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APPRECIATING KAREN METZ

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this week in Washington and Charleston will hold services appreciating the extraordinary life of Karen Metz, whose accomplishments have meaningfully impacted many communities. Our deepest sympathy goes to Chief of Staff Craig Metz, and their son Preston. I include in the RECORD the following obituary from the website of Joseph Gawler's Sons, LLC.:

Karen Angela McCleary Metz, the wife of Craig Huseman Metz for 41 years, and the mother of Preston Worthington Metz, died peacefully at home in Washington, DC, on January 25, 2026, following more than eight years of courageously enduring severe complications from ANCA Vasculitis. A Fourth Generation Memphian (born July 30, 1955), she was the daughter of Harry Robert McCleary, Jr. and Mary Angela Gallina McCleary, who resided in Germantown, Tennessee, with horse stables in Collierville, Tennessee. She was the granddaughter of Harry Robert McCleary, Sr., the President and Co-Founder of McCleary Industries, Inc. and McCleary Brothers, Inc., and Sadye Marie "Peggy" Trebing McCleary, of Memphis and Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and Joseph Charles Gallina, who owned and operated a 7,500 acre commercial farming enterprise along the Mississippi River in Shelby County, with his brother, John Gallina, for many years, and Frances Facelli Gallina, of Memphis. One of the largest truck farming operations in the Mid-South, producing vegetables and cotton, the innovative Gallina Brothers Farms employed on average 300 seasonal workers and was one of the first agriculture sites in the Mid-South to utilize crop dusting for aerial application on fields and to employ massive irrigation systems on a large-scale basis.

Following her mother and her aunts, she was graduated from the Saint Agnes Academy for Girls, founded by the Dominican Sisters, in Memphis, in 1951, which she attended from Kindergarten through the Twelfth Grade. She received the Bachelor of Science Degree in Interior Design from The University of Tennessee, where she was an officer of the Delta Delta Delta Sorority.

Following her graduation from college, she returned to Memphis, where she joined Kimbrough, Inc., the firm of Kenneth Kimbrough, as an Interior Designer, and she continued with the firm when it merged with E.C. Denaux & Co., to become Denaux-Kimbrough. She later moved to Mills Morris, where she concentrated on commercial interior design. During this time, she was an Associate Member of the Memphis Chapter of the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) and served a term as Secretary. She was also the Chairwoman of the House Corporation of the Delta Delta Delta Chapter at Rhodes College, overseeing the renovation of the Chapter House and establishing an annual fundraising drive for philanthropy.

With a keen interest in Culinary Arts, she changed careers, receiving the Blue Ribbon Diploma from Peter Kump's New York Cooking School and studying Classic French Culinary Techniques in France. She became the

Head Instructor at Peter Kump's New York Cooking School in 1984, and she assisted Peter Kump and Julia Child during their formation of the James Beard Foundation and the purchase of the James Beard Residence, in New York City, for the headquarters. She was certified as an Instructor by the International Association of Cooking Professionals (IACP), and she assisted James Beard, Jacques Pepin, Marcella Hazan, and Diana Kennedy, among other culinary leaders, in conducting classes. She was also named to Outstanding Young Women of America in 1984.

Upon her relocation to Washington, DC, in 1987, she became the United States Representative for Ecole de Cuisine La Varenne, one of the first professional cooking schools in France to conduct simultaneous instruction in French and English, with locations in Paris and Burgundy. For a number of years, they also operated "La Varenne at The Greenbrier," providing specially designed intensive programs for guests at the resort.

Seeking to express her creativity in other areas related to the culinary field, in 1991, she formed Karen Metz & Company, through which she designed and produced gift boxes for baked goods. Her first commercial customer was Chuck Williams, the founder of Williams-Sonoma, who requested that she design and manufacture a box to his specifications in the signature green of their brand, which was carried in all of their stores. Various designs of other boxes that she created were featured in catalogues and culinary specialty stores internationally under the brand that she established, "Baker's Wrap." During this time, she was an active member of the Food and Libations Association of Virginia (FLAVA), a trade association for the specialty food industry.

