

faithful community that stands as a testament to the Orthodox tradition's rich history and enduring presence in America. Their commitment to faith, service, and fellowship reflects the very values His All-Holiness has championed throughout his ministry.

On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Virginia, I welcome His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to Washington and extend deep gratitude for his lifelong dedication to promoting peace, unity, and justice in our world.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF DAVE WELIHAN

HON. TIM WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 10, 2025

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, it is my special privilege to recognize Dave Welihan of Jackson as the Veteran of the Month for October and honor him for his distinguished service to our great Nation.

Dave courageously served in the U.S. Army from 1971 through 1974 and has been honorably awarded the National Defense Service Medal. Since returning home, Dave has dedicated his life to serving the veteran community and ensuring they have the resources and support they deserve. He was formerly a Veteran Service Officer in Jackson, where he helped those who have worn the uniform resolve their local, state, and federal benefit issues to ensure that they receive the benefits they have so rightfully earned.

He also served as a commander of the American Legion Richard F. Smith Post 29 and worked as the Director of the Jackson County Veterans Affairs Office. While with the Jackson County VA, Dave helped coordinate the burial of five unclaimed veterans so that they could be honored and properly laid to rest, exemplifying his compassion for others. Dave and his wife even selflessly donated the flags used for the burial.

Dave's unwavering service, tireless commitment, and leadership have made a tangible difference. Through his many roles and daily actions, he has uplifted and advocated for his fellow veterans, serving as a guide, mentor, and friend. His legacy will not only live on in the hearts of those he has helped but also in the strong community he has helped build.

May others know of my high regard for Dave, as well as my deep gratitude for his lasting contributions to the county we love.

RECOGNIZING THE 350TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARTYRDOM OF GURU TEGH BAHADUR

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 10, 2025

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 350th anniversary of the martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur, the revered Ninth Guru of Sikhism—the world's fifth-largest religion, with nearly 30 million followers worldwide, including one million here in the United States.

A champion of religious freedom for all, Guru Tegh Bahadur courageously confronted the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb's campaign of religious persecution, defending the right of every individual to freely practice their faith. For this act of unwavering conviction, he was publicly executed in 1675 in Delhi, India, and is fondly remembered as Dharam Di Chadar, or, "Shield of the Religions," for his ultimate sacrifice to protect the rights of others and uphold the universal principles of human dignity, freedom of conscience, and the right to worship according to one's beliefs.

Pennsylvania's Sikh community, whose roots trace back to the State of Punjab in India, began immigrating to our Nation more than a century ago. These remarkable Americans have played a vital role in the growth and vitality of the Keystone State and have enriched their communities through their commitment to tolerance, service, and civic engagement.

These extraordinary ideals reflect the Sikh tradition of seeking peace through equality, fraternity, and respect, while striving to overcome division through sacred teachings and the admirable tenets of honest work, charity, volunteerism, and sharing with those in need.

Mr. Speaker, it is altogether fitting that the House recognize Guru Tegh Bahadur's supreme sacrifice for human rights and religious freedom, and encourage all Americans to join in its observance on November 24, 2025.

CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF ST. PETER'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST IN MILLBURY, OHIO

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 10, 2025

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker. I rise to recognize a significant milestone in the life of St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Millbury, Ohio. The congregation celebrates its 150th anniversary on Sunday, October 12, 2025.

Only one year after the founding of Millbury, St. Peter's Church was founded in 1875 by twelve families of German immigrants who came together to form the German Evangelical United St. Peter's Congregation. It is the oldest continuous church in the community. Church records show that the first meeting took place at the home of Adam Martin, a home that stands yet today, and was officiated by Reverend Andrews of Genoa St. John's Church.

A fire sparked by a passing train burned the newly constructed building in 1878 and a new building was finally completed in 1884 using the railroad settlement. That year, the church adopted its first constitution. In 1908 a parsonage was built and a minister was hired.

The following years brought growth along with stained glass windows and a pipe organ. In 1934 following a national merger the congregation was renamed St. Peter's Evangelical and Reformed Church. Since a 1957 merger the church has held its current name, St. Peter's United Church of Christ.

Branching out into the community in the 1950's, adjacent land was purchased and a park was built which serves the neighborhood, gardens and athletic teams. Uniquely, a boulder which resembled the image of Christ at

Gethsemane was unearthed in 1969. Moved next to the church, a plaque was inscribed with Mathew 16:18, "And I say unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

Believing that "every generation is called to live out its faith in meaningful worship, honest reflection and sincere devotion to God," the church continued to grow through the decades. A youth program produced musical groups Kid's Praise and The Light Brigade which toured the states in our region and visited the Creation Music Festival in Pennsylvania. Community services continued throughout, as the congregation supports food pantries, partners with service organization, has hosted an AA chapter for over forty years, opened its doors following a devastating tornado and became a Red Cross command post, and adapted to COVID by offering a "parking lot church" and live streaming which continues to this day. Also during this time the congregation merged with its shared church Eastminster United Presbyterian Church so the two congregations now worship as one.

For an astounding 150 years, St. Peter's United Church of Christ lives up to the faith's motto, John 17:21: "That they may all be one." The church demonstrates this message while living Christ's message of Love and being "a welcoming place for all—no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey." As today's congregants celebrate this journey of 150 years, looking back with inspired recollection and renewed with a faith-filled purpose, we look forward to the next centuries of servant leadership in the community of Millbury and surrounding neighbors.

