

empowering the citizens of Kirkland and enhancing civic engagement. Known for his philosophy of “promises made, promises kept,” Mr. Asher advocated a vision of public safety, walkability, fiscal responsibility, and environmental sustainability. His actions as a public servant have left a lasting impact on his community and he will be remembered for his extensive contributions to the city.

Prior to his tenure on Kirkland’s city council, Mr. Asher served for over two decades in the United States Army. He took on the roles of Infantryman, Aviator, and Logistician with assignments in the U.S., Asia, and Europe. After his service he joined the University of Washington, eventually becoming the Chief Financial Officer for UW educational outreach. During this time, he was Vice Chair of the Kirkland Alliance of Neighborhoods and Chair of the Rose Hill Neighborhood Association. He was also a member of the Kiwanis Club of Kirkland and was recognized for his notable ability in recruiting members. Mr. Asher was also a devoted husband to his wife Hae-Sun for over 40 years, showing support, respect, and partnership through every milestone in their marriage.

Mr. Asher will be remembered as a dedicated public servant and an upstanding member of the Kirkland community. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Former City Councilmember Dave Asher and the legacy his work has left behind.

RECOGNIZING GIRL SCOUTS OF SAN JACINTO COUNTY, TEXAS AT THE UNITED NATIONS 69TH COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

HON. LIZZIE FLETCHER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2025

Mrs. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Carolyn Durso, Lana Ngyuen, Jaya Sheth, and Elise Peneguy from Girl Scouts of San Jacinto, for their selection to represent Girl Scouts of the USA at the United Nations’ 69th Commission on the Status of Women.

Each year, Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) joins more than 5,000 women and girls from around the world at the United Nations headquarters in New York to participate in the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). Delegates representing GSUSA undergo a rigorous application process and training to prepare them for their participation in the CSW. As delegates, girls have the opportunity to engage with GSUSA’s work around global advocacy, learn about global issues, see firsthand how global entities function, and have their voices heard on global issues impacting girls and young women.

The CSW is a functional commission of the United Nations, dedicated to shaping global standards on gender equality and the advancement and empowerment of women and girls. Each year, national representatives of Member States gather for a two-week session to evaluate progress on gender equality, identify challenges, set global standards, and formulate concrete policies to promote gender equality and the advancement of women worldwide. As NGO Consultative members,

GSUSA and the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts participate to bring the voice of girls and young women to the global stage.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Texas’ Seventh Congressional District, I congratulate these four young women on their selection. I thank them for their leadership and send best wishes for their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING MY CONGRESSIONAL STAFF IN HONOR OF NATIONAL EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION DAY

HON. DEBORAH K. ROSS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2025

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my profound appreciation for the staff who serve the people of the Second District of North Carolina.

This is an exceptionally challenging time for public servants in America. Congressional staff are no exception. Yet, despite an increasingly hostile political environment, my office continues to deliver superlative results for my constituents.

Last year, my district staff hosted or attended almost 200 events in Wake County, closed more than 1,500 constituent cases, and returned more than \$22.3 million in federal benefits to the people of North Carolina. Over the same period, the staff in my Washington, D.C. office researched hundreds of policy questions, drafted 32 bills, amendments, and resolutions, and responded to more than 43,000 messages from constituents.

These numbers are an impressive but inadequate measure of my staff’s contributions. In ways large and small—sometimes splashed on the frontpage of the newspaper but more often known only to a single family—they touch the lives of the people I represent.

Their service isn’t just about providing information on legislation or assistance with benefits. In moments of hardship and frustration, my staff offer hope and wise counsel. They make people feel heard and understood and appreciated. In a very practical sense, they make real our Constitution’s promise to every American of the right to “petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of their dedicated service and long hours on behalf of the people of North Carolina, I wish to include in the RECORD the names of each staffer currently employed by my office:

Puj Adusumilli, Kimberly Moore, Nadia Alston, Samantha Crane, Caroline Spencer Sparks, Josie Feron, Maura Haydin Thompson, Walker Beard, Tom Koester, Matthew Lee, Katie Paulson, Ally Tannenbaum, Jackie Gonzalez, Daphné Moore, Bardia Asefnia, Huston Wallace, Sam Uphah, Alisa Sarkisian-Tatarian, Sophia Jacome, Sophie Macomber, Erendira Ramirez, Easton Inman, and Chalina Morgan-Lopez.

