

The first recorded U.S. case of the new Coronavirus was reported January 20, 2020, in a 35-year-old American citizen traveling from Wuhan, China to his home in Snohomish County, Washington State.

On February 6, 2020, 57-year-old Patricia Dowd, a semi-conductor manufacturer in San Jose, California became the first confirmed U.S. Covid-19 death in the United States.

On March 13, 2020, U.S. Presidential Proclamation 9994 was issued declaring the Coronavirus pandemic a National Public Health Emergency.

On February 22, 2021, Proclamation 10148 was issued by the President of the United States recognizing 500,000 Covid-19 deaths, calling on the Nation to conduct a moment of national silence during a candle lighting ceremony at the Lincoln Memorial.

On May 12, 2022, the President of the United States issued Proclamation 10394 marking the tragic milestone of one million American lives lost to Covid-19, stating that "As a Nation, we must not grow numb to such sorrow. To heal, must remember.

On April 11, 2023, the President of the United States signed House Resolution 7—Public Law 118-3, declaring the Covid-19 National Public Health Emergency terminated.

National memorials are an American tradition to commemorate people and events of historical significance and, the Covid-19 pandemic in the United States is an event of profound historical significance. It is in the public interest to establish a National Memorial to remember the lives of those no longer with us and honor the incredible service to our country by heroes working on the front lines.

I ask my fellow Members of Congress and leaders across our country, to join me in supporting the dedication of an American Covid Memorial and to help build the U.S. Covid-19 National Registry of Victims and Heroes to help preserve the memories of the 1.2 million lives we lost.

WELCOMING HIS ALL-HOLINESS ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

HON. HERBERT C. CONAWAY, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

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

Known as the "Patriarch of Peace" by the Eastern Orthodox Church, he guides millions of faithful around the world in their spiritual journey and relationship with God. He has long championed interfaith dialogue, global peace, and religious tolerance. His presence reflects the deep ties between the Orthodox Christian community and the United States. His work has uplifted Eastern Orthodox Christians around the world, including many in New Jersey's 3rd Congressional District.

During this visit, Patriarch Bartholomew is being honored as the recipient of the Templeton Prize. This prestigious international award recognizes his scholarly contributions in exploring the intersection of faith and the natural world. Past recipients include Mother Teresa and the Dalai Lama.

In 1997, he was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of his contributions

to the United States. His efforts have fostered dialogue among Christians, Muslims, Jews, and people of all faiths. His visit reminds us that our Nation is strongest when we work together in mutual respect, despite our differences.

Throughout his ministry, His All-Holiness has exemplified how faith can contribute to a just and peaceful planet. He has unapologetically spoken out against violence, international terrorism, and the degradation of the environment. He once stated, "Human conflict may be inevitable in our world; but war and violence are not. If our age will be remembered, it may be for those who dedicated themselves to the cause of peace." In a time of global Turbulence, his visit marks a moment of deep significance for Orthodox Christians in New Jersey and across the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in welcoming His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to the United States.

WELCOMING ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

HON. PATRICK RYAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople to Washington, D.C. as he receives the Templeton Prize for his lifetime of work curating harmony between science and faith.

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew not only serves as the spiritual leader to the upwards of 300 million Orthodox Christians around the globe, he serves as a model for us all, having dedicated his life to peacemaking, environmental advocacy and conservation, and facilitating inter-faith dialogue around the globe.

Leading the Church since 1991, His All-Holiness has shepherded our world through tumultuous shifts in national borders, been instrumental in orchestrating peace between adversaries, and facilitated harmony between religions. Throughout his tenure, he has remained on the forefront of meeting the rising challenges our global community is facing. Be it climate change, wars, violations of human rights, His All-Holiness is undaunted and unwavering in his commitment to alleviating suffering and championing justice.

During this chaotic time in our world, and especially our Nation, the Ecumenical Patriarch's presence in our capital is particularly meaningful and serves as a reminder to us all how to lead with compassion and courage, how to minister to our communities with empathy, and how to live with moral fortitude.

