

a new opportunity with Chairman PETE AGUILAR and the House Democratic Caucus. I have no doubt Emma will bring the same compassion, professionalism, and excellence to the House Democratic Caucus that made her so effective with the New Dems.

Emma's tenure with the New Dems has been—by any measure—an immense success. As she departs, Emma leaves behind a strong New Dem brand and media presence that will continue to grow atop the foundations she worked so hard to establish. Though we are sad to see her go, the Coalition, our leadership team, and I, wish Emma all the best. We look forward to working with her in her new capacity to move our country forward and deliver results for the American people.

HONORING ECUMENICAL  
PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

**HON. NORMA J. TORRES**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 16, 2025*

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to our Nation's Capital, and to honor him for his contributions to the Greek Orthodox community in the Inland Empire and beyond.

In 1940, All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew was born on an island called Imvros, which is located in modern-day Turkey. He completed his elementary and secondary education in both Imvros and Istanbul. For his undergraduate degree, he attended the historic Theological School of Halki, and for his graduate studies, he attended the Pontifical Oriental Institute of the Gregorian University in Rome, the Ecumenical Institute in Bossey, and the University of Munich. He completed his doctoral dissertation on the topic of Canon Law.

In 1961, the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew was ordained to the Diaconate, and in 1969, he was ordained to the Priesthood. During this time, he served as the Assistant Dean for the Theological School of Halki, then as the Personal Secretary for the late Ecumenical Patriarch Demetrios, before being elected as Metropolitan of Philadelphia and subsequently Metropolitan of Chalcedon.

The Ecumenical Patriarch was elected in October 1991 as the 270th Archbishop of the 2000-year-old Orthodox Church. His office is a historic title dating to the sixth century—Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome, and Ecumenical Patriarch. At 85 years old, he is the longest-serving Archbishop of Constantinople and leads more than 300 million congregation members nationwide. I am proud that one of those congregations, Saint Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church, is part of my congressional district in Upland, California.

The Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has used his influence to travel to every continent, where he has taken an active role in the World Council of Churches, addressed both the European Parliament and U.S. Congress, met with heads of state, and visited Orthodox churches in various countries. He has advanced diplomatic relations between Christianity, Islam, and Judaism internationally by co-sponsoring international peace conferences centered on racism and extremism. He has

also supported traditionally Orthodox countries emerging from decades of wide-scale religious persecution, facilitated conversations with Muslim and Jewish leaders to promote mutual respect and religious tolerance, and has traveled to Muslim countries rarely visited by Christian leaders.

The Ecumenical Patriarch is a champion for environmental advocacy, introducing environmental issues in his sermons, which has earned him the nickname the "Green Patriarch." He has used his impact to found several major conventions, including a global bishop assembly that has met regularly since 1992, the inaugural Synaxis (assembly) of Orthodox Primates, the Clergy-Laity Congress, and the World Youth Conference of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

The Ecumenical Patriarch has received many awards, including the Congressional Gold Medal of the United States Congress in 1997, and has numerous honorary doctorates from institutions worldwide, including Georgetown University, Yale University, and several other international institutions.

I warmly welcome Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew as he visits Washington, D.C., following his acceptance of the Templeton Prize—honoring those who have made significant contributions in the fields of Religion and Science. His service to our community and beyond is worthy of the highest recognition.

HONORING MS. CYNTHIA LEE'S RE-  
TIREMENT FROM FEDERAL  
SERVICES

**HON. EUGENE SIMON VINDMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 16, 2025*

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Ms. Cynthia Lee for her remarkable 44 years of federal service with the Department of the Army.

Ms. Lee began her journey at Virginia State University where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. She then went on to pursue a Master of Science in Contract and Acquisition Management from the Florida Institute of Technology, laying the academic foundation for a career that would span more than 4 decades.

At the age of 18, Ms. Lee began her career as a student hire. From those early days, she demonstrated exceptional leadership, rising through the ranks to become a well-respected leader.

Over the course of her career, Ms. Lee's contributions have left a lasting impact on both her peers and the entire federal workforce in her role as Program Manager of Small Business Programs within the Department of the Army.

In recognition for her exceptional performance, Ms. Lee has received numerous awards that reflect her commitment and dedication. As Resource Management Chief, she was commended for her service as Acting Deputy Commander from May 2021 to January 2022, a role in which she displayed exceptional professionalism.

I want to personally thank Ms. Lee for her decades of service. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Lee for her 44 years of outstanding federal service. We

are deeply grateful for her dedication, her leadership, and her invaluable contributions to our Nation.

