

her faith not only in words but in action; through her generosity of spirit, her gift of time, and her devotion to others. She believed in unity—bringing people together, strengthening families, and building community. Her patriotism was steady and genuine, rooted in love of neighbors and love of country. Lil showed us that a meaningful life is not measured by titles or recognition, but by the compassion we show, the people we help, and the community we leave stronger and more united than we found it.

It is through the work of people like Lil that our communities thrive, and our Nation grows stronger. Her service, given without expectation of recognition, stood as a testament to the belief that one individual's dedication can positively ripple through the lives of many, sparking change, fostering resilience, and inspiring hope. We remember Lil not just for her remarkable deeds but for who she is—a true hero in every sense of the word.

May we all strive to embody the same compassion and commitment to lifting others up that Lil demonstrated throughout her life. She will be dearly missed.

Mr. Speaker, as we say farewell to Lillian Benamin Boysen, we celebrate a life beautifully lived and deeply loved. Her spirit will continue to inspire all who knew her, and her contributions to the world will be long remembered. As a woman who served her community and loved her family, it is with deep respect that I honor her memory today. I send my heartfelt condolences to all who had the privilege of knowing her.

RECOGNIZING HIS ALL-HOLINESS BARTHOLOMEW

HON. LLOYD DOGGETT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2025

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch, His All-Holiness Bartholomew.

Born Demetrios Arhondonis in 1940 on the island of Imvros (today, Gökçeada, Turkey), His All-Holiness Bartholomew was elected in October 1991 as the 270th Archbishop of the 2000-year-old Church founded by the Apostle Andrew. His formal office is Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome, and Ecumenical Patriarch, a historic title dating to the sixth century.

The role of the Ecumenical Patriarch as the primary spiritual leader of the Orthodox Christian world and transnational figure of global significance has increased exponentially during the tenure of His All-Holiness.

He has co-sponsored international peace conferences, as well as meetings about racism and fundamentalism, bringing together Christians, Muslims and Jews for the purpose of advancing greater cooperation and mutual understanding. He has advanced Christian-Muslim relations in such places as former Yugoslavia, advocating for peace-building measures to diffuse global conflict in the region, while supporting many traditionally Orthodox countries emerging from decades of wide scale religious persecution and oppression behind the Iron Curtain. Moreover, he has initiated international meetings and theological

conversations with Muslim and Jewish leaders to promote mutual respect and religious tolerance on a global level, proving a pioneer in interfaith encounters and traveling to Muslim countries rarely visited by Christian leaders.

He has organized international, inter-faith and inter-disciplinary symposia and summits to address ecological problems of the world, earning him the title "Green Patriarch" and prestigious international awards. His efforts to promote religious freedom and human rights, his initiatives to advance religious tolerance among the world's religions, together with his work toward international peace and environmental protection, have justly placed him at the forefront of global visionaries as an apostle of love, peace and reconciliation.

In 1997, he was awarded the Gold Medal of the United States Congress. The Guardian recognized him as one of the world's leaders in raising environmental awareness. And, in its category of Leaders and revolutionaries, Time Magazine named him as one of the world's most influential people. Now, he is being rightfully honored with the Templeton Prize, previously received by Mother Teresa, the Dalai Lama, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, among others. Congratulations to Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew on this honor and I thank him for his life of service.

RECOGNIZING DELTA AIR LINES' 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2025

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 100th anniversary of Delta Air Lines, a remarkable milestone for one of the world's most innovative and enduring airlines.

As Delta commemorates a century of service in 2025, we in Minnesota are especially proud to reflect on the deep roots this company has in our state through the history and legacy of Northwest Airlines. Founded in 1926, Northwest Airlines grew from humble beginnings into a global carrier headquartered in the Twin Cities. Northwest played a central role in shaping Minnesota's economy, creating tens of thousands of good-paying jobs, and connecting our communities to the Nation and the world. Its story is inextricably linked to our state's modern history.

One of the earliest chapters of that story is written at Holman Field in Saint Paul, the city's historic downtown airport. Holman Field bears the name of Charles "Speed" Holman, the pioneering aviator and Minnesota native who was hired as Northwest's first pilot in 1926. Holman's legacy as a fearless pilot and a trail-blazer in American aviation is preserved every time a plane lands at that field along the Mississippi River.

