

do more to address the housing crisis. In 2012, I worked with La Shelle and SHRA to secure a \$300,000 planning grant to begin the process of redeveloping the Twin Rivers public housing project, now called Marisol Village, an affordable housing project. Thirteen years of partnership later, and after securing over \$32 million in federal funding, Marisol Village is now double its original size at 427 units. Most importantly the community now provides my constituents with vital resources, like a full suite of resident services, green space, childcare facilities, a light rail station and cultural amenities, right at their doorstep. I am proud to have worked with La Shelle to create real positive impact with Sacramento's federal tax dollars right here in our community.

La Shelle Dozier's tenure at SHRA is a shining example of what makes Sacramento special. La Shelle knows firsthand that often it takes a village to build a village. Time and time again I have joined La Shelle in support of SHRA's projects and witnessed her build a wide coalition of local, state and federal partners to bring a safe and healthy home to those who need it most. The work that La Shelle and her team have done is truly indicative of why I love our region. Here in Sacramento, we lift up our community and seek to create positive and lasting impacts for all Sacramentans.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the career and legacy of the SHRA Executive Director, La Shelle Dozier.

**HONORING JEFFREY BOOHER AS A
DISTINGUISHED FIRST RE-
SPONDER LEADER IN CENTRAL
FLORIDA**

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 6, 2025

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Jeffrey Booher is a certified firefighter/lieutenant and paramedic with the City of Kissimmee Fire Department, where he has served with distinction for over 20 years. A native of Central Florida, Jeffrey was inspired to enter the fire service following the events of September 11, 2001. Leaving behind a successful career in construction management, he committed himself to public service and began training at the Central Florida Fire Academy.

Throughout his tenure, Jeffrey has held numerous roles, including firefighter/EMT, firefighter/paramedic, and driver/operator. He currently serves as a company officer, leading his crew with a strong focus on safety, professionalism, and mentorship.

Jeffrey holds a bachelor's degree in fire administration from Waldorf University, graduating with honors. He has also completed specialized training at the Emergency Services Leadership Institute and the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland, with a focus on incident command.

Jeffrey's technical credentials include technician-level certifications in Rope Rescue, Vehicle Machinery Rescue, Confined Space Rescue, and Trench Rescue.

His dedication has earned him multiple honors, including 2017 KFD Officer of the Year, Citywide Employee of the Month in 2015 and 2024, and City of Kissimmee Employee of the

Year in 2024. In 2019, he was awarded the Honeywell DuPont Scholarship to attend FDIC International.

Beyond his operational duties, Jeffrey has contributed significantly to department initiatives, serving on committees for firefighter safety, apparatus and station design, and the hiring and training of new firefighters. He also serves as a trustee and co-chairman of the Firefighter Pension Board. His role as assistant accreditation manager helped lead to the fire department's first international accreditation. With unwavering dedication, technical expertise, and a heart for service, Lieutenant Jeffrey Booher continues to embody the values of leadership, integrity, and commitment that define the fire service.

**RECOGNIZING THE FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH OF MERRIFIELD ON
THEIR 155TH ANNIVERSARY**

HON. JAMES R. WALKINSHAW

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 6, 2025

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the First Baptist Church of Merrifield on the occasion of the 155th anniversary of its sanctuary. For more than a century and a half, First Baptist Church of Merrifield has served as a cornerstone of faith, service, and community for the Northern Virginia region. First Baptist Church of Merrifield was started in a log cabin between 1871 to 1872. FBCM had then branched out and began worshipping on property owned by Mr. Robert Bradley of Merrifield. In 1891, the property was purchased from him by church Trustees: John E. Coates, Joshua Ball, and Joshua Pearson for the sum of five dollars. FBCM is a church formed from strong community family ties and has remained steadfastly community focused since.

FBCM remains a vital part of our district today by partnering with neighbors and local organizations to fulfill local needs through service projects, food and supply drives, youth programs, and many other community-centered initiatives. Through these efforts, FBCM continues to foster a spirit of faith, service, collaboration, and compassion throughout our district.

