

are particularly invested in advancing our country's relationships with crucial international organizations.

This bill extends diplomatic privileges and immunities to five multilateral organizations. I am grateful that Congressman CASTRO included a section from my Pacific Partnership Act, which extends diplomatic privileges and immunities to the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), the region's premier multilateral organization with eighteen members across Oceania, in the hopes that the PIF will establish a mission to the U.S.

Scattered across the three traditional Pacific subregions of Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia are over two dozen jurisdictions collectively known as the Pacific Islands, including twelve independent states, countries in free association and territories. Though small in land area and population, the land plus maritime exclusive economic zones of all these jurisdictions combined exceed the land areas of China and Russia combined, comprising a significant part of the vast Pacific Ocean and our Earth's surface.

The Pacific Islands region remains critical to our national security interests in the Indo-Pacific and advises greater U.S. engagement to advance our shared interests and values, particularly in the context of growing geopolitical competition and threats by our shared adversaries to endanger the pursuit of a free and open Indo-Pacific.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation to sustain and expand U.S. engagement in this critical region.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF JUDGE EDMUNDO B. GARCIA,
JR.

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 2, 2025

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Judge Edmundo B. Garcia, Jr., a devoted husband, father, public servant, and community leader from San Diego, Texas.

Born in 1936, Judge Garcia dedicated his life to education and public service. For 32 years, he served the San Diego Independent School District as a teacher and administrator, shaping the lives of countless students.

He later went on to serve as Duval County Judge from 1995 until his retirement in 2006, and again as Interim Judge in 2022, earning the respect and trust of his community.

Beyond public office, Judge Garcia was a proud U.S. Army veteran, a 4th Degree Knight of Columbus, and an active member of the San Diego Rotary Club and the Sociedad Católica Mutualista. His civic leadership extended to board service, including the First State Bank of San Diego, and he will be fondly remembered as "the voice" of the San Diego Fighting Vaqueros.

Judge Garcia's legacy is rooted in faith, family, and service. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Rosa Maria, his children, grandchildren, great-granddaughter, and a grateful community.

Mr. Speaker, Judge Garcia lived a life defined by devotion to God, family, and the people of Duval County. Let us be inspired by his legacy.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT
OF COLUMBIA POLICE HOME
RULE ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 2, 2025

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Police Home Rule Act, which would repeal section 740 of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act (HRA). Section 740 allows the president, in the case of an emergency, to direct the D.C. mayor to provide the president the services of D.C.'s police department, the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), for federal purposes. Senator CHRIS VAN HOLLEN is the sponsor of this bill in the Senate.

Under the HRA, "whenever the President . . . determines that special conditions of an emergency nature exist which require the use of the MPD for Federal purposes, he may direct the Mayor to provide him, and the Mayor shall provide, such services of the MPD as the President may deem necessary and appropriate" for 30 days, unless Congress terminates or extends the emergency declaration.

On August 11, 2025, President Trump declared a crime emergency in D.C. pursuant to section 740, even though violent crime reached a more than 30-year low in D.C. in 2024 and is down 27 percent this year compared to the same period last year. President Trump is the first president to invoke section 740, but his invocation is unlawful. While one crime is too many, there is no emergency or federal purpose that allowed President Trump to invoke section 740.

Section 740 is inconsistent with the main purpose of the HRA, which is to "grant to the inhabitants of the District of Columbia powers of local self-government." Giving the president the power to direct the services of MPD is a violation of D.C. home rule. MPD's first responsibility is to protect D.C. residents and visitors, and it must always remain under the authority of the D.C. mayor, who knows D.C. better than the president, to accomplish its mission.

Section 740 is also unnecessary. In the case of a true federal emergency in D.C., the president can deploy federal law enforcement officers and the Armed Forces, and can request the support of MPD, as the Capitol Police did during the attack on the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021, and as the Federal government does on a regular basis.

At my request, the House's fiscal year 2022 and 2023 D.C. appropriations bills blocked the president from carrying out section 740.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING TOM COUSINS

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 and legacy of Tom Cousins.

Tom Cousins was one of the most influential figures in Georgia's history, transforming Atlanta into one of the Nation's leading cities.

At just 16, he enrolled at the University of Georgia, earning a degree in finance and graduating in the top ten percent of his class.

