

I wish to recognize and extend my deep appreciation to Pat Miller, the founder of Art on the Avenue, for her exemplary leadership and unwavering dedication to this event. The long-standing success of Art on the Avenue has been made possible by Pat's vision and commitment.

I also want to offer special recognition to the local businesses that sponsor the festival each year, and to the hundreds of volunteers whose steadfast efforts ensure its continued excellence and vitality.

In commemorating this milestone anniversary, I encourage my colleagues to join me in celebrating Art on the Avenue and the profound contributions it has made to the cultural life and community spirit of Northern Virginia and the entire Commonwealth.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO PROVIDE FOR INTERIM APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS AND RELATED AGENCIES WITH RESPECT TO ANY FISCAL YEAR FOR WHICH APPROPRIATIONS ARE NOT OTHERWISE PROVIDED FOR SUCH COURTS AND AGENCIES

### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 3, 2025*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, this week, I introduced a bill that would exempt from Federal Government shutdowns the Federal and independent agencies that are exclusively or primarily federally funded but have jurisdiction over local District of Columbia civil and criminal justice matters. This bill is modeled on a provision I have gotten enacted each year since the 2013 Federal Government shutdown to exempt the D.C. government from Federal Government shutdowns.

This bill would exempt the following agencies from Federal Government shutdowns: the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for D.C., the D.C. Courts, the D.C. Public Defender Service, the D.C. Commission on Judicial Disabilities and Tenure, the D.C. Judicial Nomination Commission and the D.C. Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. With one exception, these agencies are not under D.C.'s control. These agencies provide critical local services to D.C., including law enforcement, and should continue to function as usual during a Federal Government shutdown.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JEFFREY  
"JT THE GREAT" THOMAS

### HON. RASHIDA TLAI

OF MICHIGAN  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 3, 2025*

Ms. TLAI. Mr. Speaker, today, the 12th Congressional District honors the life and legacy of Jeffrey "JT the Great" Thomas, a beloved Detroit, entrepreneur, and family man whose impact reached far beyond his community. Mr. Thomas co-founded Sweet Potato Sensations, transforming a dream

that began with cookies sold from the trunk of his car into a Detroit staple, a family table where neighbors could feel at home.

Beyond business, Mr. Thomas' life was full of laughter, competition, and love. From golf outings with his daughters, basement parties, cook-offs, and spirited games of Bid Whist, he poured joy into every moment. A man of faith, he embraced his role as a teacher and scholar.

Above all, Mr. Thomas took great pride in his family, nearly 49 years of marriage to Cassandra and their daughters, Charisse "Reese Pooh" and Jennifer "Jenny Loops." His legacy of love, family, hustle, and faith will inspire our community for generations.

APPRECIATING THE PRESENCE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF HIS ALL-HOLINESS ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

### HON. HALEY M. STEVENS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 3, 2025*

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my gratitude towards His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the Archbishop of Constantinople and spiritual leader of Orthodox Christianity worldwide, for his time spent in our Nation's Capital last week. On behalf of the strong Eastern Orthodox community I represent in Michigan's 11th Congressional District, I enthusiastically congratulate His All-Holiness on receiving the 2025 Templeton Award.

This award underscores his ground-breaking environmental advocacy and unique ability to merge both scientific and spiritual discourses. His All-Holiness has exemplified a sense of responsibility towards coming generations: to preserve, protect, and promote the health of the planet on which we are honored to live.

Beyond his environmental advocacy, His All-Holiness has been an unwavering pillar in support of intersectionality, working to foster relations between devotees of Catholic, Jewish, and Muslim faiths. He has been relentless in his pursuit to prevent violence on the basis of religion, to ensure the humane treatment of all, and to join hands across the world in seeking peace and justice.

In Oakland County, we are blessed with a thriving Orthodox Christian community. As their Representative in Congress, I am thrilled His All-Holiness joined us in Washington, D.C., last week. His visit reminds us to be constantly kind and collaborative, one that is much needed during this time.

Please join me in thanking His All-Holiness for his visit and congratulating him on this well-deserved award.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN D. LAVELLE

### HON. BEN CLINE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 3, 2025*

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the late General John D. Lavelle who was born on this day in 1916.

