

continue to be a sanctuary where tradition thrives, learning flourishes, and community guides generations to come. On this 100th anniversary, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Flemington Jewish Community Center.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, February 12, 2025

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, please accept this personal explanation as I was unexpectedly detained during vote proceedings. Had I been present, I would have voted: NAY on Roll Call No. 34 and YEA on Roll Call No. 35.

HONORING THELMA CASTILLO

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, February 12, 2025

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Thelma Castillo for her decade of service as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Blue Water Area Chamber of Commerce. Since 2014, Thelma has worked tirelessly to strengthen the Chamber's role as a champion for businesses in Michigan's Thumb region. Under her leadership, the Chamber experienced record growth, expanded its advocacy efforts, and enhanced its ability to support local businesses. Her impact has been profound, and her legacy will be felt for years to come.

A highly accomplished professional, Thelma brought over 18 years of chamber experience to her role, having previously served at the Detroit Regional Chamber, one of the largest and most influential chambers in the country. Her expertise in workforce initiatives, leadership development, economic advocacy, and operational excellence positioned her as a transformative leader in the Blue Water business community. Throughout her career, she secured over \$15 million in grants, funding programs that supported business expansion, workforce training, and economic development. One of her most notable initiatives was "Intern in Michigan," a statewide program designed to retain young professionals in the region through internship opportunities.

Thelma's leadership extends beyond the Chamber, as she served on numerous boards and organizations dedicated to economic growth, workforce development, and civic engagement. She was actively involved with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Institute for Organizational Management, the American Red Cross of Southeastern Michigan, the Legal Aid and Defender Association, the Hispanic Business Alliance, and the Workforce Innovations in Economic Development initiative. Her commitment to collaboration and strategic planning helped forge strong partnerships between businesses, educational institutions, and government entities.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Thelma is known for her passion, integrity, and unwavering commitment to the community. She is a devoted wife to Len Frisch, a Detroit firefighter, and a loving mother to her son, JJ Dominguez.

Mr. Speaker, Thelma Castillo's leadership, dedication, and vision have strengthened the Blue Water Area Chamber of Commerce and the broader business community. Her contributions have paved the way for continued economic growth and prosperity in the region. I thank her for her years of service and wish her all the best in this next chapter of her life.

THREAT TO ISRAELI DEMOCRACY

HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS

OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, February 12, 2025

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD remarks submitted at the request of a Virginia Beach constituent, Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman of Temple Lev Tikvah, and are a reflection of his views:

I have returned from the torn Land of Israel where I grew up, following a visit throughout July of a shaking, even shocking experience. Israel is undergoing a trauma whose lasting impact is impossible to predict. However, the current internal crisis threatening Israeli democracy, the Middle East's sole one, is due to the most extreme coalition government in Israel's history attempting to alter its Western liberal orientation by disabling the Supreme Court's standing as an independent Judiciary. Consequently, the unprecedented mass demonstrations for months in opposition to the proposed radical agenda which I watched in disbelief and participated in, have reflected a powerful popular response determined to preserve Israel as both the Jewish and democratic state envisioned by its founders. Already adversely affected are the Israeli economy, military, public health, the woman's status, education, Pride community and society at large, while Israel's enemies, Iran and its proxies, become further emboldened. The special relationship between Israel and the United States is at risk as well as the essential bond between Israel and American Jewry.

With heartfelt, even prophetic pathos and deep grasp of the multi-layered Israeli scene since its inception and prior, veteran Israeli author Ari Shavit offers us a concise manifesto for urgent action with the goal of "Saving Israel," his recent book's alarming title (Saving Israel. Rishon LeZion: Miskal-Yedioth Ahronoth Books and Chemed Books. 2023). He begins with a statement of both profound gratitude and grave concern, "the State of Israel is a miracle. No other nation did what we have: To build anew a national home following two thousand years. No progressive democracy succeeded to flourish as we have, following a Shoah and living under a volcano. Despite all the troubles, problems, weaknesses, difficulties and blemishes—The Zionist dream has been realized. The people of Israel lives and the state of Israel lives. Our sons and daughters have in our ancestral land what our grandfathers and grandmothers did not: Sovereignty, freedom, prosperity, pride and progress. Being a technological, economic, military and political super-power, Israel of the 21st century is a strong country capable of shaping its own fate and march toward a brilliant future. But the deep 2023 crisis threatens the Israeli miracle and erasing our astonishing successes, leaving us homeless."

