

Native Hawaiian community. He secured Federal dollars for the dredging and construction of Pearl Harbor, helped establish Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, and laid the foundation for Hawaii's modern government structure and its county system, which remain in place today. Prince Kuhio also established Hawaii's Hawaiian Civic Club, beginning a movement of advocacy within the Native Hawaiian community which had been literally decimated from a pre-contact number of 800,000 to 1 million, to 40,000 by 1920.

Most notably, Prince Kuhio championed the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, HHCA, landmark legislation that serves as the first expression of the United States trust relationship with the Native Hawaiian community. Enacted in 1921, the HHCA set aside approximately 200,000 acres of land to create a permanent homeland for Native Hawaiians, who had suffered from diseases, the overthrow of their kingdom, and the loss of their lands. Through the HHCA, Prince Kuhio sought to return Native Hawaiians to their land and promote self-sufficiency through homesteading on these leased, trust lands.

Prince Kuhio's persistence and effectiveness in advocating for the Native Hawaiian community continues to impact the Native Hawaiian community, especially through the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act. His legacy lives on in the many Native Hawaiian families who have benefited—and will continue to benefit—from his vision and leadership.

Daniel Kahikina Akaka was born in Honolulu, HI, on September 11, 1924. Senator Akaka graduated from the Kamehameha School for Boys in 1942. Upon completing high school at the height of World War II, he served in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from 1943 to 1945 and the U.S. Army from 1945 to 1947, with deployments to Saipan and Tinian. Following his military service, Mr. Akaka earned both a bachelor's and master's of education from the University of Hawaii. He went on to serve as a teacher, vice-principal, principal, and chief program planner within the Department of Education. He later became the director of the Hawaii Office of Economic Opportunity and served as a special assistant for Human Resources, as well as director of the Office of Progressive Neighborhoods Program.

Mr. Akaka was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1976, where he served until May 16, 1990. He was appointed to the U.S. Senate in 1990 to fill the vacancy caused by the passing of Senator Masayuki "Spark" Matsunaga. After winning a special election later that year, Senator Akaka became the first and only Native Hawaiian to serve in the U.S. Senate, where he represented Hawaii until his retirement. During his tenure, Senator Akaka served on the Committee on Armed Services, Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, Committee on Homeland Security and Govern-

mental Affairs, Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Committee on Indian Affairs, and Committee on Ethics.

Throughout his distinguished career, Senator Akaka was a tireless advocate for Native Hawaiians and worked to ensure that the U.S. Government fulfilled its trust responsibilities. In 1993, he helped pass the Apology Resolution, which acknowledged the U.S. Government's role in the illegal overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii and issued a formal apology to Native Hawaiians. The resolution also committed the United States to a process of reconciliation. Senator Akaka also championed the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act, which sought to establish a pathway for Federal recognition of Native Hawaiians and their right to self-governance, based on their unique political and historical relationship between the United States. Although the bill did not pass, it laid critical groundwork for ongoing discussions about Federal recognition and justice for Native Hawaiians.

Senator Akaka's unwavering commitment to the people of Hawaii and the Native Hawaiian community serve as an inspiration. His legacy reminds us of the importance of humility, service, and steadfast dedication to the communities we are called to represent.

Every day, but particularly during this month, we honor and thank Queen Liliuokalani, Prince Kuhio, and Senator Akaka for their extraordinary vision, leadership, and commitment to the Native Hawaiian community.

#### WELCOMING ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I rise, on behalf of all Floridians, to recognize the meaningful visit of Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, His All-Holiness Bartholomew of the Orthodox Church to our Nation's Capital. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has been on the forefront of religious freedom for his entire ministry, and now as the longest serving Archbishop of Constantinople in the two millennia history of Christianity, he has worked to bring people together for the purpose of advancing greater cooperation and mutual understanding. He has been honored with the Congressional Gold Medal and, soon, the Templeton Prize. Florida is home to many Orthodox churches, Orthodox Christians, and communities who share deep gratitude for the leadership of His All-Holiness Bartholomew and his mission to serve others. I join with Floridians and the U.S. Senate in welcoming His All-Holiness Bartholomew to the United States and our Nation's Capital.

#### WELCOMING ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to welcome to our Nation's

capital His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the Spiritual Head of the second-largest Christian Church in the world. His All-Holiness serves as the current Archbishop of Constantinople and leads over 300 million Orthodox Christians worldwide.

His All-Holiness is visiting Washington, DC, from September 15 through September 17 and will meet with President Trump at the White House. This visit coincides with his receipt of the Templeton Prize, a prestigious award previously bestowed upon renowned figures such as Mother Teresa, the Dalai Lama, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

For decades, His All-Holiness has been a steadfast advocate for religious freedom and unity among Christians worldwide. He has consistently called for the protection of religious minorities and has championed the rights of Orthodox Christians to worship freely. His efforts to promote dialogue between the Orthodox Church and other Christian denominations have significantly strengthened interreligious understanding.

In my home State of Kansas, we are honored to have a strong and active Greek Orthodox community, with more than 4,300 Orthodox Christians and two parishes: St. Dionysios in Overland Park and Holy Trinity in Wichita. These churches embody the deep spiritual connection that Kansans share with the Ecumenical Patriarchate and Orthodox Christians around the world.

I now ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this historic visit and in honoring His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew for his unwavering commitment to faith and the common good.

#### WELCOMING ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

Mr. WARNOCK. Mr. President, I welcome His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of the Eastern Orthodox Church to the United States of America. Since 1991, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has served as the spiritual leader for 300 million Orthodox Christians across the world. Throughout his diakonia, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has dedicated himself to fostering inter-religious dialogue, advancing initiatives to promote understanding and tolerance amongst Christians, Jews, and Muslims in the Middle East.

