

Ms. Zubkoff is a big fan of traveling; she has gone on many trips over the years including Panama, Australia, and a surprise birthday cruise this year to South America. Her favorite souvenirs from these trips are jewelry made by regional artists with local materials. In her retirement, she plans to travel with her family, including her sister, niece, and nephew.

I congratulate Ms. Zubkoff, and I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking her for her distinguished service to the House and the Nation it serves. I wish her all the best as she begins this new chapter in her life.

HONORING MR. ALNOLDO MOORE

**HON. CHARLES J. "CHUCK"
FLEISCHMANN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Arnoldo Moore on his retirement from the Social Security Administration after 30 years of distinguished service.

Mr. Moore began his career in September 1994 as a Service Representative in Grand Rapids, Michigan, followed by assignments as both a Claims Representative and Management Support Specialist. In August 2003, Mr. Moore transitioned to Social Security Headquarters in Washington, D.C. serving as National Public Affairs Specialist, Human Resource Specialist, and Interactive Video Training (IVT) trainer, and Systems Analyst. While at headquarters, Mr. Moore was instrumental in developing and revising scripts for IVT broadcasts aired nationwide. He provided leadership and training to new employees on related programs. During his tenure in this role, Mr. Moore traveled the United States engaging with groups such as disability services organizations and Native American organizations. He prepared meetings for both the Commissioner and Acting Commissioner with White House staff to discuss Social Security Administration initiatives.

From August 2003 through April 2025, Mr. Moore served in the Chattanooga, Tennessee Field Office as a Public Affairs Specialist. In this role, Mr. Moore has served as constituent liaison to my office providing outstanding service and support both to my district staff and to my constituents.

Now, Arnoldo enters a new chapter in his life and is looking forward to spending more time with his wife, Yaritza, and his children, Aniza and Alejandro, while continuing to serve in our community.

It is with great honor that I recognize Mr. Arnoldo Moore for his many years of public service to our Nation and our community, and I wish him well in all new endeavors as he begins his retirement.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND RETIREMENT OF COLONEL DEREK C. OAKLEY, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

HON. DUSTY JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Colonel

Derek C. Oakley on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Air Force, concluding an extraordinary career of over two decades in service to our Nation.

Colonel Oakley most recently served as Commander of the 28th Bomb Wing at Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota. Under his instrumental leadership, the 28th Bomb Wing, home to the largest operational B-1 combat wing, provided unmatched global strike capabilities and remained a vital part of our national defense.

Since commissioning through Officer Training School in May 2000, Colonel Oakley's record of service has been marked by excellence, professionalism, and an unshakable commitment to duty. Over the course of his distinguished career, he logged more than 3,400 flight hours, including 991 in combat. His career has spanned key leadership roles in operations, training, and strategic development.

He has commanded at multiple levels, served on the Joint Staff, and played a vital role in the development of the B-21 Raider, shaping the future of American airpower. His service has been recognized with many decorations, including the Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, and multiple Air Medals.

On behalf of a grateful state and Nation, I thank Colonel Oakley for his decades of honorable service. We in South Dakota are proud to call him one of our own, and we wish him and his family all the best as they begin this new chapter.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the remarkable career and retirement of Colonel Derek C. Oakley.

HONORING DR. CRAIG
WITHERSPOON

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding career and lasting contributions of a visionary educator and leader—Dr. Craig Witherspoon. Over nearly four decades in public education, including ten transformative years as Superintendent of Richland County School District One in Columbia, South Carolina, Dr. Witherspoon has been a tireless champion for student achievement, equity, and innovation. His work has elevated not only the schools he served, but the communities they anchor.

Dr. Witherspoon began his career as an instrumental music teacher and steadily rose through the ranks as a principal, instructional leader, and superintendent, with service in four states—Virginia, North Carolina, Alabama, and South Carolina. He took the helm of Richland One in 2015, leading a diverse, urban-suburban-rural district serving more than 22,000 students and employing 4,000 educators and staff.

