

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CHARLES "CHARLIE" WEBB

### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 2, 2025*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Mr. Charles "Charlie" Webb. Charlie graduated high school in Colorado in May 1970 and in August 1970 reported to Fort Knox, Kentucky, for Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training at the Armor School. He was assigned to the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment in January 1971 in Bindlach serving as border patrol between Germany and Czechoslovakia. He and his company referred to themselves as The Speed Bump because "that's what it would have looked like if the Warsaw Pact had decided to come across." This was his favorite assignment.

He was then assigned to Fort Carson, Colorado, with the 10th Cavalry (part of the 4th Infantry Division). It was while he was there that he met his wife, Mary. His next assignment was back to Germany with the 1st Battalion 64th Armor Regiment for three years. During this time, he transitioned to the M1 series tanks.

Later he was assigned to the 3rd Cavalry Regiment at Fort Bliss, Texas. He was there for a year and transferred to Fort Hood, Texas, because they already had M1 tanks. At Fort Hood, he was assigned to the 1st Battalion 8th Cavalry Regiment, part of the 1st Cavalry Division. He served as a Platoon Sergeant, and eventually, as the First Sergeant for D Company. While serving as the 1st Sergeant, he was notified he'd be attending the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy. It was there, in January of 1990, he went back to Fort Bliss for six months of school.

After graduation, he expected to be assigned to Korea since he had never done a tour there, but instead, he was retained as faculty at Fort Bliss for the next three years as a lesson writer and instructor.

In December 1992, Armor Branch contacted him concerning his next assignment. The Assignments person gave him a choice; he could be the First Sergeant of a tank company with the 2nd Infantry Division in Korea, or a tank company supporting the Armor School at Fort Knox, Kentucky. Neither choice was a desirable option, so he chose to retire and in 1993, he moved to Anniston, Alabama, to work at Fort McClellan. However, he had no intentions of ending his service to the United States. Here, he was responsible for running the Battle Simulation Center for the Chemical School. When Fort McClellan was closed, the Anniston Chemical Demil Facility (ANCDF) was being built, and Charlie was hired there in July 1999. While working at ANCDF, he had an interest in making a scale model of the plant. Because cameras weren't allowed on site, he observed and documented, from memory, the layout of the facilities. He worked on a model at home for over four years. The model is one of a kind, and the only one in existence. He donated the large-scale model to the Army and it's on display at the Museum Support Center in Anniston Alabama (MSCA).

Charlie worked from July 1999 until the completion of the ANCDF mission and left in

August 2013. He started in April 2014, as a volunteer at MSCA and is still volunteering today. Charlie's vast knowledge and dedication to detail has enhanced the effectiveness of the museum. Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Charlie and thanking him for his service to our country and his dedication to the MSCA.

### CONGRATULATING ANNE MATTHEWS

### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 2, 2025*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Anne Matthews, the first female Vice President of Rotary International, on being awarded South Carolina's highest civilian award, The Order of the Palmetto.

Authorized by Governor Henry McMaster, The Order of the Palmetto is awarded to the State's most accomplished and esteemed individuals who make a significant contribution to a particular community. Anne represents all that this award entails as she has devoted her life to helping those in need.

As a fellow Rotarian myself, I have witnessed Anne dedicate her life to serving the people of South Carolina and beyond in many capacities in business, Rotary International, and more.

Having degrees from Coker College, Appalachian State University, and a doctorate from the University of South Carolina, Anne also excelled in education, including as President of the National Business Education Association.

Additionally, she served as president, chair, and/or board member of numerous national and state boards, promoting and speaking across America and internationally on critical educational issues and the need to serve the less fortunate.

Anne has worked in 73 countries, championing humanitarian efforts, and promoting South Carolina values. Notably, as chair of the Polio Eradication Advocacy Task Force for America, where we worked together with other members of Congress to raise over four billion dollars for the global fight against Polio.

Anne embodies leadership, compassion, and service. She has achieved many accomplishments and has contributed greatly to the state.

I send my warmest congratulations and best wishes. I am appreciative for all she has done for South Carolina.

### HONORING CONNOR DANIEL

### 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 amazing sporting days achievements of Connor Daniel.

Connor has been competing worldwide representing team USA in England and Cyprus.

While competing Connor placed in the top 20 both times overall and won the World English Sporting Junior Championship and the World FITASC championship.

