

Christians throughout Louisiana who worship in churches across our State are held in high regard by their fellow citizens.

We are pleased that during this visit to America, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew will, as he has during previous trips, meet with our President at the White House and with the leadership of both Houses of Congress from both parties. We recognize that His All-Holiness is among the very few world leaders who commands such high-level access to the leadership of our Nation.

The U.S. Congress expressed its profound respect and admiration for His All-Holiness in 1997 when it awarded him the Congressional Gold Medal, Congress' highest honor. This distinguished award has been bestowed upon such luminaries as George Washington and Winston Churchill. Remarkably, the legislation for His All-Holiness's Gold Medal attracted more of the Members of Congress as cosponsors than any other bill introduced during that entire congressional session. This Gold Medal also recognized the significant international and historical role the Ecumenical Patriarch has played throughout his lifetime. Historic international figures who received the Congressional Gold Medal immediately before and after His All-Holiness were Mother Teresa and Nelson Mandela.

We also acknowledge the extraordinary historic role His All-Holiness has served as the longest tenured Ecumenical Patriarch in history. It is significant that Jesus Christ's first Apostle Andrew and his brother Peter each established distinct spheres of Christian influence. The Apostle Andrew established his ministry in the region that encompasses present-day Turkey, and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew stands as the 269th direct successor of the Apostle Andrew. Similarly, the Apostle Andrew's brother the Apostle Peter traveled to what is today the Vatican, and Pope Leo XIV serves as the 267th successor of the Apostle Peter.

WELCOMING ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise to offer remarks to welcome His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to the United States. He is the spiritual head of the second largest Christian Church in the world and the leader of over 1 million Greek Orthodox in the United States, including many of my constituents in the State of Michigan. Michigan is home to a vibrant Greek Orthodox community, whose presence in the State stretches all the way back to the late 1800s with the arrival of the first Greek immigrants to Michigan. Today, the community is represented across the State, with 23 parishes spanning from metro Detroit to the Upper Peninsula.

His All-Holiness is in the United States this month to meet with the President and Members of the House

and Senate leadership. He is also set to receive the distinguished Templeton Prize for his years of dedicated service as Ecumenical Patriarch. Throughout this time, His All-Holiness has sought to bring together people of all faiths to combat religious intolerance and enhance understanding between the faiths.

One of his major efforts during his first years as Patriarch was to convene an interfaith international conference on peace and religious tolerance in Istanbul. The conference brought together faith leaders from around the world to find ways to encourage understanding and peaceful coexistence. Moreover, he has advanced Christian-Muslim relations by advocating for peace-building measures in conflict affected regions like the Balkans.

The Templeton Prize is not the first recognition His-Holiness has received for his years of profound service. The Patriarch has also been honored by the United Nations, the European Union, and dozens of governments, universities, and institutions for his bold efforts to promote peace and understanding, especially between the East and West. In 1997, he was honored in Washington, DC, with the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest congressional award.

Once again, I would like to extend a warm welcome to His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. His work to strengthen ties between communities of differing faiths is critical in helping combat religious intolerance.

WELCOMING ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

Mr. KELLY. Mr. President, I rise today to welcome His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to Washington, DC. He is the spiritual leader of Orthodox Christianity, the second largest Christian Church in the world, with more than 250 million members worldwide and over 1 million here in the United States.

His All-Holiness is the 269th successor of the Apostle Andrew and the longest serving Ecumenical Patriarch in history. He is recognized across the globe for his leadership in promoting peace, advancing religious freedom, and speaking out on environmental stewardship. He has been honored with the Congressional Gold Medal and will receive the Templeton Prize during this visit.

In Arizona, the Greek Orthodox community is an important part of our State's civic and cultural life. Parishes across the State serve as places of worship, education, and service, and they host traditions that strengthen families and connect generations. Their contributions are an important part of Arizona's diversity and character.

I am proud to join Orthodox Christians in Arizona and across the country in welcoming His All-Holiness to the United States and to Congress. His

visit is a point of pride for many Arizonans and a reminder of the shared values of faith, service, and community that strengthen our country.

RECOGNIZING THE BOSTON PASSPORT AGENCY

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Boston Passport Agency on its 100th anniversary. For a century, the dedicated public servants at the Boston Passport Agency have connected the people of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts—and travelers from across New England—to the wider world. Today, the agency continues to safeguard the integrity of the U.S. passport and ensure families, students, service-members, business leaders, and humanitarian workers can safely travel across the globe.

I celebrate the Boston Passport Agency's centennial milestone on September 17, 2025, which marks Constitution Day and Citizenship Day. On this day, every year, we recognize the adoption of the U.S. Constitution and celebrate those who have become, or are on their path to becoming, U.S. citizens. Every American—whether they were born on U.S. soil or immigrated to our shores—offers their own unique story, traditions, faith, and values to the fabric of our Nation. For the last 100 years, the Boston Passport Agency has taken part in the incredible task of honoring American stories—one passport at a time.