Under his leadership, Richland One became a statewide and national model of innovation. The district launched South Carolina's first Virtual School Program for high school students, as well as the state's first high school commercial driver's license (CDL) training program and firefighter training program. It was also the

first in the state to offer all 16 nationally recognized career clusters and establish a certified pre-apprenticeship program. His focus on early childhood education expanded pre-K access and launched the "ThriveRichland" initiative for school readiness.

Dr. Witherspoon guided the district through the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, implementing a comprehensive reopening plan to ensure students could return safely to in-person instruction. Throughout his tenure, the district intensified family engagement, boosted graduation rates beyond the state average, and received system-wide accreditation with top-tier evaluation scores.

He also prioritized summer learning through the district's Summer SOAR program and oversaw over \$30 million in federal magnet school grants, as well as major investments in school facilities—from upgraded athletic stadiums to new academic wings focused on culinary arts, Montessori, and language immersion.

Dr. Witherspoon's leadership was recognized with numerous awards, including 2024 Superintendent of the Year by the South Carolina Alliance of Black School Educators, 2022 Superintendent of the Year by the S.C. Athletic Administrators Association, and Administrator of the Year by several professional education associations. Under his guidance, the district and its schools received a remarkable list of accolades—from National Blue Ribbon recognition to national awards for health, energy conservation, and inclusive education.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in honoring the extraordinary service of Dr. Craig Witherspoon. His career exemplifies the power of education to transform lives and communities. He leaves behind a legacy of vision, integrity, and excellence that will continue to shape South Carolina's future for generations to come.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF THE IT'S ABOUT THE KIDS MENTOR PROGRAM

HON. JASMINE CROCKETT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding organization in Texas' 30th Congressional District, It's About the Kids Mentor Program, a community organization committed to empowering families and youth in Dallas, Texas. With a mission "to focus on the kids of today, which will strengthen our youth of tomorrow who will become the adults of the future," It's About the Kids provides impactful programs that center around youth mentorship, community service, literacy advancement, professional development, and contributing significantly to the well-being and growth of families in our community. By focusing on these initiatives, participants can develop the necessary skills needed to thrive today.

Founded in 2001 by Baldwin and Crystal Hamilton, It's About the Kids Mentor Program began outreach in Marietta, Georgia, then following the Hamiltons' move to Dallas in 2012, they expanded their reach to Dallas and most recently have expanded to Shreveport in 2024. The Hamiltons have intentionally poured

into the lives of young people by providing mentorship and developing participants' literacy skills and interest in public service. Through programs such as the Little Library Program, they have partnered with educators and libraries to provide resources for over 500 children to develop strong literacy skills. It's About the Kids continues to be an excellent asset to the constituents of TX-30. For the past two years, they have partnered with my office for our annual Fish 'n' Kids and Kids 'n' Kites events, which give kids the opportunity to engage in outdoor activities, build relationships with local law enforcement, and interact with members of the community.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the work that Baldwin and Crystal Hamilton and It's About the Kids Mentor Program have done in our district and look forward to their continued impact on our community.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF JOHN BREWSTER "J.B."
HODGDON

HON. DEREK SCHMIDT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

Mr. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of fellow lifelong Kansan, John Brewster "J.B." Hodgdon, who passed away on June 13, 2025. J.B. was born on October 16, 1936, to Bruce and Amy Hodgdon in Kansas City, Kansas. He lived a life full of service, always giving back to his community, and I was proud call him my friend.

While growing up in America's Heartland, J.B. and his brother Bob helped with the family business, which he eventually entered full time in 1959 after graduating from the University of Kansas with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. J.B.'s father served as an aerial gunnery instructor for the Navy. J.B. recalled that in grade school he and Bob would help their father by loading shot shells at night so their dad could prepare to teach his students the following day. With the grit and determination instilled in them by their parents, J.B. and Bob would grow Hodgdon Powder Company from operating at the family dining room table to the largest U.S. consumer supplier of smokeless and black powder substitute propellants. Hodgdon Powder Company is now a household name within the firearm and ammunition industry and among handloading and muzzleloading enthusiasts.

