

assassination of Charlie Kirk and to express my sincerest condolences to the Kirk family.

I attempted to add my name as a cosponsor to H. Res. 719, a resolution honoring the life and legacy of Mr. Kirk. However, due to a processing error beyond my control, I was not added as a cosponsor before the House adopted this resolution.

Political violence has no place in our society. I strongly believe it should be condemned in the strongest way possible and at every opportunity.

I was, and still remain, a strong supporter of this resolution and the sentiments contained therein.

I call upon civic leaders at all levels of American society to commit to constructive civic discourse and firmly reject violence against their political opponents.

HONORING MR. SYD LOOMIS

HON. VICTORIA SPARTZ

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 19, 2025

Mrs. SPARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable career and retirement of Mr. Syd Loomis, a lifelong Hoosier, dedicated professional, and beloved member of the Noblesville community.

Born in Waukegan, Illinois, to Joseph “Jay” and Marlene “Mitzi” Loomis, Syd grew up with strong family values that would guide him throughout his life. A 1978 graduate of Noblesville High School, he married his wife Jeanine in 1982, and together they raised three wonderful children—Caryn, Amy, and Spencer. Today, Syd is the proud grandfather of four granddaughters, who bring him great joy and who affectionately know him as a devoted supporter of their softball games, dance recitals, and family traditions.

Syd’s career in banking has spanned over 45 years. Beginning in 1980 as a teller at American National Bank, he went on to serve with AmeriTrust, Society, Key Bank, Metro, First Indiana, First National, BMO Harris, and, for the past 15 years to the day, The Farmers Bank, where he served as Assistant Vice President and Branch Manager. Syd was not just a banker, he was a mentor to young professionals, a trusted advisor to countless customers, and a friendly face who treated everyone like family. His service was recognized with numerous honors, including induction into the Indiana Bankers Association’s 40-Year Banker Club, the Community Pride Award in 2011, and the Keep Noblesville Beautiful Award in 2013.

Beyond his professional career, Syd has always given generously of his time and talents to his community. He has served on the boards of the Noblesville Chamber of Commerce, the Shepherd Center of Hamilton County, and the Hamilton Heights Youth Assistance Program. He is also well known for his love of the arts, beginning community theatre in 1998 and performing in beloved roles such as George Bailey in *It’s a Wonderful Life*, Daddy Warbucks in *Annie*, and the Tin Man in *The Wizard of Oz*. His performances earned several Encore Awards and brought joy to audiences across Hamilton County. Syd also shared his love of music in the choir of First Presbyterian Church, where his faith and voice have lifted others for decades.

Syd is affectionately known by many as the “unofficial mayor of Noblesville,” a fitting title for a man who never met a stranger and always left a lasting impression. I am personally grateful to have worked alongside Syd, who was my boss when I was a bank teller. His kindness, humility, and encouragement left a deep impression on me, as I know they have on so many others.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Indiana’s 5th Congressional District, I wish to extend my sincere appreciation to Mr. Loomis for his many years of dedicated service as a community leader and as a true community banker, the kind of which we need more.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CHARLES “CHARLIE” JAMES KIRK

SPEECH OF

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2025

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on H. Res. 719.

I will not vote for this resolution. While I stand firmly and without hesitation against all forms of violence, I cannot support language that requires us to praise a man who so often showed disdain and disrespect for others. This resolution is misleading. It attempts to make us forget the harm of his words and the pain caused by his ideology.

No one should ever be attacked or killed because of their political beliefs. Violence is wrong. Period. As Americans, we resolve our differences through debate, through dialogue, and through the ballot box—not through bloodshed. I believe deeply in the Constitution, and that includes the right to free speech, even when we strongly disagree with it. But free speech does not erase the responsibility to tell the truth about its consequences.

Charlie Kirk did not deserve to be murdered for his views. His life was taken unjustly, and that violence must be condemned in the strongest terms. My most sincere prayers go out to his wife, children, and his extended family during this time of great personal loss.

