

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## HONORING THE LIFE OF IAN KALVINSKAS

### HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 25, 2025*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of an intern in my office, and a University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) student, Mr. Ian Kalvinskas, who recently passed away at the age of 20. He was a son, student, and friend.

Kalvinskas was a Pasadena native and grew up with a love for soccer, travel, and politics. His parents owned a traveling bookstore, sparking Ian's curiosity to explore the world's geography. While in high school, Kalvinskas excelled scholastically, played on the school's soccer team, and was awarded Most Valuable Player. After graduating from high school in 2023, he fulfilled his dream of attending UCLA to study Political Science.

Driven by a deep passion for social justice, Kalvinskas aspired to advocate for underserved communities and one day work for the United Nations, using his education and experiences to make a global impact.

Unfortunately, Kalvinskas was diagnosed with liver cancer in 2020, when he was 15 years old, and underwent liver transplantation at UCLA. For four and a half years, it appeared he had beaten cancer—but tragically, it recurred in November 2024.

Despite battling the recurrence of his cancer, Kalvinskas achieved his dream of interning on Capitol Hill in the summer of 2025. He cared deeply about healthcare reform, and knowing his life expectancy was short, he wanted "to make a difference now." His goal was to help write legislation that ensures pediatric patients receive fair consideration on the organ transplant waiting list. Though his life was cut short by cancer just a week later, his efforts laid the groundwork for lasting change.

Kalvinskas passed away on June 27, surrounded by his loved ones, in a DC hospital—fittingly in the shadow of the Capitol—a symbol to him of how visions for change could become reality. He touched countless lives with his warmth, idealism, and humanity. He lived a courageous and meaningful life by dedicating his final days to advancing a cause he believed in—a goal that reflected the very core of his character. Kalvinskas was a true inspiration to all who had the privilege of knowing him.

He is survived by his parents, Adrian and Susan Kalvinskas, along with his extended family. Our deepest condolences, thoughts, and prayers are with the Kalvinskas family during this difficult time.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating and honoring the life of a remarkable intern, student, and son, Mr. Ian Kalvinskas. His ambition and legacy will be remembered for many years to come. We join his family, friends, and community in celebrating a life lived with purpose, and in mourning a loss felt deeply by all who knew him.

## HONORING THE INCREDIBLE LIFE OF RICHARD C. PARSONS

### HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 25, 2025*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Richard C. Parsons, who passed away on May 16, 2025, in San Clemente, California. In his memory, I would like to pay tribute and reflect on the life he led and the impact he had on our Nation and the community in California's 49th District.

Richard was born in New York City on August 3, 1934, and was the son of Armenian immigrants.

He attended Columbia University before earning his degree from Principia College in Elmhurst, Illinois. During his time at Principia College, Richard met his wife Nancy, whom he was married to for 66 years.

After attending Principia College, Richard enlisted in the Army. He served with honor at the NATO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium. After his time serving our nation, Richard settled in Southern California where he led a successful career, retiring as the Vice President of Sales and Marketing for Arrowhead Water.

Richard was an incredible leader and an inspiration to many. I am grateful for his service to our country.

Richard is survived by his children, grandchildren, and extended family. They were his greatest pride. Richard was a dedicated family man who cared deeply for everyone around him. Richard leaves behind a legacy defined by love and service.

I am proud to have the opportunity to recognize the legacy of Richard C. Parsons.

## CONDEMNING CHAOTIC AND HARMFUL FAILINGS OF THIS CONGRESS

### HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 25, 2025*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, we are going to adjourn and not do the peoples' business because we have thus far gotten an "F." An "F" for the work of the people in this Congress. We have taken health care away from hundreds of thousands of people. We have taken SNAP payments and nutritional sustenance, away from tens and hundreds of thousands of people. We have made injuries to the Earth, God's Earth we are here to preserve, and we only use. We have taken away from women the right to go to Planned Parenthood to have health care that they need. We have taken away protections for clean energy to change the rate of growth of global warming that affects our planet and affects our future with hotter and hotter summers, flash floods, fires and disasters. It will increase our reliance on

fossil fuels, which make the air dirtier and people sicker, all while we are taking away people's health care. This Congress has earned an "F." We do not deserve a better grade.

I am ashamed to be a part of this Congress, but I will stay because people need to stand up, speak the truth, stand up for things the American people have always stood for: justice, due process, the rule of law, fairness, caring about the little guy, caring about giving people something when they need it, but not giving something to people who have too much—millionaires and billionaires.

Just think, Mr. Speaker, of the harm the rescissions bill did to public broadcasting—NPR and PBS—legacies of President Johnson's Great Society that help our citizens stay informed. Think of the harm done to life-saving foreign aid that keeps children fed and vaccinated from dreadful diseases that can and will cross our borders in check. And the Big Ugly Bill does substantial harm to critical programs and to the people who rely on them, so millionaires can get a tax break and the rest of the country gets huge and endless deficits and trillions more in debt.

