

enduring witness to peace and extraordinary work for humanity is an inspiration to us all. May his example continue to inspire us to build bridges of understanding, to care for all of God's creation, and continuously seek justice and reconciliation.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING HIS ALL-HOLINESS BARTHOLOMEW

HON. BRYAN STEIL

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor His All-Holiness Bartholomew I, the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople and the spiritual leader of Eastern Orthodox Christianity around the world. On behalf of the millions of Eastern Orthodox Christians in the United States, including thousands of Greek Orthodox in my district in Wisconsin, I welcome Bartholomew to the United States.

His All-Holiness Bartholomew has served as the leader of the Eastern Orthodox Church for more than 30 years. Prior to his election to this role, Bartholomew served in various roles for the Church including as the personal secretary to his predecessor, His All-Holiness Demetrios I. This week, Bartholomew is in Washington, D.C. to meet with President Trump and Congress.

Bartholomew will also travel to New York later this month to receive the distinguished Templeton Prize, joining visionaries like the Dalai Lama, Desmond Tutu, and Mother Teresa as among the few to receive this honor. The Templeton Prize recognizes individuals for a lifetime of work and achievement in faith and the sciences.

On behalf of the many Eastern Orthodox who call Southeast Wisconsin home, including parishioners of Kimissis Theotokou Greek Orthodox Church in Racine, I welcome His All-Holiness Bartholomew to the U.S. and congratulate him on his winning of the Templeton Prize.

REMEMBERING SHERIFF WILLIAM "BILL" OLDHAM

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay my respects to Shelby County Sheriff William "Bill" Oldham, who passed on September 4 at the age of 75.

A lifelong Memphian, Sheriff Oldham served for 27 years in the Memphis Police Department rising through the ranks from patrolman to Police Director. He then was elected to two terms as sheriff and was honored by fellow lawmen with the Tennessee Sheriff's Association as Sheriff of the Year in 2015. He dedicated his life to law enforcement, serving and protecting our community with integrity, professionalism and character.

A longtime parishioner at St. Louis Catholic Church, growing up Mr. Oldham attended Nativity, St. Thomas and Memphis Catholic High School and then attended what was then called Memphis State University. He was a big

sports fan and cheered on the Tigers, Cubs and Notre Dame's Fighting Irish. He also coached teams at St. Joseph, St. Paul, St. Louis and Bishop Byrne.

His love of children was demonstrated in his treatment of incarcerated young people and he never gave up on them. His own three children called him "Chiefy." Among his sterling qualities was his love of justice and commitment to doing the right thing in an effort to make our community a safe place for all.

I extend my sincere condolences to his wife of 53 years Jean, his children Neal, Katie and Beth, his grandchildren and his extended family, his law enforcement colleagues, and his many friends. Memphis has lost a moral leader. His was a life of service to others and was well-lived.

He will be missed.

WELCOMING HIS ALL-HOLINESS ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW TO NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON, D.C.

HON. DANIEL S. GOLDMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. GOLDMAN of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer a heartfelt and historic welcome to America for a truly remarkable global religious leader—His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, Archbishop of Constantinople and the Spiritual Head of the Orthodox Christian Church, the second-largest Christian Church in the world.

We are deeply honored to have His All-Holiness visiting our country, our Nation's capital, and New York, home to a vibrant Orthodox community, including the largest Greek, Ukrainian, and Romanian populations in the United States. His visit is a moment of profound significance for Orthodox Christians, for the broader faith community, and for all who cherish moral leadership in times of global challenge.

His All-Holiness comes to America in conjunction with his acceptance of the Templeton Prize in New York City—an award bestowed upon visionary leaders whose lives and work affirm the spiritual dimension of human existence. The Templeton Prize has previously honored extraordinary figures such as Mother Teresa, the Dalai Lama, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Patriarch Bartholomew joins that distinguished company, not only as a spiritual figure but as a tireless advocate for interfaith dialogue, peace, and human dignity.

Today, as the world witnesses ongoing war and displacement, His All-Holiness has stood firmly on the side of justice and sovereignty. On the eve of the third anniversary of Russia's illegal and immoral war against Ukraine, Patriarch Bartholomew declared unequivocally that, "Ukraine's sovereignty is not up for debate, nor can it be negotiated under the guise of diplomacy." He rightly insists that any future peace must include Ukraine as an equal participant. He has commended President Volodymyr Zelenskyy for his tireless defense of his nation's independence and democratic values—a position that echoes the principles of freedom and self-determination we hold dear.

