

academics, he is deeply involved in extracurricular activities at West Orange High School. He has been a dedicated member of the cross-country and track teams since seventh grade and spent two seasons on the color guard. Sahli is also the president of the math team, chapter president of the National Honor Society, a varsity chess team member and part of the Royal Strings ensemble. His involvement in multiple activities and honor societies speaks to his well-rounded excellence. After graduating high school, he hopes to attend Harvard and study law. Any school would be lucky to have such a bright young mind.

What an incredible accomplishment and a shining example of New Jersey excellence. I Congratulate Sahli. He makes New Jersey proud.

HONORING THE LIFE OF
MARGARET "MARG" VENEKLASEN

HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the life of Margaret "VK" VeneKlasen (Margaret Lorraine Bombasaro)—lovingly known to her family and friends and the broader Santa Fe, New Mexico community as Marg.

It is hard to know where to start in honoring the life, achievements and contributions of this unstoppable renaissance woman who transformed our city and our state for the better over the almost 70 years she gave us. A fierce leader and advocate for women and girls, realtor, entrepreneur, skier, flight attendant, tap dancer, athlete, matriarch, icon, and Santa Fe Living Treasure.

Marg often said "It's better to be true to yourself than be popular." And true to herself she was—although beloved she was for it.

Born in 1927 to a tight-knit, union, Italian immigrant family in Joliet, Illinois, Marg was a young athlete who started her career as a stewardess for United Airlines. It was on a flight that she met Walter Paepcke, who invited her to his new Aspen Ski Resort in Colorado—which is where she discovered two of her great loves: skiing and her future husband, Gordon VeneKlasen.

Marg and Gordon, a geophysicist and WWII veteran, were wed in 1953, and shared their love of New Mexico and each other until his passing in 1998. They moved to Santa Fe in 1956, where Marg met her next love: our Santa Fe mountains. She wrote in her journal at 94: "I see the ski mountain from my window and check on it every morning. I gave up skiing this year, but the mountain is where my heart is."

True to her life-long love of sports—which she encouraged all of her five children to pursue—Marg was committed to making sports accessible to all New Mexican children, regardless of their background. In 1973, she co-established the Santa Fe Public School Ski Program, which helped 40,000 Santa Fe public school children learn to ski. In the 70's, 80's, and 90's, she built and led the Northern New Mexico Soccer Club (now known as the Northern Soccer Club), and through her leadership, in 1981, girls soccer was sanctioned as a varsity sport in New Mexico.

Marg championed "everyone watches women's sports" before it was cool. She herself was an accomplished tennis player, skier, and golfer—she was the first woman to serve on the FIFA National Rules Committee and fought for girl athletes to have access to public playing fields across sports.

A successful real estate broker for over 40 years, she co-founded VeneKlasen Property Management with her husband Gordon, which they ran together for almost 30 years, with a commitment to employing local workers and paying decent wages.

Kiwanis Club of Santa Fe named Marg "Person of the Year" for her commitment to protecting the traditional culture and wellbeing of the city.

A champion for women and girls throughout her life, she served on the boards of Girls, Inc. and the Santa Fe Rape Crisis Center.

In 2002, Marg was asked by the late Governor Bill Richardson to carry the Olympic Torch on its last prestigious leg of its journey: lighting the Olympic bonfire on Santa Fe Plaza.

On January 22, 2025, at the age of 97, Marg passed away peacefully in her beloved home of 62 years.

Today, we include Marg's name and accomplishments into the RECORD. In the words of one of her sons, Garrett, "She taped wings on people and made them into who they were." We add our gratitude for the many flights of possibility New Mexicans took because of her generosity and love for our whole state. It is my honor to enshrine her contributions to our state, culture, and economy in history.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS
AND RETIREMENT OF
SOMERSWORTH POLICE CHIEF
TIMOTHY J. MCLIN

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy and career of Somersworth Police Chief Timothy J. McLin.

After 33 years in law enforcement Chief McLin is embarking on a well-earned retirement. For more than three decades, he has served as a member of Somersworth Police department, rising from patrol officer to Chief of Police in 2022. Throughout his career Chief McLin has played a crucial role in supporting Granite Staters through the Adverse Childhood Experiences Response Team (ACERT) and Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program (COSSUP).

In addition to his decades in law enforcement service, Chief McLin is a proud veteran of the United States Navy, serving from 1984 to 1990 in Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm. Upon his completion of military service, he returned to Somersworth where he began his 33 years of public service to his hometown.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I wish Chief McLin well in his retirement, thank him for his commitment to the people of Somersworth, and congratulate him on a job very well done.

RECOGNIZING REGAN HINSON

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Regan Hinson and her service and contributions to Virginia's First District and the Nation.

Regan always served our office and our team well. Always a friendly face in the office, she was highly motivated and energetic about her work and her relationships. Regan was very committed to connecting with the wonderful people and beautiful landscapes of Virginia's First District, both of which featured heavily in her communications on behalf of our office.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in recognizing the service and accomplishments of Regan Hinson. May the Lord bless her as she embarks on a new challenge, and I look forward to seeing her continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF PHI DELTA KAPPA INTERNATIONAL'S EDUCATORS RISING

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize the 10th anniversary of Educators Rising, a nationwide movement dedicated to eliminating the teacher shortage in America by recruiting, preparing, and inspiring the next generation of educators.

Educators Rising is a community-based, Career and Technical Student Organization that supports middle and high school students in rural, urban, and suburban communities with a passion for teaching in their communities.

With over 60 percent of K-12 educators in the United States teaching within 20 miles of the high school they attended, creating pathways for local talent to enter the teaching profession plays a critical role in addressing our Nation's shortage of teachers.

