

Courtney has lived a life dedicated to serving others. After graduating from West Point, he served as a Quartermaster Officer in the U.S. Army, ensuring that our soldiers get the equipment they need.

He has been a lifelong advocate for veterans, currently serving as a board member of the United Services Organization, the Cohen Veterans Network, and as Executive Sponsor of the Veterans Leadership Council.

For five years Courtney has been the president of Janssen Neuroscience, where he's worked on innovative treatments for patients with serious mental illness and neurodegenerative diseases.

He has strived towards bridging the racial disparities in healthcare; particularly increasing the mental health treatments available for Black men.

While at Johnson & Johnson, Courtney led the Community Health Equity Alliance, which works at the community level to provide mental health care across twelve states.

Through the Congressional Black Caucus, I have had the opportunity to work with Courtney, Johnson & Johnson, and partnering associations on those pressing issues, and I'd like to thank him for his thoughtful and fierce championing of the health of Black Americans.

While Courtney's years of service have taken him around the globe, New Jersey is all the better for being the state he calls home.

We are grateful to Courtney for his years of service and the work he has done to make our communities and our country healthier.

I hope that he and his wife Lisa will have many wonderful years ahead of them enjoying a well-earned and much-deserved retirement.

#### HONORING THEA HENSEL

#### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 3, 2025*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Thea Hensel. I have named Ms. Hensel as the California 4th Congressional District's Woman of the Year for Sonoma County because of her excellent work in our community. This honor recognizes women who have made important contributions to California's 4th Congressional District in Arts and Culture, Professional Achievement, Entrepreneurship and Innovation or Community Service.

Born in the Bronx, New York, Ms. Hensel pursued her education at Oneonta State University of New York, where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree and a Master's in Education from New York University. Beyond her professional and advocacy work, she enjoys traveling with her daughter, Riana Hensel, hiking and celebrating the arts, food and wine with her friends.

In 2009, Ms. Hensel co-founded the Santa Rosa Southeast Greenway and spearheaded a 15-year grassroots effort to secure 49 acres of former Caltrans property and convert it into a vibrant public park. After 60 years of sitting empty, Ms. Hensel helped secure the transfer of the Caltrans property to the City of Santa Rosa in 2024. Her coalition of organizations, businesses, educators, families and public officials is now designing the Greenway which will serve the diverse needs of our community.

Santa Rosa will soon break ground on Ms. Hensel's vision, a sustainable urban green space with community gardens, neighborhood parks, restored natural habitats, and revitalized creeks. Thanks to her leadership, the Southeast Greenway will become the fourth-largest park in the City of Santa Rosa and provide invaluable recreational and ecological benefits to the region.

Ms. Hensel's contributions to Sonoma County extend far beyond her work with the Greenway. She serves as Co-Chair of the Education Committee for Impact 100 Redwood Circle and as Program Co-Chair of the Sonoma County Forum. Her dedication to community service also includes her tenure as a board member of the Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition and her participation as a 2011 fellow at the Leadership Institute for Ecology and the Economy. Additionally, she has supported various projects benefiting local schools, the Sonoma County Symphony and numerous nonprofit organizations.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Thea Hensel exemplifies the spirit of civic leadership and environmental advocacy. Her vision and perseverance have ensured that future generations in our community will enjoy the benefits of a central urban open space. It is my privilege to recognize and honor her profound contributions to our community here today.

#### RECOGNIZING VIRGINIA'S FOURTH DISTRICT BLACK HISTORY MONTH ESSAY CONTEST—1ST PLACE MIDDLE SCHOOL WINNER, AUGUSTUS REZBA-PATEL

#### HON. JENNIFER L. McCLELLAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 3, 2025*

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following essay from Virginia's Fourth District Black History Month Essay Contest—1st Place middle school contest winner, Augustus Rezba-Patel.

Women are 17 percent of active-duty U.S. military members today. They serve in combat and leadership roles and are vital to the function of the U.S. military. But it wasn't always this way. When Charity Adams-Early joined the military in 1942, women were restricted to certain occupations and comprised just 1 percent of the military. Not only that, but people were discriminatory to Black Americans, restricting their education, housing, and neighborhoods. Even the military was segregated by race. Despite these barriers, Charity Adams-Early overcame both racism and misogyny to become the highest-ranking Black woman in the military during WWII.