As the "first among equals" in Orthodoxy, His All-Holiness continues to provide moral

clarity and spiritual leadership not just for the Orthodox faithful, but for the world at large. He has reminded us—through words and deeds—that faith must be active, that leadership must be courageous, and that peace must be rooted in justice.

Please join me in welcoming His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to the United States of America. His presence is a blessing to our Nation and a beacon of hope to hundreds of millions around the world.

WELCOMING HIS ALL-HOLINESS ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

HON. CHRISTOPHER R. DELUZIO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. DELUZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to Washington, D.C.

As the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, His All-Holiness Bartholomew, is the spiritual leader of 300 million Orthodox Christians worldwide, including thousands living in Western Pennsylvania. Since his election as the 270th Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome in 1991, His All-Holiness has continuously worked to promote religious freedoms, human rights, and stronger environmental protections.

Through the tireless work to promote international peace and religious tolerance, His All-Holiness was awarded the Gold Medal of Congress during his visit in 1997. During this current visit to the United States, His All-Holiness will receive the Templeton Prize, the prestigious award honoring contribution in religion and science.

I welcome His All-Holiness to Washington, D.C. and I congratulate him on his great achievement.

HONORING FIRE CAPTAIN MARK ANDREW

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today, the 12th Congressional District of Michigan honors Fire Captain Mark Andrew, a second-generation firefighter, for the incredible tenacity and courage he displayed throughout his nearly three-decade career serving the Dearborn community.

Captain Andrew began his service on April 29, 1997. Over the course of 28 years, he earned five promotions, advancing from Firefighter 1 to Fire Captain by 2015. He earned 40 awards in recognition of his commitment to consistently exceptional work, scholarship, community service, fire education, and the safety of all people. The community of Dearborn often commended his sincere care and empathy toward the countless people he saved, his coworkers, and every person he served.

The 12th Congressional District of Michigan extends our deepest gratitude to Fire Captain Mark Andrew. Our neighbors are safer and

stronger thanks to his work, and we wish him health and happiness throughout his well-earned retirement.

**WELCOMING HIS ALL-HOLINESS
ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW**

HON. SETH MAGAZINER

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, I am glad to welcome His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to the United States to accept the distinguished Templeton Prize. As the Representative for Rhode Island's 2nd Congressional District, I welcome Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew on behalf of the vibrant Greek Orthodox constituency in my district, including at the Church of the Annunciation in Cranston, Rhode Island.

The Church of the Annunciation was the first Orthodox Parish established in Rhode Island, and it now consists of over 600 families throughout the state. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew's dedication to his faith, raising concern for the environment, and promoting peaceful coexistence is a blessing to us all that spreads optimism for a brighter future.

**RECOGNIZING WILSON DAM ON ITS
100TH ANNIVERSARY**

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a special anniversary in Alabama's 4th Congressional District. One hundred years ago, on September 12, 1925, Wilson Dam began commercial operations. As a part of the Tennessee Valley Authority's network of hydroelectric dams, Wilson Dam supports TVA's mission of providing low-cost, reliable power, flood control, and navigation of the Tennessee River. Over the past 100 years, Wilson Dam has powered communities, enabled river commerce, and driven economic growth throughout the Tennessee Valley.

Located in Florence, Alabama, Wilson Dam has 21 generating units, capable of producing up to 663 megawatts of electricity and powering over 350,000 homes and businesses in north Alabama.

Wilson Dam is a National Historic Landmark and an engineering feat. It stretches nearly a mile—more than 4,500 feet—across the Tennessee River. The site plays a crucial role in the movement of goods through our country. The main lock has a maximum lift of 100 feet, making it the highest single-life lock east of the Rockies. More than 3,700 vessels on average and 11.4 million tons of goods pass through Wilson Dam's locks each year.

The associated Wilson Dam Reservoir includes over 160 miles of shoreline and covers 15,500 acres, providing ample opportunities for recreation. This makes North Alabama a destination for those looking to fish, boat, kayak, and enjoy our beautiful state, while driving economic activity and jobs in Alabama.