In 2008, when Delta and Northwest Airlines merged, it marked not the end of Northwest's legacy, but its continuation. Delta wisely built upon Northwest's deep roots in Minnesota and throughout the Upper Midwest, ensuring that the Twin Cities would remain a vital hub for international travel and commerce. Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Airport (MSP) now stands as one of Delta's largest hubs, carrying forward a proud tradition of service,

safety, and innovation that began nearly a century ago.

That same spirit of innovation continues today through the Minnesota Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) Hub at MSP. This partnership, led by Greater MSP, brings together partners such as Delta, Ecolab, Xcel Energy, and the Metropolitan Airports Commission in the Nation's first large-scale hub committed to scaling production of sustainable aviation fuel to replace conventional jet fuel. As an anchor partner of the Minnesota SAF Hub, Delta is helping to create an industrial-scale supply chain for sustainable aviation fuel, anchored in Minnesota.

Mr. Speaker, Delta's 100th anniversary is not only a milestone for the company, but also a moment to honor the people who make up Delta's legacy and current workforce. From Charles "Speed" Holman and the thousands of dedicated Northwest employees who made aviation history, in Minnesota, to the tens of thousands of Delta's current employees—many of whom belong to a union—pilots, flight attendants, customer service agents, and the skilled technicians, engineers, and mechanics who ensure Delta flights are safe and enjoyable—this centennial reflects a shared story of vision, resilience, and progress.

On behalf of the people of Minnesota's 4th Congressional District, I extend my warmest congratulations to Delta Air Lines on 100 years of service and innovation, and I look forward to its continued success in the century ahead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON ESTES

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2025

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for the following Roll Call vote. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Roll Call vote No. 236, On Agreeing to the Amendment of Perry of Pennsylvania Amendment No. 32, I would have voted NAY.

HONORING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HON. JOSH HARDER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2025

Mr. HARDER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 175th anniversary of St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church in Stockton, a congregation whose presence has helped define the heart and history of the city since 1850.

Founded the same year Captain Charles M. Weber established the City of Stockton, St. John's stands as one of the oldest Episcopal churches on the West Coast and one of the few that remains on its original site. The church's legacy is not only one of remarkable longevity, but also of deep service and enduring community impact.

Its original Gothic brick building was consecrated in 1858. The current Norman-style sanctuary, completed in 1892, preserved several historic elements—stained glass windows

believed to be the oldest in the San Joaquin Valley, as well as the original baptismal font and pipe organ.

Over the past 175 years, St. John's has hosted more than 9,000 Sunday services and an untold number of baptisms, weddings, funerals, and holy observances. Yet its mission has always reached beyond its walls. Through initiatives like the HUB—Helping Urban Bicyclists—founded by Deacon Rev. Stephen Bentley, the church provides refurbished bicycles to those without transportation. The program has grown to include mobile showers, laundry services, meals, medical care, and case management, offering vital support to Stockton's unsheltered community.

St. John's is a church where everyone is welcomed with dignity and joy. Whether attending Sunday service, receiving a meal, or arriving with a dog—who are greeted each week with a biscuit and a blessing—each visitor becomes part of a tradition rooted in compassion. Above the church doors, the words "Enter, Rest, Pray" offer a simple but powerful invitation—one that has endured through generations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church for 175 years of faithful service, inclusivity, and leadership in Stockton.

RECOGNIZING JAY VARNEY'S RETIREMENT

HON. ADAM GRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2025

Mr. GRAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jay Varney, Madera County's Chief Administrator, for his service and accomplishments as he retires after four decades of public service.

Mr. Varney earned his Master of Science degree in Criminology from Fresno State and his Bachelor of Science degree in Resource Development from Michigan State University.

He went on to serve with the Dallas Police Department and the Lansing, Michigan, Police Department before becoming Police Chief and then City Administrator for the City of Chowchilla, California.

In 2014, Mr. Varney came to Madera and was elected to serve as the Madera County Sheriff. In 2020, the Madera County Board of Supervisors appointed Mr. Varney as County Administrative Officer, overseeing 25 county departments and a half-billion-dollar budget.

COVID hit almost as soon as he was hired, and Mr. Varney found himself navigating Madera County through one of the most challenging times in recent history. He played a vital role in helping Madera County survive and thrive through COVID. Thanks to his hard work, Madera County played an important part in the reopening of Madera Community Hospital.