Jack Lavelle was one of the early investors in Bryce Resort in Basye, Virginia. He worked hard to keep Bryce solvent in those days, and contributed to turning it into the member-owned resort it is today. Jack served in the Air Force all over the world, but thought the Shenandoah Valley was the most beautiful place he'd been to.

On the eve of war in 1939 he enlisted as an aviation cadet in the Army Air Corps and received pilot training at Randolph and Kelly Fields, Texas. He received his pilot wings and a commission as a second lieutenant in June 1940.

During World War II he saw combat in the European theater of operations, where he served with the 412th Fighter Squadron. Following the war, he was assigned to Wright Field, where he was one of the two Air Corps officers who negotiated with all seven Army Technical Services and wrote the agreements for the division of assets and the operating procedures to be affected during the buildup of the Air Force.

As a career airman with a 32-year reputation as being a smart, hardworking leader, he was promoted to four star general and assigned Commander of the Seventh Air Force in Vietnam on August 1, 1971. In April 1972, General Lavelle was removed from command as a result of allegations that he ordered unauthorized bombing missions into North Vietnam, and that he authorized the falsification of reports to conceal the missions. General Lavelle was retired in the grade of major general, two grades lower than the last grade he served on Active Duty. General Lavelle always maintained his innocence until his death on July 10, 1979. On this day of that year, his widow Mary Josephine McEllin Lavelle dedicated a flagpole with base and flag, and a plaque in his honor at Bryce, which is still there today.

In 2007, newly released and declassified information disclosed that General Lavelle was authorized by President Richard Nixon to conduct the bombing missions. In light of the new information, his widow made a request to the Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records for the restoration of his grade to general, his last grade while on Active Duty.

On August 4, 2010, President Barack Obama nominated General Lavelle posthumously for promotion back to the grade of general on the Air Force retired list based on the information that he had been authorized by President Richard Nixon to conduct the bombing missions. Further, the Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records found no evidence that General Lavelle caused, either directly or indirectly, the alleged falsification of records, or that he was even aware of their existence. Unfortunately, the Senate Armed Services Committee returned the nomination, and still to this day will not allow the full restoration of his grade to general.

Jack Lavelle served the country outstandingly over his entire career. He and his wife "Jo" were heartbroken when he was removed from command and forced out of the Air Force that they had grown up with and were so proud of. But they found some solace in retirement in the beauty and peace of Virginia's Shenandoah Valley. General USAF (Ret.) Jack Lavelle is recognized by me today as an honorable and patriotic American and we remember him today as such on the anniversary of his birthday, September 9, 1916.

HONORING MS. MARTHA G. SCOTT  
STREET RENAMING

**HON. RASHIDA TLAIB**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 3, 2025*

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, the 12th Congressional District is proud to honor Wayne County Commissioner Martha G. Scott with the renaming of "Rhode Island Street" in her hometown, Highland Park, to "Martha G. Scott Boulevard," a truly well-earned recognition.

Ms. Scott has dedicated more than half a century to public service in multiple capacities, including functioning as the first woman mayor of the city, the first Black mayor in Michigan, and as a member of the Michigan legislature, where she has championed causes such as preserving the Davison Freeway and pursuing insurance reform, among other issues.

The 12th Congressional District honors Wayne County Commissioner Martha G. Scott for her distinguished service, and with great pride, we are proud to celebrate her remarkable legacy as former Mayor of Highland Park, Michigan State Representative, Senator, and as the current Wayne County Commissioner for District 3. I thank her for being a true advocate for the people and the light in many of our lives.

REMEMBERING MIGUEL ÁNGEL  
GARCÍA-HERNÁNDEZ

**HON. MARC A. VEASEY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 3, 2025*

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply heartbroken over the loss of Miguel Ángel García-Hernández, who succumbed to his injuries following the horrific shooting at the Dallas ICE facility. Miguel was a husband, a father, and a hardworking man whose greatest joy was providing for and being present with his family. His death is an immeasurable tragedy that has left a lasting void for those who loved him most.

My prayers and deepest condolences are with Miguel's wife, Stephany Gauffeny, their four children, and the baby they were expecting, as they face this devastating loss. To lose a loved one under such violent circumstances is a burden no family should ever bear. His loved ones should know that they are not alone in their grief—our community mourns alongside them, and we extend every measure of compassion and support possible.