His ability to unify, to guide anyone and everyone to set aside differences and divisions and treat each other as equals is deeply inspiring and is what we should all strive for. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew's impact on our world is immeasurable, boundless, and magnified all the more through the countless people he has inspired.

It is a great honor to add my voice to the many, including the Greek Orthodox Christians at St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Kingston, St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Newburgh, Kimisis tis Theotokou Greek Ortho-

dox Church in Poughkeepsie, and across the Hudson Valley, thanking him for his leadership in our world, his zeal for environmentalism and social harmony, and his commitment to uplifting the dignity of every person of every faith and nation.

APPRECIATING CHARLIE KIRK

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, with the abysmal assassination of American Patriot Charlie Kirk on September 10, 2025, this tragedy inspired South Carolina Poet Tony Pichoff of Hopkins, South Carolina, with his heartfelt poem of Turning Point:

TURNING POINT

On this twenty-fourth eve of 9/11,
One of Satan's minions
Sent your faithful soul to Heaven.
And in so doing,
Sowed the seeds
Of their undoing,
On the road to reckoning and ruin.
In this epic battle
For the very soul of America,
Never yielding
To the terror of
Those who seek to silence, you,
The disarming bearer of
God's good news.
Wielding intellectual weapons
Of well reasoned wisdom
With calm confidence
And articulate precision
That did mortally threaten
To undo the institution
Insidiously dedicated
To undermining our constitution.
An unholy breeding ground
Of hatred and division
Infecting our very youth
With lies disguised as truth.
Administered via "higher learning's"
Spiritual circumcision.
In obedience to God,
Upon these battle grounds
You bravely trod,
And did not do so in vain.
For even in your very death,
You delivered victory again!
And just as the attack on 9/11
Our national resolve did anoint,
Your MAGA martyrdom
Marks THIS historic turning point.
And when 45 became 47,
Just as certainly as then we knew,
The tide continues to turn in our favor
Now confirmed by you.
As challenging as it may be,
While we mourn we must also see,
That it is through those like you
We shall remain the indomitable land of the
Free.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 265, and YEA on Roll Call No. 266.

HONORING HIS ALL-HOLINESS ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW OF CONSTANTINOPLE

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome and spiritual leader of over 300 million Orthodox Christians worldwide. I am honored to welcome him to Washington, D.C.

Born Demetrios Arhondonis in 1940 on the island of modern-day Gökçeada, Turkey, His All-Holiness Bartholomew was elected in October 1991 as the 270th successor to the Apostle Andrew, who founded the Church of Constantinople nearly 2,000 years ago. His formal office is the Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome, and Ecumenical Patriarch, a historic title dating to the sixth century.

His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew studied theology around the world, including at esteemed schools in Turkey, Italy, Germany, Greece, and Switzerland. His doctoral dissertation, submitted to the University of Athens, was in the field of Canon Law, and he was a founding member of the Society of Canon Law of the Oriental Churches. For nearly three decades, His All-Holiness served the Church in many capacities, from his ordination as a deacon in 1961 and priest in 1969, to Assistant Dean at the Theological School of Halki, Metropolitan of Philadelphia, and later Metropolitan of Chalcedon, before becoming Patriarch.

He has received dozens of honorary doctorates from leading universities around the globe, including Georgetown, Yale, Athens, Thessaloniki, Louvain, and Moscow, and is fluent in multiple languages.

As the primary spiritual leader of the Orthodox Christian world and a transnational figure, the Ecumenical Patriarch has exceeded the traditional scope of his office. His All-Holiness advocated for Christian unity, participating in meetings with numerous Church and State dignitaries, addressing national parliaments, and speaking to the European Parliament, the United Nations, UNESCO, and the World Economic Forum. He has led and contributed to reconciliation efforts between Christian Churches through theological dialogues, bilateral consultations, and personal encounters to address issues of common concern.

Furthermore, his faith-led work has led to international meetings and theological conversations with Muslim and Jewish leaders to promote interfaith tolerance on a global level.

