

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF BROTHER RONALD GALLAGHER

HON. MARK DESAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 15, 2025

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Brother Ronald Gallagher. Ronald was born in Oakland, California and grew up in Santa Cruz and Central California. He later moved to Napa, California where he attended the Christian Brothers Juniorate at Mont La Salle. Ronald entered the Novitiate in 1964 then took his final vows in 1972.

He received his B.A. from Saint Mary's College, his M.A. from San Francisco State University, and his PhD in Comparative Literature from the University of Washington. Shortly after earning his Masters, Brother Ron became a teacher, going on to shape generations of students. He was a devoted educator and encouraged students to grow both academically and spiritually. He taught at Saint Mary's College High School in Berkeley, Justin-Siena in Napa, and joined Saint Mary's College faculty as a professor of English in the early 1980s.

Brother Ron was a monumental figure at Saint Mary's College and his authenticity and commitment to faith were evident to all who knew him. He served as Residence Hall Director and Assistant to the President before serving as the 28th President of Saint Mary's College from 2005 through 2013. During his tenure as President, Ronald spearheaded the construction of the Kalmanovitz School of Education building, improvements to Oliver Hall, and the creation of the Athletics and Recreation Corridor. He returned to the college in 2018 as President Emeritus where he remained involved in campus activities and continued supporting the college's mission. In 2023, the college's newly renovated baseball facility was named Brother Ronald Gallagher Stadium in recognition of his outstanding service.

Further, Ronald served as Vice Chancellor of Bethlehem University in Palestine and as Secretary General of the global Lasallian Institute. He was a regular attendee at Collegiate Seminar retreats at the Russian River and Huntington Lake and started a class at Saint Mary's to share his love of Irish literature and culture with students. Additionally, Brother Ron was known for his sense of humor, love of sports, and passion for literature.

Sadly, Ronald passed away on January 4, 2025. He will be remembered for his unwavering commitment to service, education, and his faith. Please join me in recognizing Brother Ronald Gallagher for his indelible impact on our community.

TRIBUTE TO LOUISVILLE METRO COUNCILMAN JECOREY ARTHUR

HON. MORGAN MCGARVEY

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 15, 2025

Mr. MCGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Louisville Metro Councilman Jecorey Arthur, whose historic election in 2020 led to him becoming the youngest city legislator in Louisville, Kentucky's history, and to honor his unwavering dedication to the citizens of Louisville Metro Council District 4.

Representing neighborhoods including Butchertown, California, Clifton Heights, Downtown, Old Louisville, Parkland, Phoenix Hill, Portland, Russell, and Smoketown, Councilman Arthur worked tirelessly to uplift his district. His investments in youth, arts, financial literacy, mental health, violence prevention, and mentoring programs provided essential resources and opportunities for our community.

Councilman Arthur's leadership has brought significant improvements to public amenities such as libraries, community centers, parks, and affordable housing, while also enhancing infrastructure through street and alley repaving, sidewalk repairs, lighting, and beautification efforts. His commitment to community pride is evident through the annual district events he has funded, which celebrate the rich history and culture of his district.

As councilman, he championed innovative and impactful policies that reflect a deep commitment to equity and justice. From sponsoring the country's first anti-displacement law to proactive rental inspections, protections against concentrated short-term rentals, and language access policies, his efforts have created a more inclusive and equitable Louisville.

Councilman Arthur's leadership has also extended to addressing systemic challenges, including supporting federal reparations for descendants of slavery, funding a community grocery store, and requiring city government and vendors to accept job applications from unhoused individuals. These efforts, along with community benefits agreements and protections for vulnerable populations, have left a lasting legacy of progress and opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, Councilman Arthur's service has uplifted communities, inspired change, and strengthened the bonds between government and the people it serves. I express my profound gratitude for his dedication, vision, and tireless efforts to build a brighter future for all Kentuckians, and I wish him well in his future endeavors. These efforts, along with community benefits agreements and protections for vulnerable populations, have left a lasting legacy of progress and opportunity.

HONORING JOSEPH DINGMAN UPON HIS FAREWELL

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 15, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the distinguished career and dedicated service of Mr. Joseph M. Dingman, who has honorably served as the Executive Director of Travis Air Force Base in California. Mr. Dingman has meritoriously served our country and community for over three decades.

Mr. Dingman has been a vital leader and served as the senior civilian advisor to the commander on both civic and military matters, overseeing 24 wing agencies that play an essential role in the mission readiness and operational success of the largest base in Air Mobility Command.