She later established a branch of Peter Kump's Cooking School for the Washington, DC Area, where she led classes that continued until his death in 1995 and the sale of the school. From that point, she re-activated Karen Metz & Company as a culinary consulting business, with HADCO, which was later acquired by Viking Range, as a principal client. She was also selected by the United States Air Force to develop the meals for inflight service on Air Force Two, at the request of the Vice President of the United States for a higher level of cuisine onboard.

She was the Past Chairwoman of the National Capital Area Chapter of the American Institute of Wine and Food (AIWF), having served on the Board of Directors for a number of years. She also led fundraising events for AIWF Scholarships, that were held at Union Station and The Hay-Adams, featuring Julia Child and the leading Chefs of Washington, DC.

She was an active member of the Junior League in Memphis, New York City, and Washington, DC, where she was a member of the committee that developed and published Capital Classics—Recipes from the Junior League of Washington, and where she later became a Sustaining Member.

A devoted mother to her son, Preston, she was enthusiastically present for all of his school and sports activities, also volunteering in various support roles at Saint Albans School, including as an Annual Giving Form Representative and with the Washington National Cathedral Flower Mart for nine years. Her devotion extended beyond her connection to his time in school, dedicating herself to raising him to be the compassionate, open-minded young man into which he has developed. She also shared her love for cooking and culture with him, nurturing passions that remain to this day. Most importantly, she quietly demonstrated how to recognize and care for others, committing significant amounts of her time to

helping anyone who she perceived as needing assistance; especially, among the elderly and those who are homebound. Always placing the needs of others before herself, she wholeheartedly volunteered her time to caring for a number of individuals, organizing their living situations, overseeing their medical care, providing meals, and being present in their lives daily, for companionship and to provide hope.

In addition to her husband and her son, she is survived by her brother, Harry Robert McCleary III, and his wife Jennifer Connell McCleary, of Memphis; her sister, Teresa Marie McCleary, of Memphis; her sister, Alisa McCleary Byars, and her husband, Lewis Jefferson Byars IV, of Tusculumbia, Alabama; her aunt, Sandra Gallina Chiles, and her husband, Walter William Chiles, Jr., of Germantown, Tennessee; her mother-in-law, Annette Worthington Metz, of Columbia, South Carolina; her sister-in-law, Carol Metz O'Kelly, of Florence, South Carolina; her former brother-in-law, Dr. James Kevin O'Kelly, Sr., of Florence, South Carolina; the fiancée of her son, Elizabeth Parker Barringer, of New York City; three nieces; a nephew; and two great-nephews. She was predeceased by her parents and a Godfather of Preston, Peter Kump, of New York City.

Memorials may be made to the Madonna Learning Center in Germantown, Tennessee.

The family extends its heartfelt gratitude to those who so generously donate Blood, Platelets, and Plasma, which helped to sustain her at the initial life-threatening manifestation of her underlying illness and for the remainder of her life.

The family also gratefully recognizes the dedicated Medics of District of Columbia Fire Department Engine Company 31 Forest Hills Station, for their skillful and compassionate care at her home and during numerous ambulance trips to hospitals, as well as the Medics of the Air Ambulance Team, for their lifesaving care in transit during one of her three Heart Attacks.

A person of absolute integrity, who lived her Faith through her actions, with an exceptionally compassionate nature and zest for life, she shall be greatly missed by her family and those whose lives that she positively impacted in a variety of ways, including her former students, whom she nurtured, and friends throughout the Country.

On Thursday, February 5th, a Viewing shall be held at the Joseph Gawler's Sons Funeral Home at 1:00, with the Funeral Service to be conducted in the Chapel at 2:00, followed by a reception. Officiating the Service shall be, Reverend Richard Arthur Mullins, Pastor of Saint Thomas, Apostle Catholic Church; with the participation of Reverend Brooks Franklin Hundley, Senior Chaplain, Saint Albans School; and Reverend Dominique Francois Peridans, Rector, Church of the Ascension and Saint Agnes, Episcopal. Honorary Pallbearers are members of the Saint Albans School Class of 2012.

