

# HONORING THE LIFE OF PETER MAYS

## 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 the life of Peter Mays, a dedicated and beloved member of the Trinity Health family for over 20 years. Peter served in the Information Technology department, where he took pride in his work and was known for his reliability, generosity, and willingness to help others. He continued working as long as his health allowed, retiring just one week before his passing. When not working, you could find Peter riding his bike around the city of Detroit.

During a Trinity Health Town Hall attended by more than 600 employees, colleagues paid tribute to Peter in a special Colleague Remembrance presentation. His coworkers, many of whom became close friends, stood by him and his family through challenging years, offering hospital visits, home support, and heartfelt gestures of kindness.

Peter's service, friendship, and example will be deeply missed, but his impact will continue to inspire those who knew and loved him. The 12th Congressional District of Michigan honors the life of Peter Mays and extends heartfelt condolences to all his loved ones and friends.

# THANKING JOHN MCINTYRE (MAC) TOLAR FOR HIS DEDICATED SERVICE TO OUR NATION

## HON. BRYAN STEIL

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2025*

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and thank John McIntyre (Mac) Tolar for dedicating over three decades of service to our Nation's military, state, local, and federal governments, including the past thirteen years as an employee within the United States House of Representatives.

After graduating from the University of South Carolina, Mac enlisted in the United States Marine Corps as an infantry officer in 1987. Mac remained on active duty for eight years and continued his reserve duty through 2012. During his distinguished military career Mac was also a Reconnaissance Officer and deployed to the Middle East in support of Operation Desert Shield, Desert Storm, and in support of the Global War on Terror.

Mac was decorated with four awards for exceptional individual service and received numerous awards from his unit. While on reserve duty, Mac earned his law degree from the University of South Carolina in 2001 and completed his military career as a Judge Advocate.

After earning his law degree, Mac embarked on a career in local government. From November 2001 to February 2003, Mac served as an Assistant Solicitor for the 15th Circuit in Conway, South Carolina, where he was responsible for prosecuting misdemeanor offenses and General Session transfer cases. Mac showed tremendous initiative in this role by developing and implementing a successful

DUI curriculum for local law enforcement personnel. This training program was so successful that it was later expanded to the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy and the Commission on Prosecution Coordination.

Mac continued his career in South Carolina serving as the in-house Counsel for the Georgetown County government. In this role, Mac was responsible for drafting, reviewing, and approving legal documents, including deeds, contracts, leases, dedication instruments, financing documents, resolutions and ordinances. These wide-ranging responsibilities afforded Mac the opportunity to provide expert legal representation to several county offices, boards, commissions, and employees.

After a four-year tour in private practice, Mac joined the office of United States Representative Martha Roby as her Military Legislative Counsel. Mac's military and legal background perfectly positioned him for his role in the office. His primary responsibilities included serving as the Congresswoman's Veterans affairs, national security, and foreign policy advisor. Mac was instrumental in creating and managing Representative Roby's constituent Veterans' Advisory Committee, which allowed the Congresswoman to gain additional insights, perspectives, and ideas to drive her oversight and legislative agenda.

In July 2014, Mac landed his next role in Congress working for the Select Committee on Benghazi. He was initially hired to serve as the Select Committee's Senior Counsel and then moved into the important role of Security Manager. As an employee of the Select Committee, Mac analyzed thousands of pages of documents, communications, and other executive branch materials relating to the terrorist attacks in Benghazi.

Once his tenure with the Select Committee ended, Mac landed in the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer in 2016 and immediately began serving as the Director of the Wounded Warrior Program, now known as the Green & Gold Congressional Aide Program.

Over the past nine years, Mac's leadership, stewardship, and dedication have driven several significant enhancements to this outstanding program. These efforts include modernizing several components of the program, updating the requirements for participation, broadening the scope to cover Gold Star Family Members and Active-Duty Military Spouses, expanding allocations assigned to Member, Committee, Leadership, and House Officer organizations, enhancing the orientation program and professional development offerings for the Aides, and launching the program's social media presence and dynamic website.

