

Allies Refuge, and Operation Allies Welcome—missions that required courage during some of the most challenging moments facing our Armed Forces. In every role, she has demonstrated the professionalism and resolve that our servicemembers exemplify every day in defense of our Nation.

As a Human Resources professional, her work may often take place behind the scenes, but anyone who has served in uniform understands that mission success depends on the Soldiers who ensure our forces are supported and cared for. Sergeant First Class Carlos has dedicated her career to taking care of America's warfighters, allowing them to focus on accomplishing the mission. It is often said that leaders take care of people first, because people accomplish the mission. Sergeant First Class Carlos has lived that principle throughout her career.

Her remarkable record of achievement reflects that commitment. She has earned two Defense Meritorious Service Medals, five Army Commendation Medals, multiple Joint Service and Army Achievement Medals, a Combat Action Badge, and numerous other decorations recognizing both her leadership and her service in combat and joint operations.

Yet what makes Sergeant First Class Carlos truly exceptional extends beyond the medals she wears.

She has continued to invest in herself through higher education, earning a Bachelor of Science in Business Management from Post University and completing Yale University's Connected Leadership certification. She has also completed extensive military professional education throughout her career, demonstrating that true leaders never stop learning and never stop striving to improve.

Leadership is not measured simply by rank or responsibility, but by the willingness to invest in others. Sergeant First Class Carlos has embraced that responsibility throughout her career, mentoring fellow Soldiers and helping pave the way for future generations of women in uniform. Through organizations such as the Women's Veterans Memorial, Sisters-in-Arms, and the Special Operations Spartan Women's Leadership Initiative, she continues to inspire others to lead with purpose. Her influence extends well beyond her own assignments and will continue to be felt through the many servicemembers she has encouraged and mentored.

Behind every Soldier is a family that shares in the sacrifices of military service. Sergeant First Class Carlos is also a devoted mother to her two children, Aliyanah and Tyler. Like so many military families, they have experienced frequent moves, long separations, and the unique challenges that accompany a life of service. Their support has been an essential part of her success, and they deserve our gratitude as well. And of course, no family would be complete without mentioning their beloved dog, Tofu.

For the people of Guam, Sergeant First Class Carlos represents something deeply meaningful. Our island has long answered our Nation's call to serve. Despite our small size, Guam has consistently produced men and women who have answered the call to defend our Nation with unwavering dedication. Across every generation and every branch of service, the people of Guam have proudly worn the uniform, making sacrifices far beyond what

many realize. Sergeant First Class Carlos proudly carries on that proud tradition. From the villages of Guam to the Pentagon, she has represented our island with distinction and serves as an inspiration to young people who aspire to wear the uniform and serve something greater than themselves.

On behalf of the people of Guam, I offer our heartfelt gratitude for her faithful service to our Nation. We are immensely proud to call her one of Guam's own, and we thank her for representing our island with honor, integrity, and distinction.

May God continue to bless Sergeant First Class Annkatherine Carlos, her family, the men and women of our Armed Forces, Guam, and the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING THE 70TH BIRTHDAY OF VIRGINIA ANN PAYNE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 31, 2026

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 70th birthday of Virginia Payne.

Virginia was born in Lee County, Alabama, on August 24, 1956, to Mr. Arthur Lee Lockhart and Mrs. Lucille Lockhart and raised with strong faith and family values. Virginia is married to Wilbert Payne and was blessed with four children: Audrey, David, Jacques and Doricho. The Paynes have 10 grandchildren.

Virginia retired from Walmart in 2021 after 30 years of serving others during her time there. She was affectionately known as "Mrs. V" to her colleagues and customers—always lending a hand or a smile. Virginia was a member of the Zenith Horizons Social Club since the late 1970s, demonstrating a long-standing commitment to fellowship, friendship and community. She has served as a table host for the Cheryl Comer Ministries Brunch, raising more than \$2,100 to support local youth scholarships and ministry efforts.

The Payne family are members of Truth and Love Ministries Church and faithfully attend Sunday worship and fellowship at Green Chapel Missionary Church.