On Saturday, February 7th, the Rite of Committal with Final Commendation shall be held at her graveside, at Magnolia Cemetery, in Charleston, South Carolina, at 2:00, conducted by Reverend Mark Lowell Sargent, of the Catholic Diocese of London, Ontario, Canada; followed by a reception on Queen Street, in Charleston. Active Pallbearers are: Vic Brandt, Butler Derrick, Drew Fanning, Chappy McKay, Brown McLeod, John Moore, Cal Stephens, Ed Vaughan, Charles Waring, and Congressman Joe Wilson. Honorary Pallbearers are: Attorney General Alan Wilson, Dr. Addison Wilson, Julian Wilson, and Hunter Wilson. James A. McAlister Funeral Home has charge of arrangements in Charleston.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GREG LANDSMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

Mr. LANDSMAN. Mr. Speaker, due to travel delays, I was unfortunately unable to make votes. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 49, and YEA on Roll Call No. 50.

HONORING RETIRING CITY
MANAGER STEVEN ADAMS**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Steven Adams and to commend him on the occasion of his retirement as City Manager of King City, California, following more than forty-three years of distinguished public service.

Mr. Adams has devoted his professional life to the service of others, exemplifying the highest traditions of public administration. Over the course of his career, he has served with distinction in leadership roles for the City of Glendale, the City of Westlake Village, and for more than fourteen years as City Manager of the City of Arroyo Grande, before bringing his considerable experience to King City upon his appointment as City Manager in 2015.

During his tenure in King City, Mr. Adams provided steadfast and principled leadership at a time of significant challenge and opportunity. Through his guidance, the City restored confidence in its public institutions, strengthened its police department, and achieved fiscal stability. His careful stewardship eliminated a five-million-dollar negative fund balance and established prudent financial reserves to ensure the City's long-term well-being.

Under his leadership, King City advanced important initiatives that have strengthened the fabric of the community. These efforts included implementation of the Comprehensive Plan to End Youth Violence, revitalization of the historic downtown, expansion of community programs and public spaces, and the completion of major infrastructure and transit improvements. In addition, through his diligent advocacy and collaboration, King City successfully secured in excess of one hundred million dollars in federal and state funding to support housing, public safety, and economic development.

Mr. Adams's service has extended beyond the responsibilities of his office. Through active participation in local service organizations and regional partnerships throughout the Salinas Valley, he fostered cooperation, strengthened civic engagement, and advanced opportunities for residents across the community.

Mr. Speaker, Steven Adams's record reflects a career marked by integrity, professionalism, and an abiding commitment to public service. His decade of service as City Manager of King City, together with more than four decades in public administration, has left a lasting and positive legacy. On behalf of the residents of California's 18th Congressional District, I extend sincere appreciation to Ste-

ven Adams for his dedicated service and convey best wishes to him and his family as he enters a well-earned retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR.
HILLARD POUNCY, JR.**HON. LUCY MCBATH**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, this week began Black History Month. As Second Vice Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, I am proud to raise and put proper emphasis on this important annual recognition. All month long, I will be working to amplify the stories of notable Black Americans from Georgia's 6th Congressional District. Today, I am particularly honored to kick off my constituent recognitions by sharing the story of a truly exceptional American.

Dr. Hillard Pouncy, Jr. was a student, a research scientist, and a beloved father and grandfather. But perhaps most notably, he was one of the original Tuskegee Airmen during World War II. Dr. Pouncy's accomplishments in life seem almost too extraordinary to be true. Born in Prichard, Alabama, Hillard lived with his grandparents to support them for many years of his childhood—a glimpse of what life was like before the advent of Social Security.

