

all of whom graduated from California public universities. The Aligas recently welcomed their first grandchild, Nestor III.

As a mental health professional, Dr. Verder-Aliga dedicated 28 years to Solano County Behavioral Health, providing critical services to children, seniors, veterans, and families. It is a pleasure to celebrate Dr. Rozzana Verder-Aliga as a trailblazing leader, dedicated public servant, and champion of equity and empowerment. On behalf of the constituents of California's 8th Congressional District, I wish Dr. Verder-Aliga best wishes in her well-earned retirement and extend my sincere gratitude for her many years of service to the community.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE GINA KAY  
CALVERT

**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 Judge Gina Kay Calvert in recognition of her outstanding career in law and her significant contributions to the legal system of Kentucky.

Judge Calvert's impressive career began with twenty years of practice, where she gained experience as a prosecutor, defense attorney, civil litigator, and family court attorney. Her extensive background in the legal field, coupled with her unwavering dedication to justice, paved the way for her election to the Jefferson District Court Bench in 2010, where she was re-elected in 2014. As Juvenile Court Judge, Judge Calvert served with distinction, also stepping in as a substitute judge for Family Court, Circuit Court, and Circuit Drug Court.

As an Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney, Judge Calvert prosecuted some of the most sensitive and important cases, including physical and sexual crimes against children and felony domestic violence. Her 17 years of experience in Family Court, where she represented abused and neglected children, indigent parents, and handled divorce, custody, paternity, and adoption cases, has made her a respected voice in family law. Judge Calvert's role as a certified Family Court Mediator and Parenting Coordinator has further solidified her reputation as a compassionate and highly skilled legal professional.

In addition to her service on the bench, Judge Calvert is actively involved in organizations such as the Kosair Charities Advisory Council, the FACE IT movement to end child abuse, and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. Her commitment to advancing the welfare of children and families is evident in both her professional and personal endeavors.

Judge Calvert has earned the highest praise and endorsement from her peers, with more than 90 percent of attorneys rating her as highly qualified or qualified in the 2016 Louisville Bar Association candidate poll.

Mr. Speaker, Judge Calvert's lifelong dedication to justice, children's advocacy, and the families of Kentucky has made a lasting impact. I express my deepest appreciation for her exemplary service and tireless commitment to ensuring justice for all.

ILLICIT NICOTINE POUCHES FROM  
CHINA

**HON. DON BACON**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 15, 2025*

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss an increasingly alarming problem facing America's public health, which is the flow of unregulated illicit nicotine pouch products. These illicit products, most of which are coming from China, avoid FDA regulation, confusing adult consumers seeking safer alternatives and retailers, and muddying the waters for manufacturers that are following the rules.

While enforcement action has largely focused on e-cigarettes, the Food and Drug Administration has paid little attention to illicit Chinese nicotine pouches and enforcing the rules—especially when the foreign manufacturer failed to apply for FDA authorization.

Congress established the FDA's Center for Tobacco Products to regulate the tobacco and nicotine market. But the FDA has failed to determine which nicotine pouch products should remain available or be removed, making it difficult for retailers and consumers to know what to do.

The FDA must follow the science. By doing so, the FDA will authorize nicotine pouch products that are appropriate for the protection of public health and stem the flow of illicit products coming in from China.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT  
YUVAL SHOHAM

**HON. RITCHIE TORRES**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 15, 2025*

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, we remember Staff Sergeant Yuval Shoham who was tragically killed while defending his beloved Israel. Yuval, a brave member of the 9th Battalion of the 401st Brigade of the Israeli Defense Forces was only 22 years old.

Yuval was the beloved son of Oshrat and Effie Shoham, former members of Riverdale's SAR Academy community, where Yuval was part of the third-grade class during the 2010–2011 school year.

Yuval will be remembered not only as a soldier who made the ultimate sacrifice but also as the child who so eagerly learned and grew.

He will be sorely missed, and may we honor his courage by continuing to stand in support of community and the values that he held dear.

IN MEMORY OF CHUCK LARSEN

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 15, 2025*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the Midlands of South Carolina is humbled to remember President Chuck Larsen of the

Greater Irmo Chamber of Commerce. With his leadership, the Chamber has been so effective promoting small businesses for creating jobs and opportunities, now led by President Kerry Powers.

I especially appreciate his achievements as a member of the Chamber evolving from the Irmo Business and Professional Association. In 2001, I was grateful to be selected as the first Irmo Chamber Ambassador of the Year with my predecessor Armed Services Committee Chairman Floyd Spence attending.

Celebrating the life of Chuck Larsen, services were conducted by Reverend Andrew Davis of the St. Andrews Presbyterian Church at Dunbar Funeral Home of Irmo with a thoughtful eulogy by Don Gilbert of Chapin and a musical remembrance of "Danny Boy" by Ted Lightle.

The program of the services featured an inspiring obituary,

"Charles 'Chuck' Larsen, Sr., 96, passed away January 5, 2024. Chuck was born in 1928 in Pensacola, Florida to Karl and Alma Bishop Larsen.

At an early age, Chuck had a radio show where he performed, sang, and tap danced. This was the start of his lifetime love of music and dance. In Chuck's early twenties, in the big band era, he started the Chuck Larsen Band in Pensacola, Florida which toured in the west Florida area.

