

with Emma. She brought strategic insight, professionalism, and a deep commitment to public service that strengthened our message, expanded our reach, and supported every member of the Coalition. During some of the most pivotal debates during the Democratic majority, Emma's creativity and instinct were instrumental in advancing New Dem priorities that helped improve the lives of Americans across the country. Her work has left a lasting impact on the New Dems and the values we fight for.

While we will miss her leadership, I am excited to see Emma take on a new role with Chairman PETE AGUILAR and the House Democratic Caucus. I know she will continue to serve with the same skill and dedication that made her so effective with the New Dems.

I thank Emma for her service, and I wish her the very best in this next chapter.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. ADDISON P. McDOWELL

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2025*

Mr. McDOWELL. Mr. Speaker, on September 16, 2025, I regrettably missed a portion of the evening vote series. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 270.

#### HONORING THE VIETNAM AND KOREAN WAR VETERANS OF ILLINOIS

#### HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2025*

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Vietnam and Korean War veterans who traveled to Washington, D.C. on September 17, 2025, with Honor Flight Chicago, a program that provides WWII, Vietnam, and Korean War veterans the opportunity to visit their memorials on The National Mall in Washington, D.C. These memorials were built to honor their courage and service to their country.

The American Veteran is one of our greatest treasures. The Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen who traveled here on September 17, 2025, answered our Nation's call to service during one of its greatest times of need. From the Pacific Asian Theatre to the Korean Theater, these brave Americans risked life and limb, gave service, and sacrificed much, all while embodying what it is to be a hero. We owe them more gratitude than can ever be expressed.

I welcome these brave veterans to Washington and to their memorials. I am proud to include in the RECORD the names of these men and women for all to see, hear, and recognize, and I call on my colleagues to rise and join me in expressing gratitude.

James B. Ayres, John H. Ball, Richard Banko, James T. Bator, Paul E. Bauer, Dallas Beecher, Jody R. Bennett, Larry G. Bird, Harvester Bond, Eddie. Jr. Brown, Manuel Castillo, Gilbert A. Cipriano, James Cole, Carl Conti, Gregory S. Craig, Thomas M.

Curran, William Davis, Jr., Eddie B. Davis, John E. Debnar, Thomas E. Duffy, Dwight C. Dwomik, John Engeriser, Kevin Fitch, Rodney E. Franklin, Jay R. Fredrikson, Walter L. Fullilove, John Green, Donald M. Gregory, Jr., Gregory Gremba, Frank F. Gudausky, William E. Haines, Micheal Heavrin, William A. Herod, Kevin M. Holly, Leigh Holzwart, Edward R. Howe, Joseph F. Inserro, Donald L. Iwanski, Robert D. Jarman, Robert A. Johnson, David B. Jones, William E. Kaczmariski, George Kartsounes, Robert A. Kosmicki, Melvyn J. Kovacic, Edward R. Koziorowski, Warren J. Kutlik, Francis J. Kwasny, Gordon D. Lauer, Cedric C. Lewis, Michael Liacone, William J. Lopina, John A. Mamak, Archangel Mastrangelo, Ernest R. McGee, James R. Mendenhall, Gerald E. Mertes, Jr., Arthur A. Moeller, Leslie J. Montag, Michael G. Moorehead, Raymond J. Morris, Darrell L. Morrison, Raymond D. Mucciante, Thomas Muth, William Muth, Emery E. Myers, Larry M. Narum, Harold Noftz, Arnold S. Oskin, John G. Pappas, Terrance W. Parr, Michael L. Passman, Dennis M. Perz, Joseph J. Pilch, Domenico Pinto, James T. Pioth, Warren Powell, Richard J. Provost, Robert T. Przybylinski, David E. Quigley, William J. Quinn, Jr., Peter A. Regnier, Scott R. Ripper, John Rohlfing, Robert J. Rucinski, Edward A. Sarnecki, Thomas L. Sbertoli, Michael R. Scott, Robert Shrulek, Leon E. Smith, Robert S. Smith, Robert Spencer, John Z. Stajcic, Michael G. Stalzer, Boykin L. Stewart, Jr., John S. Strama, Matthew J. Strama, Robert Strickland, Howard Strickler, John J. Tengeltisch, Anthony J. Thomas, Terrence J. Thompson, Sr., William A. Trader, Frank C. Trout, Douglass M. Vines, Leonard Vinyard, John A. Weiler, Paul Wiltjer, Robert M. Witt, Walter Yanta, David Yost, John Zaragoza, Thomas Zasadil, and Raymond F. Zipko.

