

Family Violence, for which she was honored with the Governor's Courage Award and the Woman of Valor award from the New York Board of Rabbis.

Perhaps most widely known is Anita's creation of the Reel Abilities Film Festival, the nation's largest showcase of films by and about people with disabilities. Through ReelAbilities, Anita helped elevate underrepresented voices, challenge public perceptions, and promote the full inclusion of people with disabilities in American life.

As she celebrates 80 extraordinary years, I recognize Anita Altman for her vision, her integrity, and her unwavering belief that all people deserve to live with dignity, visibility, and respect.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ASHOK RAMSARAN, A DISTINGUISHED CIVIC AND COMMUNITY LEADER IN QUEENS, NEW YORK

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2025

Ms. MENG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ashok Ramsaran, a distinguished civic and community leader in my Sixth Congressional District.

Mr. Ramsaran has been a resident of Queens, New York, since emigrating from Guyana (formerly British Guiana) in 1968. He is the third generation of Indian indentured laborers who worked on British sugar cane plantations after the emancipation of enslaved people in British colonies in 1834. His great-grandfather, Pooriye, arrived in Guyana in 1853 aboard the ship *Adelaide*, and his great-grandmother, Radhah, arrived in 1860 aboard the ship *Colgrain*. His family faced significant struggles and persevered under extremely harsh conditions on the plantations. Throughout the generations, they worked tirelessly to build a better life in Guyana rather than return to poverty in India.

Mr. Ramsaran was the first member of his family to attend school, an opportunity he valued greatly. He attended Auchlyne Church of Scotland Primary School and Corentyne High School through a Booker Sugar Estates Scholarship. He graduated high school with diplomas from the University of Cambridge and the University of London. He briefly worked as a primary school teacher at Yakusari Primary School, then at the Ministry of Health in Georgetown, and as a clerk at magistrate's courts in New Amsterdam and Whim Village in Guyana.

Before leaving for the U.S.A. to pursue higher education and a better life for his family, Mr. Ramsaran married Camille (formerly Camille Ramgadoo). He embodied the American dream with courage, determination, and a commitment to succeed. While attending college and supporting his family, which included his wife and two small children, he held several jobs. He earned advanced engineering degrees from Polytechnic-New York University and persevered through many hardships, including violent racial attacks against his family and their home. With remarkable resilience, he exceeded expectations, purchased a home, quickly advanced to prominent positions in major companies, funded his children's college

education, and established a successful engineering firm in Queens, New York. He has become a role model for his immediate and extended family, as well as for others in his community.

Together with Camille, Mr. Ramsaran is the parent of Arnold and the late Gerald, and they are the grandparents of Jaden and Gavin, all of whom reside in Queens.

Mr. Ramsaran holds numerous positions in civic and community organizations, including: Executive Vice-President of the Queens Civic Congress (QCC); Chair of the Community Advisory Council for NY Presbyterian Hospital/Queens (NYP/Q); President of the Indian Diaspora Council International (IDC); Past President of GOPIO International (2011 to 2016); Board Member of the Center for Caribbean & Latin American Studies at St. John's University (SJU/CLACS); Executive Board Member of India Empire, a Diaspora publication; Financial Co-Chair and Elder of the First Presbyterian Church of Flushing, New York (FPC); Board Member of the Fresh Meadows Civic Association, New York (FMCA); Chair of the Queens Civic Congress Conference 2022, addressing critical community issues such as civic engagement, transportation, land use, public safety, services for seniors and children, homelessness, education, real estate tax equity, redistricting, discrimination, and racial justice; Member of the District 24 AM Weprin South Asian Advisory Panel (SAAP); Member of the Queens Borough President's Census 2020 Committee; Member of the Queens Borough President's Civic Engagement Committee; and Delegate to the Queens Borough President's General Assembly (QGA).

Mr. Ramsaran takes initiatives and leads efforts to landmark and secure street naming in recognition of outstanding institutions, communities, and individuals. His landmarking efforts include the Brinckerhoff Colonial Dutch Cemetery (1713), and he has facilitated street namings such as Little Guyana Avenue, Don Capalbi Way (in honor of an exceptional civic leader), Old Towne of Flushing Burial Ground Lane (a historic cemetery for African Americans and Native Americans), Brinckerhoff Memorial Way, and others that honor civic and religious leaders.

Additionally, Mr. Ramsaran has established memorials to commemorate Indian indentureship in various British colonies from 1828 to 1917, including the Kolkata Memorial in India and Indian Arrival Monuments in Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, Martinique, and other locations. He embraces his noble and selfless service to the global Indian Diaspora community in various ways, tracing his roots to a rich and enduring heritage.

Mr. Ramsaran expresses that he "feels blessed to be an American," where he lives and contributes to improving the lives of others by utilizing his skills, resources, and advocacy. He is dedicated to his moral obligation and duty to give back to society—specifically to Queens, New York, and the Nation—providing him with opportunities and the freedom to progress while helping those who are less fortunate.

