

## HONORING CHAIRWOMAN OPICI'S LEADERSHIP AT WINE AND SPIRITS WHOLESALERS OF AMERICA

### HON. NICOLE MALLIOTAKIS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 2, 2025*

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, since her historic appointment as WSWA's first Chairwoman in September 2024, marking a milestone for women's leadership in a historically male-dominated industry, Ms. Opici has led with vision and resolve, advancing the interests of multi-generational, family-owned distributors across the Nation.

During her tenure, Chairwoman Opici has been a steadfast advocate for critical tax and trade policies, including securing 199A permanence in the One Big Beautiful Bill, championing the repeal of tariffs on imported wine and spirits, and empowering grassroots advocacy from all three-tiers of the beverage alcohol industry.

Chairwoman Opici's tenure was defined by dynamic leadership—uniting the wholesale distribution community, elevating advocacy, and securing policy victories that empower family-owned businesses nationwide. Under her guidance, WSWA continues to strengthen the industry's infrastructure, amplify its voice in Washington, and lay the groundwork for sustained, responsible growth.

We requested that a flag be flown over the U.S. Capitol as a tribute to her transformative contributions to the legacy of America's family-owned wine and spirits wholesalers.

## GEORGIA PORTS AUTHORITY

### HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 2, 2025*

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Georgia Ports Authority for their decades of servitude to Georgia, the United States, and the entire world.

Georgia Ports authority operates the national gateway ports of Savannah and Brunswick, allowing customers to compete and succeed in global markets.

The Savannah Port is one of the most connected ports in the United States with over thirty-five ships, forty-two double stack trains, and sixteen thousand trucks moving in and out every week.

Consisting of more than six hundred and nine thousand jobs throughout Georgia, they look towards the future with enriching intern and community involvement programs that pave the way for future generations.

In the picture next to me is one of Savannah's own, Ross Goodman, a rising senior at the University of Georgia, who is interning at the Savannah Port.

Over the next decade, Georgia Ports Authority will invest \$4.5 billion in port and inland infrastructure to ensure that the state and entire southeast region continue to have the most competitive ports in the Nation.

Today, we honor Georgia Ports Authority for their unwavering effort in providing a strong future for American commerce.

## PRESIDENT TRUMP'S ATTACK ON THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE

### HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 2, 2025*

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, at the beginning of this Congress, nearly 60,000 of my constituents in Maryland's beautiful Eighth District woke up every morning to serve their country in the federal government. Today, thousands of professional civil service employees, among them cancer researchers, climate experts, food safety inspectors, air traffic controllers and civil rights lawyers, have been illegally fired or forced to retire from a job they loved and in which they excelled. They are victims of the Trump Administration's drive to gut our government and sell it for parts while replacing the professional civil service with unqualified political sycophants.

One of my constituents working at the National Institutes of Health wrote this summer about what it's been like to be a federal worker during a period of administrative chaos and vicious attacks on federal workers. This achingly beautiful and stirring essay drives home how the loss of her service and the service of her colleagues will affect all Americans. I include in the RECORD her essay as we return to session this September, so that my colleagues and all Americans can read it and reflect on the enormity of President Trump's attack on the federal workforce.

WHAT IT IS LIKE TO BE A FEDERAL EMPLOYEE IN 2025

(Commentary published in the Federal News Network on June 13, 2025)

I remember driving with my father down Rockville Pike in Bethesda, Maryland as a little girl. We would pass a large campus of impressive buildings called the National Institutes of Health. I told my dad I would work there one day. He said no, that place was for doctors and scientists. I knew I would find a way.

Many years later, I did. In March 2008, I began my journey at NIH, working with several institutes until I found my home at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. I stated in the Division of Translational Research, then moved to the Division of Clinical Research, where I remain today.

How proud I have been to work alongside titans of the scientific community. Dr. Francis Collins, physician and former director of the National Institutes of Health and the National Human Genome Research Institute, led the NIH with vision, dedication and hope. Dr. Anthony Fauci, physician and immunologist, served as director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and Chief Medical Advisor to seven different presidential administrations.

NIH scientists have made major contributions to health and medical science for over 100 years, including 163 Nobel laureates, 214 winners of the Lasker-DeBakey Clinical Medical Research Award, and more than 200 members of the U.S. National Academies of Science and Medicine. Non-scientists like myself are essential to NIH's day-to-day operations and key to understanding the institution's history and mission. It had been the happiest and proudest time in my long career.

Everything changed in 2025.