RECOGNIZING THE UKRAINIAN AMERICAN SPORT CENTER TRYZUB'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 10, 2025

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary group of individuals from Pennsylvania's 1st Congressional District—an organization that has gone above and beyond the call of duty in service to both our community and our country. It is with great respect and admiration I recognize the Ukrainian American Sports Center Tryzub's 75th anniversary.

Such honorable individuals are not defined by titles or accolades but by the quiet power of their actions. They are distinguished by their unwavering integrity, the strength of their character, and their steadfast commitment to the people and places they serve. They are the foundation upon which our communities stand—the ones who lift others up, inspire hope, and, in doing so, call us all to higher standards of service and compassion. Throughout their years helping the community, the UASC Tryzub embodies this spirit of honor in ways that words can scarcely capture.

Founded in Philadelphia by displaced World War II Ukrainian immigrants, the UASC Tryzub became an important part of the community. The UASC Tryzub organized teams of all sports to play in various leagues in Philadelphia, as well as gave the Ukrainian American

community a nourishing environment with personal and professional support. The goals of the UASC Tryzub align with preserving history, culture, tradition, and Ukrainian sport (specifically professional soccer). Their home-base in Horsham township continues to be a center where the community comes together. Some notable achievements of the UASC Tryzub include in 1856 the Club's Majors' Division soccer team reached the national championship game for the coveted US Amateur Cup. A year later the UASC Tryzub organized a professional soccer franchise; the Philadelphia Ukrainian Nationals, which generated many professional championships onto the City of Philadelphia. These achievements, along with many others, brought a downpour of glory and attention to Philadelphia from the international soccer world.

Today, 56 teams and 800 athletes, known as the "Ukie Nation" proudly wear blue and yellow and play under the Philadelphia Ukrainian Nationals Banner. Travel and club teams, including all skill levels, are offered for boys and girls all year round. The UASC Tryzub is not only notable for their achievements, but for giving back to the community. The players develop and improve not only their soccer skills but their personal goals as well. Through scholarships, volunteering, and community efforts to preserve Ukrainian heritage and bring awareness to those in need, the Tryzub continues to support and grow the Ukrainian American community.

In times of need, their service is a testament to the belief that an individual's dedication can ripple through the lives of many, sparking change, fostering resilience, and inspiring hope. Today, we honor the UASC Tryzub not just for their remarkable deeds but for fostering an incredible community.

Mr. Speaker, their actions remind us that progress is not forged in grand gestures but in the cumulative power of selfless acts. They embody the timeless American values of resilience, generosity, and compassion, showing us that the future is built by those who care deeply, act decisively, and give without hesitation.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's 1st Congressional District, I extend my appreciation and

recognition to the UASC Tryzub for their extraordinary service of 75 years. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the UASC Tryzub's 75th anniversary, which will inspire generations to come. May their example remind us of the boundless potential within each of us to make our communities, country, and world a better place.

HONORING FRANKLIN COUNTY'S
150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. NATHANIEL MORAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 10, 2025

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Franklin County's 150th Anniversary.

We stand on the proud shoulder of 150 years of history, celebrating the founding of Franklin County in 1875. Franklin County is a vibrant and resilient community, rich with heritage and heart.

Named for Benjamin C. Franklin, the first judicial officer of the Republic of Texas, the county has always stood for justice, independence, and perseverance. From early state settlers to the citizens of today, Franklin County has been shaped by hard work, strong values, and deep roots.

With scenic lakes, thriving agriculture, and local legends, Franklin County is a lot more than a pinpoint on a map. It is a community worth celebrating. The many days I have spent in Franklin County have been filled with incredible people who lead with service and compassion, and world-famous, East Texas hospitality.

The county has balanced tradition and growth, by strengthening the community and promoting new economic development.

As we honor the past, we look forward to a future filled with promise. Here's to the next 150 years of Franklin County. May it continue to grow, inspire and shine as a beacon of East Texas. It is an honor to represent this community in Washington.

God Bless Franklin County.

COMMEMORATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN WITH THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS OF VIRGINIA

HON. JENNIFER L. McCLELLAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 10, 2025

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Special Olympics Virginia and the Law Enforcement Torch Run as they celebrate 40 years of extraordinary service to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

For four decades, Special Olympics Virginia has provided year-round sports training and competition to thousands of athletes, empowering them to achieve their personal best while fostering inclusion, respect, and community engagement. Through these programs, athletes not only develop athletic skills but also gain confidence, leadership abilities, and lifelong friendships.

The Law Enforcement Torch Run exemplifies the incredible partnership between law enforcement officers and the communities they serve. Officers across Virginia have carried the Flame of Hope, raising awareness and vital funds to support Special Olympics programs. This collaboration has helped break down barriers, build trust, and promote understanding for individuals with disabilities.

As we celebrate this milestone, we recognize the dedication of athletes, coaches, volunteers, and law enforcement officers whose commitment has transformed the lives of countless Virginians. The legacy of Special Olympics Virginia and the Law Enforcement Torch Run is one of inclusion, compassion, and unwavering support for every athlete's potential.

I congratulate the Special Olympics Virginia and the Law Enforcement Torch Run on 40 years of service and in celebrating their continued impact on communities throughout our Commonwealth.