Connor was also a member of the USA team which took home the World English Sporting Junior and World FITASC Junior team championships.

His performances in these tournaments earned him the FITASC Junior World Cup as well.

Connor has also recently committed to Georgia Southern to compete on their clay shooting team.

Today, we celebrate Connor and his amazing achievements in the world of clay shooting.

### WELCOMING ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

### HON. CHARLES J. "CHUCK" FLEISCHMANN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 2, 2025*

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend a warm welcome to His All-Holiness Bartholomew, the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople and spiritual leader of Orthodox Christianity. Recognized as "First Among Equals" among Orthodox bishops, he is visiting our Nation's Capital to receive the Templeton Prize—the world's most prestigious award honoring contributions to religion and science.

As Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, His All-Holiness leads the world's second-largest Christian church. Since assuming this role in 1991, he has earned global respect for his spiritual leadership and commitment to peace. Guided by his belief that "war in the name of religion is war against religion," Patriarch Bartholomew has built strong relationships with religious and political leaders in every continent to promote unity among faiths.

In 1997, Patriarch Bartholomew became the first Ecumenical Patriarch to visit the United States, and it is our great pleasure to welcome him back as he meets with the President, the Secretary of State, and Congress. I recognize and celebrate his lifelong dedication of peace-making and his steadfast efforts to build bridges between East and West, Christian and Muslim, and all people of good will. May his presence here remind us of our commitment to remain "One nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

I extend my warmest welcome to His All-Holiness and pray that his visit will be blessed with success, fellowship, and hope for the future of our common humanity.

### COMMEMORATING MR. JEFF AND MRS. DIANA MERRITT OF OPERATION WE CARE

### HON. ANDY HARRIS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 2, 2025*

Mr. HARRIS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two selfless, hardworking constituents from Salisbury, Maryland, Mr. Jeff and Mrs. Diana Merritt. They began Operation We Care in 2007, an organization providing more than 2,000 care packages annually to deployed military personnel. They also work to

support police and first responders in several counties throughout the First Congressional District.

The work of organizations such as Operation We Care is incredibly meaningful and important to our military and first responders. I would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Merritt for supporting those in our community that work to keep us safe at home and abroad.

I wish Mr. and Mrs. Merritt the best of luck in continuing their efforts to make Maryland's First Congressional District better in every way.

## CELEBRATING THE CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS' BICENTENNIAL

### HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 2, 2025*

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 200th anniversary of the City of Washington, Illinois, a proud and resilient community I am honored to represent.

Founded in 1825 by blacksmith William Holland, Washington began as Hollands Grove and was renamed in 1837 to honor President George Washington. The city quickly grew, electing its first town president in 1839, officially incorporating in 1857, and reorganizing as a city in 1878 with Peter Fifer as its first mayor.

Washington holds a strong connection to Abraham Lincoln, who visited often while traveling the Tenth Judicial Circuit. In 1857, he defended two residents accused of helping escaped slaves along the Underground Railroad, marking a powerful moment in the city's history.

Washington later gained national recognition through George Heyl's pony farm, home to champion Shetland ponies including King Larigo and Creations King. The original barns still stand on North Main Street as a tribute to that chapter.

The city's strength was tested in 2013, when a powerful EF-4 tornado destroyed more than one thousand structures and took the lives of three residents. In the aftermath, the people of Washington came together with courage and compassion, rebuilding stronger than ever.

Today, Washington is home to more than 16,000 residents. The city has become a destination for visitors who annually flock to its Good Neighbor Days festival in the spring and to the quaint locally owned businesses occupying century-old buildings lining its historic downtown square.

I congratulate the City of Washington on its bicentennial and commend its citizens for carrying forward a legacy of perseverance, service, and pride. I look forward to its continued success in the years ahead.

### HONORING WYNNNTON HILL BAPTIST CHURCH

### HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 2, 2025*

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Wynnton Hill Baptist Church. The

Church celebrated its 164th Anniversary on August 24, 2025, with a service at the church located at 2620 Buena Vista Road in Columbus, Georgia.

Wynnton Hill Baptist Church, established in 1861, proudly stands as the first church of any denomination in the Wynnton area of Columbus, Georgia and the second oldest predominantly African American Church in the Muscogee/Chattahoochee Valley Area. Driven by a deep yearning to create a fellowship for the glory of God through Jesus Christ, a small group of dedicated believers came together under the guidance of Reverend Phillip Owens. They gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Willie and Sarah James to lay the foundation of this spiritual community.