As part of their Grow Your Own initiative, Educators Rising helps create diverse teaching workforces that reflect communities where students live. Teachers who share similar backgrounds and experiences with their students foster stronger student-teacher relationships, improved academic outcomes including higher test scores, rates of high school graduation and college enrollment, more inclusive school climates, fewer suspensions, and lower rates of chronic absenteeism.

Educators Rising has a presence in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, with over 1,400 school chapters and 38 state-level partnerships, and works with institutions of higher education and State Departments of Education to create seamless transitions into the education field.

Over 70 schools across Virginia have Educators Rising Chapters that are contributing to ending the teacher shortage in America. Since 1994, over 325,000 students have participated in Educators Rising, including nearly 145,600 students since its rebranding in 2015.

Phi Delta Kappa (PDK) International was established in 1906 as a non-profit organization that supports teachers and school leaders by strengthening their interest in the teaching profession throughout their careers. PDK International awards nearly 100 scholarships annually ranging from \$500 to \$5,000 to students pursuing careers in education through Educators Rising and other PDK International programs.

On behalf of Virginia's 8th Congressional district, I commend Educators Rising's work and express my gratitude for their efforts in recruiting local and diverse talent and building career pathways for educators.

IN MEMORY OF CLIFFORD ODELL
RUTLEDGE

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated husband, loving father, dotting grandfather, committed educator, astute entrepreneur, patriotic soldier, broadcast hall of famer and friend of longstanding, Mr. Clifford Odell Rutledge. Sadly, Cliff passed from labor to reward on Sunday, February 16, 2025. A funeral service to celebrate his extraordinary life will be held on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at Nichols Chapel AME Church in Phenix City, Alabama.

Cliff's journey began with his birth to Dock and Willie Mae Rutledge. He graduated from South Girard High School in Phenix City and furthered his education at Alabama A&M University in Huntsville, Alabama. Following his studies, Cliff served our country honorably in the United States Army from 1950 to 1953 during the Korean Conflict.

It has been said that "Education is the passport to the future; it belongs to those who prepare for it today." Cliff dedicated a significant part of his life to preparing young people for their futures, embarking on a distinguished 41-year career in education. His educational journey included roles at his alma mater, South Girard High School, South Girard Elementary, and Ridgecrest Elementary, where he coached junior high basketball teams and instilled in his students the importance of winning in the game of life.

Throughout his career, Cliff pursued continuous improvement through advanced studies in school administration at both Auburn and Tuskegee Universities. He served as a teacher and principal at Susie E. Allen Elementary School and later became the Director of Community Education for the Phenix City Public Schools, overseeing Head Start and Adult Education Programs.

In addition to his contributions to education, Cliff was a gifted radio broadcaster. His journey began in the late 1950s as the host of a Sunday morning gospel show on WCLE. In 1964, he joined WOKS radio station, where he launched his sports announcing career, becoming a trusted voice in the Chattahoochee Valley sports community. His dedication to broadcasting earned him induction into the Chattahoochee Valley Sports Hall of Fame in 2014.

Cliff was not only committed to education and broadcasting but also to his community.

As the saying goes, "Service is the rent that we pay for the space that we occupy here on this earth." Cliff paid his rent well and he paid it well. His commitment to justice led him to co-found United to Save Ourselves, an organization dedicated to equality and change. His efforts were recognized by several community organizations, including the USO's Hometown High Achievers Award in 2002 and the SAMARC Foundation Award, which honored him as a community legend in 2012. In 2020, the City of Phenix City recognized him with a Trailblazer award during a Black History Proclamation Event, and in 2023, the Alabama State Conference of the NAACP honored him with their esteemed Humanitarian Award.

Cliff loved his family deeply and held his faith close to his heart. He began serving God early in life at Nichols Chapel AME Church, where his musical talents flourished. His passion for music led him to serve as Minister of Music at the church and as a member of the Board of Trustees.

None of Cliff's achievements would have been possible without the love and support of his family, including his late wife of 50 years, Sadie Jean Nix Rutledge, his son, Timothy Thomas; his granddaughter, Clemitruis Hartley, and his niece and devoted caregiver, Decliffia Coleman and a host of other relatives who loved him dearly.

On a personal note, Cliff was my longtime friend and supporter for over 50 years. He was also my brother in the bond of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. His wise counsel and sage advice have profoundly influenced my journey and success as I serve in Congress. For that, I will always be grateful. Moreover, his life and career exemplify the noble purpose of our great fraternity—"Achievement in all fields of human endeavor." Truly the world is a better place because of Cliff.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife Vivian, and the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's Second Congressional District in honoring the life and legacy of Mr. Clifford Odell Rutledge. We extend our deepest sympathies to his family, friends, colleagues, and all those who mourn his loss. May we all find comfort in our abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 49.

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 27, 2025 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 4

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Elbridge Colby, of the District of Columbia, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Policy.

SD-106

10 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Matthew Whitaker, of Iowa, to be United States Permanent Representative on the Council of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, with the rank and status of Ambassador, Department of State.

SD-419

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. and multi VSOs: Paralyzed Veterans of America, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, Student Veterans of America, Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, The Elizabeth Dole Foundation, and National Coalition for Homeless Veterans.

SD-G50

MARCH 5

10 a.m.

Committee on the Budget

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of James Bishop, of North Carolina, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

SD-608

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of David Fotouhi, of Virginia, to be Deputy Administrator, and Aaron Szabo, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator, both of the Environmental Protection Agency.

SD-406

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Jayanta Bhattacharya, of California, to be Director of the National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services.

SD-562

10:15 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine stemming the tide of antisemitism in America.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support

To hold hearings to examine the posture of the United States Transportation Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year