

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. KWEISI MFUME**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2026*

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, April 20, 2026, I missed votes due to a personal matter. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 125, and YEA on Roll Call No. 126.

## CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY, INC.

**HON. RUDY YAKYM III**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2026*

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate Manufacturing Technology, Inc. (MTI) of South Bend, Indiana, on its 100th anniversary.

Founded in 1926 by Conrad R. Adams as a small tool and die shop, MTI has grown into a global leader in advanced friction welding technologies, serving customers that include GE, Rolls-Royce, Pratt & Whitney, and NASA across six continents. From its earliest days supplying Studebaker Automotive to its current partnerships with some of the world's most critical aerospace and defense programs, MTI has consistently delivered practical engineering solutions to complex manufacturing challenges.

MTI's story is also a story about family. Now in its fifth generation of Adams family leadership, the company has expanded from a single Midwest shop into a global enterprise with operations in the United States, United Kingdom, Slovakia, and India, employing over 200 people worldwide. Each generation built on the last, pioneering new technologies including Inertia, Linear, Friction Stir, and Low Force Friction Welding, while remaining guided by the values Conrad R. Adams established at the company's founding.

As President and CEO Dan Adams said, "Friction Welding is where we lead today, but our strength has always been the ability to evolve alongside our customers." That mindset has defined MTI for a century and will carry the company through the next 100 years.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Adams family and the entire MTI team on this extraordinary milestone. Indiana is proud to call MTI home.

## RECOGNIZING THOMAS ATKINS

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2026*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Thomas Atkins, who served as a dedicated member of my staff for almost 20 years, where he worked tirelessly to advance my agenda for all residents of the District of Columbia.

Thomas has an extensive political background, having served as the National Volun-

teer Coordinator on the Jackson for President Campaign '84 and as a Political Director with the Campaign for Military Service. He also served as a leader in the environmental movement and the peace movement and has worked for justice on important political issues. He has made a positive impact on D.C. and the world.

As his colleagues will attest, Thomas works with commitment and passion. In my office, his deep dedication to the arts and education were invaluable when he served as the Coordinator of the D.C. Congressional Art Competition Committee. His leadership, enthusiasm and commitment ensured successful competitions, which brought together locally, nationally and internationally renowned educators and artists to serve as committee members and jurors. Through his leadership, the committee was able to offer mentorship to aspiring young artists and facilitate scholarships to esteemed institutions like the Savannah College of Art and Design (Savannah, Georgia) and the Corcoran School of the Arts & Design (Washington, D.C.). The committee also hosted grand receptions and student art exhibits at prestigious venues, including the Smithsonian Institution, the National Building Museum, the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport and notable galleries throughout D.C.

Thomas has held several professional roles. He worked in the entertainment industry, where he served as the Personal Representative of Hal Jackson, a founder of Inner City Broadcasting Corporation (ICBC), and his daughter Jane Jackson Harley, Talent Coordinator of the Apollo Theater and the Founder of Kemit Productions in New York City. He is an avid art collector and has traveled extensively around the world. His collection, the TERA Gallery, has been exhibited in the United States and abroad.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to recognize Thomas Atkins for his service and dedication. We all wish him the best in his well-deserved retirement.

## CELEBRATING THE NAVY JROTC AT DOHERTY HIGH SCHOOL IN COLORADO SPRINGS

**HON. JEFF CRANK**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2026*

Mr. CRANK. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to celebrate the Navy JROTC Program at Doherty High School of Colorado Springs for their academic rigor and dedication to preserving our rich naval history.

NJROTC commander Captain Greg Thomas started to collect historic naval vessel plaques years ago, obtaining most of these plaques through online sellers. Now, with the collection boasting over 315 plaques and still growing, it has become the largest collection of naval plaques in the country.

Doherty High School has supported Captain Thomas' passion for naval history and pride by mounting the plaques along The Wall of Honor in the JROTC academic hallway. This hallway, alongside the Hall of Honor Murals, serves as a daily reminder of the prestige, honor, and sacrifice of our seamen who have bravely fought to defend our freedoms since 1775.

Doherty High School stands as a beacon of the courage and grit exemplified by our naval service members as they protect and patrol the waters, projecting power and strength across the globe.

Today, I stand to honor and thank Captain Greg Thomas and the cadets of the Doherty High School NJROTC program for preserving and honoring the history of our great United States Navy.

## HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF LOS ANGELES OPERA MUSIC DIRECTOR JAMES CONLON

**HON. JIMMY GOMEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2026*

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the retirement of James Conlon, the Richard Seaver Music Director of the Los Angeles Opera located in the community of Downtown Los Angeles.

