

Tests on August 29th, and to commend the Republic of Kazakhstan for its role in working collaboratively with the United States to pursue nuclear disarmament and our shared non-proliferation goals. In doing so, our two countries have preserved peace, stability, and a world free from the ever-present threat of nuclear conflict.

When the Soviet Union dissolved in 1991, it left behind 35,000 nuclear weapons at sites across the Eurasian landmass. With thousands of nuclear-armed ICBMs in places like Belarus and Ukraine, the newly-formed Republic of Kazakhstan inherited the world's fourth-largest nuclear arsenal, which was also home of the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site. From Semipalatinsk's establishment in 1946 to its decommission in 1995, Soviet authorities carried out 468 nuclear tests at the test site. The total impact of these tests between 1949 and 1963 was 2,500 times more powerful than the atomic bomb the U.S. dropped on Hiroshima. The toxic radioactive fallout these tests yielded caused irreparable damage to more than 1.3 million people in Kazakhstan and severe ecological harm to the area surrounding the test site.

In 1989, before the dissolution of the Soviet Union, anti-nuclear war activists in Kazakhstan established the Nevada-Semipalatinsk Movement. This grassroots initiative supported by victims of Nevada's own nuclear legacy sought the closure of Semipalatinsk and the cessation of nuclear testing. Of the 18 planned detonations in 1989, 11 were stopped thanks to the group's committed advocacy and resilience. The Nevada-Semipalatinsk Movement underscores the bond and shared history between Nevadans and Kazakhs.

Despite any strategic advantage that retention of the Soviet Union's arsenal may have provided to Kazakhstan, its leadership understood the potential political, humanitarian, and environmental ramifications of its development. On August 29, 1991, Kazakhstan made the historic and noble decision to close the Semipalatinsk test site. In its place, the National Nuclear Center of Kazakhstan was established to assist in eliminating the infrastructure for the storage and use of nuclear weapons. It would also provide scientific and technical support for the peaceful use of atomic energy.

In 1992, Kazakhstan ratified the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START 1) and a few years later, all of Kazakhstan's 104 ICBMs were safely removed and destroyed. The Kazakh government doubled-down on its commitment to global peace, security, and non-proliferation by becoming a party to the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in 1993, a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency in 1994, and a cosigner of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty in 1996.

Meanwhile, in partnership with the United States, Kazakhstan removed 1,322 pounds of highly enriched uranium from the Ulba Metallurgical Plant under the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction Program. As part of this program, our two countries took monumental steps to remove residual materials and technologies related to weapons of mass destruction in Kazakhstan, signaling a major shift in the global security and political paradigm and building momentum that catalyzed the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

In 2010, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution calling for an Inter-

national Day Against Nuclear Tests. Thus, August 29th was selected to commend and recognize Kazakhstan's honorable decision to close the Semipalatinsk test site and renounce nuclear weapons.

With Cold War-style nuclear saber-rattling becoming the new norm, it is important, on this International Day Against Nuclear Tests, to highlight the successful steps taken by the United States and Kazakhstan to mitigate the dangers of nuclear weapons, institute global nonproliferation regimes, and adhere to international norms around nuclear testing.

RECOGNIZING DETECTIVE JOHN HAECKER

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 29, 2025

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of Detective John Haecker from the Euless Police Department, who is retiring after decades of dedicated service.

John began with the City of Euless in 1995 as a part-time Parks Field Technician. He became a full-time Police Officer in 1999, promoted to Senior Police Officer in 2003. He currently serves in the Criminal Investigation Division with the Economic Crimes Unit. He was named Officer of the Year in 2010. A Certified Master Peace Officer and Certified Fraud Examiner, John has extensive training in Identity Theft, Forgery, and Credit/Debit Card Fraud. He is also responsible for the training of new Detectives for the Criminal Investigative Division.

John has served as President of the Fraud Investigators Association of Texas and is a member of the International Association of Financial Crime Investigators and the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners. He enjoys spending time with his family and has proudly continued his family's tradition of public service.

