

CELEBRATING THE GEORGIA SAFARI  
CONSERVATION PARK IN MADISON, GEORGIA

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Georgia Safari Conservation Park in Madison, Georgia, for being named one of TIME magazine's World's Greatest Places for 2025.

This 530-acre park offers an unforgettable safari experience where visitors can encounter giraffes, rhinos, and other exotic animals. The park provides luxurious accommodations, including glamping tents and a private giraffe suite, giving guests the chance to stay close to nature.

The park plays a vital role in wildlife conservation by educating the public and supporting endangered species. The park's success has significantly contributed to Madison's economy by attracting tourists from across the Nation.

Accessibility is a priority with wheelchair-friendly amenities ensuring all guests can fully enjoy the experience. TIME highlights Georgia's commitment to preserving natural wonders while promoting economic development. This honor showcases the park as a top destination that blends adventure, education, and conservation.

HONORING MRS. WILKES' DINING ROOM IN  
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a true southern institution, Mrs. Wilkes' Dining Room in Savannah, Georgia, which was recently highlighted on Southern Living's bucket list.

In the Hostess City of the South, it is only fitting that lunch is served with true southern hospitality. At Mrs. Wilkes', this means gathering around tables set for 10 where guests take a seat, share a meal, and leave as friends. Every day at 11 o'clock, the doors swing open, inviting everyone to enjoy a rotating menu of classic southern home cooking all served family style.

The meal is always a surprise. You never know what the day's entrees and sides will be, and that is part of the restaurant's charm.

Whether it is crispy fried chicken, collard greens, cornbread, or black-eyed peas, every dish is steeped in tradition. Mrs. Wilkes' Dining Room isn't just a restaurant; it is an experience.

It is a place where history, hospitality, and home-cooked meals unite to create something truly special.

COMMENDING THE ISLANDS OF ST. SIMONS,  
JEKYLL, AND TYBEE

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the islands of St. Simons, Jekyll, and Tybee, which have recently been recognized as three of the top five best beach towns in the South.

Jekyll Island was ranked as the fifth best beach town in the South, celebrated for its beauty, pristine wilderness, otherworldly nature, and function as a refuge for local wildlife.

Tybee Island was ranked fourth on the list, being praised as a little island packing a big punch. Tybee contains

over three miles of beaches, hundreds of years of history, and countless opportunities to explore nature making it one of the most beloved areas in the First Congressional District.

St. Simons was ranked as the number one beach town in the South, surpassing a list of 50 other iconic locations.

St. Simons' laid-back and welcoming atmosphere, delicious restaurants, renowned golf courses, and historic landmarks are reasons why the idyllic town beats out all the rest.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that Georgia's First District is home to three of the best beach towns in the South.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Savior, like a shepherd, lead us. In Your tender care may we find certainty and security in the face of any danger that dares threaten us. In Your verdant pastures may we be fed and refreshed to continue on the journey on which You lead us.

With Your rod of righteousness and Your staff of security, guard and guide us that we would not stray from the paths You would have us follow. May we listen for Your voice and not be lured by the enticing sounds that would lead us away from the way You would have us live.

And when the shadows of life overtake us, when we walk in the deepest valleys of fear and death, remind us again that You abide with us still.

Prepare us to face the inevitability of the inimical.

Anoint us with the imparting of Your unimagined blessing.

And follow us throughout the day and always with the certainty of Your goodness and love.

In the strength and protection of Your name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCDOWELL) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MCDOWELL led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish my firstborn child, Jonathon, of whom I am an incredibly proud mom, a very happy birthday.

Happy birthday, Son.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish my amazing nephew Joseph Martino a happy 18th birthday.

Happy birthday, Joseph.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish my incredibly talented nephew Matthew Martino a wonderful 18th birthday.

Happy birthday, Matthew.

Mr. Speaker, I think that is enough birthdays.

HONORING THE LIFE OF  
SERGEANT JOSE DUENEZ, JR.

(Ms. UNDERWOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my constituent Sergeant Jose Duenez, Jr.

Sergeant Duenez was described by his family as someone who always wanted to protect people. He enlisted right after high school and served with his whole heart.

His family said: "It is like it was in him to be a hero," and that is exactly what he was, an extraordinary hero.

As we mourn this devastating loss, our community in Joliet stands with Sergeant Duenez' family: his wife, Kai; their 1-year-old son, Junior; and with all the loved ones of the four soldiers who lost their lives in Lithuania last month.

Let us never forget their strength and resilience. Let us draw inspiration from their courage and selflessness. Let us thank them always for their service.

RECOGNIZING GOLD STAR  
SPOUSES DAY

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gold Star Spouses Day.

On April 5, we honored the spouses of military servicemembers who died while defending our freedom and serving our country.