Charity Adams-Early was born in Kittrell, North Carolina on December 5, 1918, two years before women's suffrage, where segregation and racial prejudice were social norms. She often faced challenges that tested her resilience, but with her mother's help, she excelled at learning, graduating high school two years early as the valedictorian. She attended Wilberforce University, triple-majoring in Latin, physics, and math. After graduating, she taught math and science (Eley).

When WWII started, the U.S. rapidly expanded the military. In 1942, the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) was formed, allowing skillful women to serve. Adams-

Early was highly recommended and was accepted. She arrived at Fort Des Moines, Iowa, in July, to start training. Segregation immediately took effect when she arrived at the fort, with White and Black women assigned to different barracks. Adams-Early prevailed over racism to become the first Black officer in the WAAC, and was promoted to Major in 1943, meaning she was high rank (Eley).

Adams-Early overcame systemic racism. Believe it or not, systemic racism is happening right under our noses at this exact moment. For example, my school's Honors English class is mostly White, while the non-honors classes are mostly Black. This isn't because our Black students have less potential, but because their Elementary schools didn't get as much financial support as other schools, giving them fewer opportunities for advanced academics and extracurriculars. Another example of systemic racism is the story of Richmond's Jackson Ward. Jackson Ward was a positive place, where black people and businesses thrived. Then, in 1958, the state put the highway right through their neighborhood, cutting them off from their businesses and jobs, leading to unemployment and poverty.

Adams-Early also faced sexism because in 1940 many people hated the idea of a woman achieving more than them (and still do). Women didn't even have the right to maintain a fixed status in the military. So Adams had the worst of it.

Charity Adams-Early overcame many social and systemic obstacles. She paved the way for generations of women and Black Americans in the military. Today women and Black people hold leadership roles, serve on the Joint Chiefs of Staff, advise the President, and serve as Cabinet leaders. We all owe her a lot, but we still have much to learn from her. Currently, women and people of color can learn from her and face systemic racism and sexism by always being determined and never giving up.

#### HONORING DJ GRIFFIN

#### HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 3, 2025*

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give my sincere thanks to my Communications Director, DJ Griffin, who recently ended his tenure with my office.

A proud graduate of Colgate University, DJ began his Washington, DC career as a Senior Associate Director of Research for the Republican National Committee. The White Plains, New York native then began working on Capitol Hill as a Communications Director for Congressman Mike Collins prior to joining my office.

In 2023, I welcomed DJ to my office as the Communications Director and he has been devoted to achieving the goals of our office and has made a lasting impact on the communications to our district, keeping our constituents informed of what was going on in Washington, DC, DJ has proven to be an extremely valuable member of my team by clearly communicating what is happening in the halls of Congress with my constituents and helping me to secure the Chairmanship of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

I want to thank DJ Griffin for his work serving Kentucky's Second District as a dedicated public servant. While it is a loss for my staff,

I am grateful for his time serving the constituents of my district and wish him all the best on his next chapter in the United States Senate.

HONORING LISA HILAS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 3, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lisa Hilas. I have named Ms. Hilas as the California 4th District's Woman of the Year for Solano County because of her excellent work in our community. This honor recognizes women who have made important contributions to California's 4th Congressional District in Arts and Culture, Professional Achievement, Entrepreneurship and Innovation or Community Service.

Born in San Jose, California, Ms. Hilas grew up in the rural town of Arnold in Calaveras County, where she developed a deep appreciation for the arts as a unifying force within communities. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Political Science from Santa Clara University before embarking on a successful career as a corporate travel executive for United Airlines and later as Vice President of Global Travel for JP Morgan Chase, in 2000, she was diagnosed with a rare retinal condition that rendered her legally blind, a challenge she met with remarkable determination. She found a new calling in nonprofit leadership and, in December 2024, earned a Master's degree in Arts Management and Entrepreneurship from the University of Oklahoma. Ms. Hilas currently resides in Vacaville, California, with her husband, Steve, and their beloved miniature Australian Shepherd, Gracie.

