

leaders, strengthened Christian-Muslim relations, and championed environmental issues worldwide. Because of this work, he is endearingly known as the “Bridge Builder and Patriarch of Peace.”

His All-Holiness’s commitment to interfaith harmony, human rights, and global peace exemplifies the highest levels of compassion and unity. We are honored by his visit to the United States and are grateful for his dedication to peace and unity. May his legacy, humility, and love for all people continue shining light toward a more just and peaceful world.

HONORING THE CAREER OF SERGEANT CHARLIE FOUNTAIN

HON. SCOTT FRANKLIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Sergeant Charlie Fountain as he retires after an extraordinary 50 years of service with the Polk County Sheriff’s Office.

Sergeant Fountain began his career in 1975 in the Sheriff’s Office radio room. The following year, after graduating from the Law Enforcement Academy at Polk Community College, he was sworn in as a deputy sheriff. Over the next five decades, he served in a wide range of assignments, including patrol and property crimes investigations. He was later promoted to sergeant, where he oversaw shifts, led specialized units on land, air and water, and most recently supported operations in the Fleet Services Bureau.

Known across the Sheriff’s Office as the “go-to” person, Sergeant Fountain’s deep institutional knowledge and steady leadership made him an invaluable resource to his colleagues and the broader community. He consistently rose to every challenge and earned the trust of those he served alongside.

His recent Lifetime Achievement Award from the Florida Sheriff’s Association is a fitting tribute to his distinguished career. Beyond any accolade, his legacy will endure through the deputies he mentored and the confidence he inspired in the people of Polk County.

On behalf of my constituents, I thank Sergeant Fountain for his 50 years of service and congratulate him on a retirement most richly earned.

HONORING THE VISIT OF ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE BARTHOLOMEW

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome His All-Holiness Bartholomew, the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, to Washington, D.C. As spiritual leader of more than 300 million Orthodox Christians, he is revered worldwide as “First Among Equals” among the Primates of Orthodoxy.

Throughout his three decades of service, Patriarch Bartholomew has been a champion of religious freedom and the dignity of all peo-

ple. His advocacy for the environment has earned him the title “Green Patriarch,” underscoring his vision that faith and stewardship of creation must walk hand in hand.

This month, His All-Holiness visits our capital and later will receive the Templeton Prize, recognizing his lifelong witness to faith. Equally deserving of praise is his efforts to spur interfaith dialogue. In a world where we are too often divided by that which makes us different, constructive dialogue that fosters relationships and creates mutual respect is critical.

From his first historic visit in 1997, when he was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, to today, his presence has inspired bipartisan respect and admiration.

We welcome him with gratitude and honor his commitment to peace, liberty, and reconciliation.

HONORING ELMWOOD BLESSINGS BOX

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 Mr. Vincent and Elizabeth Freeman for the generosity, compassion and dedication they have displayed in creating the Elmwood Blessing Box.

In 2023, the Freemans installed a small food pantry box in front of their home, which allowed neighbors to take food when they were in need at zero cost. Over time, they realized that this demand was greater than initially expected. The Freemans decided to expand the blessing box to include enough food to fill a collection of cabinets and refrigerators, while continuing to expand as the need grew greater. Today, we are extremely excited to celebrate the benevolence, hard work and commitment the Freemans have shown and continue to show as they work to prevent food insecurity throughout Westland, Michigan and beyond.

The 12th Congressional District of Michigan extends our deepest gratitude to the Freemans and hopes their work inspires others. Our community will be forever indebted to them, and we wish them success, health and happiness on the opening of the Elmwood Blessings Box.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING “MEDICAL RE- SEARCH WEEK” FROM SEP- TEMBER 15 THROUGH SEP- TEMBER 19, 2025

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to reintroduce a resolution recognizing “Medical Research Week” from September 15 through September 19, 2025. This important resolution will look to recognize the important breakthroughs of medical research improving health outcomes for patients and communities, securing global competitiveness in science, boost-

ing job creation, educating the next generation of scientists, and strengthening economic growth.