Since 2006, James Conlon has served as Music Director of the Los Angeles Opera. Conlon has led the most operas in company history, including conducting over 500 performances and 70 operas. In this role, Conlon has prioritized uplifting works by composers who were silenced by the Nazi regime. His efforts led to the creation of the Los Angeles Opera's Recovered Voices series and the Ziering-Conlon Center for Exiled and Suppressed Composers at the Colburn School. Both programs champion composers whose works were nearly eliminated from history.

Over the last 20 years, James Conlon has received countless awards and honors, including the Vienna-based Zemlinsky Prize for his efforts to revive the composer's music, which had been suppressed by the Nazi regime. Additionally, Conlon's recordings of John Corigliano's *The Ghosts of Versailles* and Kurt Weill's *Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny* performed by the Los Angeles Opera, earned four Grammy Awards. Above all, Conlon's work with the Los Angeles Opera has had a profound impact on Los Angeles and the global community that will be felt for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring James Conlon for 20 years of service as Music Director of the Los Angeles Opera.

## RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF CONSTANCE "CONNIE" BUTLER

**HON. AARON BEAN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2026*

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Constance "Connie" Butler.

A lifelong resident of Green Cove Springs, Florida, Connie's family roots in Clay County stretch back more than a century. Born at Clay Memorial Hospital, she grew up immersed in service, from Girl Scouts and NJROTC to 4-H, where she would later give back by founding the New Horizons 4-H Club. That spirit of service never left her.

For more than 45 years, Connie devoted her life to nursing, including nearly two decades in geriatric care, followed by service in hospitals across the region, and ultimately with the Florida Department of Health in Clay County.

Her commitment did not stop at her profession. Connie served three consecutive terms on the Green Cove Springs City Council, including two terms as Mayor, always putting her community first. Her faith has remained a cornerstone of her life through her work with New Trinity Missionary Baptist Church and regional Baptist associations, as well as through her involvement in organizations that support children and preserve culture.

Through it all, her greatest pride is her family. Connie and her husband Bruce have shared 46 years of marriage, raised four children—Bruce, Jr., Terrence, Adrian, and Contrinia—and are now proud grandparents to nine grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Connie Butler's life is a testament to what it means to serve. As she enters a well-earned retirement, we thank her for a lifetime of compassion, leadership, and unwavering commitment to others.

HONORING UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS MASTER SERGEANT ROBERT C. WHITE

**HON. MIKE LEVIN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2026*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and pay tribute to Master Sergeant Robert C. White of the United States Marine Corps, who will retire this June after twenty years of distinguished service to our Nation. His retirement ceremony will be held on April 24, 2026, marking the close of a remarkable career that began two decades ago.

Master Sergeant White's service has taken him across both the globe and the full breadth of the Marine Corps mission. He has served with Combat Logistics Regiment 3 in Okinawa, the 1st Reconnaissance Battalion at Camp Pendleton, Marine Forces Special Operations Command, and the Headquarters Marine Corps IT Center at the Pentagon. He will conclude his career with the 1st Marine Division, serving as the Division's Cyber Security Chief and Information Systems Security Manager, a role that reflects both the trust placed in him by his command and the evolving nature of modern warfare, in which our cyber defenses are as vital as any position on the battlefield.

Master Sergeant White has also represented the United States with distinction overseas, serving at our embassies in Lomé, Beijing, and Dushanbe. In these assignments, he stood at the front line of American diplomacy, safeguarding our missions and embodying the professionalism of the United States Marine Corps to all who encountered him.

His record of achievement and excellence during deployments speaks to a career defined by answering the call of duty wherever it was made. He deployed to Iraq from 2007 to 2008, to Afghanistan from 2011 to 2012, and again to Iraq with the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force from 2018 to 2019. In each of these deployments, Master Sergeant White served alongside our Nation's finest,

contributing to missions critical to American security, freedom, and to the safety of our allies.

Twenty years of service is more than a measure of time. It is a measure of sacrifice: of holidays missed, of moves made, of long separations from loved ones, and of the quiet courage required to place duty above self, year after year. Master Sergeant White's family has shared in every chapter of that service, and they too deserve our Nation's gratitude.

Mr. Speaker, as Master Sergeant Robert C. White prepares to transition to a well-deserved retirement, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his service, congratulating him on his well-earned retirement, and wishing him, his wife Nicole, and their family every happiness in the next chapter of their lives.