Since 2018, Ms. Hilas has served as President of On Stage Vacaville, a nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering artistic expression and enriching our community through the performing arts. Under her leadership, the organization expanded its mission to support local arts organizations devastated by the COVID-19 pandemic. One of her most impactful initiatives is "Synergy Adaptive Arts," an academy providing dance, theatre, and visual arts education for neurodivergent children and adults, ensuring that all members of the community have access to creative expression. Ms. Hilas's commitment to arts accessibility extends beyond our Vacaville community. As the CEO and Founder of Big Lights, Little City, she has championed rural arts programs, supporting venue management and nonprofit consulting to uplift artistic endeavors in underserved areas. Furthermore, Ms. Hilas is a dedicated advocate for animal welfare. She is the Executive Director and Founder of Saving Gracie, a nonprofit dedicated to ending euthanasia due to economic hardship by providing financial assistance for emergency veterinary care. Since its founding in 2016, Saving Gracie has provided over \$400,000 in funding to our Solano County residents, ensuring that financial hardship does not separate families from their beloved pets.

Ms. Hilas's advocacy work also extends to human rights. As a Soroptimist and a community organizer, she has collaborated with local nonprofits, law enforcement, and advocacy groups to educate the public about the dangers of human trafficking. She has organized

two large-scale community awareness events at the Vacaville Performing Arts Theatre, drawing participation from schools, churches, and our local government to combat this pressing issue. In recognition of her tireless efforts, Ms. Hilas was honored in 2024 by the Solano County Commission on Women and Girls as one of six recipients of the Woman of the Year award. She has also been recognized by Senator Bill Dodd's office with a formal resolution praising her outstanding service to the community. Additionally, she was a featured guest on the Association of Performing Arts Professionals' podcast "Work, Art, Life," where she shared her inspiring journey from corporate leadership to nonprofit advocacy.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Lisa Hilas's passion, leadership, and determination have profoundly impacted our Solano County community. Her unwavering commitment to the arts, animal welfare, and social advocacy is an inspiration to us all. It is with great honor and deep appreciation that I recognize her invaluable contributions here today.

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 Tuesday, March 4, 2025 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

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 Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Business meeting to consider an authorization to subpoena the production of memoranda, documents, records, and other materials from the Massachusetts Port Authority, and an authorization to subpoena the production of memoranda, documents, records, and other materials from NewPoint Strategies, LLC.

SR-253

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 Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine advancing American interests in the Western Hemisphere.

SD-419

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 2026 and the Future Years Defense Program; to be immediately followed by a closed session in SVC-217.

SD-106

Committee on Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 105, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to complete all actions necessary for certain land to be held in restricted fee status by the Oglala Sioux Tribe and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, S. 240, to amend the Crow Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2010 to make improvements to that Act, S. 241, to provide for the settlement of the water rights claims of the Fort Belknap Indian Community, S. 390, to require Federal law enforcement agencies to report on cases of missing or murdered Indians, S. 546, to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to make a technical correction to the water rights settlement for the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation, S. 550, to provide for the equitable settlement of certain Indian land disputes regarding land in Illinois, S. 562, to approve the settlement of water rights claims of the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna in the Rio San Jose Stream System and the Pueblos of Jemez and Zia in the Rio Jemez Stream System in the State of New Mexico, S. 563, to approve the settlement of water rights claims of Ohkay Owingeh in the Rio Chama Stream System, to restore the Bosque on Pueblo Land in the State of New Mexico, S. 564, to approve the settlement of water rights claims of the Zuni Indian Tribe in the Zuni River Stream System in the State of New Mexico, to protect the Zuni Salt Lake, S. 565, to approve the settlement of water rights claims of the Navajo Nation in the Rio San Jose Stream System in the State of New Mexico, S. 612, to amend the Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience Act to authorize grants to Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and Native Hawaiian organizations, S. 620, to provide public health veterinary services to Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations for rabies prevention, S. 621, to accept the request to revoke the charter of incorporation of the Lower Sioux Indian Community in the State of Minnesota at the request of that