

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JARED HUFFMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 2, 2026*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unable to make the following vote. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 181.

## CELEBRATING THE TEDDY BEAR DEN ON ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. DUSTY JOHNSON**

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 2, 2026*

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Teddy Bear Den as they celebrate 30 years of service to mothers, babies, and families in Sioux Falls and the surrounding communities. Since opening its doors in June 1996, the Teddy Bear Den has helped more than 48,000 women by encouraging healthy pregnancies, regular prenatal care, and strong early childhood support for families facing financial hardship.

Led at the helm by Executive Director Sandy Lown, the Teddy Bear Den has grown from serving fewer than 200 women annually to nearly 1,900 women today. They provide education, transportation assistance, support, guidance, and essential baby incentive items to mothers who maintain healthy lifestyles and attend prenatal and baby appointments. Through partnership with hundreds of healthcare providers, schools, clinics, and social service agencies, the Teddy Bear Den has become a trusted resource for families.

The impact of the Teddy Bear Den would not be possible without its dedicated volunteers, donors, staff, and board members. Last year alone, volunteers contributed more than 6,100 hours of service, helping the organization continue its mission of supporting healthier moms and babies.

As the Teddy Bear Den marks this important milestone, I congratulate everyone who has contributed to its success over the past three decades. South Dakota is grateful for the compassion, dedication, and care this organization has shown to thousands of families, and I wish them continued success in the years ahead.

## HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MICHAEL COY

**HON. ANGIE CRAIG**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 2, 2026*

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a Minnesota hero, Michael Coy of St. Paul Park, Minnesota, who passed away on April 21, 2026.

Mr. Coy served his community for more than 35 years as a UPS delivery driver and was a committed member of Teamsters Local 638.

On April 18, 2024, while driving on the highway, Mr. Coy witnessed another driver, Sam-

uel Orbovich, crash into a lamppost, setting his vehicle on fire. Mr. Coy immediately stopped to assist him.

Mr. Coy attempted to assist Mr. Orbovich from the passenger door but was forced away by flames. He was instead able to direct fellow bystanders to break the driver's side window and rushed over to assist others in pulling Mr. Orbovich out of the vehicle through the driver's window. Both men were taken to the hospital for injuries sustained in the accident.

Because of Mr. Coy, Mr. Orbovich is still alive today.

Mr. Coy's bravery was recognized by the Carnegie Hero Fund with a Carnegie Medal. He was one of fifty-two recipients of this award last year.

I offer my deepest condolences to Mr. Coy's family—his wife, son, siblings and the countless others who knew and loved him.

I want to thank him again for his service to our community.

## INTRODUCTION OF THE ROCK CREEK NATIONAL PARK ACT OF 2026

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 2, 2026*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Rock Creek National Park Act of 2026, which would redesignate the United States-owned Rock Creek Park in the District of Columbia as "Rock Creek National Park." Redesignating this park will highlight its significance to the Nation. Rock Creek Park is already a "national" park, as it was established by Congress in 1890 "for the benefit and enjoyment of the people of the United States."

Rock Creek Park was the first federally managed urban park and the third federal park ever created, after Yellowstone and Sequoia. Rock Creek Park was designed to preserve animals, timber, forestry and other interests in the park, and to ensure that its natural state is maintained as much as possible, not only for D.C. residents, but for all Americans. The park also preserves the ancient history of the land, as it was used for temporary settlements and as a quarry for weapons and tools by Native Americans from 7000 BCE until the 1600s.

Rock Creek Park offers residents of D.C., Maryland and Virginia, as well as tourists, an escape from our increasingly urban environment. Residents and tourists alike enjoy many activities in the park's 2,000 acres, including hiking and biking, horseback riding, picnicking, tennis and other recreational activities in some of the open fields. Our residents have expressed their appreciation by volunteering to clean up and maintain the park.

In 1918, landscape architects John Charles Olmstead and Frederick Law Olmstead, Jr. wrote of Rock Creek Park, "No matter how perfect the scenery of the park may be or may become, no matter how high its potential value, that value remains potential except insofar as it is enjoyed by large and ever larger numbers of people, poor and rich alike." Redesignating Rock Creek Park as Rock Creek National Park will help recognize the national status of this remarkable resource in our Nation's capital.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

## HONORING MORGAN ELIZABETH GOOCH

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 2, 2026*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my extraordinary granddaughter, Morgan Elizabeth Gooch, on the occasion of her graduation from high school as valedictorian of her class. Morgan's achievement reflects not only academic excellence, but also perseverance, devotion, and sacrifice. In classrooms, on the field, and within her community, she has consistently demonstrated character and leadership that inspires everyone fortunate enough to know her.