In her retirement, she enjoys spending her time with her family. She also loves to dance and is a member of a dancing group called the Opelika Dancercize Club. When not dancing or with family, The Paynes enjoy traveling. Virginia's family lovingly describes her as "the rock" and the reason for many of their individual successes. She has supported her family to help them accomplish their goals, assisting with celebrations and helping in any way she is needed. She has also provided unwavering and unconditional support to her husband throughout his civic involvement.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Virginia Payne and wishing her a Happy 70th Birthday.

CELEBRATING CORPORAL JAMES RUSSELL EVANS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. GUY RESCHENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 31, 2026

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate Corporal James Russell Evans, one of our last surviving World War II veterans, who turned 100 years old on August 9, 2026.

Corporal Evans was born on August 9, 1926, in Plummers Landing, Kentucky, to James Hurst and Lena Maude Evans. At just four years old, Corporal Evans began attending a one-room schoolhouse because he wanted to be with his older sister, Sarah, while helping make it easier for his mother to care for his baby sister, Lena May.

After graduating from high school at the age of sixteen, Corporal Evans hoped to enlist in the military and serve his country during World War II, but his parents would not yet consent. When he reached the age of eligibility, he enlisted in the United States Army and became part of the first Allied occupation forces in Japan, ultimately rising to the rank of Corporal. During his service, he traveled throughout Japan and witnessed firsthand the devastation left in the wake of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, experiences he would remember throughout his life. After completing his Army service, Corporal Evans continued his commitment to our Nation by joining the Air Force Reserve.

Corporal Evans was the first member of his family to attend college, enrolling at the University of Kentucky on the GI Bill. He earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and went on to build a successful career with Westinghouse Electric Corporation.

On June 28, 1958, Corporal Evans married the love of his life, Irene Evans. This year, they celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary, marking nearly seven decades of marriage and devotion. Together, they raised three children and have been blessed with ten grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

A longtime member of the Freemasons and a devoted Christian, Corporal Evans has remained active in his church and community throughout his life. Together, Jim and Irene have built a lasting legacy rooted in love, faith, family, and service to God and country. At 100 years old, Corporal Evans's life is a testament to the dignity of a life well lived and the enduring impact one person can have through a lifetime of service, devotion, and faith.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District, I am pleased to wish Corporal James Russell Evans a very happy 100th birthday.

COST ESTIMATE OF H.R. 7661, STOP THE SEXUALIZATION OF CHILDREN ACT

HON. TIM WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 31, 2026

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following cost estimate for H.R. 7661, Stop the Sexualization of Children

Act, prepared by the Congressional Budget Office, which was not made available to the Committee on Education and Workforce at the time of the filing of the legislative report.

H.R. 7661, STOP THE SEXUALIZATION OF CHILDREN ACT, AS REPORTED BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE ON JULY 2, 2026

	By fiscal year, millions of dollars—		
	2026	2026–2031	2026–2036
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (–) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	*	**

* = between zero and \$500,000.

** = not estimated.

Increases *net direct spending* in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2037? No.

Increases *on-budget deficits* in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2037? No.

Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply? No.

Mandate Effects:

Contains intergovernmental mandate? No.

Contains private-sector mandate? No.

H.R. 7661 would prohibit the use of federal funds awarded under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide or promote programs, literature, or other materials to children under the age of 18 that contain sexually oriented content, including gender dysphoria or transgenderism. The bill would exempt certain content that includes science coursework, religious texts, and classic works of art and literature, and instruction intended to help students recognize sexual trafficking.

CBO expects schools and other entities would comply with the requirements in H.R. 7661 and that any federal funds that would have been used for those purposes under current law would be used for other purposes.

Based on the cost of implementing similar prohibitions, CBO estimates that the costs to the Department of Education to implement H.R. 7661 would be insignificant; any related spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Garrett Quenneville. The estimate was reviewed by Chad Chirico, Director of Budget Analysis.

PHILLIP L. SWAGEL,
Director, Congressional Budget Office.

CELEBRATING THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NORTHEAST BRONX YMCA

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 31, 2026

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the fifth anniversary of the Northeast Bronx YMCA, an institution that has become an important part of the fabric of the Northeast Bronx and a place where residents of all ages can come together, stay active, learn, and build community.

