

breaks a barrier. Another carries that progress forward. The next builds something stronger still.

From the Westbank of New Orleans and the Cut Off to the United States Congress, my journey has been shaped by faith, family, community, and education. At the center of that story stands the enduring strength of historically Black colleges and universities.

Somewhere today, a student is walking across the campus of an HBCU carrying dreams they may not yet fully understand. Just as Edward Brooke once did. Just as so many of us have. When history calls their name, they will be ready.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF SERGIO RAMOS

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my dear friend, Sergio Ramos, who went to be with our Lord on Saturday, December 27, 2025. Sergio was born on March 26, 1943, to Job and Ofelia Ramos in Tampico, Mexico. He loved this Nation deeply and took great pride in becoming a United States citizen on April 30, 1970.

It is never easy to say goodbye, especially to someone who was a friend to everyone and such a pillar of the community. Throughout his life, Sergio positively impacted countless individuals through his faith, service, and generosity. He was also among the very first to welcome me to Tyler County and the first to invite me to his beloved First Baptist Church, a reflection of the warmth and kindness he extended to everyone he met. A man devoted to God and to others, Sergio led music in groups large and small in other local churches and on numerous mission trips. It was not uncommon for him to pick up his guitar and fill a room with song. He taught Spanish, coached tennis for decades, and dedicated himself to mentoring generations of students and athletes.

In recognition of his outstanding and lasting contributions, he was inducted into the Texas Tennis Coaches Hall of Fame, received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Woodville Letterman's Club, and was named Citizen of the Year of Tyler County.

Sergio Ramos leaves behind a legacy of faith, service, and compassion that will long endure. I will deeply miss singing alongside him in our church choir and in our men's group, The Generations. Yet, all who knew him take much comfort in knowing that Sergio now sings in a greater, glorious and eternal choir.

RECOGNIZING STACY GASKILL

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Stacy Gaskill of Golden, Colorado for representing the United States in Women's Snowboarding at the 2026 Winter Olympic Games in Milan, Italy.

Stacy is a lifelong athlete, having been involved in winter sports since the age of two. In 2014, she first came to national prominence after placing 1st in the Rocky Mountain Series for Breakers and 12th nationwide in snowboarding. She would continue to place highly on various national and worldwide snowboarding tournaments before competing in the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics, where she made it to the semifinals. She has shown remarkable resilience, pressing forward in her athletic career despite facing multiple injuries along the way.

Stacy is an admirable athlete who has shown a lifelong dedication to her sport. The Colorado community is so proud to have Stacy representing us at the 2026 Olympic Games.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's 7th Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Stacy Gaskill for representing Colorado and the United States during the 2026 Winter Olympic Games.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EMILIA STRONG SYKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 77, and NAY on Roll Call No. 78.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF CARLOS SPECTOR

HON. VERONICA ESCOBAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary and enduring legacy of Carlos Spector, an El Paso native, Air Force veteran, immigration attorney, and human rights advocate, whose work changed the lives of countless families and redefined the meaning of justice along our border.

Carlos was born in El Paso; he is the son of a Jewish father whose family fled the pogroms of Russia and a mother from Mexico. Since birth, he lived the reality of a border community, moving between cultures, languages, and histories that shaped his understanding of justice and belonging. He carried his identity proudly and understood his responsibility to steward the cultural heritages of his community.

That responsibility—to defend the vulnerable and stand with those facing injustice—was instilled in him early. Stories from his father about the horrors of World War II and the moral obligation to defend others left an indelible impression on him. Those lessons would ultimately guide his life's work.

After serving in the United States Air Force, Carlos returned to El Paso determined to find a way to use the law in service of others. He eventually attended Texas Southern University's Thurgood Marshall School of Law, where he began to shape the philosophy that would define his career: that the law, at its highest calling, is not an instrument of power but a shield for the vulnerable.

Carlos began practicing immigration law at a time when the legal system offered little hope for many seeking refuge. In 1991, Carlos won one of the first successful asylum cases for a Mexican political leader, marking a pivotal moment in U.S. immigration law and opening the door for others who faced persecution in their country of origin. But Carlos did not stop there. When the violence of the Mexican drug war intensified in the late 2000s, thousands of people fled north seeking safety. At the time, very few asylum claims from Mexican nationals succeeded in U.S. courts. Many attorneys refused to take such cases at all. Carlos did the opposite.

Among those he represented were journalists threatened for exposing corruption, community activists targeted by criminal organizations, and families whose only crime was standing up for their communities. One of his clients, a community leader who had lost multiple family members to violence, later said that he and his remaining relatives were alive because of Carlos Spector's determination to defend them.

Through these efforts, Carlos helped transform public understanding of the challenges unfolding along our border. He showed that the people seeking refuge were not statistics or political talking points—they were human beings whose lives, families, and futures were all at stake.

Those who knew him recall that even during his battle with cancer, his first thoughts were not about himself but about the people he represented. After receiving his diagnosis, he immediately began contacting colleagues to ensure that the cases he had been working on would continue and that his clients would not be abandoned. That devotion to others defined him.

Across the borderland and throughout this Nation, there are families who wake each morning in safety because one attorney refused to accept that their lives were beyond the protection of the law. Because of that belief, Carlos Spector did more than practice law. He expanded the boundaries of justice. He transformed the possibilities of asylum law. And he reminded us that we all have the power to protect our communities and shape a more just world.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and legacy of Carlos Spector, a tireless advocate, a defender of human rights, and a proud son of El Paso whose impact will endure far beyond his lifetime.