Newsweek reported this week that the current Congress is one of the least effective ever, passing only 27 bills since January 3, far fewer than in previous Congresses at the same point. Unfortunately, the biggest, ugliest bill we passed, and the rescissions package will contribute to incalculable pain, suffering, and death all around the world.

Come to think of it, maybe this Congress should get something worse than a grade of "F." Maybe those voting for these cruel and dangerous provisions should be sent to the principal's office and expelled.

## RECOGNIZING DENVER SUMMIT FC

### HON. JASON CROW

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 25, 2025*

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and recognize a thrilling new chapter in Colorado's proud sporting history. It is with immense pride that I welcome Denver Summit FC, the newest franchise in the National Women's Soccer League, to our great state and to the city of Denver.

The arrival of Denver Summit FC is more than just the addition of a new professional sports team; it is a testament to the growth of women's sports and a beacon of inspiration for young athletes, especially young women, throughout our community. This team represents a pinnacle of athletic achievement and will provide an invaluable platform to showcase the incredible talent, dedication, and sportsmanship of professional female athletes.

The establishment of an NWSL team in Denver will undoubtedly have a profound and positive impact on our community. It will bring families and fans together, create new economic opportunities, and further solidify Colorado's reputation as a premier destination for

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

professional sports. I also want to specifically commend the organization's investment in a state-of-the-art performance center in Centennial, purpose-built for the unique needs of professional women athletes. This facility is a landmark achievement and a powerful statement about the value and importance of women's sports. Most importantly, the players of Denver Summit FC will serve as powerful role models for our children, demonstrating the limitless possibilities that can be achieved through hard work, perseverance, and a commitment to excellence.

I want to extend my sincerest congratulations and a warm welcome to the players, coaches, staff, and ownership of Denver Summit FC. We eagerly await the inaugural season and the excitement of cheering on our new home team. The entire state of Colorado stands with them, and we look forward to celebrating their success for many years to come.

#### DESIGNATING NIGERIA A COUNTRY OF PARTICULAR CONCERN

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 25, 2025*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following letter, drafted by respected experts—including former Members of Congress—in the field of religious freedom, underscoring the dire state of religious freedom in Nigeria, and calling for that country to be designated a Country of Particular Concern under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998. Their stark appraisal of the situation, and the immediate threat to the lives of thousands of Nigerians, merits immediate action by the administration.

JUNE 13, 2025.

Hon. CHRISTOPHER SMITH,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE SMITH: As religious freedom advocates and leaders of grassroots organizations with millions of American members, we thank you for sponsoring H. Res. 220 which recommends redesignating Nigeria as a Country of Particular Concern (CPC) for particularly severe religious persecution. We consider this a critical first step in addressing the situation in Nigeria.

As you know, House Resolution 220 calls for the Secretary of State to address the egregious, systematic, and ongoing religious persecution, in Nigeria, specifically by redesignating Nigeria as a CPC under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (IRFA).

Nigeria is the world's deadliest country for Christians, according to Open Doors' 2025 World Watch List. Of the 4,476 Christians killed for their faith worldwide during the reporting period, 3,100 (69 percent) were in Nigeria. FIDES, a Catholic news agency, indicated that over ten years least 145 priests had been abducted and eleven murdered.

In addition, designated terror groups such as Boko Haram and the Islamic State West Africa Province have killed thousands of Christians and Muslims who reject their dictates and suppressed the rights of women and girls. Boko Haram kidnapped over 200 schoolgirls in 2014 in Chibok, Borno State, half of whom remain captive, forced them into sexual slavery and pressured them to convert to Islam. In another case, Leah Sharibu remains enslaved following a 2018 terrorist raid on her school.

Most of this slaughter, however, is carried out by militant Fulani Muslim herders, who have been allowed to target Christian villages with impunity. In its recommendation of CPC designation for Nigeria, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) concluded in its 2021 Annual Report that the Nigerian Government has "routinely failed to investigate these attacks and prosecute those responsible, demonstrating a problematic level of apathy on the part of state officials."

Christians who are violently attacked and whose land is confiscated by the militant Fulani Muslim herders, end up living in Internally Displaced People (IDP) camps, which are unspeakably inhumane and unfit for animals. Currently there are well over 2 million people living in such camps in the Makurdi diocese alone. The Pontifical foundation, Aid to the Church in Need, which works to help the Church in areas of high distress in Nigeria, has collected this video evidence from Makurdi of Christians living in such camps.

Authorities also enforce Islamic blasphemy laws that have resulted in recent death sentences for Sufi musician, Yahaya Sharif-Aminu, and two Muslim clerics, and "religious insult" laws that led to a 24-year sentence for Nigeria's Humanist Association head, Mubarak Bala. These laws have also been accompanied by a routine grant of impunity for extrajudicial attacks against their perceived violators. In 2023, there was the unprosecuted mob killing of student Deborah Emmanuel Yakubu after she was accused of blasphemy and the unprosecuted serious death threats against the Sultan of Sokoto. Sokoto's Catholic bishop, and Rhoda Jatau, a Christian woman, all three of whom were targeted for expressing disapproval of Yakubu's murder.

