

Harvard, he had interned and later worked full time at Fidelity Management Research Company until he completed his MBA. While he was offered a permanent position at Fidelity upon graduation, he knew he wanted to start his own business. Ned Johnson, the then chair at Fidelity, initially offered a \$25,000 investment in Bill's new company. However, Fidelity's advisors effectively nixed the new investment. This could have crushed Bill's dream of starting a new business. Fortunately, Ned Johnson decided to keep his commitment and gave Bill the money as a consulting fee. Bill later said, "This was a huge lesson for me. From then on, I've known the importance of keeping your word and honoring your commitments."

Bill spent the next 45 years building, leading, and growing W.R. Berkley into a leading provider of P&C insurance globally. Ten years ago, he relinquished the reins as CEO to his son Rob Berkley, but he remained the Executive Chairman of the company until his death and the company still bears his imprint and influence. Even after turning 80, Bill continued to go in early every morning because "I just find it exciting" and "I want to improve the company every day."

Rob says that his father was "always encouraging his colleagues to think outside of the box and not to accept the status quo."

And Bill also never lost sight from where he came and the forces and lessons that led to his success, looking to "pay it forward" often. Bill and his wife Marjorie, through their family foundation, have focused their philanthropy on three primary areas: education, health and environmental issues. For example, the family's foundation recently gave a "transformative gift" to expand the Georgetown University School of Nursing, a natural intersection of their interest in education and health, designed to help address the Nation's shortage of nurses.

Bill also gave back with his time by serving on numerous corporate boards, providing leadership, advice, and support. He served as Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of Georgetown University, where he helped create the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs, devoted to fostering inter-religious dialogue with a goal of improving global cultural understanding. He also was a former Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees of the University of Connecticut and former Chairman of Achievement First, a group of charter schools operating in the Northeast, serving over 15,000 inner-city children. And he was an Emeritus member of the Board of Directors of the National Parks Conservation Association, after serving on the Board for many years.

But most of all, Bill gave back to NYU—the school he credited with providing him the opportunity for a free education that supported his success. Most notably, he had recently retired as Chairman of the New York University Board of Trustees. He also served in several other board leadership capacities at NYU over three decades, including at the NYU Stern School of Business and the Langone Medical Center. Marjorie and him made several large gifts to the school's Leonard N. Stern School of Business. These efforts were focused on expanding access to education through scholarships, reflecting their belief in helping talented young people achieve their potential. "I see education as giving you the framework to

understand how everything works," Bill explained, "It doesn't solve your problems, but it gives you something to build on. When combined with hard work and perseverance through challenging times, success is usually the outcome."

Over the years, Bill received many awards for his business, civic and philanthropic activities, including most recently the Horatio Alger Award in 2024 "bestowed upon exceptional leaders who have triumphed over adversity to achieve greatness."

Bill exemplified how to lead a life guided by deep, constant purpose and fueled by optimism, determination, and industry. He built a company that is highly respected and an established leader in the insurance industry, as well as changed lives by providing charitable leadership and compassionate giving.

Mr. Speaker, I honor Bill's legacy and recognize his achievements as a global entrepreneur, corporate and charitable leader, and philanthropist. I am deeply saddened by his sudden passing and offer my sympathies to his wife Marjorie and his children and grandchildren.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSH BRECHEEN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 2026

Mr. BRECHEEN. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained due to travel and was unable to cast my vote on Roll Call No. 224. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 224.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GLENN THOMPSON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, due to an unforeseen absence on account of illness, I was unable to vote yesterday, June 23, 2026. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 223, and YEA on Roll Call No. 224.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 2026

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, June 23, 2026, I missed votes due to a personal matter. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 223, and YEA on Roll Call No. 224.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 2026

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, on June 23, 2026, due to unforeseen aircraft mechanical

issues that delayed my arrival to Washington, D.C., I missed the following votes. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 224, H.R. 6644, and YEA on Roll Call No. 223, S. 629.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KWEISI MFUME

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 2026

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, June 23, 2026, I missed votes due to my obligations given that it was Maryland's primary election day. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 223 and YEA on Roll Call No. 224.

