

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JASMINE CROCKETT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 26, 2026

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 187; NAY on Roll Call No. 188; YEA on Roll Call No. 189; NAY on Roll Call No. 190; and NAY on Roll Call No. 191.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
KERRY ALLEN MCDANIEL**HON. BRETT GUTHRIE**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 26, 2026

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Kerry Allen McDaniel of Horse Cave, Kentucky.

Kerry Allen McDaniel dedicated his life to public service and the betterment of the Commonwealth of Kentucky through a distinguished career spanning decades. For 27 years, he served with the Kentucky Department of Environmental Protection, where he played an integral role in advancing and enforcing regulations across air, waste, and water systems. His breadth of expertise and commitment to protecting Kentucky's natural resources made him a respected leader in his field and a trusted steward of the environment.

Following his retirement from state service, Mr. McDaniel continued his commitment to his community by serving as the Emergency Management Director and Solid Waste Coordinator for Hart County. In these roles, he worked tirelessly to ensure the safety, preparedness, and environmental well-being of local residents. During the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, Kerry was among the first frontline workers in Hart County and the surrounding region, working tirelessly to secure and distribute critical personal protective equipment and ensuring the community remained as safe and protected as possible. Known for his generosity, leadership, and tireless work ethic, Kerry McDaniel leaves behind a lasting legacy defined by service to others and a steadfast commitment to making Kentucky a better place for future generations.

HONORING DAVID WIENER'S 100TH
BIRTHDAY**HON. PETE AGUILAR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 26, 2026

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and celebrate the 100th birthday of my constituent, Mr. David Wiener, a Holocaust survivor, a philanthropist, and a businessman whose incredible life is a testament to resilience and courage. His story is one of strength and perseverance that must be remembered and honored.

Born on May 30, 1926, in Lodz, Poland, David was one of Moshe Chaim and Hannah Sur Wiener's nine children. At the age of 13 during February 1940, after the Nazi occupa-

tion turned Lodz into a ghetto, David escaped alone. During the war, David survived slave labor camps, prison, and Auschwitz. Tragically, his parents and all but one of his siblings were killed by the Nazis.

Despite these unbelievable horrors, he endured and did not just go on to survive, but to thrive. After the war, David immigrated to the United States and began a new chapter and a new life. He married, had two children, and became a successful businessman, founding an upholstery company, while also contributing to causes close to his heart. Alongside his wife, also a Holocaust survivor, David has supported organizations such as the Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Boys and Girls Club of Fontana, and the United Hatzalah of Israel. In 2024, Pepperdine Caruso School of Law awarded him an honorary Juris Doctor degree in recognition of his lifelong dedication to education about the Holocaust. Through his memoir, *Nothing to Lose But My Life*, he details his full story and ensures that future generations understand what he and millions of others faced as well as the importance of confronting hatred wherever it exists in the world.

Today, I am proud to honor David Wiener for his extraordinary life, his unparalleled commitment to truth telling, his work to uplift communities and preserve history, and so much more. May we all continue to be inspired by his dedication to remembrance. I wish him the best in this next year.

TESTIMONY OF MARIA FARMER,
"SURVIVORS FIGHT FOR JUSTICE:
EXPOSING EPSTEIN'S
CRIMES IN PALM BEACH AND
ACROSS THE WORLD"**HON. ROBERT GARCIA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 26, 2026

Mr. GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, on May 12, 2026, Oversight Committee Democrats convened the first-ever hearing to solicit testimony from survivors of Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell's crimes. The hearing, "Survivors Fight for Justice: Exposing Epstein's Crimes in Palm Beach and Across the World," marked a critical step forward in the fight for justice and accountability.

On behalf of all the survivors of Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell's crimes, I rise to include in the RECORD the testimony offered by Ms. Maria Farmer:

My name is Maria Farmer. I am the whistleblower who reported Jeffrey Epstein, Ghislaine Maxwell, Les Wexner, and others to the FBI 30 years ago in 1996.

Today I apologize for my appearance. I was not well enough to attend this hearing in person and have recently been released from the hospital. That's the result of thirty years of fighting. For three decades, I have carried a weight that no survivor should ever have to bear. I reported what I believed were heinous crimes against children, and these individuals responsible were involved in an international pedophile ring. I reported their crimes in real time, and the government continues to ignore me to this day.

In 1996, I reported Epstein and his co-conspirators to my local New York City Sixth Precinct. The Commanding Officer told me local police could only address the local arson crimes, and he instructed me to imme-

diately report the whole story, spanning several states, to the FBI. He told me that it was vitally important that I tell the whole story to the FBI, which I did. The FBI asked me questions, said they were familiar with some of the perpetrators I identified, and gave me every reason to believe they would respond. That failure—that single moment when law enforcement refused to take action—set off a cascade of injustice and grave repercussions to my sisters, my family, and so many others, and to me personally, including my health and well-being.

The FBI's decades of failure and inaction led to countless more girls and young women suffering abuse and trauma that could have been prevented. Individuals like Virginia Giuffre, Anouska de Georgiou, Chauntae Davies, Marijke Chartouni, Dani Bensky, Jena-Lisa Jones, Ashley Rubright, and Jennifer Araoz among others. Each survivor represents a life changed forever, suffering that could have been spared if the FBI had done their job in 1996.

