

York. State Senator Walczyk started his political career in 2007 as an intern for the New York State Senate while he was a student at SUNY Albany. After graduating, he worked on then-State Senator Patty Ritchie's campaign before being named her Legislative Director and eventually becoming District Director in 2013.

Mark successfully ran for Watertown City Council in 2015, serving for three years before his election to the New York State Assembly for the 116th Assembly District in 2018, and his subsequent reelection in 2020. In 2022, when State Senator Patty Ritchie retired, Mark announced his candidacy for the seat and won the general election unopposed.

State Senator Walczyk serves as the Ranking Member of the Senate's Elections Committee, Cities 2 Committee, and the Legislative Commission on Rural Resources. Additionally, he sits on five other committees which are the Banks, Telecommunications, Internet and Technology, Energy, and the Housing Committees.

Mark enlisted in the Army Reserves in 2012 and currently serves as an U.S. Army Reserve Engineer Officer and team leader for the 791st Forward Engineer Support Team with the rank of Captain. In 2024, Mark was deployed to a base in Kuwait spending 290 days in the Middle Eastern theater, participating in multiple engineer reconnaissance missions throughout the theater, including sites in Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Iraq. Upon completing his mission, Mark returned home to Watertown in December 2024 where he lives with his wife Jessica and their children.

Mark is well known as a man dedicated to his family and his country. He is a leader to his constituents delivering results for his district and fighting for the future of New York State. On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I want to thank Mark for his years of dedicated public service to his constituents and our country.

HONORING THE PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA FIRE DEPARTMENT VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. EUGENE SIMON VINDMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the Prince William County Fire Department Valor Award recipients, recognizing the extraordinary bravery and selfless service demonstrated by its firefighters, paramedics, and rescue personnel. These awards reflect the courageous actions of the department's dedicated men and women who put themselves in harm's way to protect and serve the community in its most critical moments.

Each recipient exemplifies what it means to act with valor—facing danger without hesitation, responding swiftly in times of crisis, and placing the safety of others above their own. Whether battling intense fires, delivering life-saving medical aid, or navigating complex emergency situations, these professionals demonstrate unwavering resolve and deep compassion for those they serve.

Their heroism builds trust and deepens the connections that hold our community together,

fostering a shared sense of safety, resilience, and unity across neighborhoods, schools, and families. Today, we recognize and celebrate the collective courage and commitment of these individuals, whose actions inspire us all and uphold the highest ideals of public service.

We are deeply grateful for their bravery, and proud to honor the Prince William County Fire Department for their outstanding dedication to the safety and well-being of our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Prince William County Fire Department for their remarkable contributions to our community.

RECOGNIZING PRICILLA CRUZ-SEADO

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that Pricilla Cruz-Seado has made to our community through her work with New Beginnings Youth Shelter, which serves homeless kids aged 10–17 who are between foster homes, abandoned, or homeless. The whole team jumps in to take care of the kids that have no one else looking out for them. They teach kids structure, respect, understanding and so much more in a loving environment. The team really cares, and each member is deeply invested in the kids' long-term success.

It is clear Pricilla Cruz-Seado has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for her service. May we all strive to serve our communities with the same dedication and humility.

TRIBUTE TO DEACON RONALD LEVESTER SEWELL

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a great man of faith and a true community servant leader, Deacon Ronald Levester Sewell. Deacon Sewell, a native of Columbia, South Carolina, passed away on Saturday, May 10, 2025. Although he is no longer with us in person, his legacy lives on through his life of service.

Deacon Sewell attended C.A. Johnson High School, graduating in 1965. He furthered his academic journey at Benedict College, earning his degree in 1973. He later went on to obtain a Master of Education degree from Cambridge College.

Over an extraordinary 35-year career, he transformed countless lives and was a pivotal member of his community. Deacon Sewell served as an educator, coach, and an athletic administrator within Richland School District One, igniting a passion for learning and excellence in his students.

Beyond his notable contributions in education, Deacon Sewell proudly served six years in the U.S. Air Force, followed by several years in the Air Force Reserve at McEntire

Joint National Guard Base. His dedicated service included a tour during Operation Desert Storm in the Persian Gulf War, where he exemplified unwavering bravery and dedication to his country.

The morals and values that were the foundation of his life were rooted in his faith in God. A devoted member of First Calvary Baptist Church, Deacon Sewell's faith was a cornerstone of his life. He was baptized there and later ordained as a Deacon in 2007 under the leadership of Dr. Reverend Samuel K. Lewis.