At the same time, we cannot ignore that he used his platform to demean Black women like Michelle Obama and Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, to dismiss diversity and fairness as “anti-White,” to question the qualifications of Black professionals, to mock LGBTQ Americans, to oppose health care for transgender people, and to promote the so-called “great replacement” theory. He even went so far as to say, “I have a very, very radical view on this, but I can defend it, and I’ve thought about it. We made a huge mistake when we passed the Civil Rights Act in the 1960’s.” These are not harmless words. They carry the same spirit of division that once fueled Jim Crow—when racism and bigotry were written into law to deny people their rights and dignity.

As a son of the South, I know how deeply such words can wound. They open old scars, justify injustice, and threaten the unity of our future. That is why I reject both violence and hate speech. Violence because no life should be taken for an opinion. Hate speech because no life should be diminished by the false claim that some people are less American, less worthy, or less human.

I proudly represent a district that reflects the very fabric of this nation. Black, White, Latino, Asian, Christian, Muslim, Jewish, people of every faith and people of no faith. Men and women, gay and straight, transgender and nonbinary. Every person deserves dignity, safety, and equal protection under the law.

This is what it means to be American. We do not honor our democracy by praising division or by rewriting the truth. We honor it by recommitting ourselves to peace, to justice, and to equality. That is how we heal, and that is how we ensure that the failures of Jim Crow, the poison of racism, and the sting of bigotry never again define our Nation.

I close with the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who reminded us: “Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.” Let us be the light, let us reject hate, and let us stand together as one Nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

HONORING THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AFGHAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 19, 2025

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Afghan American Community Organization on the celebration of their tenth anniversary on September 20, 2025.

For a decade, the Afghan American Community Organization has served as a trusted, compassionate partner to Afghan and Afghan American families—strengthening civic participation, expanding opportunity, and celebrating a rich cultural heritage that is now a vibrant part of my district and the American story.

Whether it has been English language and citizenship classes, youth mentorship and college readiness, small business advising, or workforce development, the Afghan American Community Organization has opened doors for thousands in the Afghan American community. Its legal and resettlement clinics have helped newcomers navigate complex systems with dignity. The mental-health and women’s empowerment initiatives have provided care and community, and its cultural events have fostered understanding between neighbors.

When Afghans arrived in large numbers following the fall of Kabul, Afghan American Community Organization mobilized volunteers, partnered with faith and civic groups, and worked together with local, state, and federal agencies to secure housing, enroll children in school, connect families with health care, and ensure that no one was left behind.

On this milestone anniversary, I congratulate the Afghan American Community Organization Board, dedicated staff, volunteers, and community partners whose steadfast efforts made this achievement possible. Their work reminds us that welcoming the newcomer and lifting our neighbors are enduring American values.

I congratulate them on ten years of service, and wish the Afghan American Community Organization continued success in the decades ahead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. AUGUST PFLUGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 19, 2025

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call Vote No. 279, on H.R. 1047, I inserted my vote card and due to a technical error, it appears that my vote was not recorded. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 279.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF CHARLES "CHARLIE" JAMES
KIRK

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2025

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I join all my colleagues in this body, my constituents, and the American people at large in denouncing all forms of political and ideological violence.

Democracy relies on the core principle of nonviolence.

We settle our disputes with ballots, not with bullets.

But as a social studies teacher, I can also recount a dark history of times when we lost our way as a Nation, and violence was used to silence the voices of debate and sow division.

The political violence that led up to and followed in the wake of the Civil War included a violent assault between Members of Congress and the assassination of President Lincoln.

The assassinations of President Kennedy, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Robert F. Kennedy—and the shooting of George Wallace—took place during a brutal response throughout the Nation to the organized, nonviolent Civil Rights Movement.

This year we have seen a resurgence of horrifically violent attacks that have targeted politicians and community leaders on all sides of the ideological spectrum.

My vote for the resolution before us today is a vote to roundly condemn these attacks.

I condemn the assassination of Charlie Kirk.

I condemn the assassination of Minnesota Representative Melissa Hortman and her husband Mark, and the shooting of Senator John Hoffman and his wife Yvette.

I condemn the attack on Governor Josh Shapiro and his family whose home was lit on fire while they slept inside.

