

# HONORING MAJOR MANSFIELD FOR HIS OUTSTANDING CON- TRIBUTIONS

## HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 22, 2025*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the extraordinary achievements and contributions of Major Mansfield, a cherished member of our community and a native son to the Commonwealth of Virginia. Through Major's exceptional dedication and unwavering commitment to service and community, he has made an indelible impact on the lives of countless individuals.

Major has devoted his energies to the Mechanicsville Tea Party (MTP) since the organization was founded in 2004 and served in all leadership positions on the MTP. With Major's direct participation in our cherished electoral process, he assisted individuals seeking public office and once elected, Major would hold them accountable to the U.S. Constitution. When it comes to elections, Major held that all citizens have a duty to actively participate in their government. This included voting, holding office, and engaging in public discourse. Major understands this active involvement as essential to safeguarding liberty and preventing tyranny.

In his private life, Major worked for Mars Candy for twenty-five years and Campbell's Soup for ten years. Major never missed a day of work. He played college football at the University of Richmond and rebuilt two churches. Major graduated Army Ranger School and was in the Army Reserves for seven years. Major leaves a lasting impression on everyone who has had the privilege of working with or knowing him. His efforts exemplify the very best of what it means to be a citizen of the Virginia Commonwealth and this great Nation.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to recognize Major Mansfield for his lifetime of service and dedication. His legacy serves as an inspiration to all of us and a reminder of the profound difference one person can make in the lives of others. On behalf of the people of Virginia's First District, I extend my deepest gratitude and admiration to Major Mansfield and wish he and his family continued success in all future endeavors.

# OPPOSITION TO H.R. 30, PRE- VENTING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN BY ILLEGAL ALIENS ACT

## HON. VAL T. HOYLE

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 22, 2025*

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, last week, I voted no on H.R. 30, the so-called "Preventing Violence Against Women By Illegal Aliens Act."

Let me be clear: none of us are interested in protecting domestic abusers or predators. We all want to keep our communities safe from those who seek to inflict harm on vulnerable people.

H.R. 30 does nothing to strengthen existing law and risks putting survivors at greater risk.

In reality, this bill is more about House Republican messaging than providing meaningful

solutions to keep our communities safe. Current law already ensures that perpetrators of these heinous crimes can be swiftly deported if they are here illegally and bars them from reentering the United States.

Worse, it makes it easier to deport survivors who have acted in self-defense or who have been falsely accused by their abusers. The violent predators who commit these crimes know how to use the law to further victimize their targets.

I have heard horrific stories from law enforcement about women who are threatened with deportation if they report rape or torture, with their children being held hostage as leverage. An immigrant here legally on a student visa who fights back against her abusive boyfriend, or a hardworking mother lawfully present on a work visa who defends herself and her children against a violent partner, could face deportation if their abuser reports them ahead of their testimony. Predators will lie. Victims need protection. H.R. 30 hands criminals the ultimate tool of coercion to silence survivors—fear of deportation.

Some simple, common-sense proposals could have strengthened the bill, including offering greater protections to victims or providing law enforcement with additional tools to prosecute offenders. Unfortunately, these were not included.

If my colleagues across the aisle truly wanted to protect women, this bill would expand funding for victim services and ensure survivors could testify without the threat of deportation. It also would have given law enforcement more resources to get violent criminals out of our communities and out of country. But they didn't do that because this bill is not about keeping women safe. It is instead a performative political stunt to further an anti-immigrant agenda.

And let's not forget that 172 House Republicans, including this bill's sponsor, previously voted no on legislation to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), which included expansions of aid and services to support survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuse. VAWA had been strongly bipartisan because it meaningfully protected vulnerable women.

We must do everything in our power to protect survivors and hold perpetrators accountable. We owe survivors real solutions—not fear, not cruelty, and not empty posturing. For these reasons, I voted NO.

I remain committed to working with my colleagues to pass legislation that will genuinely protect survivors, hold abusers accountable and make our communities safer for everyone.

# RECOGNIZING THE 80TH ANNIVER- SARY OF THE BETA OMICRON ZETA CHAPTER OF ZETA PHI BETA SORORITY

## HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 22, 2025*

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today the 12th Congressional District recognizes and celebrates the 80th anniversary of the Beta Omicron Zeta Chapter, also known as the Detroit Chapter, of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., as a pillar of service, scholarship, and sisterhood in

our community. Founded in 1945, under the leadership of Dr. Mary Watson Stewart, this chapter holds the distinction of being Michigan's first graduate chapter of Zeta Phi Beta. For over eight decades, the Beta Omicron Zeta Chapter has established itself as a force for positive change through strong communal partnerships and leading critical initiatives like the Stork's Nest Program to address infant mortality, and the award-winning Zetas Helping Others Excel program.