We will always remember Miguel Ángel García-Hernández as a hardworking father, husband, neighbor, and colleague. Today, we stand in solidarity with the Mexican community as we grieve this loss together, and we hold on to the hope that his memory will strengthen our resolve to bring an end to the epidemic of gun violence in our country.

REMEMBERING WALTER  
GRAINGER

**HON. VINCE FONG**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 3, 2025*

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Walter Grainger, a lifelong resident of Bakersfield, California, who passed away on Sunday, September 14, 2025, at the age of 99.

In May 1944, just weeks after graduating from Kern County Union High School, later renamed Bakersfield High School, Walter enlisted in the United States Navy, where he served honorably during World War II. He and his four brothers together wore our Nation's uniform in defense of freedom.

After the conclusion of his military service, Walter dedicated his life to education and community. He taught at Bakersfield High School, Shafter High School, and North High School, where he chaired the Industrial Arts Department, before later working as a safety consultant for the school district. Beyond the classroom, Walter was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and faithful member of First United Methodist Church.

Even in his nineties, Walter continued to serve. He was instrumental in the design and construction of the Kern County World War II Veterans Memorial at Jastro Park. His vision and leadership helped shape one of the most beautiful veterans memorials in the West. Today, that memorial stands as a lasting tribute to all who served, including Walter and his brothers, whose names are engraved in granite for generations to see.

Walter was a deeply respected member of the community, and when he spoke, people listened. He lived his life with humility, service, and quiet strength. His legacy is found not only in the memorial he helped build, but in the family he loved, the students he taught, and the community he served.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the remarkable life of Walter Grainger. May his memory serve as an inspiration to all of us, and may his family take comfort in knowing the profound and enduring impact he had on Bakersfield, Kern County, and our Nation.

HONORING BISHOP TONY SHOMARI  
MARSHALL AND THE HOUSE OF  
PRAYER INSTITUTIONAL CHURCH

**HON. RASHIDA TLAIB**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 3, 2025*

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today, the 12th Congressional District honors Bishop Tony Shomari Marshall and the House of Prayer Institutional Church in Detroit, Michigan, as they celebrate 25 years of ministry and public service.

Bishop Marshall, the founding pastor, is a revered preacher, educator, chaplain, and author who has dedicated his life to serving people in need. A committed "teaching priest," he has studied under numerous scholars and earned degrees and certificates from respected institutions, including Taylor Univer-

sity, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Trinity International University, Andersonville Theological Seminary, and Ecumenical Theological Seminary.

Consecrated to the office of Bishop in 2021, he now serves on the Board of Bishops with the Deliverance Tabernacle Fellowship of Ministries. For 25 years, his church has uplifted Detroit through worship, education, service, and love. I congratulate Bishop Tony Shomari Marshall and the House of Prayer Institutional Church on this extraordinary milestone.

RECOGNIZING INTERNATIONAL  
PLASMA AWARENESS WEEK 2025

**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 3, 2025*

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate International Plasma Awareness Week, an annual campaign dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of source plasma collection, recognizing the valued contributions of donors, and increasing understanding about plasma protein therapies and the rare diseases they treat.

As co-chair of the Congressional Rare Disease Caucus and a member of the Congressional Plasma Caucus, this annual event, celebrated from October 6 to 10 this year, is close to my heart.

For many people with rare diseases, plasma-derived therapies mean the difference between life and death, or between a life of diminished health and physical limitations and one filled with hope and possibility.

For example, Guillain-Barré syndrome is a rare but serious neurological disorder that can lead to rapid muscle weakness and, in severe cases, paralysis. A related condition, Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyneuropathy (CIDP), is characterized by ongoing nerve inflammation that can significantly impair mobility and quality of life. For both these conditions, immunoglobulins reduce inflammation, regulate the immune system, and help patients regain function. Most patients with CIDP require life-long treatment to manage their symptoms.

In the case of primary immunodeficiencies, hemophilia, alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency, and other conditions, the body does not make important proteins, or those proteins are functionally damaged. These patients also rely on plasma-derived medicine to replace their programs and restore their health. In most cases, plasma-derived therapies are the only available treatment for these conditions. That is why it's so important that we raise awareness of the importance of plasma-derived therapies this week, and work to improve access to these unique biologic products.

I'm committed to working to ensure that every individual, regardless of how rare their disease may be, has access to the therapies they need to lead healthier, fuller lives.