

and environmental programs. The conferenced agreement removes Republican policy riders that would have prohibited any funding to the Green Climate Fund, the Clean Technology Fund, and implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement, and saved the Global Environment Facility from elimination.

The fiscal year 2026 Financial Services and General Government bill provides critical assistance to small businesses in the Twin Cities by rejecting cuts to Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund. The CDFI Fund promotes economic development in distressed urban, rural, and tribal communities. CDFIs leverage capital from the CDFI Fund to catalyze investment in the Twin Cities that grows our small businesses, develops housing units, increases access to financial services, and creates jobs. Over the past year, President Trump has proposed eliminating the CDFI Fund, has fired CDFI Fund staff, and withheld funding that Congress appropriated intended for our small businesses. As Trump administration and ICE are terrorizing our community and small businesses, it is more important than ever that the CDFI Fund remain fully funded to assist small business owners as our community rebuilds after this crisis.

While these bills were not ideal, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan agreement.

RECOGNIZING J.P. SKELLY ON FORTY YEARS OF SERVICE WITH KORN NEWS RADIO

HON. DUSTY JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2026

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize J.P. Skelly for forty years of exceptional service with KORN News Radio. For decades, J.P. has been a trusted voice for South Dakota, delivering the news with accuracy and integrity.

Since joining KORN News Radio in January of 1986, J.P. has spent much of his career as News Director, leading a newsroom that is consistently recognized for excellence. Under his leadership, KORN News Radio earned dozens of Eric Sevareid Awards of Merit from the Northwest Broadcast News Association (NBNA) in 2006 and is consistently honored by NBNA for their work.

J.P.'s work has included coverage of major trials, legislative affairs through "Inside State Government," presidential visits, and moments of tragedy such as the Spencer tornado, ensuring South Dakotans were informed during both historic and difficult times.

Beyond his work at KORN News Radio, J.P. has been a distinguished leader in journalism, serving as president of the Northwest Broadcast News Association in 2006. His dedication to the profession has had a lasting impact on his community and the region. I congratulate him on this milestone and thank him for four decades of service to South Dakota.

HONORING TONY FRANKS

HON. JOSH HARDER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2026

Mr. HARDER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tony Franks for his extraordinary leadership, historic achievements, and decades of service to student-athletes at St. Mary's High School in Stockton.

A proud alumnus of St. Mary's, Coach Franks has devoted decades of service to the school that shaped him, returning as head football coach for twenty-seven seasons and building a program rooted in discipline, accountability, and character. His connection to the community spans generations, coaching at the same institution he once attended and later entrusting with the education of his own children.

Throughout his tenure, Coach Franks established one of the most consistently successful high school football programs in California. His teams regularly competed at the highest levels of the sport, earning league titles, postseason victories, and regional recognition while maintaining a 75.5 percent winning percentage and recording only two losing seasons. Year after year, St. Mary's football became synonymous with preparation, resilience, and teamwork, reflecting a culture built not only on competitive success, but on developing young men into leaders on and off the field.

That legacy reached a historic milestone when Coach Franks led the St. Mary's Rams to their first CIF State Football Championship, securing the first state football title for any high school team in the City of Stockton. The championship season was defined by perseverance and belief, as the Rams delivered a memorable playoff run that captured the pride of the entire community. In recognition of this achievement and his career-long impact, Coach Franks was named California State Coach of the Year, a rare distinction that reflects both excellence on the field and integrity beyond it.

Mr. Speaker, Coach Tony Franks embodies the highest ideals of high school athletics. His legacy is measured not only in victories, but in the lives he has shaped, the culture he has built, and the pride he has brought to St. Mary's High School and the City of Stockton. I am proud to recognize his lasting contributions to our community.

HONORING ROLIN MCPHEE

HON. NATHANIEL MORAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2026

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rolin McPhee for his service and dedication as City Manager of Longview, Texas for 25 years.

This remarkable milestone represents a quarter of a century of unwavering commitment to our community and exemplifies the best of public service. Rolin has shown up for our community day after day with a servant's heart, placing the needs of our citizens above all else.