After graduation, he served in the United States Air Force, rising to the rank of First Lieutenant.

Following his service, he founded a real estate company with his father, becoming the largest homebuilder in Georgia.

Tom later purchased key properties in downtown Atlanta and was instrumental in relocating the St. Louis Hawks to the city.

Beyond business, he led the East Lake revitalization project, turning the neighborhood into a thriving urban community.

His vision and leadership left an enduring mark on Georgia and its capital.

Today, we remember Tom Cousins for his extraordinary contributions.

HONORING SEAMAN JKHARIA JEFFERSON FOR HER SERVICE IN
THE UNITED STATES NAVY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 2, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend an outstanding young Mississippian, Seaman Jkharia Jefferson, for her admirable service in the United States Navy.

A native of Yazoo City, Mississippi, Seaman Jefferson serves aboard the USS *John C. Stennis*, a U.S. Navy aircraft carrier currently operating out of Newport News, Virginia. As one of the largest warships in the world, the *John C. Stennis* represents the strength, commitment, and global reach of America's naval power—and Seaman Jefferson is proudly contributing to that mission.

A 2024 graduate of Yazoo City High School, Seaman Jefferson exemplifies the values of discipline, dedication, and resilience instilled by her community. Reflecting on her journey, she credits her mentors and family—particularly her mother, Koashecal, and mentors Col. Robert A. Avery (Ret.) and Charles Weathersby—for shaping her mindset and encouraging her pursuit of a career in the military.

The Navy is celebrating its 250th birthday this year, marking a quarter-millennium of steadfast service to our Nation and commitment to the security of maritime commerce and freedom of navigation. With 90 percent of global commerce moving by sea, and our digital infrastructure depending on secure undersea cables, our Navy's mission has never been more critical.

Aircraft carriers like the *John C. Stennis* are self-contained mobile airports, capable of deploying with unmatched speed, endurance, and combat capability. They are often the first to respond to crises, deliver humanitarian aid, and project U.S. presence across the globe.

Seaman Jefferson's story is a testament to courage and perseverance. "My proudest accomplishment so far is getting through boot camp," she said. "Getting through those 10 weeks and coming out stronger is something I am very proud of." As a woman in a male-dominated field, she also recognizes the importance of representation and empowerment, saying, "I hope I can show other females they can do it just as well as any man can."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Seaman Jkharia Jefferson. Her determination, service, and example represent the very best of Mississippi and the United States Navy. We thank her for her service and wish her continued success as she advances in her military career.

RECOGNIZING PENN MANOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENT IN THE SEA AIR AND LAND CHALLENGE

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 2, 2025

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate and recognize Mushna Subba, Ben Thomas, and Wyatt Clare from Penn Manor High School for achieving two first-place finishes in the Sea Air and Land Challenge (SEAL) at Millersville University.

SEAL is a STEM competition sponsored by the Office of Naval Research. Millersville University is one of the many schools in the Nation that host this program, bringing in teams of high school students from across the region. The competition requires that students design and build robotic systems to use in challenges mimicking military-inspired missions.

Entering their drone into two challenges designed by the United States' finest special operations forces, Ms. Subba, Mr. Thomas, and Mr. Clare secured two first-place wins. Their hard work as a team and application of their classroom lessons garnered them their victory. This achievement marked the second year in a row a Penn Manor High School team placed in the top two positions.

Mr. Speaker, these brilliant young individuals represent our Nation's next generation of STEM innovators. They serve as inspirations for those around them to pursue opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Their success helps provide recognition for the important role STEM plays in keeping our country safe. I thank them for their ambition and drive to participate in such a program. I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF MIDWAY, GEORGIA ON ITS CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

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 City of Midway, Georgia and to honor its centennial celebration which occurred on August 28th.

Midway is located in Liberty County, a name given to the town in remembrance of its citizens, Lyman Hall and Button Gwinnett, who bravely signed their names to the Declaration of Independence, in direct defiance of British rule.

Adding to the town's historical significance, another Midway resident by the name of Nathan Brownson served in the Continental Con-

gress from 1776 to 1778, helping guide our young nation through the turbulent revolutionary years.

