

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.

CONGRATULATING GERTRUDE
PAULINE WHITENER MILBURN
ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2025

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Gertrude Pauline Whitener Milburn on turning 100 years old later this week on March 14th.

Gertrude Pauline Whitener Milburn was born on March 14, 1925, and grew up in a small textile community known as Brookford, located in Hickory, North Carolina. She had two brothers and a sister.

Gertrude met Bill Milburn while he was serving in the Navy during World War II, and they married in December 1945 after his discharge. They had two children, Patricia Milburn Link and Randolph Lee Milburn, and lived in Lincolnton, North Carolina, until 1967, when they moved to Lake Norman.

Gertrude spent her entire career in the textile industry. She is the proud grandmother of four, with ten great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren. She is not shy to be blunt and share her many years of wisdom with the younger generations.

On behalf of all of Western North Carolina, I congratulate Gertrude.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF CRAIG ROBERTS

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2025

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Craig Roberts of Alton, Illinois, who passed away on February 15, 2025, at the age of 62.

Born and raised in Illinois, Craig graduated from Western Illinois University with a bachelor's degree in communications, marketing, and political science in 1984. Craig's passion for politics and government along with his personal attachment to Illinois led him to begin his career in state government.

During this time, Craig worked as the Republican Staff Director on Issues Development for the Illinois House of Representatives, Assistant to the Illinois Lieutenant Governor, and the Executive Assistant for Programs and Policy Development for the Illinois Secretary of State. For over a decade, Craig served the state of Illinois and left a lasting impact on many through his commitment to our state government.

In 1997, Craig made the transition to the United States House of Representatives. Here he worked as long-tune Chief of Staff for Representative John Shimkus for 24 years while also serving as President of the House Chiefs of Staff Association from 2015 to 2020. Craig ended his career in the House as a Special Advisor to the House Administration Committee and afterward held the role of Senior Vice President at Milne, Wiener & Shofe Global Strategies.

Craig was a long-time mentor to up and coming Hill staff, supported numerous Members of the Illinois delegation as they

transitioned to Congress, and was a true example of what dedicating your life to public service really means.

Craig was undoubtedly a dedicated and impactful figure in both the state of Illinois and here in Washington and while his legacy will live on, he will be truly missed as a friend to so many. I want to offer my condolences to the Roberts family and their loved ones on the loss of a great man who will be fondly remembered by all those who knew him.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN CONSTRUCTION OWNERS AND EXECUTIVES

HON. SHARICE DAVIDS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2025

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Women Construction Owners and Executives, or WCOE for short, on the organization's 40th anniversary. Forty years ago, a group of forward-thinking women construction entrepreneurs came together to help each other succeed in a competitive and male-dominated industry. Their goal was to promote business opportunities for each other and, as a result, formed WCOE. Today, WCOE is recognized as a leading national voice advocating for women business owners and executives in the construction industry.

From its humble beginnings as a small group of women entrepreneurs, WCOE has developed into a powerful and influential nationwide network of local chapters. True to its goal of supporting women in the construction industry, WCOE members continue to mentor each other, sharing their knowledge, experiences, and resources to help one another thrive. This culture of mentorship has been instrumental in fostering a strong sense of community and empowerment among women construction professionals.

Through various programs and initiatives, WCOE provides its members with the support they need to succeed, from business development and networking opportunities to educational resources and industry insights. WCOE has also been at the forefront of advocating for policies that recognize women in construction and promote equal opportunities within the industry. For example, WCOE was at the forefront of a hard-fought effort to mitigate fraud in the Women-Owned Small Business Program by eliminating self-certification. WCOE was also an early supporter of the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum to recognize the women who helped build this Nation, literally and figuratively.

I applaud this strong group of women, who continue to be a resource and an inspiration to other women in the industry. Their dedication, resilience, and vision have paved the way for future generations of women in construction. As we celebrate WCOE's 40th anniversary, let us recognize and honor the remarkable achievements of this organization. Together, we can build a brighter and more inclusive future for women in the construction industry.

DECLARATION OF MOTHERS: A PROCLAMATION AND PLEDGE FOR THE PRESERVATION OF FREEDOM AND VIRTUE

HON. MARY E. MILLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2025

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the declaration below on behalf of Moms for America.

As the mothers, chief architects of the homes of America, and molders of the future of our nation, we declare that the liberty and freedom of all people begin in the home and that a nation is but a magnified home. The values and virtues taught within the family will determine the values and virtues of the Nation as a whole.

We uphold the laws of nature affirming the gender roles of male and female as essential elements for the perpetuation of life. As life is our most fundamental right, protected by the Constitution, so too is the truth that God created two distinct genders—male and female—each with purposeful design and irreplaceable roles. We honor both mothers and fathers working together to protect and nurture the fundamental unit of society which is the family.

We recognize the sacred role of mother as the heart of the home and home as the heart of society. The liberty of each individual begins in the home and parents are, first and foremost, the primary teachers and protectors of their children in a free society. Properly constructed social, religious, and governmental institutions are designed to support and strengthen the family unit, not restrict it, regulate, or replace it. No association or government organization can replace the family no matter how well-intentioned or well-designed it may be.

The privilege of living as a free people in a free society is dependent on being a people of faith, virtue and patriotism—the three pillars of liberty—and these attributes are best developed and nurtured in the home. Each generation has a responsibility to instill a love of liberty and virtue in the hearts of the next generation.

We affirm that “All men and women are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights and to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, [receiving] their just powers from the consent of the governed.”

To secure the blessings of liberty, the Founding Fathers of the United States of America created a written constitution under the inspiration of Almighty God. The preservation of this sacred document and trust is dependent upon each generation who bears the stewardship of safeguarding the constitution and teaching their children the rights and responsibilities associated with the noble cause of liberty and keeping the Republic.

Every individual is born with intrinsic dignity that is inherent to each member of the human race with life being our most fundamental inalienable divine right. All men and women have the right to liberty, self-determination and self-governance. The individual's responsibility of work, education, and industry are crucial elements of self-governance in society and the preservation of human dignity.

The rights of a free people are protected and preserved through honorable, virtuous, leadership which invokes the nobility inherent in all men and women. As the lessons of history clearly demonstrate, we recognize that freedom is fragile. It is a rare and prized