Mac's impact on the program is best seen in the lives and careers of the many Aides who came through during his tenure as Director. From December 2016 to August 2025, 339 Aides completed the two-year assignment. Of those, 37 percent of them continued their careers in Congress. Additionally, nearly 80 percent of the Aides built on their experience by finding new roles in government, transitioning successfully to the private sector, or enrolling in college to further their education. These achievements are a true reflection of Mac's leadership—underscoring not only the strength of the program, but also the lasting opportunities it provided to so many.

I would also like to recognize and thank Mac's family for their encouragement, love, and support, including his wife Helen Tolar—

who was also a decorated House and Senate senior staff member—and their three children Walker, Mary Mac, and Oliver.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mac Tolar for his outstanding contributions and overall impact on our Nation. Whether it was in the military, local or state government, or as an employee of the House of Representatives, Mac always made a difference in each job and an impact in every role.

# WELCOMING HIS ALL-HOLINESS ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW, ARCHBISHOP OF CONSTANTINOPLE-NEW ROME AND ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH

## HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2025*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great honor to welcome to our Nation's Capital His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch. He is the Spiritual Head of the Orthodox Christian Church worldwide and shepherd to over 300 million faithful. For Orthodox Christians across the globe, including many of my own constituents in Northwest Ohio, His All-Holiness is not only their spiritual father but also a guiding light for interfaith understanding, religious freedom, and environmental stewardship.

Part of his visit to the United States is to receive the distinguished Templeton Prize in New York City. This recognition, bestowed previously on figures such as Mother Teresa, the Dalai Lama, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, acknowledges his lifetime of service in advancing the harmony of faith and reason, and his courageous leadership on behalf of peace and the protection of God's creation.

His All-Holiness is no stranger to the halls of Congress. On his first visit to our Nation's Capital in 1997, he was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in the Rotunda, where he delivered an address that remains a touchstone in the history of religious freedom and international dialogue. Through subsequent visits under both Democratic and Republican administrations, the Ecumenical Patriarch has been received with the highest honors by our Nation's leaders.

For more than three decades as Ecumenical Patriarch, His All-Holiness has been a bridge-builder between peoples and nations. He has convened leaders of the Abrahamic faiths in pursuit of peace and reconciliation. He has boldly raised the conscience of the world to the urgent moral imperative of environmental responsibility. For these efforts, he is rightly known as the "Green Patriarch." He has also been a steadfast advocate for human rights and religious liberty across the globe, strengthening the cause of freedom for all people.

On behalf of the people of Northwest Ohio, and especially our vibrant Greek Orthodox community, I am proud to extend our heartfelt welcome to His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew as he returns to Washington. We rejoice in his recognition with the Templeton Prize, and we pray that his ministry of peace, love, and reconciliation will continue to inspire our Nation and our world.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF CATERPILLAR INC.

## HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2025*

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 100th anniversary of Caterpillar Inc., marking a century of customer-centric innovation and industry-leading transformation. With a strong history in my district, Caterpillar serves as a cornerstone example of American innovation and industry leadership.

Founded in 1925, when the Holt Manufacturing Company and the C.L. Best Tractor Company merged to form what became the Caterpillar Tractor Company, the business began with its first track type tractor designed to pull combine harvesters. Now, Caterpillar delivers autonomous construction and mining equipment and engines that power the world, helping customers complete infrastructure projects that have shaped the modern era.

Caterpillar is a consistent leader in industrial innovation. With more than 113,000 employees worldwide, this American based company continues to serve customers across the globe. Through their work and customer focus, Caterpillar helps communities in Illinois, across our country, and around the world rise to meet challenges and build a better future.

As we commemorate this incredible milestone. I want to recognize the entire Caterpillar team for their entrepreneurial spirit, strong values, and unwavering commitment to manufacturing and innovation in the United States.

I congratulate Caterpillar on 100 years of American excellence. May the next century strengthen the values that make Caterpillar, Illinois, and our Nation strong.

WELCOMING HIS ALL-HOLINESS  
ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

## HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2025*

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and welcome to Washington, His All-Holiness Bartholomew Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch, the spiritual leader of Orthodox Christianity worldwide. As the Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome, His All-Holiness serves as the spiritual head of the second largest Christian Church in the world.

His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew was elected in October 1991 as the 270th Archbishop of the 2,000-year-old Church founded by the Apostle Andrew. For more than three decades, he has stood at the forefront of the cause of religious freedom, interfaith dialogue, and peacebuilding, making him the longest-serving Archbishop of Constantinople in the history of Christianity.