In segregated Alabama, he navigated the obstacles required to receive an education. Hillard had to travel to a neighboring county to complete his high school education. This did not phase Hillard—he finished as the valedictorian of his class.

After high school, he went to Tuskegee in search of work and the furtherance of his education. After seeing Black cadets march on campus and watching them fly airplanes, Hillard said he "just knew" he would become a Tuskegee Airman—he loved the look of their uniforms and the promise of what kind of doors could be unlocked as a Tuskegee Airman. Through advanced training, bombardier school, and navigation training, Hillard witnessed—and experienced firsthand—the obstacles and the challenges that men of color faced, even as some of the most highly skilled members of our Nation's armed forces. Again, this did not phase him. He trained as a bombardier with the 477th Bombardment Group and was part of the remarkable history of the Tuskegee Airmen.

Following his military service, Dr. Pouncy earned advanced degrees in chemistry, obtaining a Ph.D. in organic chemistry. He enjoyed a long and distinguished career as a research scientist with Union Carbide, which took him all over the world. In retirement, Dr. Pouncy and his late wife Mrs. Mattie retired to Austell, right in the heart of Georgia's 6th District. As a beloved resident at Presbyterian Village, he always took time to give back to his fellow residents and school children in our community. Dr. Pouncy passed away just before Christmas at the age of 103. At his memorial service, I was struck by the stories I heard of what a devoted public servant he remained long after he retired. Dr. Hillard Pouncy truly represented the very best of us.

Our Nation has come a long way since the days of Jim Crow, and I marvel at the

progress of our American life seen through the eyes of a man like Hillard Pouncy. In 2014, Dr. Pouncy sat for an interview about his life. As he reflected on his pride, watching his grandson graduate from one of the finest schools in the country, he chuckled and said, "Things are different now, for the better."

Thanks to the courageous service of Dr. Pouncy and his fellow Tuskegee Airmen, and Civil Rights Movement leaders like Dr. King and John Lewis, yes, things are different now, for the better. And though we face a great many challenges at this moment of our American story, we owe a debt of gratitude to a man like Dr. Hillard Pouncy. As we prepare to mark what would have been Dr. Pouncy's 104th birthday on February 8, 2026, I rejoice that such a wonderful man was able to walk this earth for over a century. All Black History Month long and beyond, I will continue to do all that I can to uplift the name of Dr. Pouncy and every man and woman who has made such significant contributions to the advancement of this great Nation. We are truly better off because they were here among us.

CONSTITUENT TESTIMONY DURING
THE CONGRESSIONAL FIELD
HEARING ON HAITIAN TPS
TERMINATION**HON. AYANNA PRESSLEY**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, as part of the Congressional Field Hearing on Haitian TPS Termination held in the Massachusetts 7th Congressional District, constituents from the community were invited to discuss the importance of extending TPS for Haitian nationals. Therefore, I include in the RECORD their testimonies:

Thank you, Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley and Senator Ed Markey, for holding this public forum to hear directly from TPS holders like myself.

My name is Jose Urias, and I am a TPS holder from El Salvador. I am also one of the Co-Coordination of the Massachusetts TPS Committee and a member of the National TPS Alliance.

I have lived in Malden, Massachusetts for over 20 years with my wife and two U.S. citizen children. I work hard every day to provide for my family and to be a productive member of my community in Malden. I am very proud of my two children. My oldest is 19 years old and is in the second year of college. I would love to be able to go to his graduation. My youngest is 13 and is in middle school in the Malden schools.

Like nearly 15% of other TPS holders, I've started a business, employing others and generating economic activity for my local community. I run a construction and real estate business that is helping to rebuild and revitalize housing throughout my community. Over the past few years, my company has worked on 56 houses. I'm proud of my team's ability to fix up homes and provide high-quality housing to new homeowners in my community.

Across the country, TPS holders like me generate \$21 billion for the U.S. economy each year. But it's incredibly hard doing that, especially now with so much uncertainty about our status. Bank financing is very important to my business. I need loans to purchase properties and to help finance