

I strongly urge my colleagues to join with me in passing and enacting the Indigenous Diplomacy and Engagement Act.

HONORING THE LATE ROBERT
GEORGE CLARK, JR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a trailblazer, the Honorable Robert George Clark, Jr. He dedicated his life to demonstrating what can be achieved through hard work, perseverance, and a strong desire for change.

Robert George Clark, Jr. was elected to the Mississippi House of Representatives in 1967, becoming the first African American to serve in the Mississippi State Legislature since the Reconstruction era. He remained in office until 2003, leaving behind a legacy of leadership and progress.

Clark was born on October 3, 1928, to the late Mr. Robert and Mrs. Julia Anne Clark of Ebenezer, Mississippi, as the youngest of three children. He attended Holmes County Training School in Durant, Mississippi, and later earned his B.A. from Jackson State University in 1952. In 1959, he obtained a Master's Degree in Administration and Educational Services from Michigan State University. In 1979, while serving in the Mississippi State Legislature, Clark further honed his expertise as a teaching fellow at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

After earning his B.A. degree, Clark worked as a teacher in Holmes County. His first experience in politics came in 1966 when he ran for and won an elected board position with the Holmes County Community Action Program (CAP). The following year, he ran for state legislator on Holmes County's Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP) ticket. His victory made history, as he became the first Black person elected to the Mississippi House of Representatives since Reconstruction.

Clark's election signaled the emergence of Black electoral politics in Mississippi. As late as 1964, only ten Black people were registered to vote in Holmes County, despite African Americans comprising roughly 75 percent of the population. By 1967, however, the Black community had built one of the strongest and most sophisticated political organizations in the state.

Ten years after his historic election, Clark became the first Black committee chairman in the Mississippi House of Representatives when he was appointed to lead the Education Committee. Under his leadership, the legislature passed landmark education reforms, including the 1982 Education Reform Act and the 1984 Vocational Education Reform Act. The 1982 act significantly improved Mississippi's educational system by modernizing classrooms and other facilities, replacing outdated textbooks, and securing new school buses.

In January 1992, Clark was elected Speaker Pro Tempore, a position he held until 2000. By the time he retired from the Mississippi House of Representatives in December 2003, he was the longest-serving member in continuous House service. I stand on the shoulders of

men like him, drawing inspiration from his tireless efforts to make Mississippi a better place for all its citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the late Robert George Clark, Jr. for his unwavering dedication to civil rights and racial equality.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VINCE FONG

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on Monday, March 24, 2025. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 73, and YEA on Roll Call No. 72.

DEFENDING EDUCATION TRANS-
PARENCY AND ENDING ROGUE
REGIMES ENGAGING IN NEFAR-
IOUS TRANSACTIONS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2025

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Chair, I oppose H.R. 1048, the DETERRENT Act, because it imposes unnecessary, overly broad reporting mandates on universities under the pretense of national security. While protecting research from foreign influence is important, this bill goes too far, sweeping in respected organizations like the United Nations and the World Health Organization. It creates a complex and punitive reporting system that burdens universities with vague requirements and excessive penalties, while assigning enforcement to the Department of Education, which is understaffed and lacks national security expertise. The Trump Administration is also trying to dismantle the Department of Education.

The bill also mandates a public database of faculty contracts and donations, raising privacy concerns and exposing researchers to potential harassment. This approach does not strengthen security—it creates red tape that harms academic collaboration. That is why I oppose it, along with major higher education groups and research institutions.

HONORING COLE MCGOWAN

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Cole McGowan for his dedicated service and exemplary leadership as a firefighter with the Yocha Dehe Fire Department. Mr. McGowan has been named the Yocha Dehe Firefighter of the Year, a recognition awarded by his peers for his commitment, work ethic, and embodiment of the department's core values.

Born in Newport Beach, California, Mr. McGowan currently resides in Rescue, California with his wife Brenna. Together, they are

the proud parents of three children: Jack, Kate, and Jane. In addition to his outstanding service as a firefighter, Mr. McGowan is a veteran of the United States Marine Corps, where he served from 1993 to 1997, reaching the rank of Sergeant E-5. His military service reflects his lifelong commitment to serving and protecting others.

From his first day with the Yocha Dehe Fire Department, Mr. McGowan has demonstrated unwavering dedication to protecting our community. As a member of the only internationally accredited Native American fire department, he plays a vital role in providing essential fire protection, rescue support, and paramedic services to Yolo County. Additionally, Mr. McGowan has devoted time to improving the station and their training sites, as well as teaching at the Youth Fire Academy, inspiring our community's next generation of firefighters to answer the call to serve.

Mr. McGowan's dedication to our community extends beyond his professional responsibilities. In the past, he has volunteered his time to support youth development programs at the El Dorado County Juvenile Hall and Lords Gym in El Dorado County. Through these efforts, he helps to mentor and empower the youth in our community.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Cole McGowan exemplifies the ideals of public service and community dedication. His commitment to excellence, both in his professional duties and community involvement, makes him a deserving recipient of the 2025 Firefighter of the Year Award at Yocha Dehe Fire Department. It is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

RECOGNIZING DEPUTY JEFF
LARKIN

HON. VICTORIA SPARTZ

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mrs. SPARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hamilton County Sheriff Deputy Jeff Larkin, who is retiring after 16 years of service with the Hamilton County, Indiana Sheriff's Department.

