

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2025

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I missed yesterday's votes due to weather delays. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 191; YEA on Roll Call No. 192; and YEA on Roll Call No. 193.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. YUNG PATE, JR.

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2025

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable life and legacy of Mr. Yung Pate, Jr., a proud veteran, respected professional, and devoted community leader, whose contributions have left a lasting mark on the city of Chicago and beyond.

Mr. Pate answered the call to serve his country during the Korean War, carrying out his duties in the United States Army with honor, courage, and steadfast dedication. His service reflected the strength of character and deep sense of duty that would define the rest of his life.

Following his military service, Mr. Pate built a distinguished career in the security field. Known for his dedication to his clients and employees, as well as his exceptional service and professionalism, he became a trusted and admired figure throughout the region. His work helped shape Chicago's security industry, and his legacy continues to inspire a new generation of professionals, including the hundreds he mentored and employed, to follow in his footsteps and uplift others.

Mr. Pate's commitment to service extended far beyond his profession. Throughout his life, he remained deeply engaged in his community, dedicating himself to public service, mentorship, community engagement, and generosity.

Above all, Mr. Pate was a devoted family man. He is survived by his beloved wife, Mrs. Dolores Thibodeaux-Pate, and the cherished Pate family, who continue to uphold his legacy of service and excellence.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the cherished life of Yung Pate, Jr.

RECOGNIZING NICHOLAS "NICKY" BACSIK

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2025

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend Nicholas Bacsik, an outstanding young man whose hard work and character have earned him the rank of Eagle Scout. For his Eagle Scout project, Nicky designed and built four standing workshop tables at Cloverdale Farms County Park in Barnegat, South Jersey. These tables now complete an outdoor teach-

ing space where children will learn about environmental stewardship and conservation, a legacy that will benefit the community for the years to come. But Nicky's path to Eagle wasn't just about one project. It was about perseverance, leadership, and inner strength. In September of 2023, Nicky faced an unimaginable loss when his older brother, Danny, also an Eagle Scout, was tragically killed while riding his bike at the University of Delaware. The grief was overwhelming, and at one point, it wasn't clear if Nicky would continue his Scouting journey. But he did, and not just for himself. He pressed on with even greater determination, knowing that Danny would have wanted him to reach the milestone. That strength, that resilience, and that sense of purpose is what being an Eagle Scout is all about. I am proud of all that Nicky has accomplished, and even more proud of the man he is becoming. God bless Nicky, and God bless our United States of America, the greatest country on the face of the Earth.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ROBERT L. "BOB" HANLEY

HON. PETE STAUBER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2025

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Seaman Second Class Robert L. "Bob" Hanley, the last living survivor of the sinking of the USS *Houston* (CA-30) in the Sunda Strait off the coast of Java on February 29, 1942, ending the storied U.S. Asiatic Fleet.

As one of only 368 of the ship's complement of 1,060 to survive this sea battle, he showcased American grit, tenacity, and commitment in the fight against fascism and tyranny. He endured multiple POW camps, "hell ships" to Singapore and Burma, and slave labor on the infamous Thai-Burma Death Railway.

His nearly four years of as a POW of Japan were marked by starvation, torture, and beatings. As a POW medical orderly, he labored without medicines and supplies to save the lives of his fellow brutalized POWs. He, himself, survived bouts of dysentery, malaria, and pellagra. At liberation in August 1945, he was among just 291 remaining USS *Houston* (CA-30) survivors.

Bob's resilience never wavered, and his service did not end with his Navy discharge in 1947. He continued serving his country by enlisting in the U.S. Army for 15 years. After his military career, he worked in security at 3M for another 15 years, retiring in 1978 due to medical issues caused by his wartime imprisonment.

Throughout his life, Bob's deep faith as a devout member of the Catholic Church of Saint Peter in Forest Lake, Minnesota, guided him through the darkest times and brightest moments, serving as a cornerstone of his strength. On September 12, 2024, Seaman Second Class Robert L. Hanley passed away at 102 years old. May he rest in peace.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF LUCILLE HIRSH HART

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2025

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include in the Record the following proclamation celebrating the 100th Birthday of Lucille Hirsh Hart.