Passion for hunting and the shooting sports runs deep in the Hodgdon blood. J.B. was an unwavering supporter of the National Shooting Sports Foundation, life benefactor member of the National Rifle Association, life member of the Kansas State Rifle Association, and a member of Safari Club of America, Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited, and the National 4-H Shooting Sports. J.B. enjoyed growing the next generation of hunters and recreational shooters. He especially cherished his time with Philmont Scout Ranch, Scouting America's National High-Adventure Base in Cimarron, New Mexico. Along with his wife Anne and their charitable foundation, J.B. was integral in enhancing Philmont's success in serving our Nation's youth.

For his leadership contributing to the success of the firearm industry, firearm owner-

ship, and enjoyment of hunting and the shooting sports in America, J.B. was inducted into the National Shooting Sports Foundation Hall of Fame. He was also the recipient of the Shooting Industry Academy of Excellence Award, and he and his brother were awarded the NRA's Golden Bullseye Pioneer Award.

J.B. unquestionably touched countless lives and was highly respected, including by those in the firearm industry, on which he has left an indelible mark. He will be remembered for his strong work ethic, love for shooting sports and the outdoors, his utmost appreciation for first responders, passion for youth and scouting, and keen interest in classic cars. He will also be remembered as a man of faith and a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. I thank Anne, his beloved wife of 28 years, his four sons, two stepchildren, five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren, for sharing J.B. with all of us who are blessed to have known him. I hope they find peace and comfort in celebrating a life well-lived.

HONORING COLONEL JAMES R.
BARTRAN, II OF THE UNITED
STATES AIR FORCE

HON. DOUG LaMALFA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the outstanding military service career of Colonel James R. Bartran, II of the United States Air Force (USAF). Colonel Bartran currently serves as the Deputy Commander of the 9th Reconnaissance Wing at Beale Air Force Base in Wheatland, California.

As Deputy Commander of the 9th Reconnaissance Wing, Colonel Bartran is responsible for approximately 7,000 military, civilian, and contract personnel, and the entire Air Force high altitude reconnaissance fleet of the U-2 Dragon Lady aircraft at the base. Prior to his deployment at Beale AFB, Colonel Bartran was a student at the Army War College.

Colonel Bartran was first commissioned in May of 2001, and since that time he has served dutifully in the USAF defending our Nation's homeland from overseas threats.

Colonel Bartran has logged over 4,800 flight hours in a wide assortment of aircraft including: B-1B, T-38A, T-38C, T-34C, TU-2S, UH-60, TH-57, and others. He has flown 78 combat missions with 700 hours of combat time. His combat experience includes deployments in support of Operations: Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom as well as multiple non-combat deployments in support of: US Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM), US European Command (USEUCOM), US Africa Command (USAFRICOM), US Northern Command (USNORTHCOM), and US Central Command (USCENTCOM) conducting sensitive reconnaissance operations.

During Colonel Bartran's distinguished military career, he would also serve as the Commander of the 5th Reconnaissance Wing in the USINDOPACOM leading 250 personnel and executing manned high altitude reconnaissance missions.

Colonel Bartran earned a BA Degree in Business Management & Finance from Washington State University in 2001, and a Master of Military Operational Art and Science

(MMAS) degree from the Air Command and Staff College (ACSC) in 2010. In addition, he has earned numerous awards and decorations such as: Meritorious Service Medal with six Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Aerial Achievement Medal with six Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Air Force Achievement Medal.

Colonel Bartran lives with his wife Jackie, and their three children Lillian, James, and Joseph. It has been a pleasure to get to know Colonel Bartran in his last few years of service at Beale AFB. I found him to be a man of faith, honor, and integrity. I thank him for the work he has done with myself and my team to protect and expand the Air Force's many missions at Beale AFB.

Colonel Bartran will be retiring from the USAF after 24 years of military service in defense of the United State of America. On behalf of the citizens of Northern California and a grateful Nation, we thank Colonel Bartran for his outstanding military career and service in the defense of freedom around the globe. We wish him all the best in his retirement and hope our paths do continue to cross. I thank him for his service. May God bless him and his family.

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, June 26, 2025 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JULY 7

5:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Airland

Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2026.

SR-232A

JULY 8

9:15 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities

Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2026.

SR-232A