#### RECOGNIZING THE GREATER HERNANDO COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

#### HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2025*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the Greater Hernando County Chamber of Commerce on the occasion of its 100th anniversary—a remarkable milestone that reflects a century of steadfast service, economic leadership, and community commitment. Chambers of commerce are foundational institutions within our communities. They promote economic vitality, advocate for local businesses, and offer critical resources such as training, marketing, and networking. The Greater Hernando County Chamber of Commerce embodies these principles and has served as a vital engine of prosperity for generations.

The Chamber traces its origins to 1925, when local leaders first organized a community chamber under the guidance of Frederick Williamson, its inaugural president. Despite the challenges of the Great Depression, the Chamber persevered and experienced a revival in 1938, led by visionary banker Alfred McKethan—a pivotal figure in Hernando County's economic history. As the county grew rapidly in the latter half of the 20th century, particularly with the development of new communities like Spring Hill, the business landscape became increasingly diverse and fragmented.

In a decisive moment of unity and forward-thinking, leaders Morris Porton, Steve Emerson, and Vince Vanni worked to consolidate the business community. Their efforts culminated in the formal establishment of the Greater Hernando County Chamber of Commerce on December 22, 1992.

Over the past 100 years, the Chamber has evolved and expanded to meet the changing needs of Hernando County's business community. Guided by its Pillars of Success—Advocacy, Marketing, Networking, and Training—the Chamber has become the largest and oldest business organization in Hernando County. Its influence has been recognized across the region, including by the Tampa Bay Business Journal, which named it one of the largest chambers in the Tampa Bay area. The Chamber represents a broad and diverse membership spanning vital sectors such as professional services, construction and trades, real estate, healthcare, finance, education, retail, hospitality, transportation, manufacturing, and nonprofit organizations. It also leads impactful programs, including Leadership Hernando, a premier leadership development initiative that has graduated over 525 community leaders since its inception in 1992. The Chamber's enduring commitment to economic development, collaboration, and community enrichment has played an essential role in shaping Hernando County into the thriving place it is today.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Greater Hernando County Chamber of Commerce on its centennial anniversary. May its legacy of service continue to strengthen our communities for generations to come.

#### CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL REDEDICATION OF DENVER EAST HIGH SCHOOL

#### HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2025*

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Denver East High School—an institution that has been at the heart of my district for a century and a half—as it celebrates the centennial rededication of its historic building.

East High opened its doors 150 years ago in 1875 as Denver's first high school, setting a foundation of excellence that continues to this day. The current building, designed by George H. Williamson, a proud member of East's Class of 1893, was completed in 1925.

Its iconic 162-foot clock tower, modeled after Independence Hall in Philadelphia, has stood as an iconic beacon. In 1991, the building was recognized as an official Denver Historic Landmark.

Over the past 150 years, East High has shaped leaders, artists, athletes, and innovators. From First Lady Mamie Eisenhower, to Rock and Roll Hall of Famers Philip Bailey and Larry Dunn of Earth, Wind & Fire, to aerospace leader Norman Augustine, to head coach of the Detroit Pistons J. B. Bickerstaff, East alumni have left an indelible mark on our city, our country, and our world.

Equally impressive is East's storied athletic tradition, with the Angels earning 99 state championships, the third most of any high school in Colorado. Generations of students

have worn the red and white with pride, carrying forward the spirit of teamwork and perseverance.

More than its achievements, East High has always been about community. This rededication brings together alumni, students, teachers, and neighbors to honor its history, connect across generations, and create new memories for the future.

As a lifelong Coloradan and graduate of the Denver Public School system, I am proud to recognize East High School for 150 years of excellence in education and for the centennial rededication of its landmark building.

WELCOMING HIS ALL-HOLINESS  
ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2025*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and welcome the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, His All-Holiness Bartholomew, to Washington, DC. The spiritual leader of the Orthodox Christian Church, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew comes to the United States to accept the Templeton Prize, which recognizes an individual who has "made an exceptional contribution to affirming life's spiritual dimension, whether through insight, discovery, or practical works."

Born in current day Gökçeada, Turkey, His All-Holiness received his undergraduate degree at the Theological School of Halki and completed graduate studies at three universities in Italy, Switzerland, and Germany. He was elected in October 1991 as the 270th Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome, a Church of 300 million individuals worldwide, including many of my constituents in New Jersey's 8th Congressional District. He has devoted his life to advocating for peace-building measures, organizing interfaith summits, and promoting religious freedom and human rights.

It is a privilege to welcome such a leading figure to the Nation's Capital and recognize his significant contributions to peace, interreligious dialogue, and cultural understanding.

I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating this historic visit.

