

operates on grants, community support, and state funding. If those grants are taken away, what does that mean for us? For the students? For me? It means our education is in danger. I am currently a junior at Common Ground High School. I have been here since I was a freshman and can't imagine being anywhere else. Common Ground has opened my eyes to so many possibilities. But now, I am worried that future generations won't have the same opportunities—they won't experience the transformative power of this school.

This is happening right now, and it's happening fast.

I came here today to ask you to fight. Fight for youth development programs. Fight for our schools. Fight for our teachers. Fight for the future of our students."

HONORING REVEREND JIMMY SWAGGART'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. CLAY HIGGINS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Reverend Jimmy Swaggart for his 90th birthday. Throughout his life, Reverend Swaggart has been a beacon of faith and inspiration, leaving a legacy through his preaching and ministry.

Reverend Swaggart hails from humble beginnings in Ferriday, Louisiana. Early in his career in the 1950's, Swaggart preached throughout rural Louisiana, living in church basements, and homes of pastors. During this time, Reverend Swaggart received an offer to join a record label as a gospel artist but opted instead to follow his calling "to preach the gospel."

By 1961, Reverend Swaggart was ordained by the Assemblies of God and began reaching wider audiences through the radio. He also founded his own brick-and-mortar church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Over the following two decades, Reverend Swaggart began telecasting bible studies, Christian music, and his weekend services. 1987 was arguably Swaggart's most influential year on record. Swaggart's TV ministry reached an estimated 510 million people in 145 countries. His sermons and educational programs yielded \$150 million a year to his church, bible college, and mail-order business. On a daily basis, donations averaged an astounding \$500,000, and Reverend Swaggart poured every penny into delivering the word of God across the world.

Reverend Swaggart's influence gained international esteem and influence over the 1990's and 2000's by spreading the Word of God through his remarkable sermons. Today, Jimmy Swaggart Ministries is comprised of the Family Worship Center, Crossfire Youth Ministries, The Evangelist Magazine, Family Christian Academy, and Jimmy Swaggart Bible College (JSBC). Swaggart's SonLife Broadcasting Network (SBN) provides Christian programming 24/7 and is available around the world in English, Spanish, and Portuguese. The ministries remain headquartered on 270 acres in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Jimmy Swaggart Ministries has evolved into a family business with Frances, his wife of 72 years, their son Donnie, and grandson Gabriel. Frances Swaggart embodies unwavering faith, exceptional leadership, and substantial

impact on the Work of God, making her a personification of the 31st Chapter of Proverbs. Donnie serves as Executive Vice-President of Jimmy Swaggart Ministries and Pastor of the Family Worship Center Church. Donnie has traveled globally evangelizing and teaching from Holland to Papua New Guinea on the Holy Spirit, with his Pentecostal foundation clear in every message. Gabriel Swaggart, President of JSBC and co-pastor of Family Worship Center, has a Bachelor's in Liberal Arts, a Master's in Christian Ministries from Oral Roberts University, and is currently pursuing a Doctor of Strategic Leadership while managing operations at Jimmy Swaggart Ministries and SBN.

At 90 years old, Reverend Jimmy Swaggart continues his dedication to spreading the message of the Bible and Jesus Christ through his ministry. His unwavering commitment to spreading Christ's love has touched the hearts of millions around the world, leading countless people to salvation. Reverend Swaggart's contributions to Christian ministry and broadcasting have left an immeasurable mark on the world of evangelism.

Happy birthday to Reverend Swaggart. I greatly commend his dedication to God, to Country, and to the State of Louisiana.

RECOGNIZING THE BILTMORE'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CARLOS A. GIMENEZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. GIMENEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the iconic Biltmore hotel.

For a century, the Biltmore hotel and its renowned golf course have stood as a beacon of elegance, history, and world-class hospitality in the heart of Coral Gables.

Since opening its doors in 1926, this historic national landmark has welcomed presidents, dignitaries, and guests from around the world.

