

CELEBRATING THE OPENING OF  
THE PURDY WELCOME CENTER  
AND CONSERVATORY GARDENS  
AT BROOKGREEN GARDENS

**HON. RUSSELL FRY**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 12, 2026

Mr. FRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the opening of the Purdy Welcome Center and Conservatory Gardens at Brookgreen Gardens, a National Historic Landmark in Murrells Inlet, South Carolina. This is the largest capital project at Brookgreen in the last thirty years. It will welcome visitors from around the world with a conservatory of living plant displays, including an expansive orchid collection, sculpture made from plant materials, and a wetland garden and trail that teaches best environmental practices.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Brookgreen Gardens on this milestone and in celebrating the cultural, educational, and tourism benefits it will bring to our state.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF CLAIRE HALL

**HON. MAXINE DEXTER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 12, 2026

Ms. DEXTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a dedicated public servant and a beloved leader in Oregon.

Lincoln County Commissioner Claire Hall devoted more than two decades of her life to serving her community with integrity, courage, and an unwavering commitment to justice.

A longtime Newport resident, Commissioner Hall was first elected in 2004 and went on to serve her county with distinction. Throughout her tenure, she worked relentlessly to expand access to healthcare, strengthen benefits for veterans, and advance affordable housing so that more families could remain rooted in the communities they love.

She was known for her willingness to take on difficult fights and for standing firm when the stakes were high. Most recently, Commissioner Hall was a fierce champion in opposing plans for an ICE detention center in Newport and in blocking any federal effort to relocate a Coast Guard rescue helicopter to make room for such a facility—always putting community safety, human dignity, and local values first.

In 2018, Claire Hall announced her gender transition with a statement that reflected the clarity and moral conviction she brought to every chapter of her life. She wrote, in part: “I will remain focused on social justice issues like the needs of children, families, seniors, people with disabilities and veterans. But now, the act of living my life itself becomes an act of social justice.”

Commissioner Hall’s life was indeed an act of social justice and a profound gift to her community.

She reminded us that public service is not measured only by the policies we advance, but by the dignity we defend, the people we protect, and the courage we bring to our work.

May we honor Commissioner Hall each day by choosing compassion, justice, and love for

our neighbors, and by continuing the work she so powerfully embodied.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT  
COLONEL REINA “REI” SERINEO

**HON. JAMES C. MOYLAN**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 12, 2026

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Colonel Reina “Rei” Serineo of the United States Air Force, a proud daughter of Guam, as she concludes a distinguished career in service to our Nation.

For nearly two decades, Lt. Col. Serineo has embodied the very best of what it means to wear the uniform. She has served with distinction across continents and commands, in the air and on the ground, in moments of routine readiness and in times of real danger. Her career reflects not only operational excellence, but a deep commitment to leadership, mentorship, and the future of our Air Force.

Lt. Col. Serineo entered the Air Force in June of 2005 after graduating from the University of Portland and commissioning through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps.

From the very beginning, she chose a path that demanded precision, judgment, and courage. As an Air Battle Manager, she became a master of one of the most complex and critical missions in modern warfare.

Over the course of her career, she logged more than 2,000 flight hours aboard the E-3 Airborne Warning and Control System with more than 300 of those hours in combat and combat-support missions in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Counter-ISIS.

These were not abstract missions. They were real-world operations in contested airspace, where decisions made in seconds carried life-and-death consequences for service members on the ground and in the air.

Her assignments tell the story of a leader trusted at every level. Lt. Col. Serineo consistently stepped into roles of greater responsibility. She served as an instructor, a flight commander, a chief of standardization and evaluations, an assistant director of operations, and a director of staff. In each role, she set the standard, not only for mission execution, but for how leaders should treat their people.

Most recently, as the Common Mission Control Center Functional Area Manager within Air Combat Command, she directed policy, operations, and training for the Battle Control Center weapon system. In this role, she helped shape the future of how our Air Force fights, leading teams across major commands, building consensus and vision.

What makes Lt. Col. Serineo’s career especially meaningful is not only what she accomplished, but how she accomplished it. She invested in young Airmen, modeled professionalism, and reminded those around her that Leadership is not about rank, but integrity and responsibility.

