

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE PASSING OF RICHARD
ARD "DICK" ERVIN
MESSBARGER

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2025

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to speak on the passing of Richard "Dick" Ervin Messbarger. Mr. Messbarger was an exemplary Texan and a pillar of the Kingsville community.

Mr. Messbarger received his bachelor's degree in English Language and Literature from St. Mary's University and master's degree from Texas A&I University, now Texas A&M University Kingsville. His commitment to improving his community will always be remembered.

As a proud Navy veteran and the 38th recipient of the Naval Aviation Honorary Wings of Gold, Mr. Messbarger was the founder and key member of the Naval Air Station (NAS) Kingsville Task Force. His devotion to NAS Kingsville helped alleviate many of the concerns that made the base vulnerable to possible closure and ensure that this vital economic engine for Kingsville remained intact. His exemplary efforts have ensured that our military community in Kingsville is up to the highest standards of excellence.

Mr. Messbarger was also the former president of the Kingsville Chapter of the Navy League, the former Navy League National Director and, the Executive Director of the Greater Kingsville Economic Development Council (EDC) for 32 years. Mr. Messbarger was a proud recipient of the Sam Walton Business Leader Award. His exemplary work was further recognized when he received the Kingsville Citizen of the Year award in 2008. In 2013, he was the recipient of the Otis West Lifetime Service Award by the Kingsville Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful South Texas, I wish to honor the life of Mr. Richard "Dick" Ervin Messbarger.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OSCAR G. JOHNSON VA MEDICAL CENTER

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2025

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center for 75 years of service to Veterans across the Upper Peninsula.

Since first opening its doors in 1950 to provide care for returning World War II Veterans, the Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center has

stood as a pillar of support to those who have worn the uniform of our Nation. At that time, it was the largest construction project ever undertaken in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, opening with an inpatient capacity of 264 beds. Over the past 75 years, it has grown and adapted to meet the changing needs of our Veterans. Today it proudly serves nearly 22,000 Veterans across the 15 counties of the Upper Peninsula, the most rural patient base in the entire VA system.

The Medical Center's reach and impact are made possible by a dedicated team of more than 830 fulltime employees and 250 volunteers, 125 of which are drivers who transport patients to the facility from around the region. It offers a variety of services to former service members including a community living center, a chapel, primary and urgent care, surgery, specialty care, dental, audiology, and plans to have a permanent MRI by 2026.

Mr. Speaker, let us all join in recognizing the Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center on celebrating their 75th Anniversary. I express my deep gratitude for its enduring commitment to the Veterans of the Upper Peninsula.

CELEBRATING THE INDUCTION OF
DAVE POULIN INTO THE MAINE
BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME

HON. JARED F. GOLDEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2025

Mr. GOLDEN of Maine. Mr. Speaker, in small-town gyms across Maine, winter evenings are marked by two familiar things: the sound of sneakers on hardwood and the voice of a coach emphasizing the fundamentals. For twenty-two years in Winthrop, Maine that voice belonged to Coach Dave Poulin.

A local celebrity in his own right, Coach Poulin taught generations of young men the value of working hard, and working together, to bring out the best in one another—on and off the court. In addition to coaching hundreds, he also taught social studies to thousands at Winthrop High School from 1973 to 2019. Coach Poulin's induction into the Maine Basketball Hall of Fame is a testament to that public service.

On the court, Coach Poulin's teams were reliable in a way that is rare in high school sports: twenty-one tourney runs in twenty-two seasons and multiple state titles to show for it. That record speaks to skill, but it speaks even more to what Coach Poulin inspired in his athletes—a sense of responsibility to one another, to their community, and ultimately to something greater than themselves.

That's why I know this is as much an honor for Coach Poulin as it is for the community of Winthrop. His former players, students, and colleagues are a credit to him—and it is my hope that they have been able to celebrate this great achievement alongside Coach Poulin.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring public servant, leader, and Maine's newest Hall of Famer, Coach Dave Poulin.

