

known across the long arc of a lifetime. It is the ache of fifty years of memories. It is the ache of remembering a young man sitting beside you in a Sunday School class and knowing that the seat will be empty now. It is the ache of picking up the phone to call him with news, only to remember that he has gone home. It is the ache of every campaign yet to come, every election night yet to be, every Sunday service—and knowing that George Shultz will not be there. But, Mr. Speaker, I take comfort in this: he will be there in spirit. He will be there in every Scripture I remember from Sunday School. He will be there in every pew at Fourth Street where his prayers still linger like incense. He will be there in the laughter of his grandchildren. He will be there.

His beloved wife of more than fifty years, Betty—walked every step of this journey by his side, from a Sociology class at Savannah State College in 1970 to the threshold of eternity—my heart is broken with hers. To his children, George, III, Brandi, and Geoffrey; to his precious grandchildren, George, IV, Emira, Lydia Grace, and Amira; to his surviving siblings; and to his Fourth Street Missionary Baptist Church family who loved him so well—I offer my deepest condolences and the prayers of a grateful Nation. Their loss is immeasurable. But take comfort, dear ones, in the promise we read in 2nd Timothy: he has fought the good fight, he has finished the course, he has kept the faith. And henceforth, there is laid up for him a crown of righteousness.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join my wife Vivian and me, along with the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's 2nd Congressional District in honoring the life and legacy of the Reverend George Phillip Shultz, Jr. I have lost more than a friend. I have lost a Sunday School teacher who opened the Scriptures to me. I lost a client who trusted me with his affairs. I lost a campaign warrior who carried me from the State House to the U.S. House across fifty years and countless elections. I lost a brother who walked with me through every season of my life. Columbus lost a pillar. Georgia lost a giant. The Kingdom of God gained a saint. I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the extraordinary life of Reverend George Phillip Shultz, Jr.—a husband, a father, a grandfather, a businessman, a deacon, a minister, a teacher, a freedom fighter, and, to me, simply, my beloved friend.

Well done, my, brother. Well done, thou good and faithful servant. May he rest now, in the arms of the Savior he served so faithfully. Until that great gettin' up morning—until we meet again on that beautiful shore—rest, dear friend. Rest.

HONORING MR. THOMAS  
TUTWILER FOR OVER 30 YEARS  
IN MUSIC EDUCATION

**HON. EUGENE SIMON VINDMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 19, 2026*

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Thomas Tutwiler, a profound music educator with over 30 years of serving students.

Mr. Tutwiler built a remarkable career rooted in dedication, excellence, and deep passion for music education. He earned a master's degree in Choral Conducting from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and a bachelor's degree in music education and psychology from James Madison University, an academic foundation that prepared him to inspire generations of students.

Over the course of over 30 years, Mr. Tutwiler served at several schools and is now completing his 23rd and final year as Choral Director at C.D. Hylton High School. Throughout his journey, he has made a huge impact on students, parents, teachers, and the broader community, shaping the lives of countless young people through music, mentorship, and leadership.

His career includes a huge list of accomplishments. For more than 25 years, he performed with the Men/Girls/Boys Choirs of the Washington National Cathedral, an elite and highly competitive honor requiring exceptional sight-reading ability, vocal proficiency, and musicianship. In addition, he has served as a guest conductor on the regional, district, and county level honor choirs.

In 2015, Mr. Tutwiler was also named High School Teacher of the Year by Dale City in Prince William County, Virginia, and was recognized by James Madison University as Alumni Music Educator of the Year. I want to personally thank Mr. Tutwiler for the outstanding impact he has had on students, parents, colleagues, and the many generations he has guided throughout his career.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Thomas Tutwiler for his outstanding service and the tremendous difference he has made in our communities. I wish him all the best in his well earned retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SEAN CASTEN**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 19, 2026*

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, I missed Roll Call No. 167. Had I been present, I would have voted YES on Roll Call No. 167.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MAXINE WATERS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 19, 2026*

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, due to unavoidable circumstances, I was absent on April 27, 2026, and therefore missed two votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 138, and YEA on Roll Call No. 139.

RECOGNIZING SENIOR MASTER  
SERGEANT JASON W. KERSTETTER

**HON. SCOTT PERRY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 19, 2026*

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Senior Master Sergeant Jason W. Kerstetter

upon the auspicious occasion of his retirement from uniformed service after 32 years of selfless service.

