments

to Haiti following the 2010 earthquake, Texas after Hurricane Ike, and Puerto Rico, among others. As PIO, he also deployed wildfire responses, multiple hurricane recovery missions, and other large-scale disaster areas, offering critical communication support when communities needed it most.

While his department and community will deeply miss his presence, we look forward with excitement to his next chapter with the City of Hollywood, where we know he will continue to serve with the excellence and commitment that have defined his entire career.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Deputy Chief Michael Moser for his decades of courageous and selfless service, and in wishing him the very best in his future endeavors. He leaves behind a legacy of heroism, leadership, and profound community impact.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2025

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 315, and YEA on Roll Call No. 316.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES R. BAIRD

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2025

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 315, S. 356, and YEA on Roll Call No. 316, H.R. 1676.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2025

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, on December 9, 2025, I missed votes due to a personal matter. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 315, and YEA on Roll Call No. 316.

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL CERTIFIED DIETARY MANAGER (CDM) AND CERTIFIED FOOD PROTECTION PROFESSIONALS (CFPP) DAY

HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2025

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the National Certified Dietary Manager (CDM), Certified Food Protection Professionals (CFPP) Day, which this year fell on Friday, November 28, 2025.

This day is meant to honor the contributions these professionals have made in the foodservice management profession and their vital role in America's healthcare industry and particularly long-term care.

Foodborne illness is a health threat to all Americans, but seniors are most at risk as they are more susceptible to the adverse health effects from foodborne-induced gastroenteritis. The CDM, CFPP credential raises the standard of care in Skilled Nursing Facilities and establishes a more clearly defined career path for those who choose to serve in long-term care.

As a geriatric nurse practitioner, I have seen firsthand how dedicated professionals with the CDM, CFPP credential positively affect health outcomes. They are responsible for managing nutrition and foodservice operations, and are trained and qualified to administer menus, food purchasing and preparation, and to apply nutrition principles, among many other essential tasks.

I would also like to recognize the Association of Nutrition & Foodservice Professionals (ANFP) for its efforts to designate November 28 as National CDM, CFPP Day. Over 90 percent of ANFP's 13,000 members work in healthcare and most of those are in long-term care. ANFP's Youth Apprenticeship Program is based in the CDM, CFPP credential and was approved by the U.S. Department of Labor in 2022.

The CDM, CFPP credential is a source of pride for those who achieve and maintain it. CDM, CFPP credential holders are committed to ensuring our vulnerable seniors receive the care and attention they deserve, often working year-round and over holidays.

I am proud to honor their significant impacts to healthcare and celebrate the National Certified Dietary Managers, Certified Food Protection Professionals Day of the Year.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MARY YU

HON. PRAMILA JAYAPAL

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2025

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Justice Mary Yu. Justice Yu will retire at the end of this year after over 25 years of distinguished service on the bench, including more than a decade on the Washington State Supreme Court. Her tenure is marked by an unwavering commitment to fairness, dignity, and equity for all. She is a trailblazer, a champion for justice and a visionary leader in Washington's legal community.

As the first Asian American, the first Latina, and the first LGBTQ+ justice to serve on our state's highest court, she has brought an unparalleled depth of experience and perspective to the judiciary. She co-chaired the Minority and Justice Commission and chaired the Board for Judicial Administration's Public Trust and Confidence Committee. In these capacities, she worked to eliminate bias in all areas, including in jury pools, and build public trust and ensure fairness in state courts. She has been a champion for ensuring workers' rights and housing rights. Among many important rulings, she authored a unanimous ruling on a voting rights case that protected against dis-

crimination based on race, color, and language. In 2012, she presided over the first same-sex marriages in Washington State, standing at the forefront of a historic civil rights milestone. Her compassion, warmth and belief in human dignity are evident in the many cases she has handled.

Off the bench, she has mentored countless law students, new attorneys and law clerks, taught as Jurist in Residence at Seattle University School of Law, volunteered for the Seattle Girls' School Mock Trials for nearly two decades, and co-chaired the Washington State Bar Association/University of Washington Law School Leadership Institute. Her commitment to fairness, diverse perspectives, and mentorship has made her not only a respected jurist, but a beloved role model in the legal community.

On behalf of Washington's 7th Congressional District and the countless lives she has touched, I extend my heartfelt thanks to Justice Mary Yu. Her service has bent the arc of justice further in our state, and her legacy will continue to guide and inspire generations to come. I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating her extraordinary contributions to Washington State and to our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2025

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, I wish to correct the RECORD as it relates to my recorded vote on S. 1071. On December 10, 2025, my vote was incorrectly cast as "YEA" on Roll Call vote No. 320.

It was my clear intention to vote "NAY" on Roll Call vote No. 320.

I opposed this bill, especially as amended, because it expands the Department of Defense's authority into areas traditionally handled by civilian agencies. The measure extends for five years the DoD's authority to support civilian law enforcement and authorizes contracting arrangements that enable DoD support for U.S. Customs and Border Protection at the southern border; prohibits transgender athletes enrolled at military service academies from competing in women's sports; and repeals several diversity, equity, and inclusion provisions. In my view, these provisions accelerate the militarization of domestic policy and increase reliance on defense infrastructure for missions that should remain civilian-led. Additionally, I have broader concerns about the spending in this bill at a time when significant cuts are being directed at Medicare, Medicaid, and other essential programs.

HONORING MR. EDDIE SHELBY, JR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, as we observed Veterans Month in November, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Eddie Shelby, Jr., a devoted husband, father,