WELCOMING ECUMENICAL PATRI-  
ARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE, HIS  
ALL-HOLINESS BARTHOLOMEW'S  
2025 VISIT TO THE UNITED  
STATES

**HON. DARRELL ISSA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 16, 2025*

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend a warm welcome to the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, His All-Holiness Bartholomew, the spiritual leader and "First Among Equals" of more than 300 million Orthodox Christians worldwide. During this historic visit to the United States, His All-Holiness will receive the Templeton Prize—the world's most prestigious award in Religion and Science.

Patriarch Bartholomew's efforts to promote religious freedom and human rights and his initiatives to advance religious tolerance among the world's religions, together with his work toward international peace and environmental protection, have justly placed him at the forefront of global visionaries as an apostle of love, peace, and reconciliation.

We are privileged to host the longest-serving Archbishop of Constantinople in history here in our Nation's Capital, as he meets with the President, Secretary of State, and Congress. His visit to the United States serves as a testament to his unwavering commitment to fostering mutual respect and religious tolerance on a global level.

I look forward to the opportunity to welcome His All-Holiness and express our collective gratitude for his continued leadership and dedication to the cause of peace and religious liberty. In the words of His All-Holiness: "If our age will be remembered, it may be for those who dedicated themselves to the cause of peace."

RECOGNIZING THE EXTRAOR-  
DINARY LIFE OF DIXIE DEMUTH

**HON. MORGAN MCGARVEY**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 16, 2025*

Mr. MCGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the legacy and remarkable life of a Louisville hometown hero, Dixie Demuth, who fought for equality for women in Kentucky and left a permanent mark on our city and commonwealth.

Born in 1917 in the famous Samuels House in Samuels, Kentucky, Dixie moved to Louisville with her mother in 1933 at the height of the Great Depression. From an early age, she worked in restaurants and bars, learning the trade in popular downtown spots until she opened her own place on 5th Street in Louisville. She called it Dixie's Elbow Room. Although Dixie was allowed to own and run a bar, a two-hundred-year-old Kentucky law prohibited women from working as bartenders or even sitting at bars. Dixie decided that just

wasn't right, and, in 1968, she hired her very first woman bartender and served a woman seated at her bar—her own adult daughter, in fact.

The Kentucky Alcohol Beverage Control Board came down hard and fast, incensed not only that she was breaking the law but also that she openly advertised her rulebreaking in the hope that other bar owners would join her fight, but no one did. Though the ABC shut her down and took her liquor license, Dixie did not give up the fight. Found guilty of violating the antiquated state law, Dixie appealed her sentence and brought her case to the Kentucky Court of Appeals, who decided in her favor in 1972, calling the law “invidious and arbitrary.” Her quiet revolution behind the counter became a landmark victory for women's rights in the commonwealth and across the country.

At 100 years old, when asked why she decided to take her bold stand, Dixie remembered: “I said this is ridiculous, I'm going to change that, so I did.” Dixie died in 2020 at the age of 102, but her legacy lives on. In 2023, she was inducted into the Kentucky Bourbon Hall of Fame, which recognizes sacrifice and determination in the bourbon industry. Louisville Mayor Craig Greenberg recently unveiled a new historical marker, part of the Louisville Metro Historical Marker Program, placed where her bar once stood, ensuring that future generations will learn about Dixie's fight and victory.

As a co-chair of the Congressional Bourbon Caucus, and as a proud son of Louisville, I am grateful for the path Dixie paved for the bourbon industry and the many women who work in it. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life and legacy of Dixie Demuth, as well as to celebrate the unveiling of the historical marker that enshrines her in our city's history.

RECOGNIZING HIS ALL-HOLINESS  
BARTHOLOMEW, ARCHBISHOP OF  
CONSTANTINOPLE AND ECU-  
MENICAL PATRIARCH

**HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 16, 2025*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of His All-Holiness Bartholomew, Archbishop of Constantinople and Ecumenical Patriarch, as he visits the United States to receive the Templeton Prize.

Born Demetrios Arhondonis on the island of Imvros, known today as Gökçeada, Turkey, Patriarch Bartholomew was elected the 270th Archbishop of Constantinople and Ecumenical Patriarch in October 1991. Today he leads a community of 300 million Orthodox Christians and is the longest serving archbishop in the church's 2,000-year history. Patriarch Bartholomew pursued theological studies in Istanbul, Rome, Switzerland, Germany, and Greece, earning a doctorate in Canon law. Recognized for his scholarship and global perspective, he has received honorary doctorates from leading institutions across the world.

Throughout his time as Ecumenical Patriarch, Bartholomew has worked to build unity among the Christian churches and foster meaningful dialogue between world religions.

