

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 PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW TO AMERICA

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 RETIREMENT

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.

In 2024, Mexico was the second-largest destination for U.S. exports and the top source of U.S. imports. Total U.S. goods and services trade with Mexico, in 2024, totaled over \$935 billion.

I am particularly grateful of the trade ties between South Carolina and Mexico. In 2024, the Palmetto State exported over three and a one-half billion dollars of rubber and plastic products, electrical equipment and components, iron and steel, and other items to our southern partner, while importing more than five and one half billion dollars in motor vehicle and aerospace parts, and other goods.

This integration highlights the deeply connected partnership between Mexico and South Carolina.

I applaud the deep commitment of President Donald Trump and Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum to cooperate and collaborate in stopping illegal aliens crossing our Southern

Border, including the murderous threats posed by drug traffickers with human trafficking. This underscores the promise by President Trump to protect American lives.

This day is also special to me because I have a dedicated member of my staff, Daniel Ramirez, who is first generation Mexican-American.

I am appreciative that the United States and Mexico are partners—and neighbors—and wish the people of Mexico a Happy 215th Independence Day.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint commit-

tees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, September 18, 2025 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.