Queens is the most diverse county in the United States, and Mr. Ramsaran actively collaborates with many groups and organizations to address common concerns. He deeply engages with community issues of interest and importance, making significant contributions that resonate throughout the community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF HOLLIS HAMILTON HOOKS, A PILLAR OF THE LAKELAND COMMUNITY

HON. SCOTT FRANKLIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2025

Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Hollis Hamilton Hooks, a lifelong Lakelander whose quiet leadership and steady service left a lasting impact on the community he loved.

Hollis never sought the spotlight, but his influence was deeply felt throughout Polk County. From his early work in Washington to a successful career in financial services, he remained guided by a strong sense of duty to give back.

In 1992, Hollis was elected to the Polk County School Board, where he helped lead the district's first strategic planning effort. He championed policies to expand school choice and raise academic standards through the development of magnet programs. He also served on the board of the Polk Education Foundation, where he helped channel private-sector support into classroom resources, scholarships, teacher recognition programs and professional development.

Hollis made a significant impact on the health and wellbeing of our region. As chairman of the board for the Lakeland Regional Medical Center, he played a key role in guiding improvements to local care. Through his work with the hospital's foundation, he helped drive critical investments in enhanced services and modernized facilities to meet the needs of a rapidly growing community.

His commitment to civic life extended to the arts and public discourse. He served on the board of the Polk Museum of Art, working to increase access to arts education and cultural programming. He also sat on the board of LkldNow's parent nonprofit, underscoring his belief in the value of informed and engaged local communities.

Hollis Hooks was more than a civic leader. He was my friend, a fellow elder at First Presbyterian Church of Lakeland, and a man of profound integrity. My prayers are with his wife Debbie, their children and all who had the privilege of knowing him. Hollis made Lakeland stronger, and his example of humble leadership will continue to guide and inspire.

May we honor his memory by living lives of purpose and service.

CONGRATULATING SOPHIA RIVERA, GIRLS' SHOT PUT AND DISCUS STATE CHAMPION

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2025

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate Sophia Rivera of Ephrata High School on winning gold medals in both girls' shot put and girls' discus at the 2025 PIAA Class 3A Track and Field Championship, held on May 23 and 24.

The 2025 PIAA Class 3A track and field championship took place on May 23 and 24,

during which Ephrata junior Sophia Rivera excelled in shot put and discus. On the first day, Rivera captured the state title in girls' shot put with a distance of 43 feet, 3 inches. Her domination continued into girls' discus the following day, where a throw of 143 feet, 3 inches nabbed the gold medal.

Sophia Rivera's two state titles crown a spectacular season and a complete sweep in the postseason, as Rivera won gold medals in both events during the Lancaster-Lebanon League championship and the District Three championship weeks prior.

With two state titles and a total of 6 gold medals during the track and field postseason, Sophia Rivera has firmly established herself as one of Pennsylvania's best in shot put and discus. I offer my sincere congratulations to Sophia on her success this year and look forward to seeing what she accomplishes next.

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 Tuesday, June 3, 2025 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JUNE 4

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2026 for the Department of Commerce.

SD-192

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine dismantling transnational criminal organizations in the Americas.

SD-419

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

10:15 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine pending nominations.

SH-216

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health Policy

To hold hearings to examine China's malign influence in Africa.

SD-419

4 p.m.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Cheryl Mason, of North Carolina, to be Inspector General, and Donald Bergin III, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary (Congressional and Legislative Affairs), both of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

SR-418

4:15 p.m.

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine the aging farm workforce, focusing on America's vanishing family farms.

SH-216

JUNE 5

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the posture of the Department of the Army in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2026 and the Future Years Defense Program; to be immediately followed by a closed session in SVC-217.

SD-G50

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Sean Cairncross, of Minnesota, to be National Cyber Director, Robert Law, of the District of Columbia, to be Under Secretary for Strategy, Policy, and Plans, James Percival, of Florida, to be General Counsel, and Sean Plankey, of Pennsylvania, to be Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, all of the Department of Homeland Security, Kevin Rhodes, of Florida, to be Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy, and James Woodruff II, of Florida, to be a Member of the Merit Systems Protection Board.

SD-342

10 a.m.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Penny Schwin, of Tennessee, to be Deputy Secretary, and Kimberly Richey, of Texas, to be Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, both of the Department of Education, and Daniel Aronowitz, of Virginia, and David Keeling, of Kentucky, both to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

SD-430

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine barriers to supply chain modernization and factor productivity enhancements.

CHOB-210

10:15 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 1829, to combat the sexual exploitation of children by supporting victims and promoting accountability and transparency by the tech industry, and the nominations of Stanley Woodward, Jr., of the District of Columbia, and Thomas Gaiser, of Ohio, both to be an Assist-

ant Attorney General, Ronald A. Parsons, Jr., to be United States Attorney for the District of South Dakota, and David Charles Waterman, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Iowa, all of the Department of Justice, Joseph Edlow, of Maryland, to be Director of United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, and John Squires, of Florida, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

SH-216

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".

S-116

POSTPONEMENTS

JUNE 4

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2026 for the National Nuclear Security Administration.

SD-124

Select Committee on Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219