I condemn the assassination attempts on President Trump during last summer's campaign.

All of this has happened within little more than a year.

But since I was elected to office in 2000, I have witnessed a building wave of political violence.

In 2011, my friend and former Representative Gabby Giffords was shot at a community event, and one of her staff members and five other bystanders were killed.

In 2017, a shooting at the Republican Congressional baseball team practice severely wounded Leader STEVE SCALISE.

In 2020, extremist militia members attempted to kidnap Democratic Governor Gretchen Whitmer.

And on January 6, 2021, this institution and its Members—on both sides of the aisle—were targeted by violent and antidemocratic insurrectionists who attacked the Capitol.

These attacks against our leaders and institutions do not exist in a vacuum.

America's crisis of political violence comes in the context of a rise in hateful rhetoric used against our neighbors and the normalization of gun violence in our communities.

This Congress has failed to act on common sense gun control measures that could make us all safer and decrease the likelihood of political assassinations, school shootings, and the tragedy of everyday gun violence in this Nation.

I know that we are divided on this issue, as we are on many others. But we cannot continue to ignore the danger posed by the proliferation of weapons of war in our society. We must come together on solutions to protect our communities and de-escalate the violence in our society.

Today as I vote for this resolution to condemn the assassination of Mr. Kirk, I must express how disappointed I am that we still have not brought to the House Floor, the resolution that honors the victims and survivors of the mass shooting at Annunciation Catholic School that took place three weeks ago.

I equally condemn that violence, which took the lives of two children as they sat in church pews that day celebrating the start of a new school year.

If there is a Biblical truth that we seek to be inspired by today, let it be the principle of nonviolence espoused by Christ and embodied in Saint Paul's letter to the Romans: Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (Romans 12:21) Let us then pursue what leads to peace and to building up one another. (Romans 14:19)

RECOGNIZING MS. CAMILLA "CAM"
WILLIAMS FOR HER DEDICATED
SERVICE TO THE REPUBLICAN
PARTY

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 19, 2025

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and honor Camilla "Cam" Williams for her extraordinary dedication, service, and unwavering commitment to the Republican Party and to our shared conservative values.

For well over a decade, Cam has been a faithful Republican precinct delegate and a

constant presence in efforts to support Republican candidates at the local, state, and national level. She has given countless hours of her time to ensure that our Party's message is heard and that our candidates have the support they need to succeed.

Cam has set records in the State of Michigan for the most phone calls made in support of Republican candidates, an achievement that demonstrates not only her dedication, but also her determination to connect with voters and strengthen our Nation through grassroots engagement. She has given thousands of hours of volunteer service, never asking for recognition or reward. Her work has been marked by passion, humility, and humor. Through her vigor and tireless spirit, she has shown us all what it means to serve faithfully.

Cam embodies the very best of what it means to be a Patriot, someone who works not for personal gain, but out of love for her community, her country, and the values that have guided generations of Americans. The positive impact of her service is felt across Michigan and beyond and will continue to inspire future leaders in our movement.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Michigan's 1st Congressional District, I thank Camilla Williams for her service, her leadership, and her enduring commitment to the conservative cause.

RECOGNIZING NORFOLK'S JERRY
LANDKAMER ON HIS ELECTION
AS NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER

HON. MIKE FLOOD

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 19, 2025

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a true pillar of the Norfolk community, Jerry Landkamer, on his recent election as one of five National Vice Commanders of the American Legion.

A proud Legionnaire since 1975, Landkamer has been a cornerstone of Post 16 in Norfolk. He has served at every level—post, county, district, and area—with unmatched dedication to representing our veteran community.

From legislative advocacy in Washington to youth programs like Cornhusker Boys State, Landkamer's commitment to service has never wavered.

His work on national committees including—Americanism, Homeland Security, and Veterans Preference—demonstrates his steadfast commitment to our veterans and Nation.

Jerry Landkamer embodies the very spirit and service of the American Legion. I'm honored to recognize his election to National Vice Commander and know his family and community share in the same pride of this well-earned achievement.