The failures did not stop there. In 2006, the FBI tracked me down, stating that they searched for me because they knew I had reported Epstein ten years earlier and no one else had. They urged me to testify in a federal criminal trial against Epstein and his co-conspirators, and they promised that they would "get him" this time. I trusted them again, relied upon them again, and they betrayed me again. Rather than following through with their promises, the government offered Epstein a sweetheart deal and shielded powerful individuals from accountability, and they persist in granting special treatment to certain people to this day.

I have received death threats from Maxwell and her associates—including one instance where they threatened to burn my apartment down—and those threats have not stopped. I have been subjected to more than three decades of ongoing harassment, vicious challenges to my truthfulness, and real danger from internet instigators, trolls and more. Meanwhile, my numerous efforts to obtain my 1996 report from the FBI have been rejected again and again.

In 2023, I wrote a letter to the government, asking for an investigation of the government's actions or inactions in response to my 1996 report. The Inspector General replied, saying they were busy with other things but would get back to me, and they never did. I sent multiple FOIA requests for my FBI report records. In January 2025, in response to my most recent request, the government said that they would get back to me in November 2027, a delay of nearly three years. I finally received a letter saying they looked at my complaint, took some kind of action, and the matter was "addressed," but what they did was a secret. With no other choice, I filed an administrative claim against the government and then a lawsuit. Since then, virtually nothing has happened, and I'm left waiting and wondering what is next.

With the passage of the Epstein Files Transparency Act, after years of efforts to get my records, an FD-71 form was released for the first time, confirming part of my 1996 whistleblower report and vindicating some of what I had said for years. However, the full extent of what I told the FBI was not in that document, so the release of the Epstein Files provides only partial relief for me. Where is the evidence I provided of my sexual assault, and that of my sister Annie? Why won't the FBI release my full report?

The failures of those sworn to protect us have overwhelmed me. Doing my civic duty has cost me dearly. The stress of this trauma, the government hiding and refusing to turn over written confirmation of my 1996 report, along with the ongoing harassment and

death threats, have contributed to me developing serious health issues, including Hodgkin's Lymphoma, a brain tumor, and recently Addison's disease. In the last month, I have spent 23 nights in hospitals, including multiple nights in the ICU. Along with my health, it has robbed me of my career. In 1996, I was fresh out of graduate school, and living the life that I had always dreamed, creating and selling art in New York City. When I was assaulted, threatened and held captive, my career was halted, and the trajectory of my life was thrown off course.

So many others had their dreams shattered by these crimes, and they could have been prevented. Individuals like Virginia Giuffre, who is the backbone of this case and remains the inspiration behind this fight. She's the reason my sister and I came forward publicly, so we could stand together. She faced also relentless attacks to her credibility, yet she fought.

While Virginia may no longer be physically beside us, she has been our shining star and guiding light and remains so today. The rest of humanity owes it to her legacy to continue this quest. We are still walking down the trail that Virginia blazed for us.

So let me be direct about what we need. The federal government owes us explanations, accountability for injuries caused, and a promise of systemic change when crimes against children are reported.

Accountability should start with the government's acknowledgement and responsibility for their repeated failures to act in response to my 1996 report. The government needs to take responsibility for endangering and injuring girls and young women. The government needs to start telling the truth, face my lawsuit, and be held to account to me and to all others who have been harmed. Had the FBI done their job, thirty years of child sex abuse and trauma could have been avoided. I want my full FBI file, including the 1996 and 2006 reports, including my art.

We also need the FBI and the Department of Justice to fully investigate every lead in this case. We need investigation and prosecution of everyone responsible, both men and women. This includes the officials who enabled the 2008 sweetheart deal, the other perpetrators and the many co-conspirators, and anyone who is currently shielding powerful individuals from justice.

No more protection for the guilty. There must be no pardoning or commuting the sentence of Maxwell, who sexually abused me, my minor sister, hurt so many girls and young women, and personally threatened to kill me, has shown no remorse, and has demonstrated no basis on which to believe she would ever be truthful.

As the Epstein case whistleblower, I have waited three decades for justice. It's a miracle I'm still fighting, especially considering what the stress of three decades of this case has done to my health and well-being. I will keep fighting for justice and transparency, for a better, safer future for the next generation.

Thank you.

TESTIMONY OF MS. COURTNEY WILD, "SURVIVORS FIGHT FOR JUSTICE: EXPOSING EPSTEIN'S CRIMES IN PALM BEACH AND ACROSS THE WORLD"

HON. EMILY RANDALL

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 26, 2026

Ms. RANDALL. Mr. Speaker on May 12, 2026, Oversight Committee Democrats con-

vened the first-ever hearing to solicit testimony from survivors of Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell's crimes. The hearing, "Survivors Fight for Justice: Exposing Epstein's Crimes in Palm Beach and Across the World," marked a critical step forward in the fight for justice and accountability.