This day serves not only as a moment of remembrance but also a tribute to the strength, resilience, and sacrifice of these courageous individuals.

As an Army dad, I consider myself profoundly blessed that my son returned home. I recognize that not all families share that same blessing. That truth weighs heavily on my heart and should remind us all of the price that has been paid.

Gold Star Spouses Day brings much-needed awareness to the grief and enduring strength of these spouses. Their sacrifice did not end with their loved one's passing. It continues every day as they carry forward the legacy of their fallen heroes.

Mr. Speaker, let us all take a moment to remember that our freedom is not free.

Gold Star families have lost a loved one in the name of protecting our freedom, and they deserve our gratitude today and every day.

**APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO BRITISH-AMERICAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY GROUP**

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. McDOWELL). The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2761, clause 10 of rule I, and the order of the House of January 3, 2025, of the following Members on the part of the House to the British-American Interparliamentary Group:

- Mr. CROW, Colorado
- Mr. MEEKS, New York
- Ms. DELBENE, Washington
- Mr. GOMEZ, California
- Ms. MATSUI, California

**RECESS**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 8 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1600

**AFTER RECESS**

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. TAYLOR) at 4 p.m.

**ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

**AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR THE NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL SERVICE AND THE NATIONAL HONOR GUARD AND PIPE BAND EXHIBITION**

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 9) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

**H. CON. RES. 9**

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That*

**SECTION 1. USE OF THE CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL SERVICE.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The National Fraternal Order of Police and its auxiliary shall be permitted to sponsor a public event, the 44th Annual National Peace Officers Memorial Service (in this resolution referred to as the "Memorial Service"), on the Capitol Grounds, in order to honor the law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty during 2024.

(b) **DATE OF MEMORIAL SERVICE.**—The Memorial Service shall be held on May 15, 2025, or on such other date as the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate jointly designate, with preparation for the event to begin on May 9, 2025, and takedown completed on May 16, 2025.

**SEC. 2. USE OF THE CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR NATIONAL HONOR GUARD AND PIPE BAND EXHIBITION.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The National Fraternal Order of Police and its auxiliary shall be permitted to sponsor a public event, the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition (in this resolution referred to as the "Exhibition"), on the Capitol Grounds, in order to allow law enforcement representatives to exhibit their ability to demonstrate Honor Guard programs and provide for a bagpipe exhibition.

(b) **DATE OF EXHIBITION.**—The Exhibition shall be held on May 14, 2025, or on such other date as the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate jointly designate.

**SEC. 3. TERMS AND CONDITIONS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Under conditions to be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police Board, the event shall be—

- (1) free of admission charge and open to the public; and
- (2) arranged not to interfere with the needs of Congress.

(b) **EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES.**—The sponsors of the Memorial Service and Exhibition shall assume full responsibility for all expenses and liabilities incident to all activities associated with the events.

**SEC. 4. EVENT PREPARATIONS.**

Subject to the approval of the Architect of the Capitol, the sponsors referred to in section 3(b) are authorized to erect upon the Capitol Grounds such stage, sound amplification devices, and other related structures and equipment, as may be required for the Memorial Service and Exhibition.

**SEC. 5. ENFORCEMENT OF RESTRICTIONS.**

The Capitol Police Board shall provide for enforcement of the restrictions contained in

section 5104(c) of title 40, United States Code, concerning sales, advertisements, displays, and solicitations on the Capitol Grounds, as well as other restrictions applicable to the Capitol Grounds, in connection with the events.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STANTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material into the RECORD on H. Con. Res. 9.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have introduced this bipartisan resolution along with the Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management Subcommittee Ranking Member GREG STANTON of Arizona.

This resolution authorizes the use of these Capitol Grounds for the 44th Annual Peace Officers' Memorial event to honor the law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty in 2024.

According to the Fraternal Order of Police, last year, there were 342 on-duty officers who were shot, 50 of whom were killed.

In February of this year, tragedy occurred in the district I am honored to represent when multiple police officers were shot while in the line of duty. One, Officer Andrew Duarte of the West York Borough Police Department, made the ultimate sacrifice. Mr. Speaker, he was only 30 years old.

Police officers across the country put their lives on the line every single day to keep us safe. Every day that they go out, they put their uniforms on and leave their families, and they don't know what they are going to run into. Every day can be a boring day where nothing happens. They can go through a whole career that way, but they never know and their families never know. Every single day, they are prepared. They are ready to give everything as a sacrifice to their communities to make sure that safety is preserved.

That is why I and my friend, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STANTON), are extremely honored to once again be able to sponsor this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 9, which authorizes the use of the Capitol Grounds for the 44th Annual National Peace Officers' Memorial Service on May 15, 2025. I thank the gentleman