Final passage of the 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act was originally set for the second vote series on Wednesday, June 24, the day after primary elections in Maryland, New York, and Utah. The Speaker chose to move it up to Tuesday evening's suspension calendar instead, at a time when he knew Members from three states would be home with their constituents on Election Day.

The Speaker moved this vote because his own conference was in open rebellion over the schedule he had set for Wednesday. The result was that more than 40 Members, from both parties and from all three states holding primaries, were not recorded on final passage of a housing bill the House had already approved once before by a vote of 396 to 13. The Speaker put his internal conference politics ahead of his obligation to give every Member a fair opportunity to vote, and ahead of the voters in three states who deserved their Representatives' full attention on Election Day. He owes this institution, and the people of Maryland, New York, and Utah, better than that.

I was proud to vote yes for the 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act when it passed this House earlier this year. This is a good, bipartisan bill that will increase the supply of affordable housing at a moment when families in Baltimore and across Maryland's 7th District are being priced out of homeownership, and too often, out of stable housing altogether. It expands access to modern manufactured housing, lets localities use Community Development Block Grant funds to build new housing, and protects veterans receiving VA disability payments from losing housing assistance they have earned. These are the common-sense solutions this Congress should be delivering more often.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. JOHN NOBLE, JR.

HON. CLAY HIGGINS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 2026

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise to memorialize the life of Dr. John Noble, Jr., an accomplished doctor, community leader, and friend.

Dr. Noble led a remarkable career as an orthopaedic surgeon. He earned his undergraduate degree at McNeese State University and his Medical Degree from LSU Medical

School in New Orleans, where he also completed his residency. Dr. Noble completed a Fellowship at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas, before returning home to Southwest Louisiana. There he spent more than three decades in practice, serving countless patients and helping to develop innovative treatments for hip and knee replacements.

Throughout his career, Dr. Noble was committed to advancing the concerns of other physicians and his patients. He served as the President of the Louisiana State Medical Society and the Louisiana Orthopaedic Association, organizations that advocate on current healthcare issues and policy reforms.

While many knew him as a trusted physician, others knew John Noble for contributions outside of his practice. He was a longtime advocate for his alma mater, McNeese State University. Not only was he the team physician for McNeese Athletics, but he gave back to the McNeese community with his time and resources. And he represented Southwest Louisiana as a member of the University of Louisiana System Board of Supervisors.

John was a civic leader, including his involvement with the Calcasieu Republican Parish Executive Committee and the Alliance for Positive Growth. He was always willing to share his expertise with others in the community, and when illness forced him to retire from his practice, he pressed on with the same dedication to service and civic engagement.

My friend John Noble was indeed a gentleman of distinguished accomplishment on many levels, yet nothing surpassed his love for his family. John cherished his beautiful wife, Cinda, and I was in awe of his dedication and love for his daughter, Madeline, and his son, John Wallace. After a courageous battle with cancer, Dr. Noble has gone home to be with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Dr. Noble lived a life worth celebrating. He was a man of integrity, extraordinary talent, and distinguished accomplishment. May that legacy and the memory of his life endure. It is in that spirit that I deliver these remarks on this day. To memorialize the life of a dear friend and a great man, Dr. John Noble, Jr.

May God bless Dr. Noble and his family.

RECOGNIZING VALENTIN NIKOLOV

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 2026

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as Co-Chair and founder of the Congressional Bulgaria Caucus, I rise to recognize Valentin Nikolov as he leaves Washington to begin his next diplomatic assignment at the Permanent Representation of Bulgaria in Strasbourg, France.

For more than five years, Valentin has vigorously served as Deputy Chief of Mission and Minister Plenipotentiary at the Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria. Throughout his time in Washington, he has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to strengthening the partnership between the United States and the Republic of Bulgaria, fostering deeper connections and lasting ties between our nations.

