

ban assault weapons and enact strong background checks with no loopholes. We must repeal immunity for firearm manufacturers so individuals can bring civil actions to hold these companies responsible for their role in the gun violence epidemic. We must provide funding for programs with demonstrated success in reducing gun violence.

During my time in Congress, I have worked diligently to pass legislation that will effectively regulate firearms and reduce gun violence. I lead the Ammo Identification Act and the Gun Violence Prevention and Safe Communities Act. These bills aim to reduce gun violence by requiring serial numbers to be engraved on ammunition to improve and creating guaranteed funding for gun violence prevention programs by increasing the excise tax on firearms and ammunition.

Gun violence is a public health crisis, and our federal government must lead the effort to enact effective gun violence prevention legislation.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MALIK TODD MURRAY

HON. JONATHAN L. JACKSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2025

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable life and profound contributions of Malik Todd Murray, a man who embodied the spirit of lifelong learning, athletic excellence, financial acumen, activism, mentorship and generous philanthropy rooted in faith. His life, marked by exceptional dignity, humility, and class, serves as an inspiration to us all.

Born in Chicago on September 16, 1974, Malik was the firstborn son of Cook County Circuit Court Judge Leonard Murray and the late Linda Diane Gray Murray. His mother, Linda, dedicated her career to education, serving as an assistant principal at Hyde Park Academy following a distinguished tenure as an award-winning history, sociology and psychology teacher.

Growing up in Chicago's South Shore community, Malik's early education at St. Philip Neri Elementary School saw him excel both as an altar boy and a straight-A student.

His passion for basketball ignited at the South Shore YMCA Youth Basketball Program under the guidance of his father, his first coach.

This early dedication paved the way for his admission to St. Ignatius College Prep where he graduated as the salutatorian of his class.

At St. Ignatius College Prep, Malik's athletic talent shone brightly. In 1992, his leadership propelled the boys' basketball team to its first Regional Championship in two decades. That same year, he was named at the Chicago All Area Team, Chicago Catholic League Player of the Year, three-time Chicago Sun-Times Player of the Week and Chicago Tribune Athlete of the Week.

His commitment to excellence in both academics and athletics earned him a four-year basketball scholarship to DePaul University, where he played under Coach Joey Meyer. Malik secured an internship at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, and then graduated from DePaul's Driehaus College of Business.

Malik spent 8 years at Bank One Brokerage and ultimately lead the European shift for international exchange traded products. Malik went on to further his education through obtaining an MBA in finance from DePaul's Kellstadt Graduate School of Business in 2004.

In December of 2004, Malik transitioned to Ariel Investments, where his talent and dedication led to a distinguished career culminating in his role as Senior Vice President, Head of Business Development, Institutional Marketing.

Throughout his career, Malik demonstrated a deep commitment to community engagement, serving on the boards of the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, DePaul University and St. Ignatius College Prep, where he established scholarships and funds to promote diversity and inclusion. He also held leadership positions with the National Association of Securities Professionals (NASP) and contributed to the Ariel Community Academy school board.

His legacy of excellence and generosity will continue to inspire future generations.

At the young age of 50, Malik Todd Murray passed on April 19, 2025. He was preceded in death by his mother, Linda Diane Gray Murray. He is survived by his longtime partner, Elizabeth; his father, Leonard; his sisters, Kai and Nubia (Brian) Davis; his brother, Kamau (Jennifer), and a wide circle of friends and family.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Malik Todd Murray as a testament to the power of hard work, integrity, and a deep commitment to serving others.

RECOGNIZING DEPARTING STAFF MEMBER BENJAMIN HONG STARR

HON. MARK TAKANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2025

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the incredible contributions of one of the most dedicated staffers in Congress, Benjamin Hong Starr.

Ben first came to my office as a Victory Institute fellow, before joining my staff officially as a staff assistant. Ben not only excelled in, but innovated upon, this position—implementing strategies and policies that continue to this day. From making constituents feel at home to battling the rats in the House Office Building basement, Ben proved there was no challenge he could not face.

Ben's unique abilities, professionalism, and dedication are apparent to all who across paths him. Throughout the nearly four years Ben was in my office he continued to exceed expectations in every role he was assigned. As a part of my legislative staff, he continuously found new ways to address the needs of California's 39th district. From spearheading efforts to improve air quality to advancing consumer protections, Ben consistently demonstrated the same zealous ingenuity that made even the most complex issues seem solvable.