Born Demetrios Arhondonis in 1940 on an island in Turkey, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew pursued theological studies in Rome, Switzerland, Germany, and Greece before joining leadership within the

Church. He is fluent in numerous languages and has been recognized by academic institutions worldwide, holding honorary doctorates from universities across Europe, the United States, and beyond.

Throughout his tenure, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has worked to advance religious liberty and human rights, to strengthen ties among Christian denominations, and to build relationships among the Abrahamic religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. He has co-sponsored international peace conferences, supported reconciliation in conflict-ridden regions, and spoken out for persecuted groups across the globe.

His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is no stranger to our Nation's Capitol. In 1997, during his first official visit as His All-Holiness, he was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in a ceremony in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda. On that occasion, he reminded us that, "The Pentagon embodies might, but the Capitol embodies right. In these halls different points of view meet and are reconciled. . . . And most important to the Orthodox Church during many dark ages—in these halls human rights are preserved and human dignity is enhanced."

This week, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew will return to Washington as part of his visit to the United States, where he will also receive the distinguished Templeton Prize in New York City, an award previously bestowed upon Mother Teresa, the Dalai Lama, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. This honor recognizes his lifelong commitment to faith, peace, and science.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that we welcome His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew back to Washington, D.C. and recognize his remarkable contributions as a global religious leader, peacemaker, and advocate for freedom. His presence is a reminder of the enduring values of faith, dialogue, and human dignity.

CELEBRATING THE 90TH  
BIRTHDAY OF WANDA BABB

## HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2025*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 90th birthday of Mrs. Wanda Faye Babb of Paris, Texas.

Mrs. Babb was born on September 20, 1935, in Paris, Texas. Mrs. Babb attended school in Paris, the same place where she would grow into an active member within her church and community.

She has dedicated her life to faith, family, and community. Mrs. Babb has been a devoted member of many churches and has spent her time teaching Sunday school and guiding the youth. On November 25, 1953, Mrs. Babb married the love of her life, the late Wendell Babb. Together, they raised three wonderful children, and over the years, their family grew to include many cherished grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Babb owned and operated Byers Beauty Shop in Paris, a business started by her mother, where she worked for decades as a beloved cosmetologist. She took pride in her business and treated her clients like family. In

addition to the beauty shop, Mrs. Babb spent time as a representative for Mary Kay, where she strived to provide opportunities for her employees. Throughout her life, she has been a dedicated and devoted wife, mother, and grandmother, striving to instill a strong faith and love of music in her grandkids. In her free time, she enjoys cooking, playing piano, and recognizing every Western television and film actor. Mrs. Babb credits her life to the Lord, her family, and loving her country.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our Nation's Capitol in recognition of Mrs. Babb's incredible life and journey. May God bless Mrs. Babb on 90 years of life filled with patriotism, faith, and joy.

HONORING THE LIFE OF IGNACIO  
"ZIGGY" GONZALEZ

## HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2025*

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today, the 12th Congressional District honors the extraordinary life and legacy of Ignacio "Ziggy" Gonzalez, a beloved son of southwest Detroit. A proud veteran and dedicated educator, Ziggy lived a long and impactful life of 94 years, which stretched far beyond the baseball diamond and hockey rink.

Born in 1930, Ziggy proudly served in the United States Air Force before returning home to raise a family and dedicate his life to teaching and coaching. As a beloved educator at Western High School, "Mr. G" inspired countless students with his humor, wisdom, and unshakable belief in their potential.

Ziggy was also the heart and soul of Clark Park, where he got the name "Mr. Clark Park" and built hockey and baseball programs that gave generations of young people a place to play, learn, and belong. To many, he will forever be "Mr. Clark Park." His love of family, sports, community, and music, especially jazz, reflected the very best of Detroit.

We extend our love to his wife, siblings, children, grandchildren, and friends as we celebrate his life, and we are committed to carrying forward his spirit of service, joy, and justice.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

## HON. SCOTT FRANKLIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2025*

Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, September 8, 2025, I missed Roll Call Vote Nos. 240 and 241 due to official business. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 240, and YEA on Roll Call No. 241.