

convenes councils, restores long-oppressed churches, and recognizes the independence of emerging Orthodox churches. His tireless efforts to bring together Christians of different traditions do not go unnoticed.

His All-Holiness is a champion for interfaith dialogue and a steadfast advocate for interfaith understanding. He builds meaningful relationships with Muslim and Jewish leaders in the Middle East, Europe, and beyond. He consistently speaks for peace and emphasizes that religious freedom and tolerance are essential to global stability, even as he faces persecution and harassment in his homeland.

Bartholomew is also a steward for the environment who organizes international ecological symposia and advocates for waterway preservation. His call for September 1 to be a day of prayer for the environment earned him the title "the Green Patriarch," a role he continues to embrace.

His relationship with the United States is long and distinguished. He received the Congressional Gold Medal from President Bill Clinton in 1997 and has since met Presidents George W. Bush, Barack Obama, and Joe Biden, as well as other U.S. leaders, in recognition of his contributions to global peace and understanding.

As His All-Holiness is in our Nation's Capital once again, his visit highlights his extraordinary leadership. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew continues to devote his life to advancing peace, fostering understanding across faiths, and promoting human dignity. His leadership continues to inspire communities in the United States and around the world.

RECOGNIZING REVEREND DR.
PERRICO J. ROBINSON, SR.

HON. RASHIDA TLAI

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Ms. TLAI. Mr. Speaker, today, the 12th Congressional District celebrates Reverend Dr. Perrico Robinson, Sr., as the newly appointed Pastor to the Womack Temple Christian Methodist Episcopal Church of Inkster, Michigan.

Reverend Robinson is a passionate figure in the ministry and began preaching at the age of 14 in his home state of Tennessee. He began his education at Freed-Hardeman University, where he received a bachelor's degree in biblical studies. He also holds a Master of Ministry in Pastoral Counseling from Rawlings School of Divinity and a Doctorate from Andersonville Theological Seminary.

With over two decades of ministerial experience, Reverend Robinson has held several leadership roles in churches across our country, including Louisiana, Missouri, Wisconsin, and Illinois. Dr. Robinson is known for delivering powerful sermons. His favorite biblical passage is Ephesians 3:20, which states, "Now unto Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us."

The 12th Congressional District is pleased to welcome Reverend Robinson and look forward to his contributions to our community. We wish him all the best in his leadership and ministry and look forward to the significant impact he will have on the C.M.E. Church and our district.

WELCOMING THE ALL-HOLINESS
ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BAR-
THOLOMEW

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome the All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople and the spiritual leader of Orthodox Christianity worldwide.

At 85 years old, All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew remains at the forefront of the global struggle for religious freedom. Known as the "Bridge Builder" and the "Patriarch of Peace," he has worked tirelessly to foster dialogue, reconciliation, and cooperation across nations and faith. He has stood firmly against racism, extremism, and fundamentalism, championing peace-building measures to help defuse conflicts in some of the world's most volatile regions.

In addition to his leadership on matters of faith and peace, All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has been a pioneering advocate for environmental stewardship. Often called the "Green Patriarch," he has elevated ecological awareness to the forefront of his ministry, inspiring both individuals and institutions to act with moral urgency in protecting our planet.

This month, he is visiting the United States to receive the Templeton Prize—the most prestigious award at the intersection of religion and science. He joins a distinguished group of past recipients, including Mother Teresa, the Dalai Lama, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

As the longest-serving Archbishop of Constantinople in over two millennia, All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew embodies the values of faith, service, and moral leadership. His life's work is a testament to the power of courage, compassion, and conviction, and I am honored to welcome him to our country.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISH-
MENTS OF HIS ALL-HOLINESS
ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BAR-
THOLOMEW

HON. MARK TAKANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I join the global community in celebrating the remarkable achievements of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, which now include the 2025 Templeton Prize.

Patriarch Bartholomew has long been a voice of spiritual clarity and moral courage. His leadership in advancing interfaith dialogue, human rights, and especially environmental stewardship, has earned him the nickname "The Green Patriarch." The Templeton Prize recognizes his decades of work urging the world to see care for creation not just as policy, but as a sacred duty.