The Trump administration cut billions of dollars in biomedical research funding, re-

sulting in dire consequences for the scientific research community, including universities and medical centers. This action has crippled lifesaving research and innovation. I was once so proud to say I worked for the world's premier biomedical research facility. All of that has changed.

Diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives were scrubbed away at the direction of this new administration, as though they were dirty words. Donald Trump created the Department of Government Efficiency and put Elon Musk at its head. In record time, Musk moved from disrupting social media and automotive industries to targeting the federal government itself.

The indignities were swift and demoralizing. We were required to provide weekly accounts of "five things" we accomplished, as though our decades of service meant nothing. They dictated what we could use in our email signatures and instilled paranoia in every aspect of our jobs—all with the support of the man elected to lead our country.

In a shocking turn of events, Musk shut down the U.S. Agency for International Development. The impact was immediate: food and crucial medications abandoned in warehouses, vital programs closed, workers laid off. The U.S. government, once known for humanitarian assistance, quickly transformed into something unrecognizable. It is estimated that over 300,000 people, including children, have died because of this decision. But that would not be their worst offense.

The Trump administration canceled grants at NIH, fired intramural researchers, and planned to cut billions in indirect costs. What they fail to understand is that federal funding for biomedical research is central to healthcare innovation. The dismantling of this once-great institution will adversely affect American and global lives for years to come. They stripped away vital departments like human resources and acquisitions. There is no one to answer personnel questions, and we are expected to perform without basic supplies. This is not a well-thought-out plan, but something executed with malice by an organization supposedly focused on eliminating waste, fraud and abuse.

On February 14, 2025, scientists and medical researchers began to be dismissed by President Trump's administration. They were told it was due to probationary status and poor job performance. Nothing could be further from the truth. I know because one of them was my son.

This is as much his story as mine. He worked as a contractor for nearly twenty years at NIH, helping to run a lab at the National Cancer Institute. He devoted himself to cancer research after watching my father die from lung and brain cancer. While not a scientist himself, he was popular, well-respected and beloved for his hard work and dedication.

Less than two years ago, in recognition for his service, he was converted from contractor to federal employee. We were so proud. On a day ironically devoted to love, my son was yanked from the position he cared about and discarded like garbage. He was a dedicated worker with the highest possible rating on his yearly performance appraisals. His staff and senior leadership were shocked, dismayed and bereft at losing such an important team member.

My son delivered this news with a crack in his voice, something that will bring any mother to her knees. He felt as though a piece of his soul was destroyed. He immediately filed an appeal with the Merit Systems Protection Board. Four months later, he has heard nothing.

For these four months, my once cheerful, talkative son has become withdrawn, sad and

rightfully prone to despair. He describes his treatment as diminishing, brutal and humiliating. Initially, he kept in constant contact with his former team, who continue to support and miss him. Now, we have agreed never to speak of NIH or the current administration as it is simply too much to bear.

The National Institutes of Health limps along on invisible crutches, its significance on life support, its staff feeling diminished, dazed and confused. When this madness will end is anyone's guess. With the Department of Health and Human Services under Robert Kennedy Jr.'s direction and our country steered by leaders who seem intent on destruction rather than progress, there is little to hope for.

They say that change and grief are cousins. Indeed, they are inseparable companions in these dark times for federal service and scientific advancement.

*A federal employee.*

#### RECOGNIZING GOOD360 IN HONOR OF NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

**HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 2, 2025*

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize the extraordinary work of Good360, an organization located in the heart of my district in Alexandria, Virginia. This organization plays a vital, yet often overlooked, role in reducing the impact of large-scale emergencies and disasters across the United States.

As the second largest nonprofit in the Nation, Good360 is leading the way in providing responsible and efficient distribution of unused goods to communities affected by disasters and crises. Good360 is meeting disaster-driven challenges head-on, heading up a nationwide network of nonprofit partners and corporate donors to deliver essential products to individuals and families in times of crisis. Through continuous coordination and dialogue, Good360 has demonstrated its capacity to serve as a strategic partner with local governments, relief organizations, and corporate leaders in both the immediate aftermath of disasters and throughout the long recovery process.

With increasingly frequent and severe weather events, public health crises, and other large-scale emergencies, the ability to respond quickly and efficiently has never been more critical. Good360 and its partners ensure that life-saving assistance and high-quality supplies reach those who need them most.

Good360 collaborates with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)'s Donations Unit as well as a wide range of national nonprofits and local community organizers to fill critical gaps in disaster response and recovery by leveraging private sector resources. Moreover, Good360's preparedness model reduces waste, improves efficiency, and strengthens the capacity of frontline communities to withstand and recover from future disasters.