Mr. Speaker, March 7th was National Employee Appreciation Day. On that day and every day, I am grateful that my staff have chosen to invest so much of their precious time and talent to making a difference for North Carolina. Their enthusiasm energizes me. Their creativity inspires me. At this difficult time, their positivity in the face of so much turmoil fills me with hope for the future.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARION COCKRELL

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2025

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the life of Marion Cockrell, a beloved member of Virginia’s First District Republican Committee. It was with immense sadness that I learned of her passing late last week and would like to take a moment to highlight her many contributions to Virginia’s First District.

Marion served as Chairman for the Northumberland Committee with strength, grace, kindness, and a truly exceptional sense of humor. All of us who have been privileged to know Marion can attest to her thoughtfulness and authenticity. I was blessed to know her and work by her side the past few years.

Despite her health challenges this Spring, Marion never stopped serving her committee and our party with integrity and conviction. She was an extraordinary woman whose positive effect on all of those who served alongside her will never be forgotten. Her efforts to serve others exemplify the very best of what it means to be a citizen of the Virginia Commonwealth and this great nation.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to recognize Marion Cockrell for her lifetime of service and dedication. On behalf of the people of Virginia’s First District, I extend my deepest gratitude and admiration for Marion Cockrell and wish her family comfort and blessings during this difficult time.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF THURMAN GUPTON

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2025

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Thurman Gupton, who was a compassionate mentor, dedicated community leader, and advocate for positive change. Thurman leaves a legacy of service in Contra Costa County and beyond.

Thurman dedicated his life to uplifting others, particularly young men navigating fatherhood. Through his role as Mentor Coordinator at the Family Wellness Center and his tireless work on the “Young Men as Fathers” program, he transformed lives by providing incarcerated and at-risk young fathers with essential parenting skills and mentoring opportunities. Thurman believed that it was critical to break cycles of neglect and dysfunction and foster better futures for families in our community. His dedication to the program left an indelible mark on the young men who worked alongside him. Through the program’s structured guidance, he helped many young men in developing a greater sense of purpose and community as they built parenting skills, fostered emotional growth, and set positive examples for their children.

Furthermore, Mr. Thurman Gupton was a dedicated advocate for equity and community empowerment, reflected in his active participation in the Black Families Association, the

Black Student Union, and his service on the Equal Employment Opportunity Advisory Council. Through these roles, he championed resources, guidance, and educational opportunities for the Black community while advocating for workplace equity and fair hiring practices.

Beyond his professional endeavors, Thurman was a man of varied and profound interests that reflected his deep commitment to his community and personal growth. He was an avid reader and writer, often using his talents to contribute to civic and community functions. Additionally, his faith inspired his actions, and he took great pride in being a supportive and engaged member of his congregation.

Thurman's life will be remembered for his outstanding character and his devotion to our community. His legacy lives on in the countless lives he touched through his mentorship, education, and advocacy. Please join me in honoring Thurman Gupton.

TIBET UPRISING DAY

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2025

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today marks a sad and brutal anniversary: the violent crushing in 1959 by the Communist Chinese People's Liberation Army of a patriotic movement that resulted in the deaths of tens of thousands of Tibetans and the fleeing into exile of His Holiness, the Dalai Lama.

The world saw the true nature of the Communist regime and was horrified.

In the ensuing decades since then, I am afraid there has been a dulling of the moral clarity we once possessed. Today, businesses, universities and politicians seek to partner with the People's Republic of China, lulled by the thought of lucre or enhanced prestige.

The nature of the Chinese Communist regime has not changed, however, nor has its goals. In 1959 the evil intent toward the great people of Tibet was manifested for all to see. Today, however, the genocidal repression is more subtle.

We see a slow-motion erasure of Tibetan culture, of children being taken from their parents and placed into colonial boarding schools where they are cut off from their language and culture. We see Tibetan women being forcibly sterilized, their children aborted.

Genocide does not require gas chambers or killing fields; per the Genocide Convention of 1948, its attributes include the "imposing [of] measures intended to prevent births within the group," and "forcibly transferring children of the group to another group."

This is what is happening. Today.

So strongly do I feel about this, that when I was named chair of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China last Congress, the very first hearing I convened was on "Preserving Tibet: Combating Cultural Erasure, Forced Assimilation and Transnational Repression."