As Ben moves into his new role with the Congressional Progressive Caucus, I could not be prouder of the impact he has already made on behalf of the Inland Empire. I, and

every person whose life Ben has touched, will be watching as he continues helping to create a better world.

I congratulate Ben and thank him for his service.

HONORING STEVE MARANS, MSW, PHD, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2025

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with my profound gratitude and deep admiration that I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend, Dr. Steven Marans, as he celebrates his retirement from a distinguished career in psychiatry including more than four decades of extraordinary leadership and service at the Yale Child Study Center and in the field of child trauma.

We know that trauma affects the human mind in a multitude of ways and there is no predicting how one might process a traumatic event—the number of different reactions as numerous as there are individuals. This is particularly true for children, all too often too young to fully understand the violence, stress, or trauma they may be experiencing. There are few, not only in this country but in this world, that understand that better than Dr. Steven Marans.

Some of my first real interactions and discussions with Dr. Marans came when he founded the Child Development-Community Policing Program. This pioneering effort was based on the collaboration of mental health and law enforcement professionals in responding to children and families exposed to violence and trauma. He found a better way to help children and their families in their darkest hours. It is a program that I was proud to secure federal funding for and one that has since been replicated in communities both here in the United States and abroad. Dr. Marans went on to become the Director of the Yale Child Study Center as well as the co-founder of the Child and Family Traumatic Stress Intervention, an evidence-based, early intervention that has been disseminated nationally and internationally, improving outcomes for countless children and families.

Over the course of our careers, I have often sought his counsel, turning to him for advice and as a resource when our communities and our Nation faced traumatic events. From the attacks on 9/11 to the Sandy Hook shooting; from the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic to the forced separation of families, Dr. Marans has only ever been a phone call away, and he has never not answered the call. I am not the only policymaker or community leader to have benefitted from his expertise and knowledge. Indeed, in addition to all of his work, Dr. Marans has also dedicated countless hours as a professor, a mentor, and advocate, educating not only new generations of mental health professionals, but also those in government, the private sector and academia. I, like so many others, consider myself fortunate to have been able to learn from him, and even more so that I can call him a friend.

Dr. Marans has dedicated his professional career and much of his personal life to researching and developing innovative approaches to interventions and treatments that

best meet the needs of children. His work has impacted the lives of countless souls and he has been an invaluable resource to communities across this country and throughout the globe. His work has changed the way we as psychiatrists, as communities, as policy and decision makers, and as a society, view and address child trauma. It is a remarkable legacy that leaves an indelible mark.

Today, as he marks the end of his career at the Yale Child Study Center, I extend my deepest thanks and heartfelt appreciation to Dr. Steven Marans for his many years of friendship and support as well as my very best wishes in whatever pursuits he takes on. I have no doubt that he will continue to make a difference.

HONORING PASTOR ALTON
BRIDGES FOR 25 YEARS OF PAS-
TORAL SERVICE

HON. JONATHAN L. JACKSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2025

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable dedication and 25 years of pastoral service of Pastor Alton Bridges of Park Manor M.B. Church, located at 8328 S. Green St., Chicago, Illinois.

Born in Chicago on July 23, 1964, Pastor Bridges is a true native of our great city. He received his foundational education at Chicago Vocational School before earning a Bachelor of Arts in Electrical Engineering from DeVry Institute of Technology.

Pastor Bridges has been an integral part of the church community his entire life, ultimately answering a call to ministry.

Before his pastoral journey, he held a supervisory position at a company then known as Eleck Tech.

For a quarter of a century, Pastor Bridges has faithfully served his congregation and the wider community. His commitment extends far beyond the walls of his church. Annually, he provides crucial food services to the greater Auburn-Gresham, South Shore, and Ashburn Wright communities. He actively partners with local grammar schools, assisting families in need by garnering donations to provide them with clothing, funding, and food.

In 2020, Pastor Bridges initiated a "Garden of Church," offering fresh vegetation to anyone in need—a testament to his innovative approach to community support. He actively collaborates with neighborhood stakeholders and is a vital part of the "1st Ladies of Initiatives."

His generosity also reaches beyond Chicago, as he consistently donates to national relief efforts, exemplified by his fundraising for families impacted by the California fires. Furthermore, he makes annual donations to support college-bound students, investing in the next generation.