DC CRIMINAL REFORMS TO IMMEDIATELY MAKE EVERYONE SAFE ACT

HON. JONATHAN L. JACKSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in staunch opposition to H.R. 4922, the D.C. CRIMES Act. This is not a serious legislative effort to enhance public safety; it is a blatant political maneuver to override the local authority of Washington, D.C., and restrict judges' ability to make individualized sentencing decisions for young adults. It is a bill that uses the nearly 700,000 residents of D.C., who pay more federal taxes per capita than any state, as political pawns.

This bill is a direct assault on the District's local sovereignty. It would fundamentally alter D.C.'s criminal justice system by reducing the eligibility age for the Youth Rehabilitation Act (YRA) from 24 to 18. It seeks to eliminate judicial discretion to impose sentences below mandatory minimums, and would restrict vital alternatives like probation, community service, and the ability to seal the records of young adult offenders. This proposal is particularly egregious because it undermines a program that works. The YRA, which provides a path for rehabilitation, has been shown to reduce recidivism, thereby supporting public safety. Individuals who have convictions set aside under the YRA are significantly less likely to reoffend. Instead of celebrating this success, H.R. 4922 would dismantle it.

Let us be clear about the hypocrisy of this measure. House Republicans from 34 states, including Louisiana, Missouri, Ohio, Alabama, and North Carolina, voted to reduce the eligible age to 18 here in D.C., even though the age in their own home states is 20 or higher. Supporters of this bill are targeting a program in D.C. that is similar to laws that exist in their own states. In perhaps the most glaring example of this double standard, representatives from Utah voted to lower the age here while their own state sets the age at 25, a full year older than D.C.'s current law. In those states, such programs are deemed effective, but here, in the Nation's capital, they are being singled out for elimination. This double standard exposes this bill for what it is: an act of political punishment, not a genuine reform.

Real solutions to crime do not come from a "Super City Council" in Congress. They come from empowering local communities and trusting judges to make thoughtful, individualized decisions. I urge my colleagues to stand with the residents of D.C. and against this discriminatory and hypocritical bill. Vote No on H.R. 4922.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF KEN
MOORE**HON. TIM WALBERG**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2025

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, it is my special privilege to recognize Ken Moore of Monroe as the Veteran of the Month for September and honor him for his dedicated service to our great Nation.

Ken Moore served with distinction as a member of the Air Force during the Vietnam War and was honorably discharged in 1967. For his heroic contributions, he was awarded the Expert Marksmanship Badge, the Vietnam Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Upon returning home from Vietnam, Ken served for 25 years as a member of the Monroe Police Force, initially as an officer and later as a detective, ensuring the safety of our communities.

Ken has remained actively involved in the veteran community. He has made significant contributions to the VFW and American Legion, and he is a devoted member of AMVETS Monroe.

Notably, Ken also co-founded Flag O'er Veterans with Sam Struth after he observed several cemeteries in the community did not have American flags honoring veterans. The initiative pays tribute to deceased veterans in the Monroe community by raising funds and installing flagpoles with an American flag, lights, and memorial plaques in local cemeteries where veterans are laid to rest.

Ken Moore's remarkable life of service and his leadership working on behalf of America's veterans inspire us all. May others know of my high regard for Ken, as well as my deep gratitude for his lasting contributions to the country we love.

RECOGNIZING THE VISIT OF ECU-
MENICAL PATRIARCH BAR-
THOLOMEW**HON. LaMONICA McIVER**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2025

Mrs. McIVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend a warm welcome to His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, an esteemed leader of the Eastern Orthodox Church, upon his visit to the United States.

For more than three decades, Patriarch Bartholomew has stood as a moral voice in times of global challenge. When Europe faced the refugee crisis, he joined hands with Pope Francis to affirm the dignity and humanity of those fleeing Syria, Africa, and beyond in search of safety and a better life. In an increasingly divided world, he has worked tirelessly to build bridges—fostering interfaith dialogue among Christians, Jews, Muslims, and people of all faith traditions. As the global climate crisis deepens, he has reminded us that creation itself is a sacred trust, urging us to honor and protect the natural world with which God has blessed us. For this leadership, he is being awarded the prestigious Templeton Prize during his visit.