Originally from Richfield, Pennsylvania, SMSgt Kerstetter first enlisted into the United States Army in January 1993. Shortly after his high school graduation, he attended Basic and One Station Unit Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky, graduating as an M1A1 Abrams Armor Crewman. Over the course of his 16-year Army career, he was tasked with various assignments, serving on active federal service with the Pennsylvania National Guard in California, Kentucky, and South Korea.

In 2009, SMSgt Kerstetter transferred to the 193d Special Operations Logistics Readiness Squadron, Pennsylvania Air National Guard—becoming one of the first senior Non-Commissioned Officers in the newly created Aerial Port. He deployed in support of myriad missions, including Operations Enduring Freedom and Spartan Shield. Most recently, he completed a tour with the 609th CENTCOM Combined Air Operation Center, serving as the Subject Matter Expert with the A3/4 Air Mobility Division.

SMSgt Kerstetter currently serves as the Superintendent of the 193d Air Transportation Function, part of 193d Special Operation Logistics Readiness Squadron out of the Harrisburg International Airport, Middletown, Pennsylvania, which supports the Department of War's capability of moving passengers and air cargo worldwide. As superintendent, SMSgt Kerstetter plans, organizes, directs, coordinates, and controls air transportation activities. Additionally, he determines and justifies personnel, equipment, and facilities required to accomplish air transportation functions.

Outside of the military, SMSgt Kerstetter has been married to his wife, Krista, since 2022, and has served our youth for the past 20 years as a fifth grade teacher in the Lower Dauphin School District. He also is a licensed soccer official (since 2013) for both the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association and the United States Soccer Federation.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize, commend, and congratulate Senior Master Sergeant Jason W. Kerstetter upon the occasion of his retirement after more than 32 years of selfless service in the United States Military, and on a job extremely well done. His dedication, professionalism, and tireless devotion are a great credit to himself, our communities, the U.S. Army, the U.S. Air Force, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the United States of America, and set the standard by which all should be judged.

HONORING JA'SHUN ADAMS

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 19, 2026*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the outstanding achievements of an exceptional student, Ja'Shun Adams.

Ja'Shun Adams is a senior at Madison Shannon Palmer High School in Marks, Mississippi, where he has distinguished himself as a dedicated student and leader among his peers. Throughout his high school career, Ja'Shun has demonstrated a strong commitment to academic excellence, leadership, and service.

During his time at Madison Shannon Palmer High School, Ja'Shun has been actively involved in several organizations that support leadership and student success. He is a proud member of the Beta Club, National Honor Society, FCCLA, and Teen Health Mississippi, where he has consistently worked to better his school and community.

Ja'Shun's academic achievements have earned him national recognition. He is the recipient of the prestigious National Merit Stamps Scholarship, an honor awarded to only 0.2 percent of students across the nation, making him the first recipient from the Mississippi Delta. This remarkable accomplishment highlights his dedication to academic excellence and his determination to succeed.

After graduating, Ja'Shun plans to attend the University of Mississippi, where he will major in Biological Sciences with plans to pursue Nursing. His long-term goal is to become a Nurse Anesthesiologist, a career that will allow him to serve others through healthcare and make a meaningful impact in his community.

Ja'Shun is the son of Latrasha Adams, whose support and encouragement have played a significant role in his academic journey. He also credits much of his success to the guidance of those who have supported him throughout his education. His favorite teacher, Ms. Hannah Watts, and his mentor, Mr. Ricardo Sacks, have played important roles in helping shape his academic path and inspiring him to pursue his dreams.

Mr. Speaker, Ja'Shun Adams represents the very best of Mississippi's young leaders. His commitment to education, leadership, and service serves as an inspiration to his classmates and community. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ja'Shun Adams for his outstanding accomplishments and wishing him continued success in all his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB AS IT HONORS MEMORIAL DAY

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 19, 2026*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to include in the RECORD the following proclamation on behalf of the National Garden Club, and their President Donna Donnelly of South Carolina, in honor of Memorial Day. I especially appreciate the significance of Garden Club as my mother, Wray Wilson, was an active member of the Garden Club of Charleston and was Garden Editor of The News and Courier.

