Its work saved millions of lives and advanced the cause of peace around the world.

President Sirleaf knows the importance of that work firsthand. As Liberia emerged from a devastating civil war, USAID helped restore essential services, rebuild democratic institutions, and support the country's recovery. During the Ebola epidemic, USAID helped Liberia confront another national emergency by coordinating response and relief efforts. In her nomination, President Sirleaf describes the agency's contributions to her country's recovery and to international development over more than six decades.

USAID's accomplishments extend far beyond Liberia. The agency played an essential role in the global campaign to eradicate smallpox, the Green Revolution that dramatically expanded agricultural production, and the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, which has saved millions of lives. Through Food for Peace and the Famine Early Warning Systems Network, USAID helped prevent humanitarian catastrophes before they occurred. Its investments in education, women's economic empowerment, and democratic governance strengthened societies and addressed the root causes of conditions that can contribute to conflict.

These achievements were made possible by generations of dedicated public servants, including thousands of Americans from Northern Virginia who devoted their careers to advancing our country's humanitarian and national security interests.

This nomination comes at a consequential moment. The Trump administration's dismantling of USAID has disrupted lifesaving programs, undermined decades of American investments, and weakened our nation's ability to respond to humanitarian crises. The consequences will be felt by vulnerable communities around the world and by the United States, which has long understood that preventing instability abroad is essential to our security at home.

The Nobel Peace Prize recognizes those who advance peace among nations. USAID's history demonstrates that peace is not achieved through diplomacy alone. It is also advanced when children survive preventable diseases, families have enough to eat, democratic institutions take root, and communities recover from conflict.

Mr. Speaker, I commend President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf for nominating USAID for the Nobel Peace Prize. I also recognize the generations of USAID employees and humanitarian partners whose service made this nomination possible. Their work represents an extraordinary American contribution to the cause of peace, and their legacy deserves to be preserved and honored.

HONORING ED BRAYNON, JR.

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 26, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to to include in the RECORD a proclamation recognizing and honoring Dr. Ed Braynon, Jr., a life-long community servant, role model and mentor of West Park:

Whereas, During his sixty eight years of membership in the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Dr. Braynon has served as basileus (president) of Sigma Alpha Chapter (five years); Florida State Representative (four years); First Vice Seventh District Representative (Alabama, Florida, Georgia and Mississippi) four years; Seventh District Representative (three years); First Vice Grand Basileus (three years); Grand Basileus (three years);

Whereas, Gethsemane Missionary Baptist Church's outreach ministries have for decades extended a helping hand to those in need and restored hope and dignity in their darkest hour;

Whereas, Gethsemane Missionary Baptist Church's open door policy, since its founding, has provided a place of worship for anyone seeking the Word of God;

Whereas, Gethsemane Missionary Baptist Church is rich in tradition and history, and has played a major role in shaping the City of West Park and fostering relationships between the church, the community and local government;

Whereas, Gethsemane Missionary Baptist Church continues to be a beacon of light, hope and faith in South Florida; and

Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, Frederica S. Wilson, a member of the United States House of Representatives, representing the 24th Congressional District of Florida, commend Gethsemane Missionary Baptist Church, under the leadership of Pastor Newell D. Tucker and for its commitment, dedication and service to God, the City of West Park and South Florida.

INTRODUCTION OF THE U.S. SWINE HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN ACT OF 2026

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 26, 2026

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues, Mr. FINSTAD of Minnesota and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, in introducing the ''U.S. Swine Health Improvement Plan Act'' to formally establish and codify in U.S. law a voluntary program to be administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for pork farms, pig breeding facilities, and swine producers to certify that herds meet rigorous standards to prevent, detect, and respond to animal diseases, and to allow for greater marketability of U.S. pork products in international markets.

The U.S. Swine Health Improvement Plan, known as ''U.S. SHIP,'' was established in 2020 as a voluntary Federal-State-Industry pilot program using grant funds awarded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The pilot program enables covered swine facilities to receive certifications upon meeting certain biosecurity, traceability, and surveillance standards for African Swine Fever and Classical Swine Fever. Modeled on the National Poultry Improvement Plan, which has successfully served the poultry industry since 1935, U.S. SHIP is a producer-driven program governed from the ground up that now includes participation by 38 States. The House of Delegates, composed of producers appointed by their State pork producer associations and of State animal health officials, votes each year on updates to the program's standards, which are then reviewed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for adoption. African Swine Fever and Classical Swine Fever are two of the most devastating swine-specific foreign animal diseases threatening the U.S. domestic pig supply, international trade markets, and the livelihoods of American pork producers. If either disease were detected in the United States, the U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates approximately 76 million domestic pigs would be at risk. African Swine Fever has already reached the Western Hemisphere, with confirmed cases in the Dominican Republic and Haiti in 2021. Neither disease poses a risk to human health or food safety, but the economic consequences of an outbreak would be immediate and severe. Since its establishment, the U.S. SHIP pilot program's certification framework has helped hog farmers in selling healthy and trusted swine and pork products both domestically and internationally.