Mr. Dingman graduated from the United States Air Force Academy in 1995 and has since devoted his career to excellence in service, both in uniform and as a civilian leader. His military career, which culminated in his retirement in 2015, included key leadership roles such as Military Assistant to the Department of

Defense Executive Secretary and a member of the Secretary of Defense's Immediate Office. Over the course of two decades, Mr. Dingman demonstrated exemplary skill, dedication, and leadership in positions spanning levels in the squadron, group, wing, Air Staff and Department of Defense.

Mr. Dingman's achievements include his role as the Chief of Mobility Operations in the Air Force Executive Action Group. His service as the Deputy Chief of the Corporate Liaison Branch was responsible for managing a \$119 billion budget. Mr. Dingman also holds distinction as a McCourt Scholar at Georgetown University's Public Policy Institute. With over 2,900 hours as a senior pilot in airlift and tanker mobility aircraft, he exemplified the highest standards of professionalism and commitment to mission success.

In his civilian career, Mr. Dingman has continued to embody service, leadership, and innovation. Over the past five years, he has excelled in various executive positions, fostering collaboration and advancing organizational excellence. Mr. Dingman has demonstrated a passion for entrepreneurship and community service as a business owner, a founding member of the Avalon Institute Leadership Development firm, and a dedicated contributor to numerous community boards and foundations.

As Mr. Dingman transitions from his role at Travis Air Force Base, we reflect on his extraordinary contributions to our Nation and the enduring legacy of leadership he leaves behind. His service has been marked by unwavering commitment, exceptional expertise, and a deep dedication to the mission and people he served. On behalf of the constituents of California's 8th Congressional District, I wish to extend my sincere gratitude for his many years of steadfast dedication and tireless service to the community and best wishes in all his new endeavors.

COMMEMORATING AZERBAIJAN'S "BLACK JANUARY"

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 15, 2025

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the "Black January" killings, one of the most tragic events in Azerbaijan's history.

On the night of January 20, 1990, approximately 26,000 Soviet troops stormed Azerbaijan's capital city of Baku in tanks and armored vehicles. The Soviet military bulldozed innocent Azerbaijanis and opened fire indiscriminately on peaceful demonstrators, including women and children. As a result of these merciless acts, 147 people were killed, about 800 were injured, 841 were arrested, and five went missing.

The Human Rights Watch report "Black January in Azerbaijan" states that "among the most heinous violations of human rights during the Baku incursion were the numerous attacks on medical personnel, ambulances, and even hospitals." I offer my thoughts and prayers to the families of the victims and to those who gave their lives to help their fellow citizens.

The United States was one of the first countries to recognize independence and fully established diplomatic relations on February 28, 1992. Today, the United States and Azerbaijan are still strategic allies and share common interests in the region and globally.

As the co-chairman of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, I urge my colleagues to recognize the sacrifices of the Azerbaijani people in their steps towards independence and encourage a recommitment to the democratic values for which many Azerbaijanis sacrificed their lives.

RECOGNIZING LOWER MAKEFIELD CHIEF OF POLICE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR KENNETH D. COLUZZI'S RETIREMENT

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 15, 2025

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding constituent of my district, Lower Makefield Chief of Police and Emergency Management Coordinator Kenneth D. Coluzzi who retired on December 31, 2024, after a distinguished 48-year career in law enforcement, including 24 years of dedicated and faithful service to the citizens of Lower Makefield, Pennsylvania.

Prior to becoming Chief of Police, Chief Coluzzi began his career as a police officer in Philadelphia. Starting out as an officer in the Transit Unit and moving to the 14th district of Germantown, he quickly rose through the ranks as corporal, detective, and then detective sergeant. Around this time, Chief Coluzzi was assigned to work with the elite Homicide Unit showing his dedication to his community and commitment to justice. Chief Coluzzi transferred to the Special Investigative Unit and Fugitive Squad and prior to leaving the Philadelphia Police Department, he went back to the Homicide Unit as their Commander. Throughout his 22 years serving the Philadelphia community, he was a well-known presence in the media, drawing attention to various high-profile investigations.

Chief Coluzzi has had extensive police training including attending the Northwestern University School of Staff and Command and the Pennsylvania State University Police Executive Management Program. The Chief has a bachelor's degree in business communications from Chestnut Hill College and holds a master's degree in business administration with a public administration concentration.

In 2000, Chief Coluzzi became the Chief of Police for the Lower Makefield Police Department in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Under his leadership, the Lower Makefield Police Department was transformed. Chief Coluzzi brought new initiatives to the community including introducing the use of Narcan to police officers and advocating for all police agencies in Bucks County to use Naloxone.