Medical research through the support of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), continues to serve a vital role in the medical research enterprise. This research can lead cutting edge preventative strategies and research for treatments and additional cures for long-standing medical challenges such as cancer, Alzheimer’s, heart disease, sickle cell, and obesity. I have met with Hoosier families that are struggling with these rare diseases, and I have been moved by the impact that medical research has on their lives. This has educated me and my colleagues about the necessity of medical research to provide more treatment options and better diagnoses for all Americans.

NIH research funding generates nearly \$93 billion in economic activity and continues to support more than 400,000 jobs across the United States. Medical research is not only focused on improving the health of all Americans, but also as an economic driver in growth and job opportunity. Their work ripples far beyond its headquarters in Bethesda, Maryland, and into every State. It drives demand for medical supplies and research equipment, boosts local and regional economics to benefit manufacturers and suppliers across the country, and into many United States territories.

The NIH supported medical research plays a primary role in several sectors. The NIH supports noncommercial and clinical research with private sector innovation, allowing for major achievements in rare diseases such as ALS, substance use disorders, stroke, and Parkinson’s.

During my time in Congress, I have continuously advocated on behalf of medical research. Congressional action has helped support medical research through the NIH and CDC, supported in part by the bipartisan appropriations letter I lead each year to increase NIH overall funding and increasing funding for the Veterans Medical and Prosthetic Research Program. I urge all my colleagues to join me in both these appropriations requests. Imagine what we could accomplish with more robust investments in medical research in our Nation, from making strides to combatting antimicrobial resistance, to harnessing the power of personalized medicine to treat disease, and more. These critical breakthroughs in medical research are our Nation’s best hope in finding cures, prevention measures, and treatments for diseases affecting millions of Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this resolution to recognize the importance of medical research in America. I urge the House to support this resolution.

COMMEMORATING THE GREEK OR- THODOX CHURCH ON THE VISIT OF HIS ALL-HOLINESS BAR- THOLOMEW

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the historic and valued contributions of the Greek Orthodox Christian

Church to the City of Chicago, the State of Illinois, and the United States of America. Since our Nation's inception, Greek Orthodox Christians have been an integral part of the American experience. The church established its first parish in Florida in 1768, followed by the establishment of Greek communities in New Orleans in 1864 and a permanent presence in New York in 1892.

Built upon the pillars of love, faith, and order with the Church of Christ, the Greek Orthodox Church in the U.S., particularly in Chicago, has significantly and positively impacted the fabric and unique community-oriented spirit of the City. The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago consists of 58 parishes and two monasteries across five midwestern states, including Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin. The Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral, located near the heart of Chicago, serves as the seat of the Metropolitan of Chicago, with a current membership of approximately 400 families.

The Church is well known in the Chicagoland area for its charitable works and giving spirit toward our Nation's most vulnerable populations. In recent years, the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago spearheaded several charitable activities and humanitarian campaigns, such as the Chicago CEO COVID-19 Coalition, thereby demonstrating its longstanding commitment to serving its surrounding community.

I also would like to take this moment to join many of my constituents in Illinois' 7th Congressional District and the families of the Greek Orthodox Church in welcoming to the U.S. this week the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, His All-Holiness Bartholomew. As the spiritual leader and the *Primus inter Pares* (First among Equals) of Orthodox Christianity worldwide, a Church of 300 million people, His All-Holiness Bartholomew has been at the forefront of the cause of religious freedom for his entire ministry and now stands as the longest-serving Archbishop of Constantinople in the two millennia history of Christianity.

Further, I would like to congratulate His All-Holiness Bartholomew on the recent honor of being named the 2025 Templeton Prize Award recipient, which is the world's most prestigious award in Religion and Science. This honor, along with the noted historic contributions of His All-Holiness and the Greek Orthodox Church, at large, help to highlight the church's enduring influence and commitment to its members and the broader community.

I am proud to represent many of the members of the Greek Orthodox Church in Chicago and even more proud of the fact that, for over a century, the Church has served as a focal point for Greek immigrants and their descendants, contributing to the cultural and social fabric of the communities it serves in Chicago and around the world.

I congratulate the Greek Orthodox Church on its recent accomplishments, and welcome to His All-Holiness Bartholomew on his visit to the U.S. this month.