Her educational achievements mirror that same drive for excellence. She earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance, completed Squadron Officer School, and obtained a Master of Public Administration. She is a graduate of Air Command and Staff College. At every stage, she prepared herself not only to serve, but to lead wisely.

Lt. Col. Serineo’s decorations, including the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Air Medal, and the Air and Space Commendation Medal are symbols of a career defined by impact. But medals alone cannot capture the lives she influenced, the missions she safeguarded, or the trust she earned.

As she transitions from active service, our Nation remains stronger because of her. The systems she helped shape, the Airmen she mentored, and the standards she set will endure long after this chapter closes.

I thank Lt. Col. Serineo for her service, her sacrifice, and her leadership. She answered the call in moments of uncertainty and danger. She carried responsibility with grace and she left behind a legacy of excellence that will guide those who follow. May the next chapter of her life be filled with the same purpose, fulfillment, and success that defined her time in uniform.

HONORING PROFESSOR JAMES  
“JIM” ARTHUR ALBERT FOR A  
LIFETIME OF SERVICE

**HON. ZACHARY NUNN**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 12, 2026

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the legacy of James “Jim” Arthur Albert, a remarkable Iowan whose lifetime of service has left a profound mark on our state, Nation, and communities far beyond our borders.

Jim has served as a Professor of Law at Drake University for 43 years, earning national recognition for his teaching and shaping generations of attorneys through his steadfast commitment to excellence, integrity, and the rule of law. He has been named Professor of the Year at Drake on eight occasions, a distinction that reflects both the esteem of his students and his enduring influence on the legal profession. Prior to entering academia, he was a longtime trial lawyer and a proud graduate of the University of Notre Dame Law School, class of 1976.

Beyond the classroom and courtroom, Jim has devoted himself to public service and ethical leadership. Since 1997, he has served as Chair of the Iowa Ethics and Campaign Finance Disclosure Board, providing principled, steady leadership and strengthening transparency and accountability in Iowa’s political process. Jim also served as a Federal Communications Broadcast Attorney in Washington, D.C., demonstrating his lifetime commitment to public service.

Jim’s impact extends well beyond the borders of Iowa through his visionary leadership of the James Arthur Albert Foundation. Through this nonprofit, he has personally led more than 30 service missions to Belize where he has worked to expand access to education by awarding scholarships, directing construction projects in underserved communities, and establishing workforce development programs for young Belizeans. What began as a modest initiative has grown into a nationally supported effort, as Professor Albert has forged lasting partnerships across Des Moines, throughout Iowa, and across the country—raising millions of dollars to promote education, economic opportunity, and lasting transformation in Belize.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Jim Albert's extraordinary contributions to the people of Iowa, the people of Belize, and the countless lives he has touched through a career defined by service, leadership, and generosity.

**HONORING THE FRIENDS OF THE CHICAGO RIVER FOR WINNING THE THIESS INTERNATIONAL RIVER PRIZE**

**HON. MIKE QUIGLEY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 12, 2026*

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join the International River Foundation in honoring the Friends of the Chicago River, the 2025 recipient of the Thiess International River Prize. The Thiess International River Prize, established in 1999, is the world's most esteemed award for river restoration and management, honoring trailblazing organizations that advance lasting ecological, social, and economic benefits worldwide. This award speaks to the tireless contributions of the Friends of the Chicago River to environmental stewardship, river restoration, climate resilience, and public service here in Cook County.

Founded in 1979, Friends of the Chicago River is the only organization exclusively dedicated to the restoration and protection of the entire 156-mile Chicago-Calumet River system. Under the leadership of Executive Director Margaret Frisbie and a dedicated staff, the Friends of the Chicago River lead bold policy reforms, habitat restoration, and public engagement programs that have transformed the river from an overlooked industrial waterway into a thriving urban ecosystem. More than 60,000 people including 20,000 youth annually have joined efforts of the Friends of the Chicago River through education, outreach, and hands-on stewardship, while advancing policy initiatives that improve water quality, protect biodiversity, and strengthen climate resilience across the Chicago-Calumet watershed.