In addition to his commitment to religious tolerance and freedom, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has been a champion for ecological justice and the protection of the environment. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew's dedication to the spiritual responsibility of environmentalism and the necessity of caring for God's creation led to him being referred to as the "Green Patriarch." As a result of his efforts, the John Templeton Foundation has awarded Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew with the 2025 Templeton

Prize for helping “bridge scientific and spiritual understandings of humanity’s relationship with the natural world.”

It is an honor to have him visit Washington, DC, and our government officials during his trip to receive the Templeton Prize.

#### WELCOMING ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

Mr. HUSTED. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew’s visit to Washington, DC. His All-Holiness is visiting our Nation’s Capital in conjunction with his acceptance of the prestigious Templeton Prize, an award which has been received by faith leaders including Mother Teresa, the Dalai Lama, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. The Greek Orthodox community in Ohio and across the country take great pride in this recognition of their faith leader’s global influence.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### RECOGNIZING THREE KANSAS COMMUNITY COLLEGES

• Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize three Kansas community colleges that were recently ranked among the top 2-year colleges in the Nation by WalletHub: Manhattan Area Technical College, Pratt Community College, and Colby Community College.

Community and technical colleges play a vital role in building the workforce of the future and making higher education accessible to students from all backgrounds. They provide affordable, high-quality education that prepares students for meaningful careers or further study. For many, especially in rural areas, these colleges offer the best path to career success and personal advancement.

Manhattan Area Technical College earned the No. 2 national ranking, driven by its consistent record of placing graduates into high-demand careers with strong earning potential. Its focus on career and technical education equips students with skills that are both practical and accessible.

Pratt Community College earned the No. 3 spot nationwide, celebrated for instilling financial responsibility in its graduates, who maintain one of the lowest student loan default rates in the country. This recognition underscores the college’s exceptional return on investment and its commitment to preparing students for long-term professional success.

Colby Community College earned the No. 15 national ranking, reflecting its ongoing excellence in serving students across western Kansas. The college has posted the highest graduation rate among Kansas community colleges in 7 of the past 10 years and led the State’s community colleges in fall-to-fall retention in 5 of the past 6 years.

As a proud community college alum, I know firsthand the opportunities that community and technical colleges provide their students. They open doors for hard-working Americans seeking a better future through education and training. I am proud to see these Kansas colleges leading the way in providing affordable, effective, and transformative education.

I now ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Manhattan Area Technical College, Pratt Community College, and Colby Community College on this national recognition.●

##### RECOGNIZING THE HOISINGTON DAIRY QUEEN

• Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize the closure of a staple restaurant and icon of Hoisington, Ks. After more than 70 years of service to the local community, the Dairy Queen in Hoisington is closing its doors. The Hoisington location opened in 1953, and the business served the area for the following decades until officially closing on August 28, 2025.

For more than 40 of those years, Becky and Leon Steiner owned and operated the business, providing the Hoisington community with decades of good memories and tasty food.

Anyone from a small, close-knit community knows firsthand the importance of a restaurant like Dairy Queen to the town. These restaurants are a place for folks to grab a bite to eat after church, a safe hangout spot for students to gather after school is out, and a place for people of all ages to gather for a cold treat when it is hot. For many, the local ice cream spot is an important part of the community.

Throughout the years, the location of the Dairy Queen had remained the same, despite updates and repairs to the building, including a rebuild after the April 2001 tornado that caused significant damage to the Hoisington community.

The location faced further hardships during the COVID-19 pandemic when, in March 2020, all Dairy Queen franchise stores were required to close their dining rooms as a result of the virus.

And yet, despite these challenges, the Hoisington community consistently rallied around the business and supported its owners by remaining loyal customers of the restaurant.

In 2023, Hoisington’s Dairy Queen recognized the commitment of the community and celebrated 70 years of business at the location by offering a week of special deals with discounted treats such as ice cream cones, fries, hamburgers, and sundaes.

While running a business for decades is no easy task, the Steiners credit the tremendous support of the Hoisington community as the key to their success over the years.

While Becky and Leon Steiner have closed the doors to their restaurant,

they announced that their daughter Amber and her husband John Crawford will open a new business, bringing a “hometown fast food” restaurant to the community to help fill the void left.

I congratulate the Steiners on many decades of successful business in the local community, and I offer my best wishes to the Crawfords as they launch a new restaurant to continue the family legacy of service to the people of Hoisington.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Holstead, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:16 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 452) to award 3 Congressional Gold Medals to the members of the 1980 U.S. Olympic Men’s Ice Hockey Team, in recognition of their extraordinary achievement at the 1980 Winter Olympics where, being comprised of amateur collegiate players, they defeated the dominant Soviet hockey team in the historic “Miracle on Ice”, revitalizing American morale at the height of the Cold War, inspiring generations and transforming the sport of hockey in the United States.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1107. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize certain health care professionals employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs to deliver, distribute, or dispense to veterans certain controlled medications via telemedicine under certain conditions, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1860. An act to designate Regional Breast and Gynecologic Cancer Care Coordinators to expand the work of the Breast and Gynecologic Oncology System of Excellence at the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2034. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the requirements of the Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship.

H.R. 2334. An act to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to preempt any squatter’s rights established by State law regarding real property owned by a member of the uniformed services.

H.R. 2701. An act to direct the American Battle Monuments Commission to establish