Whereas, Lucille Hirsh Hart was born on June 21, 1925, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to Lena and Joel Hart, and has spent a century inspiring those around her with her strength, dedication, and love;

Whereas, Lucille built a beautiful life rooted in family, raising four children with devotion and care while serving as an outstanding mother and homemaker;

Whereas, she also dedicated herself to a distinguished career in medical records, ultimately serving as the head of Medical Records at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, a major teaching institution in downtown Philadelphia, where she contributed to the health and well-being of countless patients and supported generations of medical professionals;

Whereas, Lucille has long been an ardent supporter of the State of Israel and the Jewish people, instilling her deep sense of heritage, culture, and commitment in her children and numerous grandchildren;

Whereas, in 1993, Lucille moved to Florida, where she continues to live independently in her own home in Delray Beach, bringing joy, wisdom, and warmth to all who know her;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, Lois Frankel, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives, do hereby recognize and celebrate the 100th birthday of Lucille Hirsh Hart.

Let it be known that Lucille's life stands as a shining example of service, resilience, and enduring love for family and community. We honor her remarkable century of life and the legacy she continues to build.

Happy 100th Birthday.

HONORING MR. GREGORY J. ZAGAR FOR HIS DECADES OF SERVICE

HON. ELISE M. STEFANK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2025

Ms. STEFANK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Gregory J. Zagar for his decades of dedicated service with the United States Air Force and the Air Force Research Laboratory in Rome, New York.

In 1974, Mr. Zagar enlisted in the United States Air Force and served until 1982, when after 8 years of service he was honorably discharged, he joined the U.S. Air Force Reserve at Griffiss Air Force Base in Rome, New York, where he would continue to serve at the rank of Captain until 1985. From 1985 to 1996, Mr. Zagar served as part of the New York Air National Guard based at Hancock Field, where he earned the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and returned to the U.S. Air Force Reserve at Hanscom Air Force Base, having achieved the title of Colonel.

Since 2004, Mr. Zagar has served in several leadership positions in the Computing and Communications Division at the Air Force Research Laboratory in Rome, New York. The

Computing and Communications Division is responsible for the discovery, development, and integration of affordable trusted systems, high-performance computing, network systems, and quantum processing and communications for our air, space, and cyberspace domains. His leadership roles within the division included branch chief for six different mission branches across both the Information Directorate and Sensors Directorate, under titles such as Assistant Division Chief, Deputy Division Chief, and Division Chief. In his current role as Division Chief, Mr. Zagar oversees over 120 scientists, engineers, and staff as well as the execution of \$425 million via guidance on defining, budgeting, and managing diverse technical areas.

Among his incredible contributions to Air Force Research is Mr. Zagar's introduction and establishment of a new mission branch within the Computing and Communications Division of the AFRL/RI for Quantum Information Sciences and Technology (known as RITQ). RITQ has played a critical role in establishing and maintaining the world-class facilities for building, testing, and demonstrating the capabilities of new technologies to meet warfighters' current and anticipated future needs. Additional assets expanded and improved due to Mr. Zagar's unwavering dedication include the 300-acre "Controllable Contested Environment" Stockbridge facility, the 78-acre Newport "Upside-Down Air Force," the Extreme Computing Facility, and the Communication System & Technologies Laboratory. Mr. Zagar even came up with the vision and led collaboration on the concept, design, and construction for the Innovare Advancement Center, which succeeded in creating an open research environment where government engineers can partner with industry and academia to advance technology.

Mr. Zagar has been recognized for his outstanding accomplishments and contributions to the United States Air Force over his many years of service at bases in New York's 21st district. His awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, two Commendation Medals, two Achievement Medals, the Combat Readiness Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, and the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, which he has received five times. Mr. Zagar has used his experience as a pilot and warfighter with the United States Air Force, U.S. Air Force Reserve, and New York Air National Guard to contribute to the advancement of warfighter command and control technology, ultimately playing a tremendous role in shaping our current world-class computing and communications facilities and engineers.

On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I would like to commend Mr. Gregory J. Zagar for his tremendous contribution to our district through his work for the United States Air Force Research Laboratory in Rome, New York. I am proud to honor Mr. Zagar for his outstanding accomplishments and thank him for his over 40 years of service and commitment to the advancement of computing and communication technology for the United States Air Force.

