

need—uplifting the poor, the sick, the voiceless, and the forgotten.

To many, Didi Krishna is more than a leader; she is a spiritual guide and a saint-like presence. Her gentle demeanor, deep compassion, and unwavering devotion have earned her the love and respect of people from all walks of life. She leads not with fanfare, but with quiet strength and grace, always placing service before self.

Mr. Speaker, Didi Krishna Kumari's tireless efforts are a testament to the profound impact one individual can have through a life of purpose and humility. It is my honor to recognize her extraordinary contributions to humanity.

CONGRATULATING KAI AGYEMANG

HON. RICK W. ALLEN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2025

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my constituent, Kai Agyemang, upon his acceptance to the United States Air Force Academy.

As a future cadet, he will be joining the ranks of the world's most fearsome fighting force, the United States Air Force.

Guided by the motto "Aim High . . . Fly-Fight-Win" the U.S. Air Force is the world's preeminent force in air, space, and cyberspace.

Throughout our history, American Airmen have demonstrated tremendous courage and strength, beating back tyranny to the ends of the earth.

I was honored to sponsor Kai's nomination, and I am confident that his talents will distinguish him among his peers both during his time at Air Force Academy and thereafter.

I congratulate Kai. I know that he will make this Nation proud.

NEWSLETTER FROM CONGRESSMAN CHUCK EDWARDS

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2025

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following newsletter to give an update to my constituents on the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, post office disruptions, National Police Week, and Helene recovery.

Dear Friend,

Last week, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 1—better known as the "One Big Beautiful Bill"—a historic piece of legislation that will:

- Keep taxes low for working Americans.
- Strengthen border security.
- Rebuild our military.
- Drive American energy independence.
- Protect entitlement programs so the Americans who need them have them.

This bill is key to fulfilling the America First agenda. Below, you will find some of the most important components of the One Big Beautiful Bill that will make a difference in our mountain communities.

Providing tax relief for workers and families

Provides a \$5,000 tax cut for the average American family.

Eliminates taxes on tips, overtime, and car loan interest for cars made in the U.S.

\$4,000 tax deduction for seniors.

Increases the child tax credit to \$2,500 per American family through 2028.

Making tax dollars work for the American people

Strengthens Medicaid by preventing illegal aliens and folks who can, but refuse to, work from unlawfully collecting benefits.

Roots out waste, fraud, and abuse from Medicaid by removing deceased individuals from the program.

Reverses the Biden-era mandate that allowed Medicaid to cover "gender transition" procedures for minors.

Reversing green energy radicalism

Eliminates hundreds of billions of dollars in Green New Deal tax credits.

Repeals the Biden administration's electric vehicle mandates.

Drives American energy independence by opening federal lands and waters to oil, gas, coal, geothermal, and mineral leasing.

Streamlines onerous permitting processes so America can build again.

Refills the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, reducing our reliance on foreign oil and strengthening our national security.

Securing our borders

Authorizes \$46 billion to complete construction of the border wall.

Hires 10,000 new Immigration and Customs Enforcement personnel, 5,000 new Customs officers, and 3,000 new Border Patrol agents with the goal of deporting at least 1 million illegal immigrants every year.

Bolsters the Department of Homeland Security efforts to secure our borders.

Ensuring the U.S. military remains the strongest fighting force in the world

Ensures critical investments to rebuild our military, improve quality of life for service members, bolster munitions production, and modernize our nuclear arsenal.

Launches President Trump's Golden Dome initiative to ensure the homeland is protected from modern and advanced threats.

This bill will restore American greatness and improve the lives of Americans nationwide—from the mountains of Western North Carolina to the coastlines of California.

The American people are ready for our Golden Age. Now, it's time for the Senate to act.

With my warmest regards,

CHUCK EDWARDS,
Member of Congress.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ZONING COMMISSION HOME RULE ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2025

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Zoning Commission Home Rule Act. This bill would give the District of Columbia the authority to appoint all members of the D.C. Zoning Commission (Commission). Currently, the membership of the Commission consists of two federal officials (the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) and the Director of the National Park Service (NPS)) and three members appointed by the D.C. mayor, subject to D.C. Council approval. Federal officials are members of the Commission even though the Commission has no authority over federal property.

Land use is a quintessential local matter. Despite the D.C. Home Rule Act, which gave

D.C. authority over local matters, 40 percent of the members of the Commission are federal officials, who are not accountable to the more than 700,000 D.C. residents. The federal government would lose nothing under this bill because the federal government's land-use interests in the Nation's capital are protected by federal law and federal agencies.

