

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.

WELCOMING HIS ALL-HOLINESS
BARTHOLOMEW I, ECUMENICAL
PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINO-
PLE

HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2025

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, as a Vice Co-Chair of the Hellenic Caucus and a proud Greek-American, I rise today to welcome His All-Holiness Bartholomew I, Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, to the United States, the spiritual leader of the Orthodox Christian community around the world. His All-Holiness's visit to Washington, D.C. and New York is yet another demonstration of his commitment to peace, his see, and the millions of Orthodox Christians in the United States.

Born Demetrios Arhondonis in 1940 on the island of Imvros (today, Gökçeada, Turkey), His All-Holiness Bartholomew was elected in October 1991 as the 270th Archbishop of the 2000-year-old Church founded by the Apostle Andrew. His formal office is Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch, a historic title dating to the sixth century. The Ecumenical Patriarch received his elementary and secondary education in Imvros and Istanbul. After completing undergraduate studies at the historic Theological School of Halki, he pursued graduate studies at the Pontifical Oriental Institute of the Gregorian University in Rome (Italy), the Ecumenical Institute in Bossey (Switzerland), and the University of Munich (Germany). His doctoral dissertation, submitted to the University of Athens (Greece), was in the field of Canon Law, and he was a founding member of the Society of Canon Law of the Oriental Churches. Ordained to the Diaconate in 1961 and to the Priesthood in 1969, he served as Assistant Dean at the Theological School of Halki (1968 to 1972) before his appointment as Personal Secretary to the late Ecumenical Patriarch Demetrios (1972 to 1990) as well as his election as Metropolitan of Philadelphia (1973) and, subsequently, Metropolitan of Chalcedon (1990).

His see, the Ecumenical Patriarchate, once possessed holdings as vast as the Vatican but has been reduced to a small, besieged enclave in a decaying corner of Istanbul called the Phanar (Lighthouse). Almost all of its property has been seized by successive Turkish governments, its schools have been closed, and its prelates are taunted by extremists who demonstrate almost daily outside the Patriarchate, calling for its ouster from Turkey. The Patriarch himself is often jeered and threatened when he ventures outside his walled enclave. He is periodically burned in effigy by Turkish chauvinists. Petty bureaucrats take pleasure in harassing him, summoning him to their offices to question him about irrelevant issues, blocking his efforts to make repairs in the few buildings still under his control, and issuing veiled threats about what he says and does when he travels abroad. The Turkish government as a whole follows a policy that deliberately belittles him, refusing to recognize his ecumenical status as the spiritual leader of a major religious faith.

In September 1955, when Bartholomew was studying in Istanbul, he witnessed a massive pogrom against the city's Greek neighbor-

hoods that left them looking "like the bombed parts of London during the Second World War," as one British journalist reported. While the police "stood idly by or cheered on the mob," according to a report of the U.S. consul, 4,000 Greek shops and 2,000 homes were sacked and plundered, 38 churches were burned to the ground and 35 more desecrated, and 52 schools were destroyed. More than a dozen people were killed and scores were injured during the riots, beginning a cycle of violence and intimidation that has seen Istanbul's Greek population reduced from 200,000 when the riots erupted to less than 2,000 today.

At a time when hostility and misunderstanding between the Christian and Muslim worlds have reached a deadly standoff, Patriarch Bartholomew, who speaks seven languages including Turkish, has made a deliberate effort to reach out to Muslims throughout the Middle East. "It is our strong belief that Orthodox Christians have a special responsibility to assist East-West rapprochement," he noted. "For, like the Turkish Republic, we have a foot in both worlds." Pointing out that Orthodox Christians have a 550-year history of co-existence with Muslims in the Middle East, he has initiated a series of meetings with Muslim leaders throughout the region in what he calls "a dialogue of loving truth." To strengthen that dialogue, he has traveled to Libya, Syria, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Azerbaijan, Qatar, and Bahrain, and met political and religious figures in those countries, whom no other Christian hierarch has ever visited. As a result, the Patriarch has created more bridges between Christianity and Islam than any other prominent Christian leader.

The Patriarch's concerns are not just limited to interfaith conflicts but have expanded to embrace all of God's creation. He has shown such concern for the environment that he has become widely known as "the Green Patriarch." He famously declared shortly after he assumed the ecumenical throne in 1991 that "crime against the natural world is a sin." Human beings and the environment, he stated, "compose a seamless garment of existence, a multicolored cloth, which we believe to be woven in its entirety by God." The world, he told a 1997 conference of environmentalists in Santa Barbara, California, "is not ours to use for our own convenience. It is God's gift of love to us, and we must return his love by protecting it and all that is in it."

To back up his words with action, Bartholomew launched a series of initiatives to raise worldwide concern for the environment. In 1992 he proposed to all Orthodox churches that September 1st be celebrated as a special day of prayer for the environment. In 1995 he started a series of environmental conferences, inviting prominent scientists, political leaders, theologians, ecologists, and journalists to embark on weeklong trips to examine the destruction that pollution has caused on major waters. Designed to draw international attention to the ecological degradation of the areas they visit, five such floating conferences have taken place in the past decade to the Black Sea, the Aegean, the Adriatic, the Baltic and the Danube River. For his work to combat pollution, the Patriarch was chosen in 2002 to receive Norway's Sophie Prize, the most important international award given for leadership on the environment. He donated the \$100,000 prize money to the poor children of Ethiopia,

Greece, and Turkey. "We are losing time," Bartholomew warned while accepting the award, "and the more we wait, the more difficult and irreparable the damage."

Although his efforts have brought him little relief from his problems in Turkey, they have been recognized around the world, including by the U.S. Congress, which gave him its highest award, the Congressional Gold Medal, in a ceremony in the Capitol. "The greatest lesson about America lies under this magnificent dome," he told the assembled legislators. "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."

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is a leading figure in the dialogues of the Abrahamic Faiths—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, and his presence in Washington, D.C. is an extraordinary opportunity to highlight the positive role that religious leaders of his stature bring to the myriad causes we in Congress grapple with each day.

In addition to welcoming His All-Holiness to the United States and recognizing his lifetime of service and commitment to peace, I also ask that the House join me in congratulating Patriarch Bartholomew for receiving this year's Templeton Prize. Established in 1972, the Templeton Prize honors individuals whose exemplary achievements advance Sir John Templeton's philanthropic vision: harnessing the power of the sciences to explore the deepest questions of the universe and humankind's place and purpose within it. At this year's ceremony, His All-Holiness will be honored for "pioneering efforts to bridge scientific and spiritual understandings of humanity's relationship with the natural world [which] have brought together people of different faiths to heed a call for stewardship of creation."

It is my hope that His All-Holiness's trip is not only a resounding success, but brings with it a message for all of us as legislators to recommit ourselves to complementing his vital work of building bridges, protecting God's creation, and advancing the cause of peace around the world.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.