HONORING THE LIFE AND MEM-  
ORY OF CHAD ALLAN BLOMGREN

**HON. KEVIN MULLIN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2025*

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chad Allan Blomgren, who passed on July 9, 2025, at the age of 56. Mr. Blomgren was a distinguished U.S. Army veteran, a Senior Director at Gilead Sciences, and a tireless advocate for veterans through his volunteer work with Dream Foundation.

Chad's life was a powerful reflection of his family's legacy of service to his country, his community, and his fellow veterans. Raised in the Hills-Beaver Creek community of Minnesota, he excelled in high school both academically and athletically. These formative

years helped shape the competitive spirit that remained central to who he was. After graduation, Chad enlisted in the Minnesota Army National Guard. Shortly thereafter, he met the love of his life, Debbie, and they married in 1990. He went on to earn his degree from Mankato State University the following year.

Chad honorably served in the U.S. Army, joining a long family tradition of service that includes his father, three brothers, niece, son, and dozens of relatives. After his military service, he embarked on a successful professional career spanning over a decade at Gilead Sciences as Senior Director of Managed Markets. For the past five years, he co-led the Gilead Veterans Engagement Team (GVET), supporting more than 500 employees aligned around the mantra, "Serving Those Who've Served."

In June 2023, Chad was appointed to the Board of Directors of Dream Foundation, the only national organization dedicated to granting final wishes to terminally ill adults. He served on its Dreams for Veterans Advisory Council since its inception in 2021 and actively participated in fulfilling dreams for veterans, visiting at least four recipients in person to deliver those special moments of hope and closure. As he shared, "Providing a positive impact for those in the final stages of their lives means everything to me." It was a cause he embraced both personally and professionally, bringing compassion, leadership, and a fighter's perspective to the foundation's mission.

Chad's life embodies the highest ideals of leadership and service. Whether in uniform, guiding colleagues in industry, or comforting veterans through Dream Foundation, he lived a life of purpose and generosity. His family and colleagues remember him as fun, smart, full of laughter, and always ready with a helping hand.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of a selfless and honorable man, Chad Blomgren. His dedication to his family, his career, his Nation, and his fellow veterans inspires us all.

WELCOMING ECUMENICAL PATRI-  
ARCH BARTHOLOMEW TO AMER-  
ICA

**HON. JEFF CRANK**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2025*

Mr. CRANK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the Spiritual Head of the second largest Christian church in the world who is visiting our Nation's Capital this week. Back home in Colorado's 5th Congressional District, Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church is the home for many of my constituents of the Greek Orthodox faith. I welcome the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, wish him well during his time in America, and thank him for his leadership for the Orthodox Christian faith around the world, numbering 300 million.

HONORING CARL JOHN McMANUS  
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RE-  
TIREMENT

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2025*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have this opportunity to join the many family, friends, and community members who will gather this evening in extending my heartfelt congratulations to New Haven legend, Carl John McManus, as he marks his retirement from Phil's Barber Shop, ending his sixty-year career as a barber.

Carl began his career as a barber in his hometown of Hopkinton, Massachusetts, the path to his calling, and a unique story. While working at a local grocery store, Carl befriended the butcher who liked to play the horses at Suffolk Downs. Carl used to take his choices to the local bookmaker, you guessed it, the town barber. He found himself drawn to the friendly atmosphere and what he has described as the "kibitzing" between the barber and his customers. He soon found himself a student at the Massachusetts School of Barbering in Boston, the first stepping stone of what would become an illustrious career path.

Following his parents and siblings, Carl moved to New Haven and soon found himself a home at Phil's Barber Shop. Over the course of his sixty-year career, he has met a multitude of people, from the Presidents of Yale University to future Presidents of the United States, and famous actors to local theater favorites. But the most important connection he made was that to an older barber in town who worked at the Graduate Club. Carl had noticed a photo of the barber's daughter and when he expressed an interest in meeting her, the barber arranged a date, despite her slight hesitation. In the end, Carl and the barber's daughter, Ethel, were married for nearly fifty years before her passing just two years ago.

Carl did not just give a shave and a haircut; he helped people to find themselves. Today, as he celebrates his retirement, Carl can be proud of the legacy he leaves. When you sat in his chair, you became more than a client, you became a friend. And while he will most certainly be missed by many, I am honored to join his daughter, Rose and granddaughter, Autumn, as well as all of those who will gather this evening in wishing him the very best as he begins this new life chapter. I congratulate him on his retirement.

CONGRATULATING MEXICO ON ITS  
215TH INDEPENDENCE DAY

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2025*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for the opportunity to recognize September 16, 2025, as Mexico's 215th Independence Day.

Mexico has served as an invaluable diplomatic, trade, and cultural partner with the United States for two hundred years, reflecting the close relationship that make this alliance invaluable to both countries.