

to place your order, picking up your cutlery and bussing your own table. Personally, I believe it is the quality and care that is put into everything that is served. Claire is meticulous in designing her all-vegetarian menu, always ensuring the freshest of ingredients are used and taking great pride in how it is prepared. While Claire's Corner Copia is known for its incredible selections, its most popular items are the delicious baked goods that are made in-house every day. If you find yourself in downtown New Haven, I highly recommend stopping into Claire's and trying their signature Lithuanian Coffee Cake—it is not to be missed.

I want to extend a special note of congratulations to Claire Criscuolo. The restaurant business is not easy, and her determination, vision, creativity, and entrepreneurial skill have made Claire's Corner Copia an iconic local landmark. Claire is also a dedicated member of our community, supporting a variety of organizations including New Haven Reads, St. Francis and St. Rose of Lima Schools, and Smilow Cancer Hospital. I cannot remember a time when I did not know her, and I consider myself fortunate to call her my friend. I am honored to rise today to extend my very best wishes to her and her staff on this very special occasion. Happy 50th Anniversary.

**HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF FORMER ILLINOIS GOVERNOR  
JIM EDGAR**

**HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2025*

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life and legacy of former Illinois Governor Jim Edgar.

Born in Oklahoma but raised in Charleston, Illinois, Governor Edgar was shaped by the values of family, hard work, and service. The youngest of three boys, raised by his mother Betty, he found his calling early. Elected to class office in the second grade, he never let go of his passion for public service.

From those humble beginnings, he went on to a career that changed Illinois for the better. He first entered public service in 1968 as a top aide to leaders in the Illinois House and Senate, then was elected to the Illinois House, later becoming Secretary of State, and eventually the 38th Governor of Illinois. In every role, he worked not for headlines but for results. He strengthened DUI laws, required mandatory auto insurance, reformed child-care standards, improved Chicago's schools, and restored Illinois's fiscal health—leaving office with a balanced budget and a surplus.

But what stood out most about Governor Edgar was not only the policies he championed, but the way he led. He always put people before politics. He earned trust across party lines and across the state, carrying 101 of 102 counties in his reelection, including Cook County. That trust came not from partisanship, but from his integrity, humility, and a level head in moments of challenge. Even after leaving office, Governor Edgar continued to give back. He devoted himself to mentoring young leaders from both parties, believing that democracy is strongest when we work together with respect and compassion. He lived

by those values every day, and in doing so, set an example for all of us.

Governor Edgar is survived by his beloved wife, Brenda, who was his full partner in public and political life. As First Lady, she championed issues to improve the lives of women and children across Illinois. Together they raised two children, Elizabeth and Brad, and delighted in their grandchildren. His family, like his public service, is a testament to his devotion and love.

Mr. Speaker, Illinois has lost one of its finest statesmen. But his legacy endures, reminding us that honesty, decency, and good government are not old-fashioned ideals; they are timeless ones. I am honored to celebrate his life today, and I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering Governor Jim Edgar's remarkable service and the lasting example he leaves behind.

**CELEBRATING NATIONAL APP  
CHALLENGE DAY**

**HON. KIM SCHRIER**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2025*

Ms. SCHRIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate September 17, 2025, as the second annual National App Challenge Day. This day honors the ingenuity, creativity, and technical skill of middle and high school students nationwide who are building tools that improve their communities and strengthen our country's future.

National App Challenge Day highlights the Congressional App Challenge, a bipartisan, House-sponsored initiative that invites students from every congressional district to learn to code, apply their skills to real-world problems, and share their solutions with their Representatives. What began as a simple invitation to experiment with computer science has grown into a movement that now spans all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the United States territories. Since the first App Challenge was held in 2015, more than 70,000 students have coded over 12,000 unique apps, supported by tens of thousands of educators, mentors, and volunteer judges each year.

The Congressional App Challenge also enjoys overwhelming bipartisan support. In the 118th Congress, 412 Members, representing 95 percent of the House of Representatives, hosted at least one Challenge in their districts. This remarkable level of participation underscores a shared commitment across party lines to empowering America's youth and strengthening the Nation's leadership in STEM education.

