

to recognize him before the U. S. House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING THE
UNFORGETTABLE BIG BAND

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 22, 2026

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to recognize the Unforgettable Big Band's "Freedom is Not Free" celebration of our Nation's 250th Birthday.

The Unforgettable Big Band originally formed in 2000, in the York, Pennsylvania area, for the simple joy of playing music for the local community; however, its reputation quickly grew. Within a couple of years, the Lake Meade Homeowners Association invited the Band to perform at the annual charity fundraiser dance, marking the Band's first public appearance. Their overwhelming success turned the performance into a bi-annual tradition that occurs to this day. As word about the Band continued to spread, they began performing more frequently across the York area. Proceeds from performances for local charities and churches enabled the Band to invest in a sound system and stage lighting, further elevating their shows and performances. Many of the Band's early performances focused on World War II Veterans' reunion events—an important tradition the Band upholds as long as surviving Veterans are able to attend. In 2019, the Central Pennsylvania Music Hall of Fame was formed to recognize and support bands and music in Central Pennsylvania. In January 2020, the Unforgettable Big Band won "Best Ensemble," and followed that win with a "Cover-To-Cover" award in 2021, for the song "Fighter," which was written to benefit the Four Diamonds Foundation's support of families of children with cancer at Penn State Milton S. Hershey Children's Hospital.

On July 3, the Unforgettable Big Band will host "Freedom is Not Free," a World War II-themed USO-Canteen Swing Dance at York's Valencia Ballroom, to honor our Veterans—past and present—and our community's First Responders, and the unique role that York County has played in the history of our Nation. All profits from this event will benefit charitable local causes supporting Veterans and First Responders.

Mr. Speaker, I'm honored and privileged to recognize the Unforgettable Big Band and their "Freedom is Not Free" celebration of America's 250th Birthday. From the early days of the Continental Congress, to the York Plan that helped achieve the Allied victory, to end World War II, York County has made an enormous mark on American history, and on behalf of the Citizens of the 10th Congressional District, I commend the Unforgettable Big Band for its service to our Nation and Veterans, and am proud that this memorable and historic celebration will occur in our local community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE UNITED
STATES COMMISSION ON AN
OPEN SOCIETY WITH SECURITY
ACT OF 2026

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 22, 2026

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the United States Commission on an Open Society with Security Act of 2026, which would create a commission to investigate how we can maintain our democratic traditions while actively responding to the real and substantial threats posed by foreign and domestic terrorism.

The impetus for this bill was the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995. Its importance grew after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, and the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021. The tragic attacks endured by our Nation have led to a series of sweeping security measures that are deemed both necessary and temporary in the moment but create lasting security infrastructure that is difficult to dismantle and infringes on our open, democratic society.

We must acknowledge and accept that we have entered an era of constant internal and external threats, requiring ever-higher levels of security for our people and public spaces. What we thought would be a temporary infringement on our open society has turned into a permanent restriction on how our citizens interact with each other and our democratic institutions. Because emergencies typically dictate security decisions, essential discussions on the proper balance between security, individual rights and the freedoms enjoyed in an open society have been repeatedly deferred.

This bill would ensure that these long overdue discussions take place in a public forum with experts from across the spectrum. To date, security planning has been delegated almost exclusively to security, intelligence and military experts. Although their input is indispensable, they cannot be expected to consider matters outside of their expertise. To strike a better balance with our democratic traditions, we need to invite experts from diverse fields to the same table to work together. Therefore, the commission would be composed not only of security, intelligence and military experts, but also experts from such fields as business, architecture, technology, law, city planning, art, engineering, philosophy, history, sociology and psychology.

We have used commissions before to deeply investigate and address unprecedented challenges, such as the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (also known as the 9/11 Commission), the Commission on the Intelligence Capabilities of the United States Regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction (also known as the Silberman-Robb Commission) and the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders (also known as the Kerner Commission).

The commission created by this bill would seek to avert a crisis in basic freedoms before their infringement becomes entrenched. We cannot allow security protocols to proliferate without informed civilian oversight and a thorough analysis of alternatives that might better safeguard freedom and commerce.

Furthermore, we have had decades to develop security strategies and technologies that

do not deprive our citizens of access to institutions and personal liberty. Thus far, we have either relied on imprecise, medieval approaches like crude barriers or on intrusive new technologies that treat privacy like a privilege instead of a right. We can, and must, do better.