For decades, residents of the Northeast Bronx advocated for a dedicated community facility that would provide children, families, seniors, and young people with access to

recreation, education, health, wellness, and enrichment opportunities. The opening of the Northeast Bronx YMCA in September 2021 represented the culmination of years of community advocacy and a shared commitment to investing in the future of the neighborhood.

Community leaders Alonzo de Castro and Shirley Fearon, along with many other residents and advocates, played an important role in keeping the vision for a Northeast Bronx YMCA alive. Through their work with the Northeast Bronx Community Coalition and their engagement with residents and public officials, they helped ensure that the community's desire for a high-quality recreational and community facility remained a priority.

The result is a remarkable resource at the heart of the Northeast Bronx. Located on East 229th Street, the Northeast Bronx YMCA provides residents with access to swimming pools, a full gymnasium, fitness and wellness facilities, childcare, youth programming, community spaces, and educational and recreational activities. These resources provide opportunities for children to learn and grow, families to spend time together, seniors to remain active and connected, and residents of all ages to improve their physical and mental well-being.

The importance of the YMCA became particularly clear during the COVID-19 pandemic, when its gymnasium served as a vaccination site and helped connect Bronx residents with critical public health resources. This demonstrated that the YMCA is more than a place for exercise—it is an institution capable of responding to the needs of the community in times of both celebration and crisis.

The Northeast Bronx YMCA also represents what can be accomplished when residents, community organizations, nonprofit institutions, and government work together toward a common goal. The approximately \$60 million investment that helped make the facility possible reflects a broader commitment to ensuring that residents of the Northeast Bronx have access to the resources and opportunities they deserve.

Five years after opening its doors, the Northeast Bronx YMCA has become a multigenerational gathering place and community hub. It provides a safe space for young people, opportunities for families, programs for seniors, and resources that promote health, education, and connection. Most importantly, it gives residents a place they can call their own.

As we celebrate this fifth anniversary, we recognize the many community members and leaders who helped make this vision possible, including Alonzo de Castro and Shirley Fearon, while celebrating the broader community that has embraced the YMCA and made it an integral part of life in the Northeast Bronx.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Northeast Bronx YMCA on five years of service to our community. May it continue to be a place of opportunity, wellness, fellowship, and hope for generations of Bronx residents to come.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF VFW POST 5917

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 31, 2026

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Bolingbrook Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5917 as they celebrate their 50th anniversary, marking five decades of service, patriotism, and steadfast commitment to our Nation's veterans and the public.

Under the leadership of Post Commander Greg Palmer and through the dedication of its officers and members, VFW Post 5917 has served as a vital pillar of the community. The Post upholds the mission of the Veterans of Foreign Wars by fostering camaraderie among veterans, honoring the fallen through funeral honors and memorial services, and supporting veterans and their families through casework and social services. In addition to supporting veterans, the Post makes a meaningful impact through its involvement in local blood drives and participation in the VFW Voice of Democracy student scholarship program.

Mr. Speaker, VFW Post 5917 stands as a testament to the enduring strength, sacrifice, and unity of America's veterans. I am proud to recognize its 50 years of service to our veterans, their families, and the Bolingbrook community. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating this milestone and honoring VFW Post 5917's continued commitment to supporting the individuals who fought to defend and preserve the freedoms we hold dear.

RECOGNIZING TIM HYGH'S DEDICATED SERVICE TO MACKINAC ISLAND

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 31, 2026

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. Tim Hygh for his retirement from the Mackinac Island Convention & Visitors Bureau (MICVB). His leadership has strengthened one of Michigan's most iconic tourist destinations while supporting local businesses and preserving the island's unique character.

For fifteen years, Tim has served as the Executive Director for the MICVB, after helping to found the organization in 2010. He has been instrumental in turning the MICVB into a premier destination marketing and advocacy organization. Under his leadership, the Bureau has expanded to encompass the Mackinac Island Convention & Visitors Bureau, the Mackinac Island Tourism Bureau, and the Mackinac Island Tourism Bureau Political Action Committee.

Tim's leadership was evident during the COVID-19 pandemic when he led the island's Public Health Task Force. By fostering strong communication among local leaders, businesses, and public officials, he helped guide the community through uncertainty while establishing the Bureau as a trusted resource and effective partner. The relationships formed during that time helped the MICVB expand its advocacy efforts to advance the island's interests within federal agencies and the Michigan State Legislature.