To graduate at the top of one's class is no small accomplishment. It requires countless hours of study and determination. Yet what makes her success even more remarkable is the humility and kindness she has carried through this journey. She treats others with respect and is grounded in the values of faith, family, and hard work that have guided her every step of the way.

As her grandfather, I have had the privilege of watching her grow from a curious child with big dreams into a poised and accomplished young woman prepared to make her mark on the world. I can say with confidence that our Nation's future is brighter because of young leaders like Morgan, individuals who understand the importance of integrity, compassion, and service above self. Her generation will inherit great challenges, but also tremendous opportunities, and I know that Morgan will meet both with courage and wisdom.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating my granddaughter, Morgan Elizabeth Gooch, on this outstanding milestone. May this achievement serve as only the beginning of a lifetime filled with purpose, success, and meaningful contributions to her community and country. Her family could not be prouder, and we look forward with excitement to all that she will accomplish in the years ahead.

## HONORING THE LIFE OF BRUCE HUTTENSTINE, SR.

**HON. ROBERT P. BRESNAHAN, JR.**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 2, 2026*

Mr. BRESNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Bruce Huttenstine, Sr. I include in the RECORD the following proclamation:

Whereas, Bruce Huttenstine, Sr. of West Hazleton, Pennsylvania honorably served in the United States Navy from 1950 to 1954 during the Korean War, attaining the rank of Second Class Gunner's Mate aboard the USS *Wisconsin* and earning numerous military honors, including two Korean Service Medals, a Battle Star, and a Good Conduct Medal; and

Whereas, throughout his military career, Bruce Huttenstine, Sr. served with courage, integrity, and unwavering commitment, exemplifying the highest traditions of the United States Armed Forces; and

Whereas, following his military service, Bruce Huttenstine, Sr. devoted 37 years to Geissler Knitting Mill and applied the leadership, discipline, and values learned in the Navy to both his profession and his community; and

Whereas, alongside his devoted wife and family, Bruce Huttenstine, Sr. has led a life defined by service to others, dedicating his time and talents to mentoring local youth through Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Soap Box Derby, Little League and Minor League baseball, while also supporting fellow veterans through his involvement with the Veterans of Foreign Wars; and

Whereas, Bruce Huttenstine, Sr.'s lifetime of service, leadership, and civic involvement has enriched the Greater Hazleton area and stands as an enduring example of patriotism, dedication, and community spirit;

NOW THEREFORE, I, ROB BRESNAHAN, JR., Member of Congress, do hereby recognize and honor Bruce Huttenstine, Sr. for his distinguished military service, his steadfast commitment to his family and community, and his many contributions to the Greater Hazleton area and Northeastern Pennsylvania.

HONORING TECHNICAL SERGEANT  
PHILIP STRECZYK FOR HIS  
SERVICE IN WORLD WAR II

**HON. BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 2, 2026*

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 82nd anniversary of D-Day and to honor East Brunswick, New Jersey's native son, Technical Sergeant Philip Streczyk, a distinguished World War II veteran.

Tomorrow marks 82 years since Philip and the men of the 16th Infantry Company, 1st Infantry Division, led the charge up the Easy Red sector of Omaha Beach. Technical Sergeant Streczyk showed incredible courage and tactical skill to guide his men off the beaches despite incredible enemy fire. He also displayed resilience and innovation to find a pathway up the mine-laden bluffs safely.

His company commander, Captain Ed Wozenski stated "I think that he's the greatest unsung hero of World War II. To the best of my knowledge, he was the first one on the beach and it was the path that he took that I picked up. The rest of our battalion followed, 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry, and then later on I think almost the whole corps went up that same path."

That pathway became a leading edge for our troops to storm Normandy, fight amongst the hedgerows deeper inland and ultimately, defeat the Germans. Philip's actions truly began the liberation of France from the grip of tyranny. Captain Wozenski went on to say: "If [Streczyk] did not earn a Congressional Medal of Honor, no one did."

Philip's bravery didn't stop at the beachhead. He proceeded to take out a deadly machine gun nest and capture several Polish prisoners of war. General Eisenhower and Field Marshal Montgomery would later present him personally with the Distinguished Service Cross and British Military Medal. All told, Streczyk served nearly 440 days straight in combat from North Africa to Sicily to Normandy through to the Hurtgen Forest.

His combat valor is unmatched and was dubbed by The Central Jersey Home News a "one-man invasion." He was the recipient of a Silver Star with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters, Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Combat Infantryman Badge, and several more decorations.