In a testament to the role Wilson Dam plays in the system, TVA is in the process of ex-

tending the life of the plant for decades. As part of the Hydro Life Extension Program TVA is refurbishing units to improve dam safety and increase hydro generation output. Wilson Dam has fulfilled—and continues to fulfill—TVA's mission statement of serving the people of the Valley region.

I hope my fellow Alabamians will join me in celebrating all that Wilson Dam has done for our state, and our region, for one hundred years. Here's to the next 100.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT THOMAS MCCALL

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Thomas McCall of Frisco, Texas, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. He has served and uplifted our community through his leadership and dedication.

Tom was born and raised in Yonkers, New York. Due to life hardships, he was quickly educated in the meaning of mortgage payment and food on the table. He attended Manhattan College, graduating in 1972 with a BSBA in Accounting and his CPA designation, which led to the beginning of a long and prosperous career in which he earned a reputation as a determined accountant and executive. Over 30 plus years of work, Tom had multiple assignments but only 3 employers. He launched his own business, McCall Asset Management, in 1998 in Frisco, Texas and it is still going strong. Tom met his wife, Karen, during college and they married in 1975. They raised 2 kids and have 2 wonderful grandchildren.

Throughout his career, Tom has been present in his community through his charitable giving of time, talent and treasure as seen in his involvement with Boy Scouts of America, Leadership Council, St. Baldrick's Children's Cancer Research, Hope for Vision, and Serving HIM (Healthcare International Ministries). A devoted man of faith, Tom attends Holy Cross Catholic Church The Colony with his wife, Karen, where he serves as Volunteer Finance Chair, on the Pastoral Council and as an Educator. Since 1985 he has been actively involved with Knights of Columbus, Fourth Degree, and is a past Trustee. He lives the Catholic Christian life of servitude. I am proud of Tom's lifelong contributions to our community, and I wish him continued success for many years to come.

It is an honor to bestow Tom with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to the people of North Texas.

RECOGNIZING THE 160TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF STOCKTON

HON. JOSH HARDER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. HARDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 160th anniversary of the First

Congregational Church of Stockton—a steadfast pillar of faith, fellowship, and service in the heart of the Central Valley.

For over a century and a half, the First Congregational Church has nurtured generations of Stockton families, offering not only a place of worship, but a community rooted in compassion, justice, and shared purpose. From its earliest beginnings in the aftermath of the Civil War to its continued presence today, the church has grown alongside Stockton, adapting and expanding to meet the spiritual and civic needs of its neighbors.

What began as a small gathering of individuals committed to living out their faith in community has become one of the city's enduring institutions. Over the years, the church has called several sanctuaries home—each one a reflection of its growing and evolving congregation. Through every chapter, the church has remained unwavering in its mission to provide spiritual guidance, inspire moral courage, and serve those in need.

Beyond the pulpit, the First Congregational Church has played a vital role in the cultural and social life of Stockton. Its members have long championed education, civic engagement, and social justice—offering programs and outreach efforts that extend far beyond its walls. Whether through fellowship events, support groups, or charitable initiatives, the church continues to be a source of hope and healing for the broader community.

In marking 160 years of ministry and service, we celebrate not just a building or a date, but a living legacy of faith in action. The First Congregational Church of Stockton remains a guiding light, grounded in its values and open to all.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this milestone and in expressing our deepest gratitude to the First Congregational Church of Stockton for its profound and enduring contributions to our region.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REDFORD TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY

HON. RASHIDA TLAI

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Ms. TLAI. Mr. Speaker, today, the 12th Congressional District of Michigan celebrates a century of service for the Redford Township District Library. While the original Redford Township District Library building first opened its doors in the 1960's, their mission of inspiring ideas, enriching lives, and creating community began much earlier. The library started its service using bookmobiles in the 1920's before receiving generous workplace expansions, book donations, funding, and material support over numerous decades. The services offered by the library today are a testament to the power of community and charity.

As we celebrate the spirit of generosity that has enabled the Redford Township District Library to grow and vitalize our community, we look ahead with confidence that it will continue to serve as a beacon of learning, connection, and opportunity. We honor and celebrate this momentous occasion and stand in solidarity to ensure that our learning institutions thrive and continue to provide a safe space for learning for all communities.