I would like to thank Detective Haecker for his exemplary service to North Texas and congratulate him on his well-deserved retirement.

HONORING GARRETT EVANS UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 29, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Garrett Evans for his more than 28 years of dedicated public service to the City of Pittsburg, California.

Mr. Evans began his career with the city in 1997, serving in roles ranging from Analyst to Economic & Redevelopment Coordinator, Director of Economic Development, Director of the Redevelopment Agency, Director of Power, Assistant City Manager, and ultimately City Manager for the past six and a half years. Under his leadership, Pittsburg has seen significant growth in economic development, infrastructure, and community services.

Among his many accomplishments, Mr. Evans played a central role in the \$525 million

Trans Bay Cable project, delivering up to 40 percent of San Francisco's energy from Pittsburg and strengthening energy reliability across the Bay Area. He also contributed to the success of the Pittsburg Power Company, generating over \$100 million in long-term revenue for community priorities such as public safety, workforce development, and infrastructure improvements.

His tenure also included the revitalization of Old Town Pittsburg, expansion of waterfront amenities, and maintaining high-quality city services through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Garrett Evans leaves behind a legacy of steady leadership, strategic vision, and unwavering dedication to his community. On behalf of the constituents of California's 8th Congressional District, I wish Garrett best wishes in his well-earned retirement and extend my sincere gratitude for his many years of service to the community.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF MOSIE "MAMA" BURKS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 29, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life, legacy, and voice of a Mississippi treasure—Mosie "Mama" Burks, gospel music legend and beloved member of the world-renowned Mississippi Mass Choir. Born on June 17, 1933, in Forest, Mississippi, Mama Burks was one of ten children in a large migrant farming family. Her roots were humble, her work ethic unshakeable, and her faith unmovable.

As a child laboring in the cotton fields under the scorching Mississippi sun, she experienced the hardship and perseverance that would later define her voice and testimony. Delivered from field work after suffering from heat exhaustion, Mama Burks went on to serve her community in numerous ways, including a 24-year career in social work at Jackson State University. But it was her powerful, soul-stirring voice and unwavering testimony of God's grace that would make her a household name in gospel music.

In 1993, Mama Burks joined the Mississippi Mass Choir and soon became the face and heart of the ensemble. Her passionate renditions of "When I Rose This Morning" and other gospel staples brought joy and healing to audiences across the nation and around the world. Her performances were more than music, they were ministry. With every note, she reminded listeners of the enduring power of faith, love, and perseverance.

Mama Burks was not merely a singer—she was a vessel. Through countless concerts, worship services, and personal testimonies, she embodied the best of Mississippi's rich gospel tradition. She shared her gifts humbly and generously, always giving glory to God.

Now, therefore, as we reflect on her passing, we remember not just the voice, but the spirit of Mama Burks. A mother to many, a sister in faith, and a tireless servant of the Lord, she leaves behind a legacy that transcends music—a legacy of praise, perseverance, and purpose.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Mosie "Mama" Burks,

whose voice uplifted generations and whose life was a living testimony of God's faithfulness.

CONGRATULATING SABA ON THE
GRAND OPENING OF ITS NORTH
AMERICAN HEADQUARTERS

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 29, 2025

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate SABA on the grand opening of its

new North American headquarters in St. Clair, Michigan. This nearly 60,000 square foot facility marks a significant milestone for a company that has grown into a global leader in adhesives and sealants over the past 90 years.

Founded in the Netherlands, SABA has earned a strong reputation for innovation, sustainability, and industry leadership—particularly in the mattress and furniture sectors, where its adhesives are widely used across the United States. With a market share exceeding 50 percent, SABA plays an essential role in the products Americans use every day.

The new headquarters includes a one-of-a-kind technical center that will serve as a hub

for testing, training, and product development, reinforcing the company's commitment to excellence and customer collaboration. This \$4 million investment not only expands production and warehouse capacity, but also strengthens the local economy and supports job growth in Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud SABA's continued success and leadership, and I am proud to welcome their expanded presence in St. Clair. I wish them the very best as they open this new chapter.