Yet the CCP continues to wage a campaign of repression targeting the right of Tibetans to

educate their children. As noted, they are placed in colonial boarding schools, while across the Tibetan plateau the CCP shutters independent schools, many associated with monastic institutions. Young monks in particular are being forced to leave their religious training and enroll in state-run schools.

Schools that have been shut down in the last year include one attached to Kirti Monastery in Sichuan, and the Ragya Gangjong Sherig Norbulmg school in Qinghai. These school closures cut off a vital way for Tibetans to transmit their religious, linguistic, and cultural heritage, and should be viewed as a key part of the larger Sinicization project in Tibet.

There is an information blockade on Tibet, particularly the Tibet Autonomous Region. Thus, we could not obtain information about the January 2025 earthquake in Dingrim, and were left in the dark about how widespread damage was, how many people died or were injured, and what is the status of relief work.

Indeed, just this past first week of March, Chinese officials indicated that the number of affected people was more than twice what was previously reported.

Authorities have reportedly detained dozens of Tibetans for spreading "false information" about the earthquake. Meanwhile a Tibetan Buddhist monastery librarian was sentenced to 3 years in prison for "inciting separatism" because he was in contact with people outside Tibet and shared books that had been published abroad.

PRC officials are continuing the recent change in official terminology regarding Tibet, now referring in English to anything related to the Tibet Autonomous Region as "Xizang," the Mandarin word for Tibet. Organizations around the world that interact with the PRC government, for example museums, are pressured to accept this change.

Atshog (Atsok) Monastery in Qinghai was demolished last summer, and by fall the site was submerged under a new dam's filling reservoir, destroying stupa and murals that couldn't be relocated, and forcing the resettlement of the monastery's resident monks.

Of course, as geographic location is an important religious factor for Tibetan Buddhism, with local deities are often identified with geographic features like mountains or rivers, simply moving a monastery can never make up for what is lost.

Thus, if we are going to preserve Tibet, we in Congress need to continue to hear their voice. We cannot only pay attention on anniversaries such as March 10, but rather we must resolve to raise the cause of Tibet on a day-to-day basis.

The first step, however, is not forgetting. That is why we are here today.

Let's continue to work together to preserve Tibet and one day, we hope, we will see a free and independent Tibet.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF JOE ADAMS

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Mr. Joe Vernon Adams of

Cooper, Texas, who peacefully passed away on February 20, 2025.

Joe was born on June 27, 1963, to Eugene and Jo Ann Adams. Despite being born with a critical spinal condition, he overcame all obstacles and pushed forward to live with dedication, patriotism, and an unwavering commitment to conservative values. Prior to being elected as County Chairman for the Republican Party of Delta County in 2018, Joe was a longtime member of the Delta County Republican Club and a dedicated volunteer for the Republican Party of Texas. He regularly attended city council meetings, commissioners' court sessions, and community events throughout Delta County, where his presence and expertise was welcomed by many. Moreover, Joe regularly participated in the Cooper Cleanup Crew's Saturday events to help keep the city clean and beautiful.

As a proud American and patriot, Joe continued to tirelessly advocate for our nation's values, including freedom, responsibility, and service. He did not allow his disability to limit his valued contributions to our community. Instead, Joe worked diligently to connect constituents with their elected officials and promote civic engagement throughout North Texas. On top of his political and community work, he was a devoted father, grandfather, uncle, and friend. Joe enjoyed a good day of fishing and spending quality time with his family. I am deeply saddened to hear of his passing, as he made a positive and lasting impact on our community.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our Nation's Capitol in recognition of Joe's wonderful life and service. He will be dearly missed by his friends, family, and all who knew him.

CELEBRATING BATTLE CREEK HIGH SCHOOL BOYS WRESTLING TEAM

HON. MIKE FLOOD

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2025

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Battle Creek High School boys wrestling team for earning the Class C NSAA state championship for the second year in a row.

This historic victory was secured in dramatic fashion, with the team clinching the state title during the final match of the tournament. Every member of the team played a crucial role, whether it was the seniors closing out their high school careers as back-to-back state champions, or the younger wrestlers who will continue to build on this success in future seasons.

Under the leadership of Head Coach Cody Wintz, the team stayed focused, even after committing his finalists to earn individual titles. The dedication and grit displayed by their two finalists were key in propelling Battle Creek to the state championship once again.

Congratulations to the entire Battle Creek boys wrestling team on this outstanding and historic accomplishment.