Under Mr. Varney's direction and guidance, Madera County has seen significant growth in revenue, housing and business. Capital improvements flourished under his watch with the Madera County Justice Center as well as Fire Station No. 3 and the upgrading of Fire Station No. 11 through a cooperative, grant-funded project with North Fork Mono. He also oversaw Madera County's continuing expansion

along Highway 41 with the Riverstone and Tesoro Viejo developments.

Mr. Varney was instrumental in establishing the Sheriff's Foundation, which has raised more than a half-million dollars. The Sheriff's Foundation has secured vital search-and-rescue equipment like the county's Cessna 172 aircraft, giving law enforcement a better view from above, and the Screamer Seats first responders attach to helicopters, which has already saved one stranded hiker's life. The Sheriff's Foundation also helped create and build the county's K9 unit. Every dog on the road in Madera County today has been provided by funding from the Sheriff's Foundation.

Please join me in honoring Jay Varney for his dedication, commitment and public service for more than 42 years to the people of Madera County.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE JAMES M. BATZER

HON. JOHN R. MOOLENAAR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2025

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the life of Judge James M. Batzer, who passed away on August 28, 2025, at the age of 81.

James was born on December 14, 1943, in Manistee, Michigan, where he was raised and graduated from Manistee High School in 1961. He then attended Albion College and graduated with his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Michigan in 1968.

After college, he received his master's degree in criminal justice from Michigan State University, and his Juris Doctorate in 1978 from Wayne State University Law School, where he received awards for his writing and scholastic achievement. James went on to serve as the Assistant Attorney General for the State of Michigan's Division of Mental Health where he represented the state in various fields of law.

In November of 1984, he was elected to serve the residents of Manistee and Benzie counties as Circuit Judge for the 19th Judicial Circuit. Judge Batzer served his community in this position for 30 years until his retirement in January 2015. Judge Batzer dedicated his life to service and left a legacy on the bench of keeping his community safe and running a fair and fact-based courtroom.

On behalf of Michigan's 2nd Congressional District, I am honored to recognize Judge James M. Batzer for his lifelong commitment to the residents of Manistee and Benzie counties, and I extend my deepest condolences to his family.

CELEBRATING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF SEVEN STUDENTS FROM ARKANSAS'S 2ND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2025

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the remarkable

achievements of seven exceptional students from Arkansas's 2nd Congressional District:

Jack Koon, Ethan Chen, Fredrick Zawislak, Timothy Garrison, Yassin Bahgat, Jack Lowenthal, and Muhammad Younus.

These students have demonstrated unparalleled dedication to their academic pursuits, earning them the prestigious U.S. Merit Scholarship. This \$2,500 award recognizes their hard work, intellectual curiosity, and commitment to excellence.

Each of these young scholars has proven themselves as leaders in their schools and communities, balancing rigorous coursework with extracurricular involvement and service.

Their achievements serve as an inspiration to their peers and a testament to the bright future of our district.

Please join me in congratulating these students on this well-deserved honor. We look forward to seeing all that they will accomplish in the years to come.

HONORING DARYL RICHARDS, JR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding Mississippian, Mr. Daryl Richards, Jr., for his dedication, leadership, and service to the elders of the Mississippi Delta as the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Director for the South Delta Planning and Development District (SDPDD).

Mr. Richards was born and raised in Greenville, the heart of the Mississippi Delta. A proud graduate of Greenville-Weston High School, Class of 2010, he went on to attend the University of Mississippi, where he earned dual degrees in Political Science and Business Administration. He later pursued graduate studies at Belhaven University, earning a Master of Business Administration.

During his junior year of college, Mr. Richards began an internship with the SDPDD. A few years later, after gaining management experience in the private sector, he was called back to serve his community. In 2019, at the age of 27, he was appointed as Director—becoming the youngest AAA Director in both the history of the District and the State of Mississippi.

In this role, Mr. Richards has embraced his calling to be a voice for Mississippi's elderly population. Under his leadership, the Agency provides critical services to seniors and their families across thirty-five municipalities and six counties. These include congregate meal sites, home-delivered meals, homemaker services, respite care, legal assistance, ombudsman services, adult day care, State Health Insurance Assistance, access to care programs, preventative health classes, elder abuse prevention, and a range of information and referral resources. Through these efforts, Mr. Richards and his team ensure that the most vulnerable members of our communities are not forgotten.

Mr. Richards is inspired by the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "What are you doing for others?" This guiding principle motivates him daily to advocate for those who cannot