

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 ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

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 Christy 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.

HONORING ECUMENICAL
PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

HON. JOHN JAMES

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2025

Mr. JAMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the spiritual head of the Orthodox Christian Church, the second largest Christian church in the world. This week, His All-Holiness is visiting the White House and members of Congress, and I am proud to join in recognizing his leadership.

Patriarch Bartholomew has been a tireless voice for peace, religious freedom, and human dignity around the globe. He is also a recipient of the prestigious Templeton Prize, joining the ranks of Mother Teresa, the Dalai Lama, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, individuals who have dedicated their lives to advancing humanity's purpose and moral compass.

Michigan, and especially Macomb County, is blessed with a vibrant Greek-American community. More than 7,200 residents in Macomb trace their heritage to Greece, with Sterling Heights home to the largest concentration. Within Macomb County alone, nearly 4,500 Greek Orthodox faithful gather in worship and service. Parishes like St. John Greek Orthodox Church and Assumption Greek Orthodox Church are not just places of faith, they are pillars of community life, strengthening families, serving neighbors, and preserving treasured traditions.

On behalf of Michigan's 10th District, I extend my gratitude and pride to His All-Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew for his spiritual leadership and his enduring contributions to people of faith in Michigan, across America, and around the world.

HONORING THE LIFE OF VERNON
M. KRAWCZYK

HON. TONY WIED

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2025

Mr. WIED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Vernon Krawczyk, a devoted veteran, business owner, educator, and longtime resident of the Green Bay community.

Born on December 23, 1933, in Green Bay, Wisconsin, to Zeno and Isabelle Krawczyk, Vern exemplified service and commitment throughout his life. A proud graduate of Central Catholic High School in 1952, he attended St. Norbert College before enlisting in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1954, serving honorably until 1957. He completed his degree at St. Norbert College in 1959 and married Judy Selissen on November 27, 1959, building a life rooted in family and community.

Vern and Judy operated the Skytop Supper Club from 1972 until their retirement in 2005, creating a cherished gathering place for the community. Vern's dedication to Green Bay was remarkable as he served as an adjunct instructor at NWTTC for over 15 years, teaching business, marketing, and responsible beverage service. His leadership extended to roles as president of the Brown County Tavern

League for over 20 years, former chair of the Brown County Republican Party, and member of the St. Vincent Hospital Advisory Council, the Bellevue Optimist Club, and the NEW Zoological Society's Tech Advisory Commission. He also served on the City of Green Bay's Protection and Welfare Committee and chaired fundraising for the Shy Ranch for Boys, further reflecting his commitment to education and youth. In his spare time, Vern enjoyed gardening, cooking, fishing, and deer camp, always with a focus on conservation. Through and beyond his hobbies, he touched countless lives with his warmth, generosity, and tireless work ethic.

Vern is survived by his wife, Judy, their three children, Patty, Steve, and John; eight grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

Mr. Speaker, Vern Krawczyk's life was a testament to service, family, and community. His contributions have left an enduring impact on Green Bay, and his memory will continue to inspire us. I offer my deepest condolences to his loving wife Judy, family, friends, and the Green Bay community.

RECOGNIZING AND WELCOMING
HIS ALL-HOLINESS ECUMENICAL
PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW TO
WASHINGTON, D.C.

HON. SUSIE LEE

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2025

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to Washington, D.C. He will be in our Nation's Capital this week after visiting New York City, where he will receive the distinguished Templeton Prize. The Templeton Prize was previously received by Mother Teresa, the Dalai Lama, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, among others.

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is a world-leading advocate for interfaith dialogue and peace. As Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople for nearly 35 years, the Patriarch has taken on the most difficult issues facing the world, whether it's building bridges between East and West, protecting our environment, or fostering dialogue between religious faiths.

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is also an international environmental leader and has earned the title "Green Patriarch." He consistently used his role to bring people of different faiths together to discuss how they could be good stewards of the Earth, and he made caring for the environment a central commitment in his role as spiritual leader. In 1997, the Patriarch even received the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest honor awarded by this body.

On behalf of the vibrant Greek Orthodox community in Southern Nevada, I extend my deepest respects to His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in welcoming him to our Nation's Capital.

RECOGNIZING MR. DAVID WIL-
LIAMS FOR RECEIVING THE
BEST COMMUNITY BANKING
AWARD FOR 2025

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2025

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize my friend, Mr. David Williams, for being awarded the Best Community Banking Award for 2025 by the Community Bankers of Michigan. This prestigious and well-deserved distinction reflects his dedication to Michigan's banking industry and his tireless contributions to communities throughout Michigan's 1st Congressional District.

Mr. Williams' long and distinguished career in banking began at a small community bank in Houghton, before spending 25 years working for larger financial institutions in Ohio and lower Michigan. Throughout those years, he remained committed to a personal goal: returning to the Upper Peninsula to manage and grow a community bank.

For the past 25 years, Mr. Williams has led Upper Peninsula State Bank with steadfast commitment to both customer service and community engagement. His passion for serving his community extends beyond his day-to-day work, as reflected in his advocacy for the industry at both the state and federal levels. In addition to his role as President and CEO, he serves as a Michigan Federal Delegate for the Independent Community Bankers of America and is a long-time member of FIS's Strategic Planning Advisory Council.

Mr. Speaker, let us join in recognizing Mr. David Williams for receiving the distinguished Best Community Banking Award for 2025. I thank him for his enduring commitment to Michigan's 1st Congressional District and his invaluable contributions to our great Nation.

CELEBRATING THE 80TH
BIRTHDAY OF JOSEPH ELDRIDGE

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2025

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the lifelong contributions of Reverend Joseph Eldridge, who celebrated his 80th birthday earlier this year. I have had the honor of knowing Joe for his selfless devotion to the causes of human rights and social justice over many decades, particularly with respect to Central and South America. Joe has been called a "servant-leader", which I think is a perfect way of describing the way he has offered his knowledge, his integrity, his hard work and his faith to lift up the poor, the sick and the oppressed, often at great risk to his own safety and security.

Throughout his life, Joe Eldridge has demonstrated his love of humanity and his respect for every person's dignity. He listened deeply and given wholeheartedly. From his earliest beginnings, growing up in Tennessee and inspired by his father, who was a Methodist minister, Joe has stood up for what is right. In a social environment that was filled with racism and fear, he believed in a God who is fundamentally loving and accepting. He became