The Boston Passport Agency tirelessly serves the public trust. Day in and day out, agency professionals uphold the highest standards of security, while delivering the responsive, compassionate service Commonwealth residents have come to know and appreciate. Whether it is assisting a college student preparing for a semester abroad, a grandmother traveling to welcome a new grandchild, or a family navigating the urgency of a medical or humanitarian emergency, the agency meets the moment with expertise, diligence, and care.

Over the decades—and especially in recent years—the Boston Passport Agency has displayed remarkable resilience and innovation. During periods of unprecedented demand and global uncertainty, including public health disruptions that strained travel systems worldwide, the agency's personnel adapted operations and devised creative ways to serve the public, all without compromising security. In partnership with local communities, elected officials, and Department of State leadership, the agency's staff helped reduce backlogs, protect against fraud, and strengthen processes essential to both national security and individual liberty.

The economic and cultural impact of the Boston Passport Agency's work reverberates far beyond the walls of its office. By powering international research collaborations, trade and tourism, and educational exchanges, the

Boston Passport Agency enriches our region's institutions, industries, and communities. The agency enables small businesses to reach new markets, assists families in cultivating bonds across borders, and supports Americans in representing our Nation's values abroad.

We also honor the great people who make up this institution; their professionalism and diligence have made possible the extraordinary journeys of so many. On behalf of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the leadership and staff of the Boston Passport Agency—past and present—for a century of exemplary service and stewardship.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Boston Passport Agency on its 100th anniversary and in wishing its team continued success in the years ahead.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING JAZZ ST. LOUIS

• Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, today, I rise to recognize and congratulate Jazz St. Louis, a mainstay of the St. Louis music community. Since its founding 30 years ago, the organization has served as a cornerstone of Missouri culture, hosting over 200 jazz performances annually from both renowned and rising musicians. In no small part due to their team's diligent efforts, St. Louis has remained a key player in America's music heritage. Through its daily, unwavering work to renew enthusiasm in this uniquely American art form, Jazz St. Louis has not only kept the spirit and rich tradition of jazz alive but has continually provided inspiration and exceptional education to individuals passionate about jazz.

I appreciate Jazz St. Louis's committed work to honoring and carrying forward the creative tradition of the jazz style and wish their entire team the very best as they begin the Miles Davis Centennial celebration to commemorate the St. Louis region's very own jazz legend.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 1:49 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2721. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish and carry out a pilot program to furnish a headstone or burial marker to veterans who died on or before November 1, 1990, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4922. An act to limit youth offender status in the District of Columbia to individuals 18 years of age or younger, to direct the Attorney General of the District of Columbia to establish and operate a publicly accessible website containing updated statistics on juvenile crime in the District of Columbia, to amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to prohibit the Council of the District of

Columbia from enacting changes to existing criminal liability sentences, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5140. An act to lower the age at which a minor may be tried as an adult for certain criminal offenses in the District of Columbia to 14 years of age.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 2721. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish and carry out a pilot program to furnish a headstone or burial marker to veterans who died on or before November 1, 1990, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-1829. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Wyoming; R-35 Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations Rule Package" (FRL No. 12942-02-R8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 15, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1830. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Maryland: Final Approval of State Underground Storage Tank Program Revisions, Codification, and Incorporation by Reference" (FRL No. 12797-02-R3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 15, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1831. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Minnesota: Final Approval of State Underground Storage Tank Program Revisions, Codification, and Incorporation by Reference" (FRL No. 12762-02-R5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 15, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1832. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; New Jersey; Memorandum of Agreement to address NOx SIP Call Requirements" (FRL No. 12760-02-R2) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 15, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1833. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Guam; Clean Data Determination for the Piti-Cabras Nonattainment Area for the 2010 1-Hour Sulfur Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standard" (FRL No. 12752-02-R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 15, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1834. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions: California" (FRL No. 12239-02-R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 15, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1835. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Arizona Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program; Class I-VI Primacy" (FRL No. 11786-02-OW) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 15, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1836. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Trichloroethylene; Regulation under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA); Compliance Date Extension" (FRL No. 8317.2-01-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 15, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1837. A communication from the Assistant for Legislative Affairs, Army Corps of Engineers, Department of the Army, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment Rule" (RIN0710-AB57) received in the office of the President of the Senate on September 11, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1838. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Secretary of State's intent to designate Barrio 18 as a Foreign Terrorist Organization received in the office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1839. A communication from the Administrative Assistant, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Laguna Madre, South Padre Island, TX" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2025-0462)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 15, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1840. A communication from the Administrative Assistant, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Beltway 8 Bridge Construction, Houston Ship Channel, Houston, TX" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2025-0678)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 15, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1841. A communication from the Administrative Assistant, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Francis Scott Key Bridge, Patapsco River, Baltimore, MD" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2025-0680)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 15, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1842. A communication from the Administrative Assistant, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Intracoastal Waterway, Palm Beach, FL" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2025-0690)) received in the Office of