Shavit does not mince words. On the one hand, heaps praise upon Israel's successes though Israel is not a global, as the author claims, but a regional superpower. In light of trying beginnings and facing monumental

challenges that were likely to doom the fragile creation: Attacks from a collection of superior military establishments while absorbing penniless immigrants from west and east three times larger in size, into a war zone with meager resources. On the other hand, he bemoans the Jewish people's destructive tendencies that brought down Jewish sovereignty and led into long exile and ultimately a consuming Holocaust. "And the Jewish people has multi-talents though sorrowfully it lacks the talent to be a people. It tends toward extremism, internal strife and self-destruction. . . Israel needs to be both powerful and ethical, both national and liberal, both Jewish and democratic. Only a combination of resoluteness and openness will guarantee that not weakness nor zealotry will bring us again to the pit's cusp."

The author is convinced that the goal is within reach though the hour is late and the Israelis with all their complexities and tribal tendencies ought not further delay. He thus concludes, "The good and silent great Israeli majority will not remain still. The democratic Jews will not let a wondrous national and human enterprise to go down. For all of us have a stake in this special place. And we all know that there wouldn't be a Fourth Commonwealth. The Third Commonwealth is the Jewish people's last opportunity. With determination, love and faith we'll defend Israel and rebuild the house."

HONORING ROSIE'S CAFÉ ON ITS SECOND ANNIVERSARY

HON. GABE VASQUEZ

OF NEW MEXICO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, February 12, 2025

Mr. VASQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rosie's Café and its owner, Jackie Chavira, on the café's second anniversary. Since it opened on January 21, 2023, Rosie's Café has served great food to the Grants community.

Jackie Chavira was born and raised in Grants and is incredibly proud to call it home. Jackie's parents opened Rosie's Laundry fourteen years ago, a testament to their hard work and dedication. After her mother retired, she encouraged Jackie to follow her own entrepreneurial path and open the restaurant. Jackie inherited her parents' unwavering work ethic and resilience, which shaped her journey. As her parents once told her, and she now tells her children, "The only thing you're going to inherit is hard work."

After Jackie purchased the building for Rosie's Café, she made several significant investments, including updating the plumbing, replacing the roof, and purchasing new equipment. With no prior experience in restaurant ownership, she faced a series of challenges along the way. She persevered through a winter without heat, a summer without air conditioning, and a monsoon season with a leaky roof and kept Rosie's Café open.

Jackie eventually joined the Chamber of Commerce and began attending meetings. These days, though she is more settled, Jackie continues to work tirelessly to keep the dream alive. Most recently, she earned her catering license, making her the only business in Grants licensed to cater.

Opening this restaurant was truly a labor of love for Jackie and her family, inspired by her mother's dream of owning a restaurant. Jackie

then took on the responsibility of obtaining all the necessary licenses and permits while continuing to work alongside her mother. During difficult times, her grandpa's encouraging words, "la cabeza pa'riba" reminded her to keep moving forward.

Today, Rosie's Café is renowned for its signature Chile Relleno Plate, lovingly prepared by her mother. The restaurant's success is a testament to her family's strength, resilience, and dedication.

On behalf of the people of New Mexico's 2nd Congressional District, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Jackie Chavira, her family, and the team at Rosie's Café for sharing their love through food with the community of Grants. We congratulate them on their second anniversary and commend the dedication and hard work that have impacted the local community. We look forward to their continued success in the years ahead.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, February 13, 2025 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 19

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine pending nominations.

SR-418

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Business meeting to consider an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the committee during the 119th Congress.

SR-253

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine improving the Federal environmental review and permitting processes.

SD-406

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Lori Chavez-DeRemer, of Oregon, to be Secretary of Labor.

SH-216

10:15 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine spectrum auction delays.

SR-253

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine children's safety in the digital era, focusing on strengthening protections and addressing legal gaps.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

Closed business meeting to consider pending intelligence matters; to be immediately followed by a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

4:15 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Airland

To receive a closed briefing on the F-15E United States Central Command Operations.

SVC-217

FEBRUARY 20

10 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Troy Edgar, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security, and James Bishop, of North Carolina, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

SD-342