In Riverside, we are blessed with a vibrant Orthodox Christian community. Parishes such as Saint Andrew Orthodox Church remind us of the enduring presence of Eastern Orthodox

faith in Southern California. These communities embody the values Patriarch Bartholomew champions—reverence, beauty, responsibility, and peace.

His visit to our Nation's capital is not just a symbolic moment; it is an opportunity for our country to honor a global religious leader who is known for his phrase: "War in the name of religion is war against religion."

On behalf of Riverside, I extend congratulations to His All-Holiness. May his work continue to inspire, and may our communities reflect his vision of faith in action.

HONORING THE EL CERRITO HIS-
TORICAL SOCIETY'S 50TH ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize the El Cerrito Historical Society on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. For half a century, the Society has preserved, promoted, and shared the rich history of El Cerrito, California, ensuring that future generations understand and appreciate the stories that have shaped this community.

Since its founding in 1973, the El Cerrito Historical Society has gone far beyond existing as a historical organization. It has hosted hundreds of programs and tours, curated both temporary and permanent exhibits, and produced books, pamphlets, journals, and even historical films. Its work has illuminated the cultural and social history of El Cerrito, from early settlement to the city's role in California's diverse story.

The Society has also been instrumental in preserving important local landmarks, including one of the earliest homes in El Cerrito, tied to the Italian-American community; a Japanese-American floral shop representing the city's once-thriving flower-growing industry; and the beloved Cerrito Theater. These efforts stand as enduring reminders of El Cerrito's cultural and historic fabric.

Thanks to the generosity of founders Sundar and Dorothy Shadi, the Society has established a permanent home in City Hall, where it maintains an archive and hosts community meetings. This partnership with the City of El Cerrito underscores the Society's enduring civic role and commitment to public engagement.

For 50 years, the El Cerrito Historical Society has served as a steward of the past and a guide for the future. On behalf of the constituents of California's 8th Congressional District, I would like to honor the 50th anniversary of the El Cerrito Historical Society and extend my sincere gratitude for their generations of service to our community. May it continue its vital mission for many more years to come.

WELCOMING HIS ALL-HOLINESS
ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

HON. SCOTT FITZGERALD

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. FITZGERALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in welcoming His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to our Nation's Capital. As the Head of the second largest Christian Church in the world, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew leads a Church of 300 million people, including a large community in Southeastern Wisconsin.

His work towards the cause of peace should be commended, and on behalf of Wisconsin's 5th Congressional District, I congratulate Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew ahead of receiving the Templeton Prize.

HONORING HIS ALL-HOLINESS
BARTHOLOMEW FOR HIS WINNING OF THE TEMPLETON PRIZE

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of my Greek Orthodox constituents to welcome His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to our Nation's Capital. I welcome him to Washington, D.C. and congratulate him for winning the Templeton Prize, a distinguished award received by other religious leaders such as the Dalai Lama, Mother Teresa, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

The prize honors those who have spent a lifetime, as Patriarch Bartholomew has devoted to Sir John Templeton's vision of using the power of science to examine the deepest questions of humankind and our way in the universe.

Born in Turkey, Patriarch Bartholomew studied at institutions across Europe and even here in the United States at Yale and Georgetown.

Now, the primary spiritual leader of the Orthodox Christian church, and a figure of global importance, he has addressed the World Economic Forum, UNESCO, the United Nations, and the European Parliament. He has stood out as a leader bridging divides and finding common ground, seeking peace throughout the world, and confronting global conflict with personal experience and a unique perspective.

A peacemaker through and through, Patriarch Bartholomew said that "Human conflict may be inevitable in our world; but war and violence are not. If our age will be remembered, it may be for those who dedicated themselves to the cause of peace."

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that we welcome Patriarch Bartholomew and recognize his life, his career, and the global impact of his teachings. We are grateful for his lifetime of service brokering peace and advancing our common interests, and we welcome him to Washington, D.C.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WARRENDALE COMMUNITY

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today, the 12th Congressional District proudly recognizes the 100th Anniversary of the Warrendale Community. From 1925 to 2025, Warrendale Community has been a place of love, community, and stewardship, promoting community outreach and creating a home for all.