As the home of the Federal government, the District of Columbia and its residents have suffered disproportionate infringement on public spaces, personal rights and freedoms in the name of security. Public spaces that serve as the heart of our local communities have become restricted zones characterized by a heavy security presence, with individuals liable to be reprimanded for walking on the wrong side of the street or marveling too long at the architecture. Barriers such as walls and fences are touted as essential security features while our citizens are left peering at their democracy from a distance.

Security is not only about reducing lives lost and costs. It is also about safeguarding the institutions, freedoms and values that anchor our country, not only for ourselves but for future generations. The social compact between government and the people should not be the result of a series of hostage negotiations. We must resume reasoned and deliberative decision-making, beginning with a high-level commission composed of experts from diverse disciplines charged with developing a new course that will protect both our people and our precious democratic institutions and traditions.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING CASA FOUNDER AND
CEO MARCIA "MARTY" SINK

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 22, 2026

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Marcia "Marty" Sink, who has spent the last 38 years as a dedicated child advocate, during which time she has left a profound and lasting impact on children in the foster and court systems in New Hampshire.

Marty began her journey in child advocacy in her thirties when she and her husband, Russ, became foster parents. After witnessing the realities of the court system for minors in foster care and similar situations, Marty reached out to CASA, Court Appointed Special Advocates for children. She learned there was no chapter of the program in New Hampshire and took on the challenge of founding the New Hampshire chapter of CASA in 1988. For 38 years, she has remained a dedicated advocate of children suffering from abuse and neglect across the state of New Hampshire.

CASA in New Hampshire started with just ten volunteers but has since grown into an organization of over 3,000 individuals. These advocates have supported over 13,000 children since the founding of the NH chapter. In addition to serving as the President of CASA, Marty has sat on numerous committees, including the New Hampshire Citizens' Commission on State Courts, the New Hampshire Commission on Adoption, and the New Hampshire Attorney General's Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect. Throughout her nearly 40 years of service, she has received awards, including the National CASA Association Kappa

Alpha Theta Program Director of the Year in 1997, the New Hampshire Bar Association's Frank Rowe Kenison Award in 2001, the University of New Hampshire's Granite State Award in 2004, and the Keene State College's Outstanding Women of New Hampshire Award in 2014.

Those who know Marty best admire her leadership skills, patience, and diplomacy. Colleagues from the courtroom describe her as a force of nature who is gentle but persistent in securing advocacy for children. Her work with CASA has created lasting change in New Hampshire's courts.

Marty will retire in July, leaving New Hampshire's CASA program in the hands of her trusted and experienced colleagues. Now 70, she looks forward to spending time with her husband and family. In honor of her retirement, CASA is creating the Marty Sink Legacy Fund for Advocates, a fund dedicated to supporting and investing in this year's 600 advocates.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I thank Marty Sink for her commitment and dedication to supporting the children of New Hampshire for the past 38 years. I would also like to thank Marty for her selfless service and for her leadership in the state. I wish her and her family all the best in her retirement and future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING PRIVATE FIRST CLASS MICHAEL GRIECO, SR. FROM BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 22, 2026

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man whose life reflects the very best of America, a member of the Greatest Generation, a United States Marine, a devoted husband and father, and a proud centenarian and United States Marine Corps veteran, Private First Class Michael Grieco, Sr.

Born in Chicago, Illinois, on May 26, 1926, and raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Michael came of age during some of the most difficult years in our Nation's history. At just sixteen years old, while many young men were still deciding what they wanted from life, Michael knew what he wanted to give. In 1943, he left school and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, determined to serve his country during its hour of need.

What followed was a journey that carried him across the Pacific, and into some of the fiercest battles of World War II. He would later fight at Tinian, landing in the first wave with the 2nd Marine Division, and he would go on to serve in the Battle of Okinawa, where so many Americans paid the ultimate sacrifice.

For Michael and so many of his generation, service was never about recognition. It was about duty. It was about standing beside those who depended on you. It was about carrying burdens that others would never see and asking for nothing in return.

After the war ended, Michael set out to build a life for himself. Michael became a tailor, dedicating more than four decades to his craft. In 1950, he married the love of his life, Elea-

nor. Together they built a family grounded in love and devotion, raising two sons, Michael Jr. and Gary, and sharing thirty-four years of marriage before Eleanor's passing in 1984.

Yet what makes Michael's story so remarkable is not only what he accomplished in war or work, it is the way he embraced life itself. He discovered a love for skiing in 1950 and continued to ski in his nineties. At age fifty-eight, he took up cycling and never looked back. In many ways, that determination and spirit reflected the Marine he had always been, always moving forward, always embracing the next challenge.