RECOGNIZING KYLE NEGOMIR

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kyle Negomir of Littleton, Colorado, for representing the United States in Men's Alpine Skiing at the 2026 Winter Olympic Games in Milan, Italy.

Kyle is an accomplished and versatile athlete, excelling in football, lacrosse, and water-skiing, as well as skiing. After high school, he was recruited to Dartmouth College and offered a spot on their skiing team. After a serious injury in 2022, he overcame a challenging

two-year recovery to return to skiing stronger and more determined than ever. I applaud his grit and perseverance in representing the U.S. at the 2026 Winter Olympics and extend my congratulations on his placing in the top ten for men's downhill skiing and ranking highest of the four Americans competing in this event.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's 7th Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Kyle Negomir for representing Colorado and the United States during the 2026 Winter Olympic Games.

HONORING SENATOR REGINALD D. JACKSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Senator Reginald D. Jackson, a compassionate, and dedicated public servant devoted to the betterment of the community and success of others.

Reginald D. Jackson was elected to office in 2024 and is now serving his first term as the Democratic Senator for Mississippi's 11th District, which includes all or parts of Coahoma, DeSoto, Quitman, Tate, and Tunica Counties. In the Legislature, Senator Jackson serves on the State-Library, Appropriations, Corrections, County Affairs, Drug Policy, Environmental Protection, Conservation and Water Resources, Ethics, and Gaming Committees.

Since graduating from Georgia Southern University in 2008, Senator Jackson has spent his career in public service, workforce development, education, and community engagement. He has worked as a Work-Based Learning Coordinator and Business Community Liaison with Job Corps, a legal support specialist, an FAA-certified UAS pilot, a farmer, and an engineering technician. His broad professional background has given him firsthand insight into the challenges faced by families, workers, and rural communities across Mississippi. Following in the footsteps of his father, he joined the State Legislature in 2024. Since being elected, he has remained committed to advancing policies that strengthen public schools, expand access to health care, grow Mississippi's economy, and protect the rights of working families.

Senator Jackson has championed legislation supporting rural hospitals, advocating for mental health counselors in schools, and promoting fair redistricting and voting rights.

In the 2025 legislative session, Senator Jackson led a bipartisan effort to pass SB 2471, creating licensure standards for professional music therapists. He also authored legislation to return control of parks and property to communities such as his hometown of Marks, Mississippi. Driven by a desire to uplift all of Mississippi, Senator Jackson continues to dedicate his life to serving others and working for the betterment of his community and state.

Senator Jackson is a member of Pleasant Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Lambert, Mississippi. He is the father of four children. In his leisure time, he enjoys the outdoors, hunting, reading, and spending time with his family.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Senator Reginald D. Jackson

for his dedication and service to his community and the State of Mississippi.

HONORING PASTOR JOHNNY MCGOWAN

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pastor Johnny McGowan, who has dedicated over 45 years of his life to Gayles Memorial Baptist Church, for receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Aurora African American Heritage Advisory Board.

Since 1981, Pastor McGowan has been a faithful leader in the Aurora area and has played a significant role in community development. Over the years, he has held many positions within the church, including church treasurer, ordained deacon, associate minister, interim pastor, and, in 2017, he officially became the Senior Pastor. His widely recognized commitment to spreading faith reflects his dedication to improving the community for all.

Pastor McGowan continues to play a vital role in promoting unity and service in a diverse, multicultural community by organizing initiatives such as Community Neighborhood Outreach and the Neighborhood Night Out Program in partnership with the City of Aurora. The recent 75th anniversary celebration of Gayles Memorial Baptist Church further underscores its deep ties to the community—a legacy to which Pastor McGowan has contributed significantly.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Pastor Johnny McGowan for his 45 years of dedication to ministry. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating his receipt of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Aurora African American Heritage Advisory Board and in honoring his continued leadership in faith and community engagement.

RECOGNIZING FAMILY TREE

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Family Tree for receiving the Arvada Chamber of Commerce's 2025 Nonprofit of the Year Award.

Family Tree drives lasting change in Arvada by tackling the interconnected challenges of child abuse, domestic violence, and homelessness. In 2025, they celebrated a groundbreaking development with the opening of Marshall Street Landing. This investment provides 85 fully furnished homes with on-site, 24/7 case management for individuals experiencing homelessness—establishing Arvada's first and only Permanent Supportive Housing community. Family Tree exemplifies the spirit of service and leadership by meeting people where they are and guiding them toward transformation, stability, and safety.

Every year, the Non-Profit of the Year Award honors one outstanding organization for their support of Arvada and its citizens through

impactful programs, services, and overall involvement within the community. Family Tree's commitment to restoring lives, strengthening families, and providing a pathway to long-term stability makes them a truly deserving recipient of this award.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's 7th Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Family Tree for this award and thank them for their contributions to the community.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, March 5, 2026 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 10

10 a.m.
Committee on the Budget
To hold hearings to examine sanctuary cities, focusing on law and order.
SD-608

2:30 p.m.
Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on the Constitution
To hold hearings to examine protecting American citizenship, focusing on birthright citizenship for illegal aliens and tourists.
SD-226

3 p.m.
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings to examine increasing domestic consumption of United States-grown agricultural products.
SD-106

MARCH 11

10 a.m.
Committee on Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings to examine S. 3135, to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to authorize manufacturers of certain vehicles to suspend engine derate or shut-down functions in prolonged cold weather conditions.
SD-562

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Indian Affairs
To hold oversight hearings to examine Federal policies governing Indian water rights settlements, including S. 953, to provide for the settlement of the