On March 13, 2025 the House Foreign Affairs' Subcommittee on Africa held the hearing: "Conflict and Persecution in Nigeria; The Case for a CPC," with Catholic Bishop Wilfred Anagbe of the Makurdi diocese in Benue State, Nina Shea, Hudson Institute's Senior Fellow and Director of its Center for Religious Freedom, and Family Research Council's President Tony Perkins—all testifying to the medieval-like persecution currently targeting Christians in Nigeria's Middle Belt region.

Ms. Shea stated that "Nigeria's government has not undertaken a thorough, objective, and transparent investigation of the militant Fulani herders' organization, leadership, motives, or intent in these attacks." Yet, Shea noted, "[s]urvivor accounts, collected by churches and journalists on the ground, frequently report that their attackers spoke Fulfulde and shouted 'Allahu Akbar' or other religious sentiments as they killed, as USCIRF noted in its reports."

Following the recent congressional hearing and subsequent international scrutiny, Nigeria's President, Foreign Minister and other governmental authorities, such as the Governor of Benue, have undertaken an aggressive public affairs campaign to deny and deflect the truth about their inaction to stop the Fulani aggression against defenseless Christian farming communities occurring in several Nigerian states. Bishop Anagbe has even been personally threatened following his testimony in Congress.

We were alarmed to hear reports that between May 24–26, 2025, Fulani Muslim militants waged another massacre in Benue state, possibly in reprisal for Bishop Anagbe's speaking out about Fulani violence in his testimony before Congress. This recent attack was against the bishop's home village of Aondona, as well as its surrounding villages of Ahume, Tyolaha, and Tse-Ubiam.

Reuters reports that at least "42 people were shot dead by suspected herders" in those attacks and that 32 of the villagers' bodies were recovered in Aondona and Ahume, alone. In response, the U.S. Mission in Abuja issued a statement on X strongly condemning these brutal attacks and urging Nigerian authorities to investigate and hold the responsible parties accountable. Other governments also issued similar statements. Experience shows that the Nigerian government has routinely failed to ensure such investigations and accountability on what have become relentless Fulani herder assaults on defenseless Christian farming villages.

Encouraged by the example of Bishop Wilfred Anagbe, others are also speaking out against the government's grant of impunity in the face of such atrocities. This is a critical time for Congress to act, as Nigerians in the Middle Belt area are supporting international attention.

Nigeria wields significant influence in Sub-Saharan Africa. By allowing severe religious persecution to proliferate within its borders, Nigeria is compounding already heightened regional insecurity.

We respectfully ask you to co-sponsor House Resolution 220 and urge the passage.

Sincerely,

Ambassador Sam Brownback, *Co-Chair, International Religious Freedom Summit*; Nina Shea, *Senior Fellow and Director, Center for Religious Freedom at Hudson Institute*; Frank Wolf, *Member of Congress (VA) 1981–2015, retired*; Dr. Mary Ann Glendon, *Former Ambassador to the Holy See and Chairman of the State Department Commission on Unalienable Rights*; Douglas Burton, *Director, Truth Nigeria*; Richard Ghazal, Esq., *Executive Director, In Defense of Christians (IDC)*; Patricia Streeter, *Co-leader, Anglican Persecuted Church Network*; Faith J.H. McDonnell, *Director of Advocacy, Katartismos Global*; Mark Tooley, *President, Institute on Religion and Democracy*; Dr. Gregory H. Stanton, *Founding President, Genocide Watch Chair, The Alliance Against Genocide*; Dr. Katrina Lantos Swett, *President, Lantos Foundation for Human Rights & Justice*; Steven Wagner, *President, Solidarity with the Persecuted Church*; Troy A. Miller, *President & CEO, National Religious Broadcasters (NRB)*; David Trimble, *President, Religious Freedom Institute*; Michael Arthur Vacca, *Director, International Catholic Jurists Forum*; Travis Weber, *Vice President for Policy & Gov't Affairs Family Research Council*; George Weigel, *Distinguished Senior Fellow and William E. Simon Chair in Catholic Studies Ethics and Public Policy Center*; Dede Laugesen, *Executive Director, Save the Persecuted Christians*; Kelly (Monroe) Kullberg, *General Secretary, American Association of Evangelicals (AAE)*; The Rt. Reverend Andudu Adam Elnail, *Anglican Bishop of Kadugli and Nuba Mountains, Sudan, Co-leader, Global Anglican Future Conference (GAFCON) Suffering Church Network*.

OPPOSING H.R. 3633, S. 1582, AND  
H.R. 1919

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 25, 2025*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3633, the Digital Asset Market Clarity Act. S. 1582, the Guiding and Establishing National Innovation in U.S. Stablecoins Act, and H.R. 1919, the Anti-CBDC Surveillance State Act.

While I am opposed to these three bills, I am not opposed to the concept of crypto itself.