Today, as Michael Grieco celebrates a century of life, he is surrounded by the family that stands as his greatest achievement: two sons, four grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. Through them, his legacy continues.

Mr. Speaker, men like Michael Grieco helped save the world from tyranny and then returned home to build lives defined by service, humility, and love. Their generation asked for little, gave much, and left our Nation stronger than they found it. The example he has set is now ours to honor and ours to carry forward.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
JASON JERROD HALEY, SR.

HON. MARILYN STRICKLAND

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 22, 2026

Ms. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a distinguished veteran from Washington's 10th Congressional District, Mr. Jason Jerrold Haley, Sr.

Mr. Haley served with distinction in the United States Navy for over eleven years. His service was highlighted by an extraordinary, continuous assignment to the USS *Nimitz* (CVN 68). From March 18, 1993, to June 1, 2001, Mr. Haley remained assigned to the *Nimitz* for a consecutive 8 years and 3 months.

During this extensive period, he served as an AO2/E5 AW (Aviation Ordinance-man Second Class/Aviation Warfare Specialist) within the Weapons Department. Maintaining weapons readiness on a nuclear aircraft carrier requires immense technical expertise, precision, and unwavering focus. Mr. Haley was a cornerstone of the ship's crew during a pivotal era, keeping the vessel's combat systems sharp through multiple high-tempo deployments and the grueling Refueling and Complex Overhaul (RCOH) process.

A resident of Puyallup, Washington, Jason Jerrold Haley, Sr. represents the absolute highest traditions of the naval service: resilience, consistency, and a deep-seated "Old Salt" dedication to a single command. Spending over 3,000 consecutive days assigned to the *Nimitz* is a profound testament to the sacrifice, endurance, and steadfastness of our nation's sailors.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Haley's remarkable service record and ensuring his dedication is permanently preserved.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF MRS. MARY LIZZIE PICKETT
QUILLER

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 22, 2026

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart, and with deep gratitude, to honor the life and the lasting legacy of a beloved matriarch of Columbus, Georgia, Mrs. Mary Lizzie Pickett Quiller, known and loved by all who knew her simply as "Honey." After a remarkable life that spanned a full century, Mrs. Quiller was called home to her reward on June 10, 2026, at the age of 100 years old.

On Friday, June 19th, her family, her friends, and her community gathered at Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church in Columbus, Georgia—the very church home she faithfully served for more than 60 years—to celebrate her life and to lay her to rest. It is only right that this body, and this Nation, pause to remember a woman who gave 100 years of her life to her family, her faith, and her community.

Mrs. Quiller was born on September 15, 1925, in Bullock County, Alabama, one of seven children raised by their devoted mother, Georgie Pickett. Of those seven, she and her sister, Annie Watkins, were the last two who remained—and today, with Honey's passing, her sister carries on as the last leaf on that family tree.

Mr. Speaker, in the final season of her long life, Mrs. Quiller left her family a simple and humble request. She said: "Let the works I have done speak for me." So, on the floor of this House today, I intend to honor that wish. I rise to let her works speak.

Let her works speak of a young girl who became a second mother before her time. By her own sister's loving account, Honey helped care for her siblings through all their childhood years—and she went right on caring for them even after their mother, Georgie, passed away. When the family needed someone to hold it together, she was the one who stepped forward. And that was the pattern of her entire life.

Let her works speak of a woman who, as I would describe her, simply was not a quitter. She believed in bettering herself, and through hard work and quiet determination she did exactly that. Mary Quiller earned an Associate Degree in Business from Albany State, a Master of Cosmetology, and a tailoring certificate. She refused to let her beginnings set the limits of her life.

Let her works speak of a wife and a mother. She was the beloved wife of George Quiller and the devoted mother of two children, Jean and Jerry. And Mr. Speaker, I must pause here, because there is no heavier burden a parent can be asked to carry than to bury a child—and Mrs. Quiller knew that sorrow for her beloved son, Jerry, preceded her in death. Yet somehow, by the grace of God, she kept right on standing, kept right on serving, and kept right on pouring her love into everyone around her. A heart that knew that depth of grief and still chose to give is a heart worthy of honor before this Nation. She is survived by her devoted daughter, Mary, her sister Annie Watkins, her grandson, Jeremy Quiller, her great grandchildren, and her great-great grandchild, who carried her name and her spirit forward.