The Warrendale Community Organization mission is to promote a relationship between the residents. Initiate educational programs that enhance the quality of life within the community that are beneficial to citizens and to expand their knowledge with a variety of programs and initiatives for all to enjoy. Such as the Free After-school STEAM program, Health and Safety Fair and many other amazing programs and initiatives. Our district is proud of the partnership and leadership of this community, not only in creating innovative and essential programming for our neighbors, but for creating a warm and welcoming experience for all residents.

The 12th Congressional District congratulates Warrendale Community and all of its neighbors on their steadfast service to community and such honorable work in their celebration of 100 years of community.

HONORING LIEUTENANT JOSEPH A. LAPOINTE ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE FDNY CEREMONIAL UNIT

HON. NICOLE MALLIOTAKIS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Lieutenant Joseph A. LaPointe on the occasion of his retirement from the New York City Fire Department Ceremonial Unit, effective September 15, 2025. This date marks the conclusion of more than four decades of distinguished public service and a career defined by leadership, compassion, and unwavering dedication to the FDNY and the people of New York City.

Born in the South Bronx, Lieutenant LaPointe is the eldest of seven children. His father served as a firefighter in the Bronx and his mother dedicated herself to raising their family. He grew up in Great Kills on Staten Island's South Shore and now resides in Annadale with his wife, Linda, and their three children, Thomas, Teresa, and Tara.

Lieutenant LaPointe began his distinguished career in civil service in 1982 as a New York City corrections officer. In 1984, he transferred to the New York City Police Department, serving as a police officer in Manhattan's Midtown North Precinct. In 1990, he joined the New York City Fire Department, assigned to Brooklyn Ladder 109. He was promoted to Lieutenant in January 2001 and became an instructor at the FDNY Fire Academy.

On September 11, 2001—the darkest day in the history of the FDNY—343 firefighters,

along with 23 NYPD officers, 37 PAPD members, and thousands of innocent civilians, perished. In the immediate aftermath, the entire Fire Academy staff, including Lieutenant LaPointe, was assigned to the World Trade Center site for rescue and recovery operations. By the end of that month, he and other academy instructors were reassigned to the FDNY Ceremonial Unit to take on the monumental and solemn responsibility of planning and executing the funerals and memorial services for all 343 fallen firefighters.

Funerals and memorials were held six days a week, sometimes with as many as 20 services in one day. In October 2001, Lieutenant LaPointe was asked to lead the ceremonial team handling services in Brooklyn and Staten Island. On December 31, 2001, he was assigned to Ladder 114 "Tally Ho" in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, while continuing his work with the Ceremonial Unit.

In 2004, he became the Executive Officer of the Ceremonial Unit, and in 2007, he was appointed its Commanding Officer. In that role, he has overseen a staff of more than 400 fire and EMS officers, firefighters, EMTs, and paramedics, managing over 800 events annually, including graduations, promotions, parades, and, most importantly, line-of-duty funerals.

Lieutenant LaPointe's leadership, compassion, and unwavering dedication have left an indelible mark not only on the FDNY, but on all of New York City. His 43 years of public service exemplify the highest traditions of honor, duty, and selflessness. I am proud to represent him in Congress and to call him my constituent.

Beyond his service in uniform, he is a proud board member of the Tunnel to Towers Foundation, which supports catastrophically injured members of the Armed Forces and assists the families of fallen members of the military, law enforcement, fire, and EMS services.

Mr. Speaker, few individuals can say they have stood beside thousands of grieving families and lifted them with dignity, respect, and love. Lieutenant LaPointe has done so for more than two decades, and in doing so, he has become part of the very soul of the FDNY. On behalf of a grateful community, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Lieutenant LaPointe's extraordinary career and in offering our deepest gratitude for a lifetime of selfless service.

RECOGNIZING THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE, HIS ALL-HOLINESS BARTHOLOMEW

HON. MAGGIE GOODLANDER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Ms. GOODLANDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, His All-Holiness Bartholomew, the longest-serving Archbishop of Constantinople in the two-thousand-year history of Christianity and the spiritual leader of a church of 300 million people, including more than 4,800 Orthodox Christians living in New Hampshire. Ordained to the Diaconate in 1961 and to the Priesthood in 1969, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew served as Assistant Dean