

Kazakhstan has remained a peaceful and stabilizing force in Central Asia.

Recently, Kazakhstan took another decisive step in its economic modernization. The national railway company, Kazakhstan Temir Zholy, signed a landmark \$4.2 billion agreement with Wabtec Corporation out of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania—the largest locomotive order in years.

This transformative deal is a powerful endorsement of American innovation and manufacturing leadership. It will support thousands of good-paying U.S. jobs and strengthen America's manufacturing base, underscoring the mutual benefits of our growing economic partnership.

Kazakhstan is taking bold steps to position itself as a key Eurasian transit hub. The Trans-Caspian International Transport Route (the so-called 'Middle Corridor'), which begins in Kazakhstan and runs through Azerbaijan to global markets, is strengthening supply chain resilience for the U.S. and its partners.

Another vital area of expanding cooperation is rare earth minerals. The United States and Kazakhstan are working together to build a reliable and diversified supply chain for rare earth elements and other critical materials essential to major U.S. industries, including aerospace, defense, clean energy, and semiconductors.

Rare-earth minerals from Kazakhstan can be the trusted source necessary to help power the next generation of U.S. innovation, driving the transformation of the American economy built around AI, advanced manufacturing, and nuclear energy.

Energy collaboration also remains a cornerstone of our partnership. Earlier this year, Chevron's \$48 billion Future Growth Project at Kazakhstan's Tengiz field began production, underscoring the scale and depth of U.S. investment in the country's energy future. The Tengizchevroil venture—operated by Chevron represents Central Asia's largest oil development, ensuring reliable supply and creating thousands of high-skilled jobs. These projects embody the long-term, mutually beneficial nature of U.S.-Kazakhstan energy cooperation.

Kazakhstan's efforts align with President Trump's focus on law and order, emphasizing that governance grounded in common sense and the rule of law is essential to maintain public order and protect citizens' rights.

Our nations also share a strong commitment to interfaith harmony and global dialogue. Kazakhstan is home to people of many backgrounds and of many faiths. She has long championed peace and tolerance. Earlier this year, Astana hosted the 8th Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, welcoming over 100 delegations from 60 countries under the theme "Dialogue of Religions: Synergy for the Future."

This same spirit of openness and engagement also guides Kazakhstan's approach to the global economy. Kazakhstan's active membership in the World Trade Organization reflects its ongoing commitment to international norms and open markets.

As such, it is time for the United States to take the next logical step—granting Kazakhstan Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR) by repealing the outdated Jackson-Vanik Amendment. Doing so would cost America nothing but gain us much. It would send a powerful signal of strategic seriousness, eliminate lingering legal ambiguity for

U.S. investors, and unlock the full potential of our bilateral trade and industrial cooperation.

As we look ahead, the upcoming C5+1 Summit on November 6 represents a critical opportunity to reaffirm U.S. leadership and engagement in Central Asia. Marking the 10th anniversary of this important diplomatic forum, the summit should deliver tangible results—demonstrating that the United States values long-term partnership.

We urge the Administration to seize this moment, build on the foundation of trust and shared interests, and work with Congress to achieve outcomes that advance stability, prosperity, and lasting friendship across our nations.

Mr. Speaker, as Kazakhstan celebrates Republic Day, we honor the enduring friendship between our two countries and look forward to the continued growth of a partnership rooted in mutual respect, shared progress, and a common vision for a peaceful and prosperous world.

REMEMBERING LARRY REA

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 24, 2025

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of a fine newspaperman, a title he cherished in his more than 57 years as a journalist in Memphis. As many have said since he passed on Saturday, September 27, 2025, at age 82, he touched more lives than probably any Memphis journalist by covering the not-glamorous but important beats of high school sports and the outdoors, hunting and fishing as both a reporter for *The Commercial Appeal* and as a host of his radio call-in show.

Mr. Rea went to the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, where he met his wife Miriam, and covered the *Razorbacks* as a freelance student journalist. He then worked for *The Arkansas Democrat* in Little Rock. In 1967, he took *The Commercial Appeal* job and moved to Memphis, covering Friday night football games and getting to know the players, their parents, teachers, coaches and fans. It was great—he would say "gREAT"—way to get immersed in the community and feel its pulse. As a Daily Memphian columnist and longtime former Rea colleague and friend Geoff Calkins put it: "He didn't write about mayors or city council members or NBA stars. He wrote about the kid who pitched a three-hitter or the girl who scored the winning goal for her soccer team or the neighbor who caught a particularly fat bass . . . He wrote about your neighbors and friends."

