

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF PATRICK L. "PAT" KANDA**HON. JEFF HURD**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. HURD of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the life of Patrick L. "Pat" Kanda, a devoted public servant and community leader from Grand Junction, Colorado, who passed away on March 18, 2025.

For over thirty years, Pat served as Finance Manager at Grand Valley Power, where his leadership was crucial in navigating various financial challenges. A proud alumnus of Colorado Mesa University, he exemplified excellence and integrity throughout his career.

Pat's commitment to the community was evident through his mentorship of students as a substitute teacher and tutor, his service on the local school board, his leadership in the Orchard Mesa and Clifton Lions Clubs, and his work as treasurer for the local Republican Party. Pat was known for his generous spirit, often saying, "If there's anything I can do for you, let me know," and he actively supported his students and neighbors in need.

Pat Kanda's legacy of generosity and commitment to service will endure in the lives he touched. Carrying on this legacy is Pat's sons John and Michael Teck and his grandsons Landon and Grant Teck.

On behalf of Colorado's 3rd District, I extend my deepest condolences to his family and friends and invite my colleagues to join me in honoring Pat Kanda, whose contributions enriched the lives of many in Western Colorado.

CELEBRATING THE AMERICAN
TYPE CULTURE COLLECTION**HON. SUHAS SUBRAMANYAM**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) on their 100th anniversary of operations.

The American Type Culture Collection is one of the world's leading non-profit biological resource and standards organizations, supplying scientists at home and abroad with bio-materials that contribute to scientific breakthroughs and discoveries. For over one hundred years, the ATCC's mission has been to protect public health and help scientists mitigate global emerging infectious diseases.

I had the pleasure of visiting ATCC's repository and laboratory wing in Manassas, Virginia on May 12, 2025. This wing is one of the many ATCC centers that produces innovative scientific products used in countless research areas to address health concerns across the globe.

ATCC plays a crucial role in maintaining and advancing critical R&D functions in partnership with agencies like the National Institutes of Health, U.S. Department of Defense, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It was also vital in responding to the Zika virus, COVID-19 pandemic, mpox, and avian flu.

ATCC's reference materials are used as a standard across prominent federal and global organizations including the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and the World Health Organization. In addition to reference materials, ATCC produces a wide range of cell and microbe products that are used in prominent areas of research including cancer research, genetic disorder research, and infectious disease research.

American Type Culture Collection was named one of Prince William County's Best Places to Work in 2025 for their rewards and recognition program, diverse workplace community, and prioritization of employee well-being. Whether it be at the office or across the world, ATCC is committed to improving lives and communities.

Congratulations to ATCC on their 100-year milestone. I thank them for their valuable contributions to the scientific community, understanding of threats to public health, and advancements in scientific knowledge.

WELCOMING THE ECUMENICAL PA-
TRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW OF
CONSTANTINOPLE TO WASH-
INGTON, D.C.**HON. SHRI THANEDAR**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. THANEDAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople, the leader for Orthodox Christianity worldwide, who is here in Washington, D.C. after accepting the distinguished Templeton Prize earlier this year.

The Templeton Prize is awarded to those who demonstrate exemplary philanthropic contributions. His relentless leadership has been recognized by a variety of organizations such as the United Nations, UNESCO, and the World Economic Forum. He has also dedicated his time serving on the Executive and Central Committees and Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches.

Patriarch Bartholomew has a focus on creating advocacy for environmental issues and in his time launched a series of initiatives to help start conversations worldwide. Among these initiatives were a variety of trips with political leaders and accredited scientists discussing issues such as water pollution in the Black Sea, for which he went on to receive Norway's Sophie prize in 2002.

Michigan's 13th Congressional District has a beautiful community of Greek Orthodox constituents at St. George Greek Orthodox Church and Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral. They continuously work to create welcoming spaces in our community by hosting celebrations such as festivals, luncheons, and more. I am honored to keep my constituents in mind as we welcome Patriarch Bartholomew in Washington, D.C.

WELCOMING HIS ALL-HOLINESS
ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BAR-
THOLOMEW**HON. TROY A. CARTER**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend a warm welcome to His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the spiritual leader of the world's Orthodox Christians and the head of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.