The Commission creates the zoning maps and regulations, which must "not be inconsistent with the comprehensive plan for the national capital." The mayor is responsible for the local elements of the comprehensive plan, subject to Council approval. The National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC), which is the central planning agency for the federal government in D.C. and approves federal projects in D.C., is responsible for the federal elements of the comprehensive plan. This bill would not alter the comprehensive plan process or the authority of NCPC and the Commission.

This bill would immediately remove the AOC and the NPS Director from the Commission, and the Commission would, at least initially, consist solely of three mayoral appointees. D.C. would have the authority to reconstitute the membership of the Commission through local legislation.

This bill is an important step to increase D.C. home rule. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MS. ALFONSINA DIAZ

HON. JAMES C. MOYLAN

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2025

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure to honor the life of Ms. Alfonsina Diaz—a World War II survivor; lifelong educator; a woman of God; mother, grandmother, and great grandmother to her family and community; and most importantly, her legacy of 100 years of life that demonstrate the values of spiritual strength and the significance of family.

Known to her family and friends as Ancin, she is the eldest of six children born to Maria Santos Tanaka Diaz and Joaquin Flores Diaz. Despite her childhood and much of her youth remembering the painful occupation of the Japanese during World War II, she intentionally lives and chooses to carry her life with the spirit of resilience and joy. A fond memory of her youth includes working alongside her sister Cecilia Tanaka Diaz Reyes, first cousin Matilde Cruz Baron, and aunt Asuncion Tanaka Santos at Tommy's Soda Fountain. Owned by her uncle Tom Santos Tanaka, Sr. and father Joaquin Flores Diaz, it was a popular spot for the teenagers during the 1950's. She always had fun when she worked.

After graduating from high school, she worked at C.L. (previously Sinajana) Elementary as an elementary school teacher for the 1st to 3rd grades. She met her husband and they've stayed together since marrying in June of 1950. When they moved to Agana Heights, they've welcomed their seven children: Carmelita, Robert, Marie, Joaquin, Martha, Daniel, and Nora. As she raised her family, she continued to be a full-time teacher.

The love she had for her job can be felt through her previous and present students—

many of which have shared fond memories during their time together. About 10 years ago, a former student accidentally bumped into Ancin and asked for a picture. He intended to share it with his friends in Los Angeles who all went to the same elementary school. Another student, who is now a proud retired registered nurse, shared her experiences with Ancin. She shares that when she was in 3rd grade, Ancin had a patient and nurturing demeanor that made learning fun and easy. She was also the pioneer for many of these students "firsts"—first person to introduce students to the Scholastic Book Club, fostering the love of reading classics; first person to take them on a field trip to Fena Dam/Lake; etc.

Another fond memory a student shared was the performance during the Christmas Pageant, where everyone dressed as angels with tinsel halos and wings and sang to their hearts content. She was also noted to have the best dresses.

Moreso, she was best remembered in awe for her strength and passion of raising a family of seven while being a full-time educator in an era where it was considered progressive at the time.

Her influence reached beyond her students started many of the traditions that her family has come to love. Her daughter recalls one specific tradition of setting up and reciting the Nobena Nino every year on the front porch. The Nativity they used was given to Ancin by her mom and is now with her grandniece Norene Reyes Aldridge. Her children and her grandchildren credit Ancin for their love of dancing and for the recipe for the best homemade flour titiyas served during large celebrations.

Although she was the oldest, only she and her youngest sibling Maria Tanaka Diaz Nauta remain. She has survived all three of her sons yet remains loving and faithful. Her eyes and smile speak genuinely when she bids goodbye with a "Thank you, God bless you."

Ancin attributes her longevity to two things: physical activity, and interaction with others, especially with the youth. Two wonderful lessons I think we can all take away from such a life well-lived centered on family and intentionally finding gratitude in every day.

HONORING D.C. FIRE AND EMS CAPTAIN JORDAN WILEY

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2025

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an Altoona native, Penn State graduate, and newest Captain of D.C. Fire and EMS, Jordan Wiley. Jordan studied Emergency Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh before receiving his Master of Public Administration from Penn State University.

In October of 2014, Jordan joined the D.C. Fire and EMS Department as a Firefighter and Paramedic. In nearly eleven years of service, Jordan was awarded the department's 'Paramedic of the Year' award in 2019 and earned promotions to Sergeant in 2020, Lieutenant in 2022, and Captain in 2024. However, the most important milestone for Jordan was when he met his wife Catelyn and started a family with their two children, Russell and Madison.

Jordan has dedicated so much of his time, in and out of the firehouse, to serving his fellow community members. As a cancer survivor himself, Jordan is instrumental in efforts to promote cancer awareness and prevention within the department. Cancer-related deaths are rising among firefighters, and Jordan's advocacy will help save lives.