Throughout his journey he has been empowered by the encouragement and support of his beautiful family. Deacon Sewell was married to Maxine Cunningham for 50 years, and was a devoted father to four children: Dr. Kenya Sewell (Randy) James, Dr. Candace Sewell Hannah, Warren M. Sewell, and Sharon E. Lowman.

Mr. Speaker, Deacon Sewell spent his lifetime as a military pioneer and humble servant to his fellow citizens of South Carolina and to the United States of America. I ask that you and our colleagues join me in recognizing and honoring Deacon Sewell's commitment to service, sacrifices for, and contribution to this great Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 132, and YEA on Roll Call No. 133.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF THOSE WHO GAVE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE: MEMORIAL DAY 2025

HON. NICHOLAS A. LANGWORTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solemn remembrance of those brave men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice in defense of the United States of America. On behalf of the United States Congress, and the constituents of the 23rd Congressional District, I am proud to recognize our brave service members' courage, sacrifice, and valor as we come together this Memorial Day.

All gave some, and some gave all. Memorial Day is more than a long weekend—it is sacred time for a grateful Nation to reflect on the cost of liberty. We owe our freedom to those who answered the call and never returned. In America—the greatest country on Earth—our founding promise of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness is preserved only through the sacrifice of our heroes.

The American flag flies in red, white, and blue—each color rich with meaning. Blue stands for vigilance and justice, a call to remain steadfast in our values. White reflects our Nation's ideals and purity of purpose. Red honors the valor and the blood shed by those who died defending our rights.

This weekend, across Western New York and the Southern Tier, veterans and families will gather at town centers, VFW halls and cemeteries to commemorate the fallen and ensure that their sacrifice will never be forgotten. This is a responsibility that we all must pass on to the next generation, to continue this great tradition in memory of those who made this life of freedom and opportunity possible.

Today, we remember those we've lost and give thanks to the veterans still among us. We are the land of the free because we are the home of the brave. The selflessness of our service members inspires deep gratitude every day—not just on Memorial Day. May we never forget their sacrifice.

TRIBUTE TO THELMA LEE
EDWARDS-RILEY

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a remarkable South Carolinian—a woman who embodied the values of hard work, resilience, compassion, and grace.

Thelma Lee Edwards-Riley, a daughter of Holy Hill, South Carolina, was born on July 10, 1930. She was a woman who was devoted to her family. A mother to Martha Stocker and Calvin Riley, she led a life full of warmth, love, and quiet strength. Her pride in her children was unbounded.

She found joy in the simple and honest labor of working in her yard, tending lovingly to her plants and flowers. Her garden reflected her spirit: nurturing, patient, and full of life. Just as she cultivated her garden, she poured care, time, and love into the lives of those around her, most especially Colombia's Belvedere Community.

Thelma Riley had a heart always ready to help whoever was in need. Whether someone needed a comforting word, a helping hand, or just a listening ear—she was there without hesitation and without expectation.

The personification of the life and legacy of Ms. Riley is encapsulated in the twenty-fifth chapter of Mark, verse 40, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of Ms. Thelma Lee Edwards-Riley. Let us remember her with the love she gave so freely. Let us keep her memory alive through the acts of kindness we show, the care we offer others, and the strength we find in one another. Her life was a blessing and her memory a treasure.

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, May 22, 2025 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JUNE 4

10 a.m.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the reauthorization of the over-the-counter monograph drug user fee program.

SD-430

JUNE 5

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider S. 1397, to require the Secretary of State to establish a quantum cooperation program to enhance international cooperation in quantum information science, S. 1463, to allow the Secretary of the Interior to enter into memoranda of understanding for the purpose of scientific and technical cooperation in the mapping of critical minerals and rare earth elements, S. 1478, to provide the United States Government with additional tools to deter state and non-state actors from wrongfully detaining United States nationals for political leverage, S. 1579, to provide for the treatment of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), and the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) as international organizations for purposes of the International Organizations Immunities Act, S. 1731, to require the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense to develop a strategy in response to the global basing intentions of the People's Republic of China, S. 1780, to provide for congressional oversight of security assistance to Mexico, S. 1801, to facilitate the development of a whole-of-government strategy for nuclear cooperation and nuclear exports, S. Res. 227, condemning Hamas for its premeditated, coordinated, and brutal terrorist attacks on October 7, 2023, against Israel and demanding that Hamas immediately release all remaining hostages and return them to safety, an original bill entitled, "Defending International Security by Restricting Unlawful Partnerships and Tactics ("DISRUPT") Act, and an original bill entitled, "Taiwan Non-Discrimination Act of 2025".

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