As the spiritual leader of the second-largest Christian Church in the world, His All-Holiness carries a message of peace, reconciliation, and interfaith dialogue that resonates deeply across all faith traditions. His enduring commitment to religious freedom, environmental stewardship, and global unity has earned him recognition as a moral voice not only for Orthodox Christians but for people of all faiths.

Many of my constituents in the Greek Orthodox community, and Orthodox Christians across the United States, look forward to his visit to Washington, D.C. with great pride and reverence. They view his presence here as an opportunity to celebrate the rich spiritual and cultural heritage of Orthodox Christianity and to reaffirm the strong bonds between the United States and the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

It is my honor to welcome His All-Holiness to our Nation's capital and to recognize his tireless efforts in promoting peace, human dignity, and spiritual leadership across the globe.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this important visit and in celebrating the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.

WELCOMING THE ECUMENICAL PA-
TRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW TO
WASHINGTON, D.C.**HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to our Nation's Capital and to recognize him for his acceptance of the distinguished Templeton Prize.

Born Demetrios Arhondonis in 1940, His All-Holiness Bartholomew completed his undergraduate studies at the historic Theological School of Halki. He would also pursue graduate degrees in Italy, Switzerland, Germany, and Greece. Before being ordained to the Diaconate in 1961 and to the Priesthood in 1969, he was a founding member of the Society of Canon Law of the Oriental Churches.

The Ecumenical Patriarch served as Assistant Dean at the Theological School of Halki from 1968 to 1972 before his appointment as Personal Secretary to the late Ecumenical Patriarch Demetrios. In 1973, he was elected as Metropolitan of Philadelphia and, in 1990, Metropolitan of Chalcedon. Finally, he was elected in October of 1991 as the 270th Archbishop of the 2000-year-old Church founded by the Apostle Andrew.

As the spiritual leader to 300 million Orthodox Christians worldwide, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is known as a transnational

figure who has focused on organizing international and interfaith peace conferences, challenging racism and religious fundamentalism, and promoting religious freedom and human rights. He is also seen as a global leader in championing environmental stewardship and has organized several international summits to address ecological issues. His accolades include a Congressional Gold Medal in 1997, recognition from *The Guardian* as one of the world's leaders in raising environmental awareness, and recognition from *Time Magazine* as one of the world's most influential people.

Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege to welcome the Ecumenical Patriarch to Washington, D.C. and to congratulate him on his receiving such an esteemed award in the Templeton Prize.

HONORING PERRY WATSON

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 honors the illustrious career of Coach Perry Watson.

Many know him as Coach Watson, but he was a high school counselor to hundreds of us in southwest Detroit when he was assigned at Southwestern High School. Perry Watson is a lifelong Detroit resident and known for his coaching career. However, if not for him, I would never have gone to college. Counselor Perry Watson was stationed on the lower floor at Southwestern High School, and you would always find him standing in the doorway catching his students as they passed. I was one of them. He kept on me for not applying to college. Even after I explained that my family couldn't afford it, he insisted. He said, "Everything will turn out okay." He was right.

He later served as an assistant coach at the University of Michigan, and then the head coach of the University of Detroit Mercy Titans. Over 15 seasons, Coach Perry Watson compiled a 261–198 record, the second-most wins of any Titans coach in history. This exceptional record earned him a well-deserved place in the UDM Hall of Fame. It wasn't a surprise that Coach Watson ensured his students displayed academic excellence. Under his supervision, 96 percent of his players graduated from the University of Detroit Mercy.

Students from across the city of Detroit were brought together under the instruction of Coach Perry Watson. Their distinction in academics and athletics is a testament to his influence and mentorship.

We thank Perry Watson for his profound contributions and celebrate the lasting legacy he leaves in both sports and education.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL AEROSPACE WEEK

HON. RON ESTES

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Aerospace Week that just concluded.

On December 17, 1903, Orville and Wilbur Wright completed the first successful flight, igniting a spark for aviation innovation in the United States. More than a century later, America has continued to be at the forefront of aerospace development, in technology, defense, manufacturing, transportation, and exploration. At the conclusion of National Aerospace Week, we recognize the important contributions of aviation companies, workers and organizations to the aerospace and defense industry in our country.