He has convened historic synaxes of Orthodox Primates and presided over the 2016 Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church, the first such gathering in over a millennium. He restored the independence of churches long suppressed under persecution and, in 2019, granted autocephaly to the Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

Through his vision, courage, and devotion, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has led as a beacon of faith, unity, peace, and reconciliation in our time.

HONORING THE DOMTAR MARLBORO MILL

HON. RUSSELL FRY

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Mr. FRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Domtar Marlboro Mill in Bennettsville, South Carolina, which since 1990 has been a cornerstone of economic growth, innovation, and community service.

As the last greenfield paper mill built in the United States, it employs more than 300 workers, contributes over \$800 million annually to the regional economy, and produces essential paper and pulp products used across the Nation.

The mill has earned recognition for its commitment to safety, efficiency, and responsible forestry, while also investing in Marlboro County through scholarships, service projects, and support for local organization.

The Marlboro Mill stands as a source of pride for South Carolina's 7th District, and I commend its workforce and leadership for their lasting contributions to our state and country.

RECOGNIZING THE SPIRITUAL HEAD, ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the Spiritual Head and leader of the second largest Christian Church in the world. His All-Holiness is visiting Washington, D.C. in conjunction with his acceptance of the distinguished Templeton Prize in New York City—an honor previously bestowed on Mother Teresa, the Dalai Lama, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, among others. While here, he will visit both the White House and the Congress.

Elected in October 1991 as the 270th Archbishop of the 2,000-year-old Church founded by the Apostle Andrew, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is the spiritual leader of 250 million Orthodox Christians worldwide. He is also a leading figure in the dialogues among the Abrahamic Faiths—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—and his presence in our Nation's capital is an opportunity to highlight the positive role religious leaders of his stature bring to the cause of peace and religious liberty.

The true peacemakers of history not only sought to reduce conflict but also showed compassion toward those who persecuted them. Patriarch Bartholomew fits that definition precisely. Despite facing harassment by foreign governments and attacks by extremists, he has remained steadfast in his mission to promote reconciliation, environmental stewardship, and human dignity.

His contributions have been recognized around the globe. In 1997, he was awarded the Gold Medal of the United States Congress. The Guardian identified him as one of the world's foremost leaders in raising environmental awareness. And Time Magazine, in its

category of Leaders and Revolutionaries, named him one of the world's most influential people.

Mr. Speaker, as we welcome His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to Washington, D.C., let us also celebrate his unwavering commitment to interfaith dialogue, peace, and religious liberty. His leadership serves as a reminder of the power of faith to unite people across nations and traditions.

COMMEMORATING THE VISIT OF PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

HON. ANDY HARRIS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Mr. HARRIS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the Head of the second largest Christian Church in the world, Orthodox Christianity.

Patriarch Bartholomew will be in Washington, D.C. to visit both the White House and Congress. His All-Holiness will then travel to New York City to accept the distinguished Templeton Prize, which "celebrates pioneers of scientific and spiritual insight for their contributions to human well-being and spiritual prosperity."

I would like to thank Patriarch Bartholomew for his spiritual work and wish His All-Holiness the best of luck in continuing to serve as a model for the Orthodox Christian community of Maryland's 1st Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING THE PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The Pew Charitable Trusts, an incredible organization that is focused on improving and invigorating civic life. Founded in 1948, The Pew Charitable Trusts has been advancing solutions to societal challenges for 77 years, and I know that the Philadelphia community has benefited immensely from this important work.

Founder Joseph Newton Pew and his wife, Mary Anderson Pew initially focused their philanthropic work on anonymously providing grants to priorities such as cancer research, the Red Cross, and a pioneering project to assist historically Black colleges. Over the years, this institution has evolved into a much more expansive enterprise, allowing flexibility to engage in a variety of community issues and inform the public on responsible governance.

A tireless champion for social good, The Pew Charitable Trust has remained committed to the civic life of Philadelphia and the importance of an informed democracy. This endeavor, inspired by Joseph Newton Pew's vision, stands as a testament to this organization's enduring impact on our city.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of their unwavering commitment to serving others, we honor The Pew Charitable Trust.