Whereas, on July 4, 1776, the United States of America was founded upon the enduring principles of liberty, self-governance, and the inherent dignity of all people; and

Whereas, for 250 years, the American nation has stood as a beacon of hope, inspiring free peoples around the world to pursue democracy, justice, and peace; and

Whereas the alliance between the United States of America and the French Republic is among the oldest and most cherished in modern history, forged in the cause of independence and strengthened in the shared defense of freedom; and

Whereas, during the Second World War, the soil of Normandy became hallowed ground

through the courageous sacrifice of American servicemen who crossed an ocean to liberate Europe from tyranny; and

Whereas, on June 6, 1944, the Allied forces, including brave Americans, embarked upon the largest amphibious invasion in history, forever altering the course of the war and ensuring the restoration of liberty to the continent; and

Whereas the Normandy American Cemetery stands as a solemn testament to the valor, sacrifice, and enduring legacy of those who gave their lives in service to a cause greater than themselves; and

Whereas, Memorial Day in the United States is a sacred occasion to remember and honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our freedoms, both at home and abroad; and

Whereas the year 2026 marks the Semiquincentennial of the United States, a moment to reflect upon our shared history, reaffirm our principles, and honor the enduring bonds of friendship with our allies;

Now, therefore, I, Joe Wilson, Member of Congress of the United States and a member of the House Armed Services Committee, do hereby offer this proclamation in solemn tribute:

That on this hallowed ground at Omaha Beach, we honor not only the fallen heroes of June 6, 1944, but all those who have borne the burden of defending liberty across generations;

That we express, with profound gratitude, the enduring friendship between the people of the United States and the people of France, whose shared sacrifices have secured peace and freedom for countless millions;

That as we commemorate 250 years of American independence, we recommit ourselves to the ideals for which these brave souls fought and died—freedom, justice, and the unyielding pursuit of peace;

And that we pledge to carry forward this sacred legacy, ensuring that the bonds of alliance between our nations remain strong, and that the sacrifices of the past shall never be forgotten.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand on this Memorial Day, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-six.

RECOGNIZING THE HISTORIC LEGACY OF THE BLUE MOON NITE CLUB

**HON. RYAN K. ZINKE**

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 19, 2026*

Mr. ZINKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the historic legacy and lasting impact of the Blue Moon Nite Club, a Montana staple that for generations has served as a gathering place, dance hall, and symbol of community in the Flathead Valley.

Established in 1948 near Columbia Falls, Montana, the Blue Moon quickly became more than just a local dance hall. Built during a time when Northwest Montana was rapidly growing through the timber industry, railroad expansion, and hardworking families building communities across the Flathead Valley. During this time of change, the Blue Moon became a place for bringing these new neighbors together to share stories and enjoy live music. For decades, Montanans from all walks of life walked through their doors.

The Blue Moon earned a reputation throughout Montana for its live music, welcoming atmosphere, and deep connection to

the local community that still lives on to this day. Generations of musicians, travelers, workers, and families spent evenings dancing beneath its lights, making it one of the most recognizable establishments in the region.

Beyond entertainment, the Blue Moon represented the character of small-town Montana. It reflected the values that continue to define communities across our state: hard work, resilience, hospitality, and the importance of bringing people together. Its legacy serves as a reminder that local establishments like the Blue Moon help shape the identity and history of the communities they serve.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to recognize and remember small town institutions that represent an important part of our Nation's culture. The Blue Moon Nite Club stands as a lasting symbol of Montana's heritage and community spirit. Its impact on the Flathead Valley will not be forgotten.

CRIMINAL HISTORY ACCESS ACT OF 2026

SPEECH OF

**HON. LUCY MCBATH**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 2026*

Mrs. MCBATH. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 8352, the Criminal History Access Act of 2026. This legislation would improve the vetting of state and local law enforcement officers, and I thank Congressman SCHMIDT and Congresswoman ROSS for working together to craft a straightforward, bipartisan bill.

The public counts on our law enforcement agencies to set a high standard for who may become a law enforcement officer. Each state uses a peace officer standards and training agency, or POST agency, to help set the standards and training requirements that a person must meet in order to be eligible to be hired and determine whether candidates actually meet those requirements. Under current law, law enforcement agencies can access the criminal history records of those who apply to be law enforcement officers, but POST agencies cannot. This means that POST agencies must rely on the hiring agency to pass along information about a person's criminal history which might disqualify them from service. This creates an opportunity for mistakes. Those who work on this issue regularly have told us that candidates with disqualifying criminal histories have been hired as law enforcement officers when they should not have.

This bill would provide another check against this problem by allowing POST agencies to access criminal history records, which they can use as they assist in vetting and certifying state and local law enforcement officers.

This bill is supported by several law enforcement focused organizations, including the International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards and Training, the Major County Sheriffs Association, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, and Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies.

I support this targeted bill to improve the vetting of law enforcement officers which will in turn promote trust and improve public safety.