Reverend Owens, who became the first pastor, led the church during its formative years. The congregation demonstrated exceptional commitment by building a bush arbor on land that the church purchased from the James family, using fresh bushes from nearby woodlands for their Saturday gatherings. The church quickly grew, with many souls coming to faith.

The church's first wooden structure served as a worship center, and under Pastor Owens—who served an astounding 47 years—the church flourished. Wynnton Hill has become a testament to the mercy and grace of Jesus Christ, having faced various trials yet overcoming them through faith.

Throughout its 164 years, Wynnton Hill has maintained a legacy of resilience, even amidst challenges and disagreements. The church has birthed three other assemblies—Greater Peace, New Mt. Zion, and Blessed Assurance Baptist Churches—emphasizing the unifying power of the gospel.

Wynnton Hill has been shepherded by numerous dedicated pastors, with Reverend Owens as the longest serving, followed by several other esteemed leaders to include Samuel Daniels, R.T. Lewis, H.H. Hunter, Dr. James H. Carter, Dr. Van J. Malone, F.L. Williams, Dr. R.C. Gates, Robert L. Evans, Dr. Bruce Alford, and Dr. Kenneth Cyrus, who all contributed to the church's growth and community involvement. Several Pastors led the church during periods of transition as Interim Pastors to include Reverend Joe Sales, Reverend Tommy Holston, and Dr. Charles McAfee.

Over the years, many sons and daughters of the House of Wynnton have been licensed to preach the gospel and have gone on to have significant impacts in communities across the Chattahoochee Valley Area and beyond to include Oliver Holston, Tommy Holston, Robert Holston, Robert Evans, Evoucous Thomas, Charles Milton, Isaac Whitfield, Paul Milton, Lewis McCants, James Love, David Holston, Michael David, Carlton Dawson, Artie Johnson, Charlene Dawson, Doris Wade, Eulas Wade and Roy Evans.

Significant milestones include the construction of the first brick building in 1930 that would later house the first public school for African Americans in the basement. The first Education wing was built in 1951. During this time, the Church became a leader in the community in advocating for civil rights and social justice. In 1989, the educational wing was firebombed and destroyed. But the Lord blessed the church to be able to rebuild and dedicate a new wing in 1990. In the same year, the Lord Blessed the Church with a new

sanctuary. The old sanctuary was dedicated as a fellowship hall and named after Pastor J.H. Carter.

In more recent years, under the leadership of Pastor Michael W. Sherman, who has served as Pastor since 2015, the church has embraced technology for worship and has actively engaged in community outreach, including Thanksgiving dinners, Christmas toy drives, and educational initiatives. Pastor Sherman with support of his congregation and supportive First Lady, Alma Taylor Sherman, understands that the ministry of Jesus Christ must be expanded beyond the church walls.

Wynnton Hill Baptist Church remains committed to its mission; to evangelize, educate, and edify in the light of Jesus Christ. As the church continues to shine as a beacon of hope, it looks forward to fulfilling the Great Commission and changing lives both now and in future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, along with my wife, Vivian and the more 765,000 people of the 2nd Congressional District in honoring Wynnton Hill Baptist Church on its 164th Church Anniversary.

May the blessings of the Lord be upon Wynnton Hill Baptist Church as it continues this sacred journey to bring souls to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

### HONORING LARRY STOKES

### 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 recognize the late Larry Stokes, who passed away on July 10, 2025.

Dr. Stokes was a well-respected and beloved professor at Savannah State University. He dedicated his life to education and influenced countless students during his tenure at the University.

Because of his unwavering commitment, Dr. Stokes will be fondly remembered for his contributions to academia. He is also known for fostering a love of learning within his classroom and amongst students.

His life was marked by his marriage to The Honorable Judge Tammy Tokes, whom he met and married in 2002. Their relationship is often described as a testament to love, mutual respect, and shared values. Together, they created a loving home for their two children, Kendall and McKenzie.

Dr. Stokes also took immense pride in being a grandfather and greatly cherished the memories with his loved ones.

Today, I ask that we all take a moment to remember Dr. Stokes' legacy of knowledge, kindness, and compassion.

### SUPPORTING THE PARTNER ACT

### HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 2, 2025*

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the PARTNER Act, introduced by Congressman CASTRO of Texas, and cosponsored by myself and seven of our colleagues who