After 21 years of high school sports, in 1988 he moved on the outdoors beat and continued supporting the paper's Mid-South Fishing Rodeo that helped thousands of kids learn and love fishing. After his official retirement from *The Commercial Appeal* in 2001, he wrote for the *DeSoto Times* and served as editor of *Mid-South Hunting & Fishing News* and hosted the Saturday morning show "Outdoors with Larry Rea" on WMC-AM for more than 25 years. His final show was August 30, 2025. Over his long career he was named a member of the Legends of the Outdoors Hall of Fame, the Tennessee Sports Writers Hall of Fame and received the Tennessee Wildlife

Federation Conservation Communicator Award in 2022.

I express my condolences to his wife and children, his extended family and his many friends and colleagues. Larry Rea was a Mid-South institution, and he will be missed.

RECOGNIZING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF BETHEL TEMPLE CHURCH IN HAMPTON, VIRGINIA

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 24, 2025

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Bethel Temple Church in Hampton, Virginia, on the occasion of its 70th anniversary. For seven decades, Bethel Temple has been a steadfast pillar of faith, service, and fellowship in the Hampton community.

In the early 1950s, Reverend Beverly W. Fox, then pastor of Phoebe Assembly of God, led efforts to build a new house of worship. With the support of the community, a modest sanctuary was completed and dedicated as Bethel Assembly of God. In the summer of 1955, Reverend Fox and thirty congregants held the church's first service, laying the foundation for a ministry that would thrive for generations.

Under the leadership of pastors, including Reverends Howard S. Ryan, G.P. Hertweck, Gerald Ogg, Sammy Hayes, and Arnold Brown, the church grew in both membership and outreach. Expanding facilities, establishing new ministries, and adopting the name Bethel Temple Assembly of God reflected its evolving mission and growing congregation.

In the decades that followed, Reverends Ron Johnson and Glenn Reynolds deepened the church's community engagement through programs such as the Great Turkey Giveaway, Christmas Toy Giveaway, and weekly Community Dinner. These initiatives have benefited countless families across Hampton Roads.

Today, under the leadership of Senior Pastor Reverend Charles Ricks, Jr., and Pastor Lori Ricks, Bethel Temple continues to embody faith in action. Through partnerships with local organizations and tireless service for the Hampton community during the COVID-19 pandemic, they have strengthened the church's legacy of compassion and service.

Mr. Speaker, as they mark this milestone, I extend my sincere gratitude to Bethel Temple Church for seventy years of faithful service and enduring impact on the people of Hampton.

HONORING CHARMAINE GANDY AS ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S 8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT'S WOMEN OF THE YEAR

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 24, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Charmaine Gandy, recognized as one of California's 8th Congressional District's

Women of the Year. Charmaine is a dedicated Community Benefit Manager, with over fifteen years of experience in public affairs and community benefit in Kaiser Permanente's Napa-Solano Service Area. As a Community Benefit Specialist, she manages a \$1 million annual budget and oversees sponsorships, in-kind donations, and staff volunteer programs. Her work increases employee outreach and provides meaningful community engagement opportunities. Charmaine was nominated and accepted to join the 2025–2026 Fairfield-Suisun Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, where she advocates for initiatives that will deliver substantial economic benefits to the Solano community. In addition to her professional role, Charmaine is an entrepreneur and community advocate. She is the proud owner of The Vault Event Center, as well as the co-owner of a local wine bar in Suisun, where she connects with community members through hospitality and shared experiences. Balancing her professional and entrepreneurial pursuits with family life, Charmaine is a proud wife and mother of three children. She remains deeply committed to supporting local causes, fostering community connections, and creating environments, both in her professional and personal life, where people feel seen, celebrated, and empowered. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Charmaine Gandy for her invaluable contributions to our community.

CELEBRATING ROGER CARPENTER'S 75 YEARS OF SERVICE AS SCOUTMASTER OF TROOP 316, OAK HARBOR, OHIO

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 24, 2025

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a truly remarkable American, Mr. Roger Carpenter of Oak Harbor, Ohio, who just celebrated an extraordinary milestone: seventy-five years of service as Scoutmaster of Troop 316.

Seventy-five years, that's three-quarters of a century of guiding, teaching, and uplifting generations of young people. Shaping their character, their sense of service, and their love for community. Few can say they have given so much of themselves, for so long, to a single purpose. But Roger Carpenter can. And he has done so with a humble heart, steadfast faith, and a pair of calloused hands that never stop building, fixing, or helping.

At 97 years young, Roger remains active with his troop, recently repairing the very log splitter used to make the Scouts' famous apple butter. This tradition has warmed both hearts and bellies at the Oak Harbor Apple Festival for decades. This festival, itself a celebration of community spirit, fittingly chose this year to honor Roger for his life of selfless service.