Prior to his time with the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office, Deputy Larkin served as a police officer with the Memphis, Tennessee Police Department. In 1982, he served as lead negotiator for a hostage situation at St. Jude Children's Hospital. After his heroic actions during this event, Deputy Larkin formed a new negotiation unit with the Memphis Police Department. Deputy Larkin's actions during the hostage situation also had a profound impact on the 1985 Tennessee vs. Garner court case, which stated "Under the Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, a police officer may use deadly force to prevent the escape of a fleeing suspect only if the officer has a good-faith belief that the suspect poses a significant threat of death or serious physical injury to the officer or others."

During his time with the Sheriff's Department, Deputy Larkin received a number of awards, including being named "Reserve Deputy of the Year." Deputy Larkin has also been honored for his work with senior citizens in the community providing them with information on Senior Crime Prevention and Elder Fraud & Abuse.

Outside of work, Deputy Larkin has been a steadfast Boy Scout Leader for Troop 132, for over 35 years. An avid sports lover, Deputy Larkin is also a referee for many local high school sports leagues. Deputy Larkin is a graduate of Ole Miss University. He has given back to his alma mater by teaching a criminal justice course as a guest lecturer. Deputy Larkin also serves on a criminal justice committee at the school.

Deputy Larkin's professional contributions have had a lasting impact wherever he has worked. Deputy Larkin plans to continue working with the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office in a civilian capacity after his retirement. My fellow Hoosiers and I appreciate his commitment and dedication to our community.

COMMEMORATING THE 2025 BURKE
VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE
DEPARTMENT'S INSTALLATION
OF OFFICERS BANQUET

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department on the occasion of its 77th Annual Installation of Officers Banquet, and to thank its volunteers for playing an essential role in keeping our community safe.

The Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department was founded in January 1948, and for more than seven decades it has provided lifesaving fire suppression, fire prevention, and emergency medical and rescue services to the residents of Burke and the surrounding communities. It also provides houses, and maintains firefighting and emergency medical equipment, provides opportunities for professional growth and development for the membership, and maintains and fosters a strong viable organization.

As one of the county's most active volunteer fire and rescue departments, the Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department works in co-

operation with the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department to serve the community. I am honored to recognize the dedicated men and women of the Burke Volunteer Fire Department who have volunteered for extra duty as Officers or as members of the Board of Directors and to include in the RECORD their names:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President—Ian Dickinson
Vice President—John Powers
Secretary—Maria Suarez-Ortiz
Treasurer—Larry Bocknek
Board Member—Kathleen Beer
Board Member—James Stahlman
Board Member—Kenneth Senn

OFFICERS

Chief—Keith O'Connor
Deputy Chief—John Hudak
Deputy Chief—Tina Godfrey
Assistant Chief—Larry Bocknek
Captain II—Melissa Ashby
Captain II—Kevin Grottle
Lieutenant—Caitlin Edwards
Sergeant—Noah Bilger
Sergeant—Gavin Kuzemchak
Officer—Garrett Canterbury
Officer—Justin Day

In addition to the men and women who have generously assumed the responsibilities of serving as an Officer or a member of the Board of Directors, the Burke Volunteer Fire Department is also presenting awards to the following individuals in recognition of their exemplary service during the last year:

Rookie of the Year: Catherine Petrovich
EMS Provider of the Year: Garrett Canterbury

Officer of the Year: Noah Bilger
Career Member of the Year (The Steven J. Meyer Award): Captain Christopher Yorty
Team of the Year: VISIT Team: Christopher Hague, Jennafer Miller, and Damion Jedlicka

Admin Member of the Year: Richard Lawson

President's Award: Damion Jedlicka

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the department for 77 years of service and in thanking all of the brave volunteers who do not hesitate to drop everything when the community calls in need

of help. To all of these men and women who put themselves in harm's way to protect our residents I say: "Stay safe."

CELEBRATING ROBERT "BOB"
GUINA'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. HILLARY J. SCHOLTEN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of my constituent, Robert "Bob" Guina, who turned 100 years old on January 14th of this year. Mr. Guina has dedicated his life to our country, his family, and Michiganders.

After graduating from high school in 1943, Mr. Guina quickly joined the United States Army Air Corps and became a lieutenant pilot after 18 months of service. He briefly moved to Detroit in 1945 before returning as a pilot in the Korean War, flying in 52 missions. Mr. Guina recalls several heroic moments during his service, where he was tasked with identifying and taking out targets with his aircraft. At one point, in the dead of winter, he had completely emptied his fuel reserves during a mission. They prayed for more time as they raced back to the base and the engines failed, but the crew still managed to land safely. Now, over 70 years later, we thank him for his bravery and life-long commitment to our country.

After he was discharged from the military, Mr. Guina returned to Michigan and worked for Ford Motor Company. He has since retired and enjoys spending time with his more than 50 grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

I am proud to honor Mr. Guina and his unwavering service to our Nation and West Michigan. His life serves as a shining example of true courage, resilience, and patriotism. Once again, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Robert Guina a wonderful birthday as we celebrate his contributions to our Nation and his family. I wish Mr. Guina another happy, healthy, and fulfilling year ahead.