The bill I have introduced with my colleagues today, which is a companion to S. 4893 in the Senate, amends the Animal Health Protection Act to build upon the U.S. SHIP pilot program's success by Congressionally authorizing the program and institutionalizing it within the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The bill would also set up the program to address not only African Swine Fever and Classical Swine Fever but any other disease that may surface in the future and threaten the American swine industry. Additionally, the bill would establish a Federal advisory committee to provide recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture on program administration and to study problems related to swine health more broadly and to recommend ways the Secretary could assist the swine industry in addressing such problems whether through the U.S. SHIP program or otherwise. Notably, a Federal advisory committee has been key to the long-term success of the National Poultry Improvement Plan, and it is essential for U.S. SHIP to function as intended.

By increasing certainty for and expanding the U.S. SHIP program, Congress can support swine facilities in receiving health certifications and strengthen the marketability of domestic swine products. In doing so, we would bolster our Nation's agricultural trade economy and help protect animal health, public health, and the security of our food supply by preventing future animal-disease outbreaks, a true ''One Health'' approach. Further, by establishing the U.S. SHIP program, creating certifications, and enabling excess U.S. pork to reach international markets, we create a mechanism to increase global demand for U.S. pork and increase income for American pork producers.

Just as important, U.S. SHIP is a business continuity tool. In an outbreak, farms that cannot document their biosecurity, animal movements, and disease surveillance risk being locked in place, unable to move healthy pigs to market or to the next stage of production, with animal welfare and financial consequences that can compound by the day. Certification builds that record before a crisis arises so that regulators can quickly distinguish healthy herds from affected ones and keep commerce moving. A common national standard also gives trading partners with the United States a stronger basis to recognize disease-free regions of the United States rather than closing their markets to all U.S. pork.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, roughly one quarter of U.S. pork production is exported abroad, valued at more than $8 billion each year in recent years. Protecting that international market access protects the price every American pig farmer receives.

For Ohio, this is not abstract. Ohio's 2,500 pig farmers raise pigs on 3,500 farms, many of them family farms in Northwest Ohio, and they are a major customer for Ohio corn and soybean growers and support jobs in feed mills, packing plants, trucking, and veterinary practices across our State. Ohio pig farmers have been active in U.S. SHIP since the pilot program's inception, and together with our State animal health officials, they continue to help write and refine its standards through the program's House of Delegates. That's one of the reasons why I am stepping forward to introduce this legislation with my colleagues.

This legislation also provides important protections for American consumers, Should an outbreak of African Swine Fever or Classical Swine Fever occur in the United States, export markets could close overnight, the prices paid to farmers would fall sharply, and herd losses would ultimately disrupt the supply of an affordable, nutritious protein and raise costs for American families at a time when they can least afford it. Our consumers, our pork producers, and all those involved throughout the supply chain would be harmed. This legislation is about prevention and minimizing the risk of such harm.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to advance this legislation whether through the pending Farm Bill, another appropriate vehicle, or as a standalone measure. I urge my colleagues, including the leadership of the Committee on Agriculture, to support it. I thank my constituents, including Mr. Kevin Stuckey of Hicksville in Defiance County, Ohio, for raising issues important to the swine industry, such as U.S. SHIP, and for his service as a member of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Pork Producers Delegate Body.

HONORING LOUIS CONCEZIO VITOLA

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 26, 2026

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Louis Concezio Vitola, a World War II veteran whose life reflects the values of patriotism, faith, hard work, and devotion to family.

Born on October 23, 1926, in South Philadelphia, Louis was the second of four children born to Italian immigrants. After leaving high school to help support his family when his father became ill with cancer, Louis worked at Heppenstall Steel Mill and Baldwin Locomotive, contributing to the production of equipment essential to our Nation's wartime efforts. While working, he continued his education through evening classes and earned his high school diploma.