RECOGNIZING SYDNEY PRINCE

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2025

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I rise to proudly recognize Sydney Prince, a remarkable young leader who, after six years of steadfast effort, has achieved the distinguished honor of becoming an Eagle Scout. Sydney is the youngest member of a group of 10 girls who make up Troop 452, and since the troop's founding in 2019, she has played an instrumental role in building it into the strong community it is. Her passion for health sciences is evident in everything she does. Just this past summer, she interned with Galloway Emergency Medical Services, where she gained firsthand experience serving her community. It was through this experience that she came up with the idea for her Eagle Scout project, which was a relaxation spot for these local heroes after a long shift, or difficult incident. Sydney designed, planned, and oversaw the construction of a beautiful paver patio behind the Galloway EMS station she interned at. This new space offers first responders a place to relax and regroup after long shifts and challenging calls, a gift that honors their service and supports their well-being. Sydney graduates this month from the Atlantic County Institute of Technology, and she plans to pursue higher education and a career in health sciences. With her compassion, work ethic, and commitment to service, I have no doubt she will continue to be a tremendous asset to her community and to our country. God bless Sydney and God bless our United States of America, the greatest country on the planet.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE ALPENA COMMUNITY COLLEGE REMOTELY OPERATED VEHICLE TEAM

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2025

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary achievements of the Alpena Community College remotely operated vehicle (ROV) team, known as the Aquajacks, who recently represented Michigan's First Congressional District with distinction at the 2025 Marine Advanced Technology Education Remotely Operated Vehicle World Championship hosted in Alpena, Michigan.

These talented students, who both live and study in Northern Michigan, demonstrated remarkable ingenuity, teamwork, and technical skill on the international stage, earning an impressive third-place finish against nearly 80 teams from 22 states and 18 countries. After months of designing, testing, and problem-solving, at the competition, the Aquajacks' ROV successfully completed complex technical tasks while the team impressed judges with their professional presentations and real-time strategic thinking.

Their performance stands as a testament to Alpena Community College's commitment to hands-on STEM education and development of real-world skills. I want to commend the

Aquajacks' mentor, David Cummins, and the entire Alpena Community College Faculty for fostering such excellence.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize the Alpena Community College Aquajacks. These students not only represent the future of my district but also highlight the critical role skilled innovators play in strengthening our nation's infrastructure and advancing our national security. Their achievements remind us that effective investment into STEM education is essential to maintaining America's leadership and resilience on a rapidly changing world stage.

HONORING DR. SOLANGES VIVENS

HON. SHEILA CHERFILUS-McCORMICK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2025

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include in the RECORD the following proclamation honoring Dr. Solanges Vivens.

Whereas, Born in Haiti and inspired by the wise, enduring strength of the turtle, Dr. Solanges Vivens immigrated to the United States and devoted over four decades to advancing healthcare and business leadership; and

Whereas, Rising from a non-English-speaking factory worker, to a renowned healthcare executive, author and advocate; Dr. Vivens embodies perseverance, courage, and visionary leadership; and

Whereas, Her academic achievements including a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Long Island University, a Master's in Health Services Administration from Georgetown University, and a Doctorate in Humane Letters from Voorhees College, epitomize her lifelong commitment to education, leadership, and service; and

Whereas, Dr. Vivens has received numerous accolades recognizing her achievements, including the D.C. Health Care Association Leadership Award, Nelson Mandela Children's Fund Award, Hope Giver Award, and the Champion of Women Award, a Miami-Dade Public County Schools Proclamation, the city of North Miami's "Dr. Solanges Vivens Day", and induction into the Island Space Caribbean Museum, each honoring her service to women, children, and underserved communities worldwide; and

Whereas, Through her acclaimed works, *Girls Can Move Mountains*, *A Revelation*, and *Educated Girl*, Empowered Woman, Dr. Vivens uplifts Haitian youth and shares stories of resilience, while serving as a beacon of hope and healing, representing the Caribbean and African diaspora at international forums like the Global Leaders Women's Conference in Dubai and the Venice Film Festival; and

Therefore, be it resolved that we, Florida's 20th Congressional District, in celebration of Caribbean-American Heritage Month, proudly honor Dr. Solanges Vivens for her extraordinary contributions to healthcare, women's empowerment, education, humanitarian advocacy, and Caribbean excellence.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHIP ROY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2025

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I unfortunately missed one Roll Call vote due to travel delays.