WELCOMING ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

HON. JAMES A. HIMES

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to the United States.

His first visit since 2021, he joins us on his eighth Apostolic trip to our country during which he will receive the prestigious Templeton Prize for his environmental advocacy.

The "Green Patriarch's" landmark 1997 speech in Santa Barbara—in which he first posited the notion of ecological sin—is striking for how revolutionary it was then, and how prescient it remains today. In particular, one line from His All-Holiness' remarks 28 years ago struck me as worthy of meditating upon in the tumultuous times in which we find ourselves.

In his speech, His All-Holiness offers the following: "we lovingly suggest to all the people of the earth, that they seek to help one another to understand the myriad ways in which we are related to the earth, and to one another."

Now, perhaps more than any time in my recollection, that call to engage with one another, identify our commonalities, eschew clinging to our differences, and help—how we can, where we can—feels vital to the moral health of the American people and the long-term viability of our global environment.

On behalf of the Eastern Orthodox Christian community of Southwestern Connecticut, I would like to extend my congratulations to His All-Holiness for his Templeton Prize; it is a well-deserved acknowledgement of his years of advocacy. I hope his trip is a success and that he enjoys his time in the United States.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF SERGEANT DONALD "DONNY" GRUNDHAUSER

HON. ANGIE CRAIG

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Sergeant Donald "Donny" Grundhauser, who recently passed away after a courageous battle with cancer.

Sergeant Grundhauser joined the Saint Paul Police Department in 1994, proud to serve the area where he was born and raised. Over the course of his 30-year career, he served in a wide range of demanding assignments, including SWAT, the Homicide Unit, the Gang and Gun Unit, ATF Federal Task Force, East Investigations as an Acting Commander and the Special Operations Unit. In recognition of his outstanding contributions, Sergeant Grundhauser received three Unit Citations, three Medals of Commendation, two Unit Letters of Recognition, and five individual Letters of Recognition.

Sergeant Grundhauser was deeply respected by his neighbors and colleagues for his courage, selflessness, and commitment to helping others. Known to his fellow officers as

"Grundy," he was a mentor and friend to many, and he lived by the belief that it never cost anything to be kind. His family carries on his legacy of service, with his son, Nicholas, and his two brothers, Mark and Keith, also serving in the Saint Paul Police Department.

I offer my deepest condolences to Sergeant Grundhauser's family—his wife, Kelly, and his children, Jacob and Nicholas. Sergeant Grundhauser represented the best of law enforcement, and I thank him and his family for their service to our community.

CELEBRATING ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW AND HIS VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to welcome to America one of our world's significant religious leaders—Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the Spiritual Head of Orthodox Christians, the second largest Christian Church in the world. Around the world there are over 250 million Orthodox Christians. In America there are well over a million Orthodox Christians with Churches in all 50 states. Even in low population states there are numerous churches—like for example, four Orthodox Churches in the state of Wyoming.

After his visit in Washington, D.C. with our President at the White House and with the bipartisan leadership of the Congress, he will be traveling to New York City to receive the Templeton Prize. That Prize is one of the world's leading recognitions of world leaders who make an exceptional contribution to the deepest questions regarding the universe and humankind's place and purpose within it. Previous winners of that Prize have included Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the Dalai Lama, Mother Teresa, and Billy Graham.

His All-Holiness is also a recipient of the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest Congressional Award. That Gold Medal had also been awarded to George Washington and to Abraham Lincoln. The Congress emphasized that Gold Medal by having more Members of Congress asking to have their names added as co-sponsors of that legislation than any other bill introduced during the 105th Congress. The Congressional Gold Medal recipients who were presented with the Award immediately before and immediately after Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, were Mother Teresa and Nelson Mandela.

Within Christian Orthodoxy, an over 2,000-year-old religion, His All-Holiness is the longest serving Ecumenical Patriarch. He is the 269th direct successor of Jesus Christ's first Apostle, Andrew. Andrew's brother Peter carried his mission to what is today the Vatican. Today's Pope Leo is the 266th direct successor of the Apostle Peter.