Over the past 155 years, FBCM has been led by 13 pastors and 2 interim pastors. Each one contributing to the growth of FBCM and leaving behind their own unique legacy of service. A few of those contributions include: the establishment of the Golden Ages Senior Saints Ministry, the construction of the Merrifield Child Development Center, the recovery of the original church bell, the creation of a youth mentoring program with Luther Jackson Middle School, the development of a tutoring outreach program targeting local students, and much more. FBCM and its congregation lead by faith and example in our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending First Baptist Church of Merrifield for its efforts to better the Northern Virginia region. Achieving 155 years of ministry is a milestone worth celebrating. It is a privilege to work alongside this great congregation in the community, and I wish them continued success through faith, family, and service.

**RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL
CHURCH IN LAMPASAS, TEXAS**

HON. AUGUST PFLUGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 6, 2025

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 150th anniversary of St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Lampasas, Texas.

Founded in 1873 during the turbulent years of Reconstruction, St. Mary's has stood as a steadfast place of worship and community for a century and a half. From its beginnings under the leadership of Dr. Thomas S. Denny and a small group of faithful families, the church persevered through frontier hardships, local feuds, floods, and economic trials. Over the years, it has grown into a vibrant congregation rooted in service, tradition, and faith.

The sanctuary itself, built of native limestone in the Victorian Gothic style, is a testament to the perseverance of its early leaders, including Capt. A.H. Barnes, Dr. James Bierbower, W.T. Campbell, T.H. Haynie, W.C. Price, and others whose dedication made possible the construction of a permanent church home. Generations of families, like the Campbells, the Haynies, the Richeys, the Olivers, and many more have sustained and enriched the life of St. Mary's across decades, ensuring its continued presence as a spiritual cornerstone of the Lampasas community.

Today, St. Mary's remains a thriving parish, carrying forward its mission with more than a dozen families whose membership stretches back multiple generations, while also welcoming new parishioners who bring fresh perspectives and energy. Together, this congregation embodies the resilience, stability, and continuity that have defined St. Mary's since its founding.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring St. Mary's Episcopal Church for 150 years of faithful service to its members, the people of Lampasas, and the greater Central Texas region. May the congregation continue to serve as a beacon of hope, light, and grace for generations to come.

**HONORING LIEUTENANT
HUMBERTO VERGARA AS A DIS-
TINGUISHED FIRST RESPONDER
LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA**

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 6, 2025

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, as a dedicated Osceola County Fire Rescue Lieutenant with 32 years of service, Lieutenant Humberto Vergara has built a career centered on ensuring the well-being, preparedness, and safety of firefighters and the communities they serve. With a passion for leadership, health, and physical fitness, Lieutenant Vergara leads by example, fostering a culture of resilience and excellence within not only Osceola County Fire Rescue, but across the entire state of Florida.

Specializing in health and safety initiatives, Lieutenant Vergara is the health and safety

chairman at Osceola County Fire Rescue and has successfully developed and implemented programs aimed at reducing workplace injuries, enhancing physical readiness, promoting mental wellness, and preventing cancer. His hands-on approach to fitness training and safety education has equipped firefighters with the tools and confidence needed to perform their duties effectively under the most challenging conditions.

Lieutenant Vergara was a founding member of the Florida Firefighter Fitness Collaborative, established in 2011. Their mission was to offer "Wellness Mutual Aid" to other fire departments across the state that pursued the implementation and/or maintenance of their wellness/fitness programs, such as the IAFF Wellness Fitness Initiative.

Lieutenant Vergara currently serves on the Florida Firefighters Safety and Health Collaborative, which focuses on areas of firefighter cancer prevention, health and fitness, mental wellness, and firefighter safety. Through the FFSHC, Bert chairs the health and safety section for the state of Florida. Bert also serves as a member of the First Responder Center of Excellence, Health, Wellness, and Fitness Advisory Committee. He also serves as an advisor on the IAFF Wellness Fitness Initiative Taskforce.

Lieutenant Vergara continuously seeks opportunities for professional development to stay at the forefront of emerging health and safety practices. He remains committed to mentoring firefighters, cultivating teamwork, and creating sustainable strategies to improve overall firefighter performance.