Like many of the Greatest Generation, Philip lived a simple, humble life upon returning home to New Jersey. He raised his 4 kids with his wife, Sophie, and worked as a mason and builder and was active in Veterans organizations, but, sadly, the toll of warfare caught up with him. A gangrenous neck wound suffered during combat led to daily, intolerable pain. Streczyk took his own life in 1958 at just 39 years old. Technical Sergeant Streczyk is buried in a small, hidden family plot in a residential cul-de-sac in East Brunswick, New Jersey.

Streczyk was never given true recognition by his hometown and state for his actions that preserved democracy. I rise today on behalf of New Jersey's 12th District to proudly honor this one-of-one military legend and American hero. We can never repay the debt we owe to Philip and his fellow Soldiers, but we can always honor and remember the sacrifices they made so that all of us may live freely today. We are eternally grateful to our Greatest Generation.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in honoring Technical Sergeant Philip Streczyk and his service to our country.

COMMEMORATING THE 65TH ANNI-  
VERSARY OF THE JEWISH FED-  
ERATION OF WEST CENTRAL  
NEW JERSEY

**HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 2, 2026*

Mr. KEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 65th anniversary of the Jewish Federation of West Central New Jersey, which has steadfastly supported Jewish communities in Somerset, Hunterdon, and Warren counties for more than six decades. Since 1961, the Federation has played a pivotal role in nurturing Jewish communities throughout West Central New Jersey, Israel, and beyond. Their efforts span local agency partnerships, programming, fundraising, and community service.

This year marks a significant milestone as the Jewish Federation of West Central New Jersey celebrates 65 years of dedicated service. Their ongoing commitment to comprehensive social service programs enables members of the Jewish diaspora in West Central New Jersey to thrive within a supportive community. The Federation is committed to ensuring that all populations within the Jewish community receive support, offering programs tailored for seniors, those with disabilities, refugees, children, and families. Importantly, the Jewish Federation of West Central New Jersey also provides essential support services to Holocaust survivors, ensuring their well-being as they face the challenges of aging.

Notably, the Federation's initiatives include scholarships for Jewish youth to participate in programs in Israel, emergency financial assistance, food security efforts, mental health support, and community-building activities. Mem-

bers of the Federation are also active in advocating for legislation and funding at various levels of government to assist those in need and promote social justice, particularly in response to rising antisemitism. Their civic engagement programming strives to create a more equitable society for all.

Mr. Speaker, I want to extend my deep gratitude to the Jewish Federation of West Central New Jersey for their unwavering dedication to enriching our state's Jewish communities and actively combating antisemitism. Their remarkable efforts have not only fostered unity and resilience locally but have also inspired positive change on a global scale. As we celebrate their accomplishments, I am confident the Federation will continue to make a lasting difference for many years to come.

HONORING MRS. DORCUS CURRY  
THIGPEN

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 2, 2026*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Dorcus Curry Thigpen, a revered gospel music leader, choir directress, minister of music, and beloved matriarch whose name is deeply woven into the legacy of Mississippi music the sacred tradition of gospel ministry.

A native daughter of Mississippi's rich gospel tradition, Mrs. Thigpen's life in music began early though the influence of her father, Elder David R. Curry, Sr., founder of what is now known as Liberal Trinity Church of God in Christ. It was there that she learned music was not simply performance, but ministry, testimony, and a sacred way to bring people together in faith.

Mrs. Thigpen became connected to the Mississippi Mass Choir through her brother, David Curry, Jr., who asked her to serve as a director when the choir was being formed alongside gospel visionary Frank Williams in 1988. Though she missed the choir's first meeting while on maternity leave, she would go on to give 38 years of faithful service to the Mississippi Mass Choir, becoming one of its most recognizable and beloved leaders. For nearly four decades, she helped guide the choir's sound, discipline, stage presence, and spiritual power.

Known for her commanding direction, graceful spirit, and unwavering standard of excellence, Mrs. Thigpen helped carry the Mississippi Mass Choir from local church roots to national and international recognition. She also directed the Mississippi Children's Choir, mentoring approximately 200 young people from across the state and helping train the next generation in gospel music and ministry.

Beyond her musical accomplishments, Mrs. Thigpen is celebrated for her faithfulness, humility, mentorship, and motherly presence. To many, she is more than a choir directress; she is a mother of five sons, grandmother, teacher, encourager, worship leader, and living testimony. Her legacy is heard in every lifted voice, every disciplined choir stand, and every heart moved by the power of gospel music.

As she is honored for her 70th birthday and retirement this month, Mrs. Dorcus Curry Thigpen stands as Mississippi gospel legend