In 1942, the Biltmore was transformed into a military hospital, serving our brave service members as an Army Air Force hospital, and later as a Veterans Administration hospital until 1968.

After reopening in 1987 and following a 10-year restoration beginning in 1992, the grand hotel and golf course have entered a new era, reclaiming its former glory and embodying Miami's rich sporting heritage; its halls and tower have served as the backdrop for a century of unforgettable moments.

The Biltmore is more than just a hotel—it's a living landmark, a symbol of Miami, and a treasured piece of our community's history that will continue to inspire generations to come.

RECOGNIZING MARK KAPLAN

HON. KAT CAMMACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Florida's Third Congressional District, we thank Mark Kaplan, the University of Florida's

Vice President of Government and Community Relations and wish him the best in what comes next.

Kaplan, a Gator Grad, has served the University in this role since 2018. Calling it his dream job, Kaplan has built countless relationships and developed strong ties for the university at the local, state, and federal levels. The university community has benefited from his wisdom, collaborative spirit, calm, steady approach to his work, and ability to get things done.

Telling Florida Politics, Kaplan said, "We talk about UF being among the most comprehensive universities in the country, with one of the few places in the country that has a vet school and a pharmacy school and a medical school and a law school. And one of the things that comes from all of that is it adds to the scope of things that you're paying attention to and issues that you get to work on."

Kaplan worked as Governor Jeb Bush's chief of staff, special counsel for the Speaker of Florida's House of Representatives, and a judicial clerk to a member of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit. He also worked as the executive director for the Florida Housing Finance Corp. and as global head of public affairs at Mosaic Company.

We wish Mark and his wife Sherry a wonderful next chapter. I thank him for his service and Go Gators.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF ZAGLOUL "ABU SAAD" KADAH

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today, the 12th Congressional District recognizes the incredible contributions of Zagloul "Abu Saad" Kadah, a pioneering Syrian American entrepreneur and innovator in Silicon Valley. His lifelong dedication to technology, business, and mentorship has paved the way for countless others in the industry.

After immigrating to the United States in 1966, Zagloul earned his M.S. in electronics from San Jose State University while working and raising a family. His entrepreneurial spirit led him to establish successful businesses in solid-state relay design and laser services for the medical industry. Beyond his professional achievements, he has dedicated himself to research and writing on religion and philosophy.

On February 21, 2025, Sync—Syria—Silicon Valley honored Zagloul with a Lifetime Achievement Award for his legacy. His work has inspired a new generation of Syrian technologists, and his impact will continue to be felt for years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I was delayed as a result of my delayed flight. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 63; YEA on Roll Call No. 64; and YEA on Roll Call No. 65.

RECOGNIZING THE COURAGEOUS SERVICE OF THE SWIFT WATER RESCUE TEAM OF BRISTOL, VIRGINIA

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the courageous service of Bristol, Virginia's Swift Water Rescue Team.

Formed in 2019, the group operates under the Bristol Fire Department and is the only such swift water team in Southwest Virginia, a region that encompasses more than twenty localities and is bigger in landmass than some U.S. states.

The personnel of the Bristol Rescue Team have fought heroically in the most trying of times.

In August of 2024, Tropical Storm Debby battered much of the Southeastern United States.

A month later, Hurricane Helene ravaged much of Virginia's Ninth Congressional District and devastated numerous communities. Historic levels of flooding resulted from the natural disaster.

In February of 2025, major winter storms hit the region and prompted widespread flooding and, in some cases, community evacuations.

These major weather events were met by courageous rescue officers to respond to severe emergency situations.

The Rescue Team tallied more than 80 rescues in the last six months. Their work is crucial as the region faces recovery challenges.

In the face of a historic natural disaster and other extreme weather events, the Bristol Swift Water Rescue Team has performed admirably.

The people of Southwest Virginia are grateful for the Bristol Swift Water Rescue Team, the hours the Team spends training, and its preparation to carry out brave rescue missions for local communities.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE HARIDOPOLOS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 64.