Their mentorship of young women through STEAM education and their invaluable scholarships have directly impacted countless lives. The chapter's community dedication has garnered accolades from Michigan and Detroit leaders, demonstrating the lasting impact of their mission of uplifting others. I thank the Beta Omicron Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., for their unwavering commitment to Finer Womanhood, Service, and advancing equity in Detroit and beyond.

# HONORING CLAUDINE BROWN

## HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 22, 2025*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Mrs. Claudine Brown. Mrs. Brown exemplified what can be achieved through hard work, dedication, and a genuine desire to make her community a better place.

Claudine Ferguson was born in Holmes County, Mississippi, on July 22, 1931, to Mr. Walter Ferguson and Mrs. Willie Mae Ferguson. She was the eldest of seven children and grew up with a strong sense of responsibility and commitment to her family. She received her primary education at public schools in Jackson and Greenwood, Mississippi, and furthered her education at Mississippi Valley State University and Draughton's Business School.

Claudine Ferguson was married to the late Mr. Josh Brown for thirty-seven years and later to the late Mr. Jimmie Owens. She was the mother of seven children and emphasized the importance of hard work and education. All of her children went on to earn college degrees.

In 1950, Mr. and Mrs. Brown purchased property in the Browning community, an area she grew to love and was determined to improve. In 1974, Mrs. Brown organized the Browning Progressive Civic League to enhance the Browning community. The League's accomplishments included paving roads, upgrading utilities, and restoring an artesian well that provided water for the entire area.

The impact of Mrs. Brown extended beyond the Browning community. In 1980, she became the first African American woman to serve on the Leflore County School Board, a position she held for more than two decades.

In 1983, Mrs. Brown was elected as the first Black Tax Assessor/Collector in Leflore County, Mississippi. She has also received numerous awards and recognitions, including:

Community Service Award (Greenwood Voters League), Citizen of the Year (Zeta Phi Beta Sorority), Outstanding Service to the Browning Community Award (Morning Star M.B. Church), Community Service Award

(Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority), Citizen of the Year (Omega Psi Phi Fraternity).

In recognition of her community work, the Rising Sun Elementary School in Greenwood, Mississippi, was renamed the Claudine F. Brown Elementary School in 1994.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life, legacy, and service of Mrs. Claudine Brown for her civic contributions and her unwavering love for her neighbors and community.

#### THANKING VALERIE ARKIN

#### HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 22, 2025*

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Valerie Arkin, a tireless public servant, in commemoration of her tenure on the Pleasanton City Council, which concluded on Tuesday, December 17, 2024.

Valerie obtained a Bachelor of Science in Health Science from California State University, Northridge, and later returned to school to get a Master of Business Administration from California Lutheran University.

After moving to Pleasanton in 1993, Valerie quickly became involved in local campaigns and in Pleasanton public schools, which all three of her children attended.

In 2006, Valerie began her journey of public service when she became a Pleasanton Library Commissioner until 2014. In 2008, Valerie was elected to the Pleasanton Unified School District Board of Trustees, where she served as the Board President and advocated for fiscal responsibility until 2020.

Valerie was elected to the Pleasanton City Council in 2020, representing the constituents of the second district. During her tenure, she served on the City-School District Liaison

Committee along with 11 different other local and regional committees, all while playing an active role in the League of California Cities' Environmental Policy Committee.

Outside her elected roles, Valerie remained an active volunteer with local nonprofits and served on the board of the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council.

Valerie's over 30 years of support for local initiatives, public education, and advocacy among stakeholders have been a critical factor in the development of the community. As she enters this new chapter, I join her friends and colleagues in wishing Valerie well-deserved rest, relaxation, and quality time with her husband, Brian.

#### 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 23, 2025 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

#### MEETINGS SCHEDULED

##### JANUARY 28

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine defense innovation and acquisition reform.

SD-G50

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the Panama Canal and its impact on U.S. trade and national security, focusing on fees and foreign influence.

SR-253

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the VA's Community Care Program.

SR-418

2:30 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

##### JANUARY 29

9 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider the nomination of Pamela Bondi, of Florida, to be Attorney General, Department of Justice.

SH-216

10 a.m.

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., of California, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services.

SD-215

3:30 p.m.

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine making Washington work for seniors, focusing on fighting to end inflation and achieve fiscal sanity.

SD-106