

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 Kuenning, 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 Kuenning 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.

WELCOMING HIS ALL-HOLINESS,  
ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

### HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 16, 2025*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, it is an extraordinary honor to welcome His All-Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, to Washington, D.C. We are grateful to receive not only the spiritual leader of more than 300 million Orthodox Christians worldwide, but also a man whose life and ministry have embodied courage, compassion, and an unshakable commitment to peace and human dignity.

He was born Demetrios Arhondonis in 1940 on the island of Imvros in Turkey—most inhabitants of Imvros were Greek until the 1960's, when the Turkish government forced them to emigrate. In 1970, the Turkish government officially renamed Imvros to Gökçeada. Thus, Patriarch Bartholomew's journey has been marked from its earliest days by faith and perseverance in the face of religious persecution and nationalistic intolerance. Educated at the Theological School of Halki and later in Rome, Munich, and Switzerland, he distinguished himself in the fields of theology and canon law, becoming a respected scholar even before his ordination. In October 1991, he was elected the 270th Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch, assuming the role of "first among equals" in the ancient Patriarchate founded by the Apostle Andrew.

Since that time, His All-Holiness has been called many things: the "Patriarch of Peace," the "Green Patriarch," and, above all, a bridge builder. For more than three decades, he has labored under extraordinary difficulties. In a region where the Orthodox community has suffered harassment and intimidation by Islamic extremists, he has stood steadfast, not only defending the faithful, but offering reconciliation to their adversaries. He has endured hostility, threats, and attempts to silence his office, yet his response has always been guided by the Christian virtues of forgiveness, humility, and love.

His All-Holiness has taken that witness far beyond the walls of the Patriarchate in Constantinople. He has convened dialogues among Christians, Muslims, and Jews, creating unprecedented opportunities for mutual understanding in the Middle East, one of the world's most divided regions, and beyond. From Libya to Syria, from Egypt to Azerbaijan, he has sought not confrontation, but instead "a dialogue of loving truth."

Mr. Speaker, His All-Holiness is not only a voice of principle, but a leader of action. He presided over the historic Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church in Crete in 2016, granted autocephaly to the Church of Ukraine in 2019, and continues to strengthen unity within the Orthodox world while opening channels of dialogue with the Catholic Church and other Christian traditions. His leadership is defined not by power or coercion, but by example—the examples of service, sacrifice, and fidelity to Christ's command to love our neighbor as ourselves.

As we welcome him, we are mindful that the challenges he faces are immense. Religious

freedom is often denied to Orthodox Christians—and under constraint in many of the lands they have inhabited for centuries. Christians and other minorities in many regions still face persecution.

I thank His All-Holiness for his witness, courage, and example. Washington welcomes him, not only as a guest, but as a brother, a teacher, and a peacemaker. May his visit strengthen the bonds between our peoples, and may his ministry continue to inspire us all to walk humbly, act justly, and love mercifully in the service of God and one another.

### HONORING HALLIE COYNE

### HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 16, 2025*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Hallie Coyne and her service and contributions to Virginia's 1st District and the Nation.

Hallie joined my office in 2022 and quickly became one of the most effective and recognized personal office defense staffers in the House. As my National Security Advisor, Hallie has spearheaded numerous legislative efforts that delivered tangible results to the constituents of my district, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the country. Among her many accomplishments, Hallie spearheaded efforts to bolster the shipbuilding ecosystem in Virginia, strengthen commercial space launch infrastructure, bridge the gap between new defense start-ups and the Pentagon, and was a champion of defense technology and innovation.

Hallie has served as a mentor and leader for my legislative staff and the entire office, sharing her expertise and experience with the rest of my team. Her counsel and guidance have shaped my staff into the most effective and successful team on Capitol Hill.

I would like to thank Hallie for her many contributions and dedicated service over the last three and a half years. She is thorough, a true team player, and a spark in my office that will be dearly missed. Hallie has been an invaluable member of my team, and I wish her the best of luck as she moves on to the next chapter of her professional career.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you in joining me to recognize Hallie Coyne for her service to Virginia's 1st District and the Nation.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 16, 2025*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I missed all the votes in the vote series on September 8, 2025. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 241, final passage of H.R. 3425, the POST Act; and YEA on Roll Call No. 240, final passage of H.R. 3424, the SPACE Act.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE AND  
LEGACY OF KATHY LUKE

### HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 16, 2025*

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Mrs. Kathy Chester Luke of Philadelphia, Mississippi. Mrs. Luke spent most of her life living in Philadelphia with her husband, Bob Luke, and always considered it home. Kathy was a devoted teacher who poured patience, encouragement, and a belief that the children she encountered would help shape a better future for their families and communities into every student who entered the doors of her classroom. The love Kathy showed to her students was a small glimpse into the selfless matriarch her family remembers her to be. Nothing brought Kathy more joy than seeing all her family gathered in one room. She loved to decorate for the holidays, travel with her husband, and play mahjong weekly with her friends.

Kathy's time as an educator impacted countless lives as she served as a selfless pillar of strength to her students and coworkers. Her life and legacy are forever marked with generosity, wisdom, and a deep love for others. I am honored to remember her legacy here today.

### HONORING STABLE RECOVERY

### HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 16, 2025*

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Suicide Prevention Month, I rise to honor Stable Recovery for their work around mental health, suicide, and addiction. Stable Recovery is a small, peer-driven, equine-focused rehabilitation program located in Kentucky. This program was launched on Taylor Made Farm in 2022 by co-founders Frank Taylor and Christian Countzler. Their vision was simple but powerful: to help individuals find strength and healing through the power of the horse, the principles of 12-step recovery, and the dignity of meaningful work.

The School of Horsemanship, created by Frank Taylor and built on decades of horsemanship knowledge, provides a 90-day residential program for education and healing. Residents find structure, discipline, and purpose as they learn equine care, farm work, financial independence and participate in daily therapy, support groups, and 12-step instruction. The goal was to not only allow residents to thrive and learn in recovery but to provide a natural employment pathway to jobs in the equine industry, an industry that needs more skilled talent.

The horse industry has been extraordinarily supportive. In just three short years, Stable Recovery has already seen lives transformed and exceptional growth. They credit their success to evidence based clinical practices, consistency of the program, mentorship, community and the healing power of horses. The men and women that have completed the program have reached milestones of sobriety. Many now live in recovery while working in the