He is believed to be the longest-serving Scoutmaster in our nation's history. But beyond the record books, his impact is written in the lives of the hundreds, more likely perhaps thousands, of young men he has mentored. Many of them have gone on to serve their country, their neighbors, and their families with the same quiet strength they learned under his guidance.

During this year's festival, we presented Roger with a flag flown over our United States Capitol as a symbol of the deep gratitude we hold for his unwavering devotion to the values that Scouting and citizenship share: duty, honor, leadership, and service.

As we constantly reflect on what it means to build a strong America, we must look to people like Roger Carpenter. Those who invest in others, who give without seeking recognition, and who, year after year, live the ideals they teach. His life is a testament to what one dedicated citizen can do to shape the moral fabric of a community and a nation.

So today, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives and the people of Northwest Ohio, I extend our deepest congratulations and gratitude to Scoutmaster Roger Carpenter for 75 years of remarkable leadership, for his enduring spirit, and for reminding us all that service to others is the truest form of patriotism.

I thank Roger for being a living example of the Scout Oath and Law and for inspiring us all to leave this world a little better than we found it.

HONORING MAJOR AARON REEP

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 24, 2025

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Major Aaron Reep's distinguished service as a Marine Corps House Liaison Officer from January 2024 to December 2025.

Following his exemplary service as a Department of Defense Legislative Fellow in my office, Major Reep continued his dedication to our Nation by serving as a legislative liaison in the Marine Corps House Liaison Office. In this critical role bridging the Marine Corps and Congress, Aaron has demonstrated exceptional leadership and strategic acumen.

During his tenure, Major Reep led 22 Congressional delegations to 33 countries and 6 states, facilitating vital strategic engagements and oversight of our national security priorities. Through these delegations, he ensured Members of Congress gained firsthand understanding of Marine Corps operations, readiness challenges, and the strategic environment facing our forces worldwide.

Aaron enhanced the Marine Corps' special relationship with Congress through direct engagement with 65 Members of Congress and 78 Congressional staff, including House Leadership and committee staff. His expertise in defense policy and Marine Corps operations proved invaluable in educating lawmakers on critical issues affecting our Marines and their families.

Major Reep's work has been instrumental in advancing Marine Corps modernization priorities, particularly Force Design 2030 initiatives and the development of Stand-in Forces capabilities essential for deterring aggression in the Indo-Pacific. His efforts directly supported Congressional oversight of amphibious warship requirements, Landing Ship Medium development, and the Marine Corps' transformation for distributed maritime operations.

Throughout his service, Aaron has exemplified the Marine Corps values of honor, cour-

age, and commitment. His ability to translate complex military requirements into actionable legislative priorities has strengthened the bond between Congress and our Marines, ensuring our warfighters receive the resources and support they need to defend our Nation.

I thank Major Reep for his continued dedication to Virginia's 1st District and our Nation. His service as a Marine Corps House Liaison has been marked by professionalism, integrity, and an unwavering commitment to our national defense.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing Major Aaron Reep for his outstanding service as a Marine Corps House Liaison Officer. May God bless Aaron and his family as he continues his distinguished career serving our great Nation and the United States Marine Corps.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT AND CAREER OF STACEY MORTENSEN

HON. JOSH HARDER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 24, 2025

Mr. HARDER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague, Congressman MARK DESAULNIER, to recognize and celebrate the retirement and career of Stacey Mortensen, whose visionary leadership has transformed public transportation across the Central Valley and Northern California.

For more than three decades, Stacey has championed investments in passenger rail that have connected communities, expanded opportunity, and laid the groundwork for a more sustainable future. As Executive Director of the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission, she led the launch of the Altamont Corridor Express—ACE—in 1998, uniting San Joaquin, Alameda, and Santa Clara Counties through a first-of-its-kind commuter rail partnership. This complex initiative required building infrastructure and relationships across three different regions, a challenge Stacey met with innovation and unwavering determination. Through her work, Stacey helped establish the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority and spearheaded the Valley Rail Program, securing nearly \$2 billion in funding and enabling major infrastructure projects such as the Stockton Diamond Grade Separation.

Under her leadership, ACE has continued to evolve to meet modern needs, including the recent launch of a specialty train service to Levi's Stadium for San Francisco 49ers games—an example of the flexible, community-responsive transit vision she has cultivated. Her efforts brought together more than 20 local and regional agencies to develop a shared vision for passenger rail in the Central Valley.

In 2024, Stacey helped launch the Rail Academy of Central California (TRACC), a critical workforce development program that prepares young people for careers in the rail industry. Her deep commitment to the next generation is reflected in this initiative, which ensures the continued success and sustainability of our region's transit systems by investing in talent right here in the Valley. What truly sets Stacey apart is her deep belief in partnership and public service. Her collaborative approach has not only built rail lines—