In fact, the aerospace and defense industry generated more than \$955 billion in sales in 2024, creating jobs and boosting the economy. In 2024, the aerospace and defense industry accounted for 1.5 percent of the nominal GDP. More than two million Americans contribute to this industry, crafting the machinery and equipment that power the industry. Many of these Americans in the aerospace and defense industry call Kansas home.

It is my honor to represent the Air Capital of the World—Wichita, Kansas—where hard-working men and women manufacture and design airplanes that are used around the world. When I travel throughout the district, I see firsthand and the passion for aerospace. In Kansas, we are fortunate to educate and train the future pilots, designers, and manufacturers of the aerospace industry.

Aerospace innovation is intertwined with our U.S. Military and defense industrial base. The men and women who serve our Nation are equipped with the most advanced aerospace technologies to keep our Nation safe and secure and allow us to defend ourselves against our adversaries.

Furthermore, America's preeminence in aviation is a model and inspiration for other nations around the world. Our fast, safe, and efficient jets, and our new technologies remain the gold standard around the globe.

Aerospace is integral to our economy and defense, and it is a major part of many states throughout the country, including the Sunflower State.

During National Aerospace Week, we recognized all those in this country who continue to push the limits of aviation, from the Wright Brothers in 1903 to the innovators of today.

HONORING SISTER JOANN PERSCH

HON. SEAN CASTEN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the remarkable advocacy of Sister JoAnn Persch. For over four decades, Sister JoAnn has been on the ground helping migrants and asylum seekers in Chicagoland.

Sister JoAnn, along with Sister Pat Murphy, opened Su Casa Catholic Worker House, a sanctuary for survivors of torture from Central America in 1990. Sister JoAnn, Sister Pat, and several Franciscan priests all lived and worked at Su Casa. The house welcomed its first family, a widower and his three children from Guatemala as they sought asylum in Canada. Throughout the 1990's, approximately 160 women, men, and children received temporary residence at Su Casa as they coped with trauma rooted in experiences of war, torture, and political persecution in their home countries in Central America.

As the flow of refugees from Central America slowed, Su Casa grew in its service to single mothers who had survived domestic violence. Su Casa committed to one-year residencies for families rebuilding their lives after domestic violence and homelessness. Since 1996, over 350 people have called Su Casa home.

The Su Casa Catholic Worker House continues to welcome three to six families at a time. The families live in community with residential volunteers who are committed to simplicity, freedom from violence, and love.

Fueled by the horrific family separations at the Broadview Immigration Staging Center in 2007, Sister JoAnn and Sister Pat started weekly prayer vigils on Friday mornings at the facility. They were met with resistance from inside the facility but knew they had to keep fighting to get inside to pray with the detained migrants.

With the help of the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, the two Sisters helped pass an Illinois law that mandates access to provide spiritual care for immigrants in detention. This led Sister JoAnn and Sister Pat to work with religious leaders to establish the Illinois Community of Displaced Immigrants, which helps migrants and asylum seekers with wrap-around services, including case management, transit assistance, and housing. To date, the organization has helped over 400 families.

In 2022, Sister JoAnn and Sister Pat founded Catherine's Caring Cause. This organization helps asylum-seeking families pay rent and utilities for a year, offers food assistance, and provides connections to legal aid. The organization has set up eight apartments to house people in need in Chicago.

Sister JoAnn continues her work on the front lines as well. She hosts weekly and Zoom prayer vigils at the Immigration and Customs Enforcement staging and processing center in Broadview. She also frequently visits families whom she has helped throughout the years.

Our county greatly benefits from the incredible work Sister JoAnn does every day. Immigrants make our country better, and we're very fortunate to have heroes like Sister JoAnn fighting for human rights in our community.

WELCOMING HIS ALL-HOLINESS ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW TO THE UNITED STATES

HON. LANCE GOODEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. GOODEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to the United States and congratulate him on receiving the distinguished Templeton Prize.

As the head of the Orthodox Christian Church, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is the spiritual leader of 300 million Orthodox Christians worldwide, having faithfully served in this role since October 1991. Throughout his tenure, he has reached across borders and barriers to build peace and reconciliation among diverse faiths and nations. He has convened conferences with Jewish and Muslim