Established in 1752, the Midway Congregational Church was destroyed during the Revolutionary War, highlighting the immense sacrifice made by the citizens of Midway in advancing the cause of liberty.

The town is now home to Georgia's only colonial museum and serves as one of the First District's most important cultural landmarks.

I am honored to celebrate the one-hundred-year anniversary of the town's incorporation.

MOURNING THE TRAGIC SHOOTING AT ANNUNCIATION CATHOLIC CHURCH IN MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 2, 2025

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I would like to include in the RECORD the following statement mourning the tragic shooting at Annunciation Catholic Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

SAINT PAUL, Minn.—Congresswoman Betty McCollum (MN-04), Dean of the Minnesota Congressional Delegation, issued the following statement on Wednesday after a gunman opened fire on a mass service during the first week of classes at Annunciation Catholic School, killing two children and wounding 17 others.

"The horrific violence this morning at Annunciation Catholic Church in Minneapolis is heartbreaking. As a mother and grandmother, the tragic shooting of young school children, teachers, staff, and parishioners while they gathered at mass to celebrate the new school year is a tragedy beyond comprehension. The Twin Cities and all of Minnesota grieve alongside the victims and their families. They deserve and have the full support of our community, our state, and our nation.

"The immediate actions of adults, older children, law enforcement, EMTs, and medical personnel saved lives. I commend Governor Walz for acting swiftly and sending the State Patrol and Bureau of Criminal Apprehension to respond to this horrific crime.

"President Trump and Congress have a duty to take action to end this epidemic of gun violence. We cannot once again wait for another tragedy before we enact common sense gun safety laws."

TRIBUTE TO DR. BEATRICE "BEA" THOMPSON

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 2, 2025

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the extraordinary life and legacy of Dr. Beatrice "Bea" Thompson. For more than five decades, Dr. Thompson has saved her community as an educator, councilwoman, and Executive Director of the Westside Community Center. She is a trailblazer whose commitment to education, equity, and service has uplifted generations and strengthened the very foundation of Anderson.

Born in the Fork Community of Townville, South Carolina, Dr. Thompson was the eighth of nine children in a family that prized honesty, hard work, and education. With the support of her parents, she pursued her dream of becoming an educator. After earning a degree from South Carolina State College, she began teaching at Reed Street High School and later at Westside High School, where she also served as a guidance counselor. Determined to continue her studies, she earned master's degrees from Howard University and Atlanta University and a Ph.D. in school psychology from the University of Georgia. She spent her career with Anderson School District Five as a teacher, guidance counselor, school psychologist, and coordinator of psychological services. She retired in 1999.

In 1976, Dr. Thompson made history as the first African American elected to Anderson City Council, where she continues to serve nearly fifty years later. She went on to hold statewide and national leadership positions, including president of the South Carolina Municipal Association and a Member of the Democratic National Committee. Her work has always focused on improving opportunities for those too often left behind—from redistricting that ensured fair representation to initiatives that improved housing, infrastructure, and education in underserved neighborhoods.

Dr. Thompson's leadership extended to moments of national reckoning. Following the 2014 unrest in Ferguson, Missouri, she created a task force of ministers, community leaders, and law enforcement officials to strengthen relationships between Anderson's African American community and the police. Known as the "Dream Team," this group has received multiple awards for its success in building unity and trust.

Her vision is perhaps most visible at the Westside Community Center, known throughout Anderson as "the haven on the hill." The building was once West Franklin Elementary and had become vacant and neglected after tragedy struck in 1988 with the murder of its principal. Refusing to let it fade into ruin, Dr. Thompson mobilized support and led the transformation of the facility into a vibrant hub that today houses a health clinic, library, therapy center, extension offices, police presence, and the Upstate Fatherhood Coalition. The Center now stands as a symbol of hope and pride for Anderson.

Dr. Thompson's many honors include the Order of the Palmetto, South Carolina's highest civilian award, which reflects the impact of her lifelong service. A city park bears her name, and she was featured in the African American History Calendar as a role model for future generations. She continues to live out the values instilled by her parents: honesty, hard work, and giving the best of oneself to the world.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in celebrating Dr. Beatrice Thompson—a pioneer, a visionary, and a champion of education and justice. Her legacy is one of service and perseverance, and it will continue to inspire future generations in Anderson and across South Carolina for years to come.