Patriarch Bartholomew's spiritual guidance has inspired Orthodox Christians across the globe. In my own district, he has been a shepherd to the congregation of St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Union, New Jersey. Under his leadership, the St. Demetrios community has flourished as an example of faith in action—welcoming neighbors from every walk of life to their Annual Greek Cultural Festival and offering vital community services year-round.

It is therefore my great honor to join my constituents and colleagues in welcoming His All-Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, to our Nation. We are confident that his visit will be both meaningful and successful.

ISSUES WITH H. RES. 713, CENSURE
OF REP. OMAR**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2025

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I strongly object to this censure resolution which does not include a single quote from Representative ILHAN OMAR (MN-05) and seeks to punish her for comments she never made. After the unconscionable act of gun violence that took the life of Charlie Kirk, Representative OMAR clearly and immediately condemned this assassination. She expressed her profound shock, sadness, grief about this despicable act of political violence. She expressed sympathy and empathy for Mr. Kirk's wife and young daughters who are enduring unimaginable pain and sorrow.

Sadly, Republicans are misleading Americans and deliberately using this resolution to further divide Democrats and Republicans at a time when all Americans need to come together to condemn acts of political violence, which are becoming all too commonplace in our Nation.

Censure is a serious tool that should be reserved for holding Members of Congress accountable for unethical or criminal behavior, like committing assault or accepting bribes, or for specific categories of speech that are not protected by the First Amendment, including direct threats against individuals, inciting treason or insurrection, or the use of aggressively insulting "fighting words" against another Member on the House Floor.

Mr. Speaker, I voted against this censure and will continue to defend our right to free speech to represent our constituents and voice our conscience as Representatives in this great democracy.

HONORING FOX LAKE, ILLINOIS
MAYOR DONNY SCHMIT ON HIS
INDUCTION INTO THE GRANT
COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL HALL
OF FAME**HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2025

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my dear friend, and Fox Lake, Illi-

nois's 23rd Mayor, Donny Schmit, a public servant, community leader, and proud alumnus of Grant Community High School. I am proud to recognize Mayor Schmit for his decades of dedicated service to the people of Fox Lake and his lifelong commitment to civic and community engagement. And I am proud that Donny's service is now forever recognized with his induction this year into the Grant Community High School Hall of Fame.

The Grant Community High School Hall of Fame honors alumni who have achieved distinction, outstanding accomplishment, or significant contribution in their professions, their communities, their schools, their families, or their personal lives. Inductees are chosen as role models for students and as examples of the excellence the school seeks to inspire. Donny's life and career undoubtedly reflect these very ideals.

Donny graduated from Grant in 1971, where he lettered in both football and wrestling. Following high school, he embarked on a successful career in the trades, but his true calling has been in service to his hometown community. Over the years, he has served as a Village Trustee, Planning Commission Board member, and is currently in his fourth consecutive term as Mayor of Fox Lake. In this role, Donny has been a steadfast supporter of Grant High School, regularly attending events, welcoming student interns to the Village, incorporating student voices into municipal planning, and honoring students and coaches.

His service extends well beyond his mayoral responsibilities. Donny dedicated more than 25 years as a volunteer with the Fox Lake Fire Department, coached young athletes with the Lakeland Cardinals, and helped lead programs with the Lions Club, including as an instructor for the blind bowling league. In addition, he has been an active member of his church, where he received the Christi Fidelis Award from Cardinal Francis George for his exceptional volunteer work.

Through his leadership, Donny has guided significant improvements to the Village of Fox Lake and has been a tireless advocate for his community. He embodies the values of service, leadership, and integrity and serves as a role model for students and citizens alike.

As part of his Hall of Fame induction, Donny will be celebrated during a series of homecoming events—including a reception, pep assembly, the varsity football game, and the homecoming parade—giving the community and students alike the opportunity to honor his achievements.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mayor Donny Schmit for his extraordinary service to Fox Lake, his devotion to Grant Community High School, and his well-deserved induction into the Grant Community High School Hall of Fame. His contributions will have a lasting impact, and his example will continue to inspire future generations.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2025

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I was present for the vote but my voting card did not record. I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 276.