CELEBRATING ANSHU MUKHERJEE AS OREGON'S 5TH DISTRICT'S CONGRESSIONAL APP CHALLENGE WINNER

**HON. JANELLE S. BYNUM**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2026*

Ms. BYNUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor Anshu Mukherjee as the winner of the 2025 Congressional App Challenge in Oregon's 5th District, for the creation of Grub.io, an innovative app designed to combat food waste at large events. The colleagues in this room know exactly what I'm talking about. Platters of fresh, delicious food, thrown right into the trash, because we didn't have a plan, so we didn't have a choice. Now we have a plan. Grub.io lets event organizers and guests share and claim leftover food in real-time, cutting the waste and getting more food to more people. It's easy to use. Register an event, get a code, and post or claim surplus food. It also tracks your environmental impact so you can make every event count—literally, pounds of food saved.

Every great idea comes from something in real life. Anshu was at FIRST Robotics World Championship in Houston when he saw hundreds of teams in the competition order heaps of food with time running out on the clock. Some never got to their plates in the first place, while others only had time to eat a few bites. The result: untouched pizzas and trays went right to the trash. This wasn't the first time Anshu saw this pattern. He saw the same thing at a tailgate at the University of Oregon—Go Oregon Ducks—and realized this was a solvable problem. We don't have a lot of those, do we, colleagues? At that time, existing food-rescue apps weren't built for fast-moving, temporary events.

In Oregon, where 2 billion pounds of food are wasted annually—despite 1 in 8 residents facing food insecurity—the potential impact of reducing event waste is especially urgent. Anshu is already exploring partnerships with organizations like Urban Gleaners and Waste Not Food Tax to strengthen connections between event leftovers and local hunger-relief networks.

This year's Congressional App Challenge was the largest in the program's history, with 394 Members of Congress hosting district competitions and more than 13,800 students submitting over 4,600 original apps addressing

real-world challenges. Among these, Grub.io stood out for its social impact and scalability. Anshu plans to beta-test the app at upcoming robotics competitions hosted by Team 1425 and ultimately aims to deploy it at the Robotics World Championship—bringing it full circle. Grub.io reflects the creativity, engineering skill, and civic-minded innovation the Congressional App Challenge was designed to celebrate, and that my great state has in large supply.

I am incredibly grateful for Anshu and his work. I have a hunch this is just the start of an incredible and impactful life's purpose on this beautiful earth. I thank him for making Oregon proud.

ISRAEL AT 78

**HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2026*

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD remarks submitted at the request of a Virginia Beach constituent, Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman of Temple Lev Tikvah, and are a reflection of his views:

ISRAEL AT 78

The world's only Jewish state celebrates its 78th anniversary in the shadow of existential war with Iran and its proxies, fighting along its great American partner with shared values and interests. Professor David Passig's work is of particular value. He was born in Meknes, Morocco in 1957 and moved to Israel in 1968 with his parents and four siblings. Passig teaches at Israel's Bar-Ilan University in the Graduate School of Education, heading the Graduate Program in information and Communication Technologies (ICT), along with the Virtual Reality Laboratory. His doctorate in Future Studies is from the University of Minnesota. In his latest book, *The Fifth Fiasco (How to Escape the Traps of Jewish History in the Twenty-First Century)*, he suggests alternative scenarios to past periods with the goal of avoiding repetitions of fateful and costly mistakes and consequently guaranteeing a secure Jewish future in a sovereign and democratic Israeli state. Passig's underlying supposition is quite chilling, "Therefore, I want to note at the beginning that those among the readers who accept the Biblical account as a given fact, may find it difficult to understand the "exercise" of an alternative formulation contradicting the known facts. To those I want to emphasize that the entire purpose is to examine in a refreshed prose an alternative Biblical text that could have prevented the great catastrophe of the destruction of the two Temples. The occupation of providing alternative scenarios for that calamity is critical when fear for destruction returns to echo in the collective Jewish consciousness of the State of Israel in the 21st century."

The concerned readers the author refers to are Orthodox Jews and the fact that he is an Orthodox Jew affiliated with the Orthodox Jewish Bar-Ilan University, well reflects on the academic open integrity of that institution as well as Passig's. The widespread Israeli phenomenon in recent years of Israelis holding also foreign passports might support the professor's assertion of, if not concrete fear, a certain Israeli unease concerning the future; not for the state's very survival, rather I believe, a lingering disaffection with the deepening divisions and gaps in Israeli society coupled with a frustrating impasse on Israeli-Palestinian reconciliation and explosive old-new tensions