The recognition of Friends of the Chicago River with the 2025 Thiess International River Prize underscores the emergence of our County as a global leader in urban river restoration and affirms the organization's pioneering role in shaping a future where rivers are valued as vital natural, social, and climate-sustaining wonders. Mr. Speaker, please join me and all of my colleagues in congratulating the Friends of the Chicago River on receiving the 2025 Thiess International River Prize and thanking them for their continued work for the Chicago River.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. JOHN H. RUTHERFORD**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 12, 2026*

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, due to an illness in my family, I missed the following Roll Call votes on January 8, 2026. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 5; YEA on Roll Call No. 6; YEA on Roll Call No. 7; NAY on Roll Call No. 8; NAY on

Roll Call No. 9; NAY on Roll Call No. 10; and NAY on Roll Call No. 11.

**RECOGNIZING DR. ERIK SWANSON**

**HON. JAMES C. MOYLAN**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 12, 2026*

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Erik Swanson upon the conclusion of his service as Superintendent of the Guam Department of Education.

Leading a public school system is never simple, and on Guam, that responsibility carries added complexity. Dr. Swanson stepped into the role of Superintendent during a period marked by significant challenges, including resource constraints, staffing concerns, and the lasting impacts faced by students and educators alike.

From the beginning of his tenure, Dr. Swanson understood that the work of public education is deeply personal. It affects not only classrooms, but families, communities, and the future of the island itself. He approached the role with a focus on responsibility, transparency, and support for those on the front lines of education.

During his time as Superintendent, Dr. Swanson worked to address long-standing issues within the Guam Department of Education while maintaining focus on student learning and school operations. He supported educators and staff who carry the daily responsibility of teaching and caring for Guam's children, often under difficult circumstances.

Serving as Superintendent of Education on Guam requires balancing many responsibilities at once. It means overseeing schools spread across the island, supporting thousands of students, and working closely with teachers, staff, and families, all while navigating limited resources and high expectations.

Dr. Swanson approached this role with an understanding of its demands and a respect for the people who carry out the work of education every day. He recognized that progress often comes through persistence, cooperation, and steady attention to the needs of students and schools.

He also understood the importance of collaboration. Dr. Swanson worked with parents, school leaders, and government partners to confront challenges facing the education system and to seek solutions that would benefit students across the island. His leadership reflected an understanding that progress in education requires cooperation, patience, and persistence.

Public education on Guam plays a critical role in shaping opportunity and strengthening our community. Leading that system requires not only professional experience, but resilience and care. Dr. Swanson carried that responsibility with seriousness and respect for the people he served.

Those who worked alongside him describe a leader who listened, remained engaged, and understood the weight of the decisions placed before him. While no tenure is without difficulty, Dr. Swanson's service reflected a commitment to doing the work and facing challenges directly.

Mr. Speaker, Guam's educators and students deserve leadership that recognizes both

the importance and the difficulty of public education. Dr. Erik Swanson answered that call during a demanding time.

I thank him for his service to Guam's students, educators, and families, and I extend my best wishes in the next chapter ahead.

**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 Tuesday, January 13, 2026 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

**MEETINGS SCHEDULED**  
JANUARY 14

10 a.m.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
To hold hearings to examine chemical abortion drugs.

SD-430

2:30 p.m.

Committee on the Judiciary  
Subcommittee on Crime and Counterterrorism  
To hold hearings to examine Biden's Afghan parolee program.

SD-G50

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship  
To hold hearings to examine growing the small business agricultural economy.

SR-428A

3 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence  
To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

3:30 p.m.

Special Committee on Aging  
To hold hearings to examine made in China and paid by seniors, focusing on stopping the surge of international scams.

SH-216

JANUARY 15

9 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary  
Business meeting to consider S. 2132, to amend title 18, United States Code, to prevent and mitigate the potential for conflicts of interest following government service, and the nominations of Daniel E. Burrows, of Colorado, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Megan Blair Benton, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Missouri, David Clay Fowlkes, to be