Through this Challenge, students gain far more than programming experience. They learn to work in teams, think critically, communicate clearly, and iterate on their ideas. They identify local needs and build apps that address them, from expanding access to educational resources and civic information to supporting public health, safety, and environmental resilience. In classrooms, after-school programs, libraries, youth centers, and homes, the Congressional App Challenge opens doors to opportunity and helps develop the next generation of American innovators.

Today's observance also honors the teachers, mentors, parents, community partners,

and industry volunteers who devote their time and expertise to guiding student creators. Their encouragement ensures that a student's curiosity can become a prototype, that a prototype can become a working product, and that each working product can inspire peers to imagine what is possible with technology.

As we mark National App Challenge Day, let us reaffirm our commitment to hands-on STEM education and to equitable pathways into the innovation economy. Investing in our students' potential strengthens the workforce, supports American competitiveness, and sustains the spirit of problem solving that has long defined our Nation.

I encourage all Members of the House and their constituents to join me in celebrating National App Challenge Day. Let us recognize the remarkable achievements of these young coders and continue supporting initiatives that cultivate creativity, expand opportunity, and empower students to build solutions that serve their neighbors and their Nation.

**CONGRATULATING MS. YURI KIM  
ON HER RETIREMENT**

**HON. JAMES C. MOYLAN**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2025*

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great joy and deep admiration that I congratulate Ms. Yuri Kim on her retirement, after 29 incredible years of service as a U.S. diplomat.

Today is a day of celebration, but also one of reflection. As we look back, we honor not just the impressive milestones in her career, but the impact she has made on the lives of so many through her leadership and guidance in the direction of U.S. foreign policy.

Ms. Kim is a proud daughter of Guam. She began her journey at the Academy of Our Lady, then went on to earn her degree at the University of Pennsylvania, followed by a master's from Cambridge University. Her roots in Guam remained a strong part of her identity throughout a career that took her around the world.

Over nearly three decades, she wore many hats that shaped her vision of the future of our country. She was a champion for energy, defense, technology, and infrastructure. Early on, she showed herself to be a force of nature, leading critical work in the Political Section of the U.S. Embassy in Seoul, heading the DPRK Unit in the Office of Korean Affairs, and serving in key roles across the U.S. embassies in Turkey, Iraq, Japan, and China.

She served as Special Assistant to Secretary Colin Powell and played a central role in the Six-Party Talks aimed at ending North Korea's nuclear weapons program. Her work continued at the highest levels, becoming Chief of Staff to the Deputy Secretary of State and later Director of the Office of European Security and Political-Military Affairs, where she helped shape U.S. policy toward NATO and the OSCE.

In 2019, she was nominated under President Trump to serve as the U.S. Ambassador to Albania, where she continued her service under President Biden. During this time, she deepened our existing partnership by advancing shared interests and encouraging economic growth.

Most recently, she served as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs, helping navigate some of the most complex challenges in today's global landscape.

Through all of this, what stands out most is not just her accomplishments, but her character. Ms. Kim has led with integrity, courage, and heart. She's been a mentor, a role model, and a steadfast public servant who gave her all, every single day.

Her legacy will not only be seen in policy or diplomacy, but in the people she inspired and the bridges she built. She's helped shape the world we live in, and we are all better for it.

We thank and celebrate Ms. Kim, and we wish her nothing but happiness and fulfillment in this next chapter of her life.

# FALLEN SERVICEMEMBERS RELIGIOUS HERITAGE RESTORATION ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. MIKE BOST**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 15, 2025*

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I rise to include in the RECORD the following letter of support for H.R. 2701 from National Commander Scott P. Stevens, CW04, USA, (R).

The Jewish War Veterans of the USA supports H.R. 2701, the Fallen Servicemembers Religious Heritage Restoration Act. JWV appreciates the leadership of Rep. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (D-FL) and Rep. MAX MILLER (R-OH) for their bipartisan introduction, as well as the support of the House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Disability and Memorial Affairs and the Full Committee in moving this critical legislation to the House floor. JWV urges swift passage of H.R. 2701 to start the process of properly marking graves and honoring these brave Jewish American servicemembers.

The Fallen Servicemembers Religious Heritage Restoration Act requires the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) to create a program to identify Jewish servicemembers buried with grave markers that do not reflect their faith and to connect with their descendants. This vital effort will correct the historical record and ensure our fallen heroes are remembered as they lived and served.