Lieutenant Vergara was recently the recipient of the University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, Firefighter Cancer Initiative, Commitment Award for his contributions to improve the health and wellness of Florida's firefighters.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT COLONEL JABAR SHABAZZ ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE FAIRFAX COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

HON. JAMES R. WALKINSHAW

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 6, 2025

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lt. Colonel Jabar Shabazz, who is retiring after 31 years of faithful service to our Nation, culminating in his service as lieutenant colonel, the highest rank in the Sheriff's Office, immediately below Sheriff.

Lt. Col. Shabazz has always been a competitive and driven person, as was apparent in his days as a college basketball player. He attended Virginia State University on a four-year athletic scholarship and played small forward. In his senior year, his team won the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association championship. While his goal was to join the NBA, Shabazz ended up meeting several folks who worked for the Richmond Sheriff's Office when he was playing in a summer league after college.

He began his career in public service in 1989 when he joined the Richmond Sheriff's Office. After five years of distinguished service in Richmond, Lt. Col. Shabazz decided to join the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office in March of

1994 after taking a tour of the Adult Detention Center (ADC) and liking what he saw.

Since his graduation from the Fairfax County Criminal Justice Academy, he has spent the majority of his career in the ADC but has served with distinction in all areas of the agency, including court security and internal affairs. Throughout his time in each division and rank, Lt. Col. Shabazz made his mark on his colleagues and the Fairfax County Sheriff Stacey Kincaid. Sheriff Kincaid ended up offering Shabazz the position to serve as her Chief Deputy in 2022, despite his nearing retirement. Knowing he had more service to give, he accepted and obtained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

When taking over the position of Chief Deputy of Operations, Shabazz was confident in his skills in operations and was looking forward to being responsible for both the ADC and all of their support services. Sheriff Kincaid described him as being "the gold standard of leadership in [the] agency," and that he "brings with him a mentality of getting to yes and finding a way over, around, or through any obstacle to get the job done." His appointment to this position was also historic, as he became the first African American Lieutenant Colonel and Chief Deputy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Lt. Colonel Jabar Shabazz on his retirement. On behalf of myself and the citizens of Fairfax County, I thank him and his family for his honorable 31 years of selfless service to our Nation. Fairfax County is the safest jurisdiction of its size, and that is in no small part due to the dedication of individuals like Lt. Col. Shabazz. Best wishes for a safe and happy retirement.

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 committees, 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 Tuesday, October 7, 2025 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

OCTOBER 8

Time to be announced

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

Business meeting to consider the nomination of Jeremiah Workman, of Ohio, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training.

S-216

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Business meeting to consider S. 1070, to establish a National STEM Week to promote American innovation and enhance STEM education pathways for all students, including those in rural, urban, and underserved communities, S. 2126, to reauthorize the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009, S. 2245, to amend the Digital Coast Act to improve the acquisition, integration, and accessibility of data of the Digital Coast program and to extend the program, S. 2357, to reauthorize the Young Fishermen's Development Act, S. 2563, to direct the Secretary of Commerce, in coordination with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, to conduct an interagency review of and report to Congress on ways to increase the global competitiveness of the United States in attracting foreign direct investment, S. 2666, to direct the Federal Communications Commission to establish a taskforce on unlawful robocalls, an original bill entitled, "PIPELINE Safety Act of 2025", and the nominations of Joyce Meyer, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, and Harry Kumar, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary, both of the Department of Commerce, and Seval Oz, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of Transportation; to be immediately followed by hearings to examine big tech and silencing Americans.

SR-253

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Ho Nieh, of Alabama, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and Douglas Troutman, of Maryland, to be Assistant Administrator for Toxic Substances of the Environmental Protection Agency.

SD-562

Committee on Finance

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Jonathan Greenstein, of New York, to be a Deputy Under Secretary, Donald Korb, of Ohio, to be Chief Counsel for the Internal Revenue Service and an Assistant General Counsel, and Derek Theurer, of Virginia, to be a Deputy Under Secretary, all of the Department of the Treasury.

SD-215

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine labor law reform part 1, focusing on diagnosing the issues and exploring current proposals.

SD-430

2:30 p.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Intellectual Property

To hold hearings to examine the Patent Eligibility Restoration Act, focusing on restoring clarity, certainty, and predictability to the United States patent system.

SD-226

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

Business meeting to consider the nomination of William Kirk, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Small Business Administration.

SR-428A

Select Committee on Intelligence

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Joshua Simmons, of Virginia,