At just 18 years old, Louis was drafted into the United States Army on February 7, 1945. He served during World War II and the postwar occupation of the Philippines and Japan, witnessing the historic events surrounding the end of the war. Assigned to the 77th Infantry Division and later to a medical detachment, he served as a dental hygienist, helping care for his fellow service members. He earned the Expert Infantry and M1 Rifle badges, the Good Conduct Medal, the World War II Victory Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon. He attained the rank of Technical Sergeant and was honorably discharged on November 27, 1946.

Following his military service, Louis built a successful career in the men's clothing industry. He and his beloved wife, Mary, shared 72 years of marriage and raised six children, whose families grew to include 15 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren. After living in Pennsylvania for much of their lives, they moved to Florida before returning to Pennsylvania in 2003 to be closer to their extended family. Louis also remained active in his community through his involvement with the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion.

Throughout his life, Louis demonstrated remarkable resilience, maintaining an active lifestyle well into his later years and cherishing his faith, friendships, and family. His enduring love for his country and his commitment to those around him stand as a testament to the character of the Greatest Generation. Although Mary passed away in 2025, the legacy they built together lives on through their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Louis Concezio Vitola for his honorable service to our Nation during World War II and for a lifetime defined by perseverance, patriotism, faith, and devotion to family. May we express our deepest gratitude for his service and celebrate the extraordinary legacy he continues to leave for generations to come.

HONORING MR. MICAH LAMB

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 26, 2026

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Michael (Micah) Lamb of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, and his selfless service to our community in the fight to help the marginalized and less fortunate of our communities. Micah is a high school senior in the Mechanicsburg Area School District, with a passion for service to those in need. On any given day, 12,000 individuals find themselves homeless in Pennsylvania. Rather than simply talking about the challenge, Micah acted. During the summer of 2026, he created the Pennsylvania Provisions Project.

Micah's goal was to collect 500 essential items to support individuals experiencing homelessness. He needed the support of locals and reached out to ask. Among those that answered his call were Merakey, the Mechanicsburg Marching Band, Delta Dental, Penn Credit, and the firms of Rolka Loube, along with many other generous contributors.

Through his tireless diligence, Micah far exceeded his 500-item goal; the Pennsylvania Provisions Project collected more than 2,000 items for the most vulnerable in our communities. Micah donated these essential provisions to A Miracle 4 Sure, a Harrisburg service organization whose mission is to improve the quality of life for individuals and their families whose lives have been impacted by negative life experiences, including homelessness. For Micah, seeing the generosity of his community come together to make a difference in the lives of people they may never know, was the most impactful part of his service project. As the colder months approach, Micah will continue his selfless service to our community by collecting blankets for Community Cares, a homeless support group in Carlisle that recently opened a new facility to address the increasing need for housing.

Micah has benefitted as much or more from this project as have individuals in need. He stepped outside of his comfort zone, learned how to advocate for a cause, sought and developed contacts, requested direct assistance, organized donations, and shepherded the project to his overachieving end goal. He learned that leadership isn't about having a title; it's having the passion, drive, and courage to take action, make a difference, and putting service before self.

Mr. Speaker, I'm honored and privileged to commend and recognize Micah Lamb on his tireless service, generosity, and calling to our most vulnerable. His actions and character set the standard by which all should be judged.

HONORING THE CHARLES ADDAMS HERITAGE TRAIL

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 26, 2026

Mr. KEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the success of the Charles Addams Heritage Trail and its important contribution to the cultural heritage of Westfield, New Jersey, during this historic 250th anniversary year.

Charles Samuel Addams, the world-renowned cartoonist, was born in Westfield on January 2, 1912, and lived in the community for much of his early life. The streets, historic homes, civic buildings, and local landmarks of Westfield helped shape the creative imagination that would later captivate audiences around the world.

The Charles Addams Heritage Trail preserves and celebrates that remarkable connection. The 1.5-mile recreational route invites residents and visitors to walk, bike, or ride through the Westfield neighborhoods that influenced Addams during his formative years. Along the way, participants encounter historic architecture, the Revolutionary War-era Presbyterian Church burial grounds, the Reeve House Museum, the Kimball Avenue Historic District, Addams's longtime Elm Street home, and the former Westfield High School that he attended from 1926 through 1929.

The Trail offers more than a journey through the life of a celebrated artist. It provides a year-round, self-guided experience that connects art, architecture, local history, and community identity. It allows each new generation to better understand how the places that surround us can inspire creativity and leave an enduring mark on American culture.

This initiative also reflects the power of partnership. The Trail was supported by the New Jersey Historical Commission, the Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, the Town of Westfield, Downtown Westfield