JWV understands that approximately 900 American-Jewish servicemembers who lost their lives during World War I and World War II and were buried in U.S. military cemeteries overseas (ABMC) were mistakenly interred under markers that do not represent their religion or heritage. JWV recognizes that most of these errors are unintentional; however, these mistakes hide the identity and legacy of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. American-Jewish servicemembers served with honor and bravery, playing a crucial role in winning the Allied victory. They deserve to be remembered with dignity and accuracy.

The United States has a solemn duty to ensure every fallen servicemember is honored correctly. Enacting H.R. 2701 helps ensure that the Star of David marks the Jewish graves of servicemembers, currently marked in error.

RECOGNIZING NAVIN KC, LUNA SHRESTHA, AND NABARAJ KC

**HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2025*

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and include in the RECORD, three prominent community members in the Nepali American community who have contributed to cultivating arts, culture, and business around the country.

NAVIN KC

For more than twenty-five years, Navin KC has been a tireless force in the world of dance and choreography, introducing Nepali language, art, and culture to audiences both nationally and internationally. As the Founder and Director of KC Dance Center in Virginia, he has provided countless students, particularly second-generation children, with dance training that emphasizes not only technique but also cultural heritage and language. His choreography has been featured in films, theater productions, and music videos, while his students have performed across the United States in places such as Hollywood, New York, Texas, and Colorado. Since 2017, through his annual production, "Kollywood Night," Navin has created a powerful platform where emerging talent and celebrated artists come together to celebrate the richness of Nepali culture on stage.

LUNA SHRESTHA

With more than two decades of dedication to art, culture, and language, Luna Shrestha has made a profound impact as a performer, choreographer, and instructor. As Co-Founder and Director of KC Dance Center, she has trained students across Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, D.C. in dance, yoga, aerobics, and Nepali-inspired fitness programs. Luna's work is driven by her passion for preserving and sharing Nepali traditions in America and giving young performers the opportunity to showcase their skills on stages nationwide. She plays a key role in the production of the annual "Kollywood Night" show for new trainees and established artists.

NABARAJ KC

A community leader, humanitarian, and advocate, Nabaraj KC has earned recognition on local and national levels. As President of the College Point Civic and Taxpayers Association and the Dil Kumari KC Memorial Foundation, he has led initiatives that raised more than \$3 million worth of food, personal protective equipment, and other important resources to communities in need during the COVID-19 pandemic. His service has earned him several honors, including the REALTOR Spirit Award in 2022, Community Service Award in 2023, and COVID-19 Hero Award. He has also been named among Schneps Media's Queens Power List and Kings of New York. A proud New Yorker and son of Nepali immigrants, Nabaraj KC combines his professional and educational background with a dedication to community service.

WELCOMING HIS ALL-HOLINESS ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

**HON. NEAL P. DUNN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2025*

Mr. DUNN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome his All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to the United States this week. My colleagues and I are honored to host him here in the House of Representatives and I know my Greek-Orthodox constituents are excited to have him visit our Nation's Capital. His All-Holiness is a champion of religious liberty, engaging in dialogues with leaders of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Moreover, he leads a congregation of 300 million church members worldwide and is the longest-serving Patriarch in the two-millennia history of the Church. We are blessed to have him here in Washington, D.C. this week.

HONORING DENICE HARLAN ON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE GIDDINGS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2025*

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to honor one of my dear friends, Denice Harlan, as she retires from her role as President/CEO of the Giddings Chamber of Commerce.

Denice moved to Giddings, Texas, in 1983 with her beloved husband, Wade. She opened Harlan's Restaurant in 1987 to provide delicious homestyle cooking. Her passion for service led her to join the Giddings Chamber of Commerce and serve as Chamber Director. In addition, Denice has also served on the New Horizons Lions' Club, Lee County Fair Association, and Rotary Club. She was most recently recognized with the Giddings Lifetime Achievement Award.

I want to thank Denice for the devotion she has demonstrated and her commitment to serving the constituents of Lee County. I am grateful for her leadership, and I send my best wishes to Denice as she begins this new chapter in life.

As a member of the United States House of Representatives, I am honored to join her family and friends in congratulating Denice Harlan on this momentous occasion.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF EMMA WEIR

**HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2025*

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Emma Weir for her outstanding service as Communications Director and Senior Advisor for the New Democrat Coalition over the past four years.

As former chairwoman of the New Democrat Coalition, I had the privilege of working closely