He has convened many international conferences, bringing together religious leaders from across the globe to promote coexistence and tolerance. Known as the “Green Patriarch,” Patriarch Bartholomew has brought significant attention to ecological concerns, organizing global, interfaith symposia on climate change and ecological responsibility. For his environmental leadership, he has received numerous awards and international recognition.

Patriarch Bartholomew has addressed the United Nations, the European Parliament, and the World Economic Forum, earning accolades from around the world. In recognition of his global contributions, he received the Congressional Gold Medal in 1997. In September 2025, Patriarch Bartholomew will travel to the U.S. to receive the Templeton Prize, one the most prestigious awards recognizing those who use the power of science to explore the deepest questions of the universe and humankind's place and purpose within it. Previous recipients include St. Teresa of Kolkata and the Dalai Lama.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to celebrate the work of His All-Holiness Bartholomew, Archbishop of Constantinople and Ecumenical Patriarch, and I ask that my colleagues join me in welcoming him to Washington, D.C. and thanking him for his ongoing commitment to advancing peace and religious freedom.

RECOGNIZING TESS KUENNING

**HON. CHRIS PAPPAS**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 16, 2025*

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Tess Kuening, president and CEO of Bi-State Primary Care Association. Her community-based approach to public health and exceptional leadership have significantly improved both the quality and accessibility of health care in New Hampshire, Vermont, and the rest of the country.

Tess has dedicated her entire career to improving public health. After earning her Master's in Nursing and Public/Community Health in 1990, she worked in Nepal as a Peace Corps nurse for five years. There, Tess taught women to be birth attendants and designed sustainable maternal and child health programs. While Tess loved working one-on-one with patients and clinicians, she wanted to expand her impact to the community level, pushing her to transition to public health. After returning to the United States, she worked for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as the principal public health advisor throughout New England and as a nurse consultant for the Health Care Finance Administration.

For the past thirty years, Tess has led Bi-State Primary Care Association, which advocates for Community Health Centers in New Hampshire and Vermont. Community Health Centers play a crucial role in delivering primary care, especially in areas where medical services are limited or unaffordable. Offering accessible, preventive, and routine care, they serve as a vital lifeline for low and moderate-income families who might otherwise go without essential health services. As president and CEO of Bi-State PCA, Tess has been instrumental in leveraging her clinical background,

experience in public health, and many connections to stakeholders, nonprofits, and Congressional Offices like my own to uplift community health centers in our state. Under her leadership, Bi-State has grown from a staff of 6 to over 20 and now serves over 312,000 patients across New Hampshire and Vermont.

I have had the pleasure of meeting with Tess multiple times over the past few years, and I am always inspired by her determination, creativity, positivity, and genuine passion for community health. I am so grateful to Tess for sharing her experience and knowledge with me and other Members of Congress, helping us improve our healthcare system. Tess is a true leader and public servant, and I want to acknowledge the profound positive impact she has had on community health in her community.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's 1st Congressional District, I thank Tess Kuening for her selflessness and dedication to the patients she serves. Her dedication to advocating for community health centers has improved healthcare in our state and has made her community a better place. Tess's work has brought us one step closer to ensuring that health care is a right, not a privilege, for all. I wish her all the best in the years to come.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BILLION-  
AIRE INCOME TAX ACT AND  
NOTING THE POPE'S CONCERN  
ON INCOME INEQUALITY

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 16, 2025*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I plan to introduce the Billionaire Income Tax Act on Wednesday and will hold a press conference with the House cosponsor Congressman DON BEYER and the Senate bill sponsor RON WYDEN.

It is an effort to establish a level of fairness in federal income taxation and prevent millionaires and billionaires, and the aspiring trillionaire, Elon Musk, from taking advantage of the tax code to pay what, for them is pocket change. I have not asked him, but it looks like Pope Leo would endorse the Billionaire Income Tax Act. He recently did an interview with a biographer and excerpts were released on Sunday. Speaking of societal polarization, he said it is in part caused by income inequality. One factor, he said, and I'm quoting him, is “the continuously wider gap between the income levels of the working class and the money that the wealthiest receive. For example, CEOs that 60 years ago might have been making four to six times more than what the workers are receiving, the last figure I saw, it's 600 times more than what average workers are receiving. Yesterday the said news that Elon Musk is going to be the first trillionaire in the world. What does that mean and what's that about? If that is the only thing that has value anymore, then we're in big trouble.” I agree with Pope Leo and hope our bill will have a significant effect on what everyone seems to acknowledge is a huge and growing problem.