Jordan is also an advocate for the National Marrow Donor Program, working to save lives by connecting bone marrow donors with patients who have life-threatening blood disorders such as leukemia, lymphoma, and sickle cell.

Jordan has faithfully served his community and fellow Americans for more than a decade, both as a paramedic and as an advocate for cancer patients, and I know his parents, Frank Wiley and Dr. Mary O'Leary Wiley, are incredibly proud of the man and father he has become.

Along with everyone in Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I want to congratulate Captain Wiley on his selection to lead the D.C. Fire and EMS Department and thank him for his continued dedication to our fellow Americans.

CONGRATULATING JACK GRAY

HON. RICK W. ALLEN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2025

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my constituent, Jack Gray, upon his acceptance to the United States Merchant Marine Academy.

As a future midshipman, he will be joining the ranks of the world's most elite naval force, guided by the motto: "Acta Non Verba"

The service and sacrifice of America's military personnel have safeguarded our Nation since its inception, defending our way of life from Lexington to Normandy.

A vital part of our Nation's maritime operations, the Merchant Marines' duties are dynamic, transporting cargo and passengers during peacetime and serving as an auxiliary to the United States Navy during times of war.

I was glad to sponsor Jack's nomination, as his dynamism reflects the mission of the branch which he will soon serve. I am confident that his talents will distinguish him among his peers during his time at the Academy and thereafter.

I congratulate Jack. I know that he will make this Nation proud.

HONORING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE ENGLISH EMPOWERMENT CENTER'S 63RD RECOGNITION CEREMONY

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2025

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I seek to recognize the English Empowerment Center (EEC) in Falls Church, Virginia and to congratulate the volunteers, instructors, students, community partners, and many others who will be recognized at the 63rd EEC Recognition Ceremony.

The mission of the English Empowerment Center is to teach adults the basic skills of reading, writing, speaking, and understanding English so they can access employment and education opportunities and more fully and equitably participate in the community.

EEC provides the crucial first steps of language and literacy proficiency for workplace, citizenship, and community integration to help adults make measurable improvements in their lives. Last year, they served more than 2,000 adult learners, with the help of over 500 volunteers who gave 24,000 plus hours of service.

Each year the EEC recognizes students and members of the community who have contributed their time, energy, and resources to achieving the organization's mission.

EEC will also award the prestigious Patricia M. Donnelly Merit Scholarship, the Mid Allen Ries Award, and they will also announce the inaugural Gerry E. Connolly Empowerment Award. I include in the RECORD the following recipients:

Community Partners of the Year: Alexandria City Public Schools' Family and Community Engagement Center (FACE), MarginEdge, The Wollenberg Foundation.

Volunteers of the Year: Zenaïda Bastidas, Gail Gile, Linda Zenker.

Student Speakers: Juanita Cadena, Vanessa Fernandez, Shereen Habib.

Patricia M. Donnelly Merit Scholarship Recipient: Firoza Omar.

Mid Allen Ries Award: Cassandra Kramer.

I also want to recognize and include in the RECORD, those volunteers who are celebrating service anniversaries with EEC. These volunteers are being recognized for the service milestone of years:

25 years: Elizabeth McBurney, Elizabeth Nelson

20 years: Fred Hufford, Julie Kehrl, Judith Penniman

15 years: Margaret Breen, Rebekah Bundang, Janet Fedak, Enebish Sanran, Chris Wollenberg

10 years: Barbara Callen, Keith Clark, Sally Eckard, Linton Favours, Kyle Grieser, Gordon Hay, Linda Johnsen, Melissa Krut, Monica Nunez, Wendy Shapiro, Jody Sweet, Jane Winant, Loren Zander

5 years: Ann Anderson, Sajida Arif, Rana Azad, Kim Baumgartner, Stacey Becker, Stephanie Buchanan, Kobi Carter Eidman, Annette Clayberg, Ida Draim, Ameer Ghaderi, Jeanne Johnson, Ayuko Kimura-Fay, Kathy Larkin, Margery Leveen Sher, Vineeta Malkani, Stacy O'Connor, Rita Povich, Tiffany Taber Prevost, Albert Turri

Education continues to be one of life's most essential tools and as we've seen in our own community, literacy is the foundation for unlocking education, career paths, and personal growth at any age. As a lifelong learner and a current student at George Mason University, I know firsthand the power of education. I am deeply grateful to the Center and it's remarkable, participants, volunteers, and staff for championing literacy as a lifelong and life-changing skill.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the English Empowerment Center and congratulating each of the honorees of the 63rd EEC Recognition Ceremony.

I wish all of them great success in their future endeavors.