Good360's innovative use of advanced data and resource matching technology accelerates donation routing and optimizes logistics. This system enables the delivery of critical goods up to three times faster, while minimizing environmental impact and ensuring that the right

products reach the right communities at the right time.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Good360 for its dedication to disaster recovery, preparedness, and innovation. Their extraordinary work exemplifies the spirit of National Preparedness Month—it is a reminder that true readiness is built on effective partnerships, creative solutions, and neighbors helping one another. As we prepare for the challenges ahead, I encourage my colleagues to support initiatives like those sponsored by Good360, which make a measurable difference in disaster resilience and recovery across our Nation.

#### CELEBRATING RAYMOND "RAY" DUFFY'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 2, 2025*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Raymond "Ray" Duffy as he celebrates his 100th birthday.

Born on August 16, 1925, to parents R. Francis and Marie Duffy, Ray was raised in Boston, Massachusetts, alongside his brother, Bob. Ray and his family spent their summers in Rocky Nook, a neighborhood in the coastal Town of Kingston, where Ray enjoyed digging clams. When he was 12, Ray started rowing his dingy down the Jones River to work with George Shiverick and help George build his award-winning ships.

At the age of only 16, Ray graduated at the top of his class from the Boston Latin School in 1941. Ray then began studying at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to pursue his dream of becoming a naval architect. He paid for his first year by digging clams at Rocky Nook over the summer.

In the spring of 1942, Ray enlisted in the United States Navy after being assured that he could finish the school year at MIT. However, he received a telegram two days later with instructions to report for training. During his years of service, Ray received a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering from Cornell University as part of the Navy's V12 program and served as an ensign on the USS *Randall* in San Francisco.

Following his service in the Navy, Ray returned home to Boston, where he met his wife Martina "Marty" at a dance. The couple was married on June 26, 1948, and in 1952, they purchased a plot of land in South Weymouth where they would build a home and raise their five children. Over the years, Ray built a successful career as a sales engineer and later as Vice President of Sales for the Tubular Rivet and Stud Company, before he founded his own company, RF Duffy Associates Inc. Duffy Associates grew into a larger and diverse business that included Duffy International, an electronics distribution company.

Known affectionately as the "Admiral" by his family, Ray continued to spend his summers in Rocky Nook after he and Marty purchased his parents' home. Throughout the years, Ray took his family on legendary sailing and boating trips and became an avid lobsterman. He continued lobstering well into his late eighties.

Beyond his professional success and passion for the sea, Ray remained deeply involved in the community. He served as a

lector at St. Thomas Moore Catholic Church and St. Francis Xavier Parish, where he was President of the Knights of Columbus. Ray was also a member Weymouth Rotary Club, before moving and joining the Braintree Rotary Club, where he served as President for many years. Additionally, Ray was elected as a town meeting member for the Town of Braintree and greatly enjoyed participating in town governance and supporting the community.

Sadly, Ray's wife, Marty, passed away in 2008, but Ray continued to be active with the Braintree Rotary Club and throughout the South Shore community. Today, Ray enjoys spending time with his grandchildren in Rocky Nook as well as Naples during the winter. On August 16, 2025, Ray will celebrate his 100th birthday with his family in Rocky Nook.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Ray Duffy, and I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating a century well lived and wishing Ray many more years of health and happiness.

#### HONORING BESSIE PELLO

**HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 2, 2025*

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Brunswick native, Bessie Mabel Mumford Pello.

Bessie was an upstanding member of both Morningside Baptist Church and Beverly Shares Baptist, where she served in multiple leadership roles and utilized her artistic talents to teach Sunday School.

She was a veteran of the United States Army, serving during the Korean War, and she was one of the first enlistees of the Women's Army Corps (CORE).

After her military service, she married her husband Dan, and they started their family.

Once the children and grandchildren were out of the house, Bessie went to work for her son Steve at Pello Body Shop, where she remained for over 30 years.

Today, we honor a remarkable woman who was a faithful servant to her Lord and Savior, a leader, and a pillar of the Brunswick community.

#### REPORT (H. REPT. 119-199) TO ACCOMPANY HOUSE RESOLUTION 580

**HON. VIRGINIA FOXX**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 2, 2025*

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the Rules Committee report (H. Rept. 119-199) to accompany House Resolution 580 should have included in its waivers of all points of order against consideration of H.R. 3633 and S. 1582 a disclosure of the following violation:

Section 303 of the Congressional Budget Act which prohibits consideration of legislation providing new budget authority, a change in revenues, or a change in the public debt limit, for a fiscal year until the budget resolution for that year has been agreed to.