After a dedicated career to law enforcement, Chief Coluzzi plans to spend time with his wife Karen, eight children and his thirteen grandchildren. Retirement for Chief Coluzzi means traveling and spending time fishing at the Jersey Shore.

I wish to congratulate Kenneth on his almost five decades of service to the citizens of

Bucks and Philadelphia Counties and on his well-deserved retirement from the Lower Makefield Police Department.

RECOGNIZING THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY GALA HELD IN HONOR OF THE EPISCOPAL ORDINATION OF HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN APOSTOLOS OF NEW JERSEY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, Jr.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 15, 2025

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey as he is honored for his profound devotion to the Greek Orthodox Church and to the Greek American Community. I join the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey as they commemorate the ordination of His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos to the Holy Episcopacy. It is my privilege to join in celebration during the Metropolitan 10th Anniversary Gala, His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

Metropolitan Apostolos began his service to the Greek Orthodox church on July 28, 1996, when he was ordained to the Holy Priesthood and received the Offikion of Archimandrite by Metropolitan Apostolos of Rhodes. In March of 2000, he continued his theological education at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, where he was granted the degree of Master of Divinity. To expand his studies and service globally, he attended Boston University School of Theology. His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios of Boston assigned Archimandrite Apostolos as the visiting priest at the Annunciation Church in Brockton, Massachusetts.

Archimandrite Apostolos went on to serve many others throughout the country, including the historic parish of St. George in Southbridge, Massachusetts, the Saints Anargyroi parish of Marlborough, Massachusetts, Metropolis of San Francisco and more. Notably, Archimandrite Apostolos Koufallakis was granted the title of honorary president during his service as the Dean of the historic Cathedral of St. Demetrios in Astoria by the president and members of Society of Patmos. Metropolitan Apostolos was also recognized for his devotion to the community during the 2008 Greek Independence Day Celebrations by the President of the Borough of Queens, New York. His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America appointed Archimandrite Apostolos Koufallakis as the director of the Archdiocesan Hellenic Cultural Center.

On July 24, 2023, His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos upon the recommendation of His All Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew was unanimously elected by the members of the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate as the New Metropolitan of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey. His leadership is currently responsible for parishes in New Jersey, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Delaware.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in congratulating Metropolitan Apostolos on another honorable year of his enthronement. The continued efforts to honor the Hellenic heritage are truly admirable.

ILLEGITIMATE COURT COUNTERACTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. LATEEFAH SIMON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Ms. SIMON. Mr. Speaker, Congress should support an impartial international criminal justice system to promote accountability and justice around the world. Imposing mandatory sanctions and visa restrictions on foreign individuals interacting with International Criminal Court prosecutors is a broad, dangerous approach, which is why I oppose this bill.

International law is effective only when it applies to actors and states regardless of who they are. Weakening and discrediting investigations into allegations of war crimes and human rights violations undermines peaceful tools of resolving and preventing conflicts.

Taking a blanket approach as proposed in this bill could implicate any foreign individual who interacts with the ICC and may even punish people like cafeteria workers and janitors for simply doing their jobs. Undermining the rule of law and freedom of speech as this bill proposes will threaten international justice and accountability. For those reasons, I oppose the bill.

HONORING DR. ROZZANA VERDER-ALIGA UPON HER RETIREMENT

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 15, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Rozzana Verder-Aliga, EDD, LMFT, on the occasion of her retirement. Dr. Verder-Aliga's unwavering commitment to our community and her remarkable contributions to Vallejo, Solano County, and beyond have been invaluable to our community.

For nearly three decades, Dr. Verder-Aliga has served with distinction as a community organizer, educator, mental health professional, and public servant. A role model for aspiring leaders, especially young women and girls, she has exemplified the values of representation, diversity, inclusion, and equity. Her dedication to serving children, seniors, veterans, and families in need has been the cornerstone of her work.

Dr. Verder-Aliga made history as the first Filipino American woman elected to public office in Vallejo and Solano County. She began her public service career on the Vallejo School Board in 1993, where she served three terms as Board President during her 12-year tenure. She later served on the Solano County Board of Education Area 7, for six years, including a term as Board President. In 2013, she was elected to the Vallejo City Council, where she served for 11 years, earning the distinction of being the longest-serving Vice Mayor in Vallejo's history.

Born in Manila, Philippines, Dr. Verder-Aliga immigrated to the United States in 1981, bringing with her a passion for service and a vision for a better future. She and her husband, Nestor Aliga, a retired U.S. Marine Corps and Army Colonel, raised three sons,