With nearly 40 years of experience in diplomacy and international affairs, Valentin has held senior positions within Bulgaria's Ministry

of Foreign Affairs and representing the country within the European Union, United Nations, and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo.

Beyond his impressive professional accomplishments, Valentin has been a loyal friend and valued colleague. I am grateful for his years of dedicated service in Washington and wish him continued success promoting the dynamic people of Bulgaria.

RECOGNIZING THE INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE SWIMMING AND DIVING PROGRAM

HON. BRIAN J. MAST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 2026

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Indian River State College (IRSC) Swimming and Diving program. IRSC has demonstrated unmatched dominance in collegiate athletics through discipline, teamwork, and a sustained culture of excellence. The men's team secured its 52nd consecutive NJCAA National Championship, the longest active title streak in collegiate sports history, while the women's team earned its 48th national title, completing a historic sweep by winning every event at the 2026 championship meet.

At the 2026 NJCAA National Championships in Fort Pierce, Florida, athletes delivered record-breaking performances, including Marcus Johnson's two national records in breaststroke events, and record-setting relay swims by Noah Smith, Johnson, Zack Gresham, and Oliver Nell.

Under Head Coach Sion Brinn—an alumnus, Olympian, and 13-time national championship coach—the program continues to embody excellence and community leadership. Serving over 24,000 students, Indian River State College inspires its community and represents Fort Pierce with distinction nationwide.

I am pleased to extend the highest congratulations to the men's and women's Swimming and Diving teams, Coach Brinn and staff, President Timothy E. Moore, and all student-athletes who have contributed to this extraordinary legacy.

These achievements stand as a source of pride for Florida's 21st Congressional District and the Nation, reflecting the power of teamwork, dedication, and the pursuit of greatness.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 2026

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, due to sickness, I missed an important vote on H.R. 6644 and S. 629. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 223, and YEA on Roll Call No. 224.

CELEBRATING THE GREATER POM- PANO BEACH CHAMBER OF COM- MERCE

HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 2026

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the grand opening and ribbon cutting of the new office for the Greater Pompano Beach Chamber of Commerce and recognize the organization on 79 years of dedicated service to the businesses, residents, and communities of Broward County, Florida.

Founded in 1947, the Greater Pompano Beach Chamber of Commerce has served as a cornerstone of economic growth and community development throughout the greater Pompano Beach area. For nearly eight decades, the Chamber has united business leaders, entrepreneurs, professionals, and community stakeholders in a shared mission to promote civic engagement, strengthen commerce, and enhance the quality of life for all who call this region home.

The Chamber has also demonstrated commitment to regional collaboration and growth through the acquisition of the Margate Chamber of Commerce in 2016 and the Lighthouse Point Chamber of Commerce in 2018. These efforts expanded its reach and strengthened its ability to serve businesses and communities throughout northeast Broward County. I thank the Chamber's Chief Executive Officer Evencia A. Janvier for her outstanding leadership and dedication, her commitment to fostering business growth, community engagement, and economic development continuing to make a lasting impact throughout the region. Today, the Chamber represents more than 700 businesses and professionals who work collectively to advance the economic prosperity of the community. Through collaboration, advocacy, networking, and leadership, the Chamber demonstrates the power of a united business community. Its efforts have fostered opportunities for growth, innovation, and investment while creating a stronger and more resilient local economy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Greater Pompano Beach Chamber of Commerce for its outstanding service, leadership, and commitment to economic and community development. On behalf of Florida's 23rd Congressional District, I extend my sincere congratulations and best wishes for continued success in the years ahead.

RECOGNIZING DON BATY FOR HIS YEARS OF LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE TO NORTHERN MICHIGAN

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 2026

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Don Baty of Grayling, Michigan for his decades of leadership and dedicated service to Northern Michigan and the Republican Party of Crawford County.

Don's story is one rooted in hard work, loyalty, and a deep love for the great state of