Pastor Bridges is a devoted family man, supported by his wife, Phyllis Bridges, and their children, Symone, Markeeta, and Phillip.

Pastor Alton Bridges's unwavering commitment to his faith, his congregation, and the well-being of the Chicago community is truly commendable. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring his 25 years of profound pastoral service and his enduring impact on the lives of countless individuals.

REMEMBERING BARBARA NEELY

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2025

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Memphis' Interstate Bar-B-Que co-founder Barbara Neely who passed on June 16 at the age of 86. Mrs. Neely started the barbecue restaurant empire in 1979 with her husband, Jim, and was its public face, greeting customers from the front counter while her husband worked the pits in the kitchen. For 45 years, she would arrive at the restaurant at 5 a.m. every morning. The restaurant they founded became a Memphis institution and a tourist attraction, especially after Jim's nephew, Patrick, starred in the Food Network reality cooking show "Down Home with the Neelys," which ran from 2008 to 2014. Born Barbara Jean Frison, Barbara went to Manassas High School then relocated to New Orleans, where she met Jim, an Air Force veteran who left Memphis after high school. The first Interstate was founded the year they were married on Christmas Day, 1979, in Las Vegas. There are now Neely's restaurants at the original South Third Street location, on Winchester Road in Memphis, on Stateline Road in Southaven, Mississippi and a Memphis-style barbecue restaurant, Jay Bee's, in Gardena, California. Mrs. Neely put Memphis moist pit barbecue and chopped pork sandwiches on the map. I extend my condolences to her husband, Jim, her extended family, and her many devoted customers. Hers was a life well-lived.

CONGRATULATING DR. BETH
HALDEMAN ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2025

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor and congratulate Dr. Beth Haldeman on her retirement after 25 years with Cocalico School District.

Dr. Beth Haldeman's history with Cocalico School District, located in northern Lancaster County, began in 2000 as the reading specialist and principal at the former Schoeneck Elementary School. She served in a similar capacity when she became principal of Denver Elementary in 2002 and then principal at Reamstown Elementary in 2008. In 2019, Dr.

Haldeman joined the district administration as assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction. In this crucial and wide-ranging role, she oversaw state and local assessments, library services, professional development, special services, and academic supports.

Though she will be greatly missed by the Cocalico School District, Dr. Haldeman's experience and contributions to education will be utilized in her new role as the director of professional development for the Pennsylvania Principals Association, where she will be training future principals across Pennsylvania.

Dr. Beth Haldeman's contributions to the Cocalico School District have left a lasting impact on both the school district and Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District, which has no shortage of selfless educators.

I thank Dr. Haldeman for her service and wish her all the best in her new career.

HONORING REVEREND DR. TELLIS
JEROME CHAPMAN

HON. JONATHAN L. JACKSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2025

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 40th Anniversary of Reverend Dr. Tellis Jerome Chapman, a truly dynamic individual and devoted Baptist Minister in the Greater Metropolitan Detroit area. I include in the RECORD the following Proclamation:

Whereas for 40 years, Reverend Dr. Tellis Jerome Chapman has been a faithful and dedicated servant of God serving as Pastor of Galilee Missionary Baptist Church, and is to be commended for his steadfast Christian leadership over the years;

Whereas, under the direction of the Holy Spirit, Reverend Tellis Jerome Chapman was installed as Pastor of Galilee Missionary Baptist Church in 1985 and throughout this time, has fervently embraced the visions of the dynamic trailblazers that preceded him as leaders of this great church over the past 80 plus years;

Whereas, his outreach is not limited to Galilee Missionary Baptist Church, but he also serves the community on a city, county, state, national and international level and is affectionately known as a "Preaching Machine";

Whereas, this dynamic and humble man has demonstrated excellence in his calling as a "Man of God" and for that reason, the 1st Congressional District of Illinois joins Galilee Missionary Baptist Church Parishioners in thanking him for all that he has done over the past 40 years, and look forward to his continued spiritual guidance for many years to come;

Resolved, that I, Jonathan Jackson, Representative of the 1st Congressional District in Illinois, hereby honor the 40th Pastoral Anniversary of Reverend Dr. Tellis Jerome Chapman, I ask that my colleagues stand today to celebrate the great achievement of 40 years of servitude.