On behalf of all the survivors of Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell's crimes, I rise to include in the Record the testimony offered by Ms. Courtney Wild:

Hello. My name is Courtney Wild.

When I was 14 years old, I was abused by Jeffrey Epstein. He abused me until I was 17 years old.

What happened to me was terrible. But what happened after that—by our own government—changed my life just as much.

I came here today to ask for one simple thing: Make sure this never happens again.

I filed a case under the Crime Victims' Rights Act because the government secretly made a deal with Jeffrey Epstein.

They signed a non-prosecution agreement.

They made that deal behind closed doors.

And they never told me. They never told any of us.

Instead, they sent letters telling us to "be patient," even though they knew that the case was already over.

For years, I believed there was an investigation happening. There wasn't.

When I found out the truth, I went to my lawyer, Brad Edwards.

He took my case in 2008, and he fought for me against the government—for over a decade—without ever being paid or knowing what would happen next. We wanted to do the right thing for all the victims.

Together, we just wanted answers to a simple question: How could this happen?

We had to fight all the way to the Eleventh Circuit, which took years, just to get the emails between the government and Jeffrey's lawyers to help us understand what happened. When we finally got them, they showed something I will never forget—

The government wasn't just negotiating with Epstein's lawyers, it looked like the government was trying to make him happy and make sure that he was okay with the punishment that they were going to give him. It seemed like they must have forgotten that there were 40 of us kids that he had abused. I was so confused because where I come from, if you commit a crime, you go to jail. I have never heard of the feds letting you help them decide which crimes they are going to charge you with or if you're cool with how long you're going to spend in jail. But I thought, what do I know? Maybe that's how it works for rich guys.

Finally, after more than 10 years of fighting, in 2019, a federal judge finally ruled that my rights—and the rights of the other victims—were violated by the Non-Prosecution Agreement. But there was nothing that could be done about it. There was no remedy.

I just want to say that again: The court found that the government violated the law . . . and nothing happened. That means the law—the Crime Victims' Rights Act, 18 USC 3771—does not matter. And if a law has no consequences, it doesn't protect anyone.

I was lucky. I had a lawyer willing to fight for me for over a decade. Most victims will never find that. So, I am asking you to fix that. Fix the Crime Victims' Rights Act so that it actually helps victims in the future. I have my own ideas, and I know my lawyers have more ideas, but I really hope that if nothing else comes of this, we can finally get this legislation right.

There needs to be a clear definition of what it means to "meaningfully confer" with victims. I still don't know what that means but I know that it never happened for me.

There must be real consequences and penalties in the statute that apply automatically when a court determines that a victim's rights have been violated. The answer after years and years of litigation cannot be that nothing happens when you finally win and prove that your rights were violated.

If prosecutors choose to ignore victims' those victims' voices must be put on the record, memorialized, and preserved—especially when a deal is made behind closed doors.

There needs to be an attorneys' fee provision, so victims can find lawyers who will stand up for them.

If those changes had existed back then, maybe what happened to me—and so many others—would not have happened.

My case against the government for violating the rights of at least 40 of us Palm Beach kids was happening from 2008 to 2019. Do you know how many other girls Jeffrey abused in that time period? I bet the FBI knows. If they don't know, I bet my lawyers can tell them. But the point is that Jeffrey Epstein continued to abuse other girls in New York, in New Mexico, around the world, and even still here in Florida after he was released in 2009 and everyone knew it. There were lawsuits. There were so many news articles. He was a registered sex offender. And still—nothing was done by the government. Not until 2019, when he was finally arrested.

None of those girls should ever have been abused. Jeffrey Epstein should have been in jail. If he had been in jail like any other man who did the same thing as him would have been, then he would not have had a single victim after 2009. But he wasn't and he did. He abused so many girls after 2009. At the exact same time that I was asking the government why he got that deal and why they violated my rights. That is the real injustice here, That is the real thing that we need to prevent from ever happening again in this country.

I was there for his bail hearing in 2019. I spoke to the judge right in front of him about how dangerous he was. His bail was denied. And for the first time, I thought we might finally get justice.

But a month later, he was dead. Once again, the system failed us. Someone let him die in a secure prison ensuring that he would never be held accountable for what he did to me when I was a kid. Since then, there have been prosecutions.

There have been civil cases. There have been settlements. But none of that changes what was lost. And none of that fixes what allowed this to happen in the first place.

Now Congress is holding hearings. This should not be about politics. It should not be about Democrats or Republicans. It should not be about headlines. It should be about two things: Letting victims peacefully move on with their lives and making sure this never happens again.

Right now, many of us cannot move on. Victims are struggling. Victims are being investigated in their home counties. Victims are checking into hospitals. This may make some people feel like something is finally being done. But you should ask yourselves:

What is the point—and when does it end? Because there needs to be an end date to this investigation.

If the point is to figure out who helped Jeffrey Epstein commit his crimes—then look at the professionals that were in his life.

If the point is to prosecute other men who abused girls—then tell the FBI to ask the girls who abused them.

If the point is to understand how the government failed victims—my case already proves that.

If the point is to fix legislation like the Crime Victims' Rights Act so that it actually helps people—then let's do that now.