Chuck attended Pensacola Junior College and Furman University before serving in the Navy and was an Air Force veteran of the Korean War.

Chuck had a varied career in business and politics working for Monsanto in South Carolina and various politicians including South Carolina senators and governors. He received numerous awards and commendations from the South Carolina Senate and House of Representatives for his service to the state including the South Carolina Order of the Palmetto.

Chuck was instrumental in the formation of the Greater Irmo Chamber of Commerce and worked with the Chamber for over 20 years. Chuck served as the President and Executive Director of the Greater Irmo Chamber of Commerce and retired at the age of 80. Chuck was well known in Irmo through his work with the Greater Irmo Chamber of Commerce, Okra Strut Festival, and Miss Irmo pageants. Chuck was commonly known as "Mr. Irmo." He picked this up due to his active support of the Chamber as well as all the activities in Irmo.

Chuck was preceded in death by his wife of 46 years Merlyne "Mert" Thornton Larsen; daughter-in-law Sharon Renee Baker Larsen; and great-grandson Kage Archer Larsen. He is survived by sons Charles Lars Larsen, Jr. (Jamie) and James Karl Larsen; grandchildren Karl (Heather), Kevin (Kristin), Jessica Mitchum (Chase), Kyle (Courtney) and Justin (Maggie); and great-grandchildren June Mitchum and Rheese Larsen.

A viewing will be held from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 pm on Thursday, January 9 at Dunbar Funeral Home in Irmo, South Carolina. A funeral service will be held Friday, January 10, 2025 at 2 p.m. at the Dunbar Funeral Home Dutch Fork Chapel in Imo, South Carolina, 7600 Woodrow Street.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to Tunnel to Towers Foundation or the local Irmo based charity of your choice."

RECOGNIZING 15 YEARS OF SELF-LESS SERVICE OF THE NATIONAL CEMETERY HONOR GUARD

# **HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 15, 2025*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Guardians of the National Cemetery Honor Guard, an extraordinary group comprised solely of volunteer veterans who have dedicated themselves to honoring our nation's heroes. Since 2010, these selfless individuals have conducted over 23,000 military honors at Washington Crossing National Cemetery, ensuring that every veteran laid to rest receives the dignity, respect, and recognition they so rightfully deserve for their service to our country.

The Guardians' commitment extends far beyond their daily military honors. They have played an integral role in outreach efforts, working tirelessly to inform the public about the mission of Washington Crossing National Cemetery and the essential services available to veterans and their families. Through their generosity, they have funded promotional videos highlighting the cemetery's importance. These videos, aired on public access networks, have helped foster community awareness and engagement, furthering support for this sacred space.

Their dedication goes beyond Washington Crossing National Cemetery. The Guardians provide military honors for veterans interred in private cemeteries upon request, demonstrating their profound respect for all veterans, regardless of where they are laid to rest. This unwavering commitment is a testament to their honor, compassion, and belief in the sacredness of military service.

In addition to their ceremonial duties, the Guardians have left a lasting legacy through their contributions to Washington Crossing National Cemetery. They were instrumental in securing donations for significant monuments, including the Gold Star Monument—the first of its kind dedicated to a national cemetery—and the General George Washington in Prayer Monument. Their efforts also brought forth a commemorative garden honoring the 100th anniversary of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and a United States Flag Rock Garden. Moreover, their dedication to the maintenance of the Avenue of Flags ensures that the cemetery remains a place of reverence and pride for generations to come.

Beyond their contributions to the cemetery, the Guardians serve as a vital bridge connecting the Veterans Administration, veterans,

their families, and the broader community. They offer critical support to veterans in need, cultivating a network of compassion and care throughout Southeastern Pennsylvania. Their unwavering efforts underscore the profound importance of service, community, and solidarity, leaving an enduring impact that cannot be overstated.

For their tireless dedication, extraordinary service, and contributions to preserving the memory and honoring the legacy of our Nation's veterans. I am proud to recognize and honor the Guardians of the National Cemetery Honor Guard. These volunteer veterans embody the highest ideals of service, bringing great honor not only to themselves but also to the veterans they serve and the country they so proudly defended.

## SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, January 16, 2025 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

## MEETINGS SCHEDULED

### JANUARY 17

9 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the expected nomination of Kristi Noem, to be Secretary of Homeland Security.

SD-342

### JANUARY 20

Time to be announced

Select Committee on Intelligence

Closed business meeting to consider pending intelligence matters.

TBA

3:15 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider the expected nomination of Marco A. Rubio, of Florida, to be Secretary of State.

S-116

### JANUARY 21

Time to be announced

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the expected nomination of Douglas A. Collins, to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

SR-418

10 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Elise M. Stefanik, of New York, to be the Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador, and the Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations and the Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, during her tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations.

SD-419

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Organizational business meeting to consider committee rules for the 119th Congress, and other pending calendar business.

SD-562

### JANUARY 22

10 a.m.

Committee on the Budget

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Russell T. Vought, of Virginia, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

SD-608

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Business meeting to consider the nomination of Sean Patrick Duffy, of Wisconsin, to be Secretary of Transportation.

SR-253

### JANUARY 23

10 a.m.

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Brooke Rollins, of Texas, to be Secretary of Agriculture.

SD-106