CELEBRATING MR. JOSEPH SALONIA'S HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. KAT CAMMACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Florida's Third Congressional District, we wish Mr. Joseph Salonia a very happy 100th birthday.

Born in Lawrence, Massachusetts on February 17, 2025, Joseph moved to Connecticut as a young man where he grew up during the

Great Depression, He attended school until the eighth grade before being drafted into the U.S. Army in 1943. While in the Army, he served at Fort Hood, Texas for weapons and M-10 tank training before serving in Oregon and Alaska prior to joining the Second World War effort in Italy.

For his service in World War II, Mr Salonia received two Bronze Stars and the Purple Heart for his combat wounds. After healing from his injuries, Joseph entered Army intelligence, serving in France, before being discharged from the Army and returning to his home in Connecticut.

For decades, Joseph worked as a construction labor iron worker, a tin knocker, and a real estate agent in Connecticut. He married his bride Margaret and had two daughters, Chris and Brooke.

He celebrates 100 incredible years at his Chiefland, Florida home in Florida's Third Congressional District, Happy birthday to Mr, Joseph Salonia.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. RENE LICHTMAN

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today, the 12th Congressional District honors the life and legacy of Dr. Rene Lichtman, a Holocaust survivor and activist in our community who was deeply committed to justice in Southeast Michigan and around the world.

Rene, who passed away at 87, dedicated his life to teaching others about the Holocaust, ensuring that the stories of survivors would never be forgotten. Through his art, film, and photography, he captured the resilience of the human spirit, and through his activism, he fought for social justice and an end to human suffering.

At the age of 63, Rene got his PhD in instructional technology and spent two decades working at Beaumont Hospital. Even at the end of his life, Rene was painting, organizing with JVP Detroit, and standing up for Palestinian human rights. His impact and legacy will live on through his work and the countless lives he touched. May his memory be a blessing.

HONORING JOANNE MANN

HON. CHARLES J. "CHUCK" FLEISCHMANN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the well-deserved retirement and honor the career of Joanne Mann.

Joanne spent much of her adult life in and around a military environment, serving on Active Duty and in the Reserves for the U.S. Army from 1986 to 1995 as a combat medic. Joanne then joined the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nashville District in 1995 as a Legal Assistant.

Joanne Mann has served as the Nashville District's Executive Officer and Congressional

Liaison since 2007, where she has been an integral part of the delivering water resource projects for the Nation. She has been the primary liaison for the District, facilitating the building and maintaining of relationships with stakeholders and members of Congress. Joanne has also stepped up in times of need, deploying to Biloxi, MS immediately following Hurricane Katrina, in support of the Corps' Blue Roof program.

Joanne's contributions to the Nation have been recognized with numerous professional awards, including the Commander's Award for Civilian Service and the Bronze Order of the de Fleury Medal.

With a lifetime dedicated to service, partnerships, and people, Joanne's legacy stands as an example of what it means to live in service of our Nation. Her care and compassion, not only for the mission, but to the Army, her co-workers, and the community are an unparalleled example of a life of service.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Joanne for all she has done and continues to do for our community. We wish her all the best in retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SYDNEY KAMLAGER-DOVE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 63.

HONORING SISTER TO SISTER ON ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Sister To Sister on their 30th anniversary.

Sister To Sister is a community-based organization that empowers youth and their families in Hampton Roads, Virginia. Ms. Hakima Abdul Samad Muhammad and Dr. Pamela D. Hall founded the organization in 1992 as an organization to support Black women, but over time, the organization grew to support all children in our community.

Through the years they have launched many successful initiatives to engage young people in positive activities and support families. This can be seen in their S.U.P.E.R. (Supreme, Unity, Perpetuating, Eternal, Revolution) Saturday program and after-school enrichment programs that help young people focus on leadership, community service, civic engagement and other important social values.

Sister To Sister opened their first resource center, "Each One Teach One," in 2018. This center provides female empowerment workshops, computer literacy training for both young people and adults, job training programs for both men and women, parenting classes, supports for anger and substance abuse management, gun violence prevention programs and other assistance programs for homeless people.