His knowledge of operations within our community is unmatched. The skill, wisdom, and

experience he has brought to this position have been instrumental in guiding Longview through periods of growth and transformation.

Most importantly, Rolin leads with vision, strength, and grace. This approach has fostered collaboration among diverse stakeholders, built bridges across varying perspectives, and created an environment where solutions emerge from respectful dialogue.

The impact of Rolin's 25 years of service cannot be overstated. Longview is a better community because of his steadfast service.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. EDWARD JAMES BLAKELY

HON. MARK TAKANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2026

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize United States Air Force veteran, public servant, and champion for equitable and humane urban planning, Professor Edward James Blakely, who passed away last year at the age of 87.

Dr. Blakely was called to serve his community, state, and country after receiving bachelor of arts at the University of California, Riverside, where he excelled both in the classroom and as a four-sport athlete. He served in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina, in Oakland after the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake, and around the world following some of the most devastating natural disasters of our lifetime.

In addition to his service on the ground when communities needed him most, he shared his time, talent, and energy with students in the classroom and in the hallways of higher learning. He served as a professor of Urban Planning at the University of California, Berkeley, as Dean of the School of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, and as the Dean of the Milano Graduate School of Public Policy at the New School in New York.

Later in life, Dr. Blakely's passion for public service called him to Australia, where he served as the District Commissioner for the Greater Sydney Commission and an Acting Commissioner on the New South Wales Land and Environment Court.

His multiple books on urban planning, the students he impacted, and the communities he touched serve as a living legacy to his commitment to making our society more equitable for the benefit of humanity.

He, nor his deeds of good work, will not soon be forgotten from this earthly plane.

My prayers are with Dr. Blakely's family and friends.

COMMEMORATING THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRAGIC COLLISION OF AMERICAN EAGLE FLIGHT 5342 AND U.S. ARMY CALLSIGN PAT 25

HON. SHARICE DAVIDS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2026

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in somber recognition that January 29,

2026, will mark one year since the tragic collision of American Eagle Flight 5342 and U.S. Army callsign PAT 25.

On that night one year ago, American Airlines Flight 5342, flying from Wichita, Kansas to Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, collided with a UH-60 Army Black Hawk helicopter while on final approach to runway 33 at DCA. There were no survivors and 67 innocent lives were lost—60 passengers, 4 flight crew, and 3 Army soldiers. They were our neighbors, our coworkers, and our loved ones.

For Kansas, this tragedy hit especially close to home. Wichita is the Air Capital of the World, and countless Kansas families have deep ties to aviation—whether through work, training, or innovation. The loss of this flight was not an abstract headline in our state; it was felt deeply in our communities, at kitchen tables, and in workplaces across Kansas.

While folks across the country embraced the stark reminder that we must never take our

time with loved ones for granted, this event also underscored the vital need to enhance our Nation's aviation safety.

While nothing can be done to undo this tragedy or bring back those lost on January 29, 2025, we can do everything in our power, working across the aisle, to prevent this from ever happening again. I look forward to working with my colleagues, both Republican and Democrat, to address these issues and keep our skies safe.

REMEMBERING LORAN SCHMIT

HON. MIKE FLOOD

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2026

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a great Nebraskan who passed way last year, Loran Schmit.

Loran's life of remarkable public service began with humble roots on his family's farm, shaping his deep understanding of rural life and inspiring his bold vision for Nebraska's future. Loran's leadership and vision were instrumental in developing our state's great ethanol industry—helping strengthen our ag economy for generations.

First elected to the Unicameral in 1969, Loran devoted nearly 25 years to serving our state. Among his many accomplishments, Loran helped create what would become the Nebraska Ethanol Board, an institution that continues to drive innovation in our ag economy.

Known as an advocate for agriculture and biofuels, Loran remained devoted to these causes with an unwavering sense of purpose. His presence will be deeply missed.

Our hearts and our prayers are with his family as we celebrate a life of service and lasting impact.