

the Department of Veterans Affairs in 1990, and over the course of more than three decades, he has served in numerous leadership and clinical roles with unwavering professionalism and purpose. Throughout his tenure, he has been a pivotal figure in the development and advancement of innovative healthcare programs and rehabilitation initiatives, helping to transform the delivery of care for both active-duty Servicemembers and Veterans. His exceptional contributions have earned him numerous awards and accolades, reflecting not only his clinical expertise, but also his deep commitment to improving outcomes and quality of life for those who have worn our Nation's uniform. Dr. Scott is widely respected for his visionary leadership in program development, his compassionate, patient-centered approach to care, and his steadfast dedication to advancing the field of physical medicine and rehabilitation.

Equally important, Dr. Scott has been a trusted mentor and educator, investing in the next generation of healthcare professionals and ensuring that excellence, innovation, and compassion remain hallmarks of Veterans' healthcare for years to come. Through his commitment, leadership, and service, Dr. Scott has made a lasting and meaningful impact on the health, dignity, and well-being of countless military members and Veterans. His career stands as a testament to the highest ideals of public service, and I am honored to consider him a friend.

HONORING MR. ANDERSON "ANDY"
HARDWICK, JR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 2, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary Mississippian, Mr. Anderson "Andy" Hardwick, Jr., whose life as a musician, cultural ambassador, and public servant has left an indelible mark on Mississippi's musical heritage and civic fabric.

Born on June 10, 1935, in Vicksburg, Mississippi, Andy grew up in a home filled with music and faith. He was raised on Crawford Street by his parents, Anderson, Sr. and Lillian Hardwick, and began performing professionally at just 12 years old. By the age of 17, he had become the youngest original member of the famed Red Tops, a rhythm and blues band that became a staple across Mississippi, Alabama, and Tennessee.

Andy is a graduate of Alcorn State College, where he majored in Business Education and played in the college band. In 1957, he enlisted in the U.S. Army, where he was stationed in Paris, France. While there, he directed and coordinated USO entertainment for American troops stationed across Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East. It was during this period that he shared stages with jazz legends such as Art Blakey, Dexter Gordon, Sarah Vaughan, and other greats, earning him admiration both as a musical talent and a cultural envoy.

Following his service, Andy returned to Mississippi and formed Sounds Unlimited, a group that carried his signature jazz and soul style into clubs, colleges, and concert halls across

the South. He also led the house band at Jackson's iconic Poets nightclub for more than 15 years. During this time, he shared stages with icons like James Brown, Ray Charles, Otis Redding, B.B. King, Fats Domino, and more, bringing world-class performances to Mississippi and mentoring younger musicians along the way.

Beyond the stage, Andy contributed to community health and education. He served as business manager for the Tufts-Delta Health Center in Mound Bayou, helping launch the region's first federally funded community health center. Later, he became Vice President of Fiscal Affairs at Paul Quinn College in Waco, Texas. After returning to Mississippi, he continued to perform at venues like the Hilton in Jackson, all while mentoring a new generation of jazz artists.

Andy was married to the late Mrs. Velma Sims Hardwick for 54 years, a union rooted in love, faith, and shared purpose. Together, they built a beautiful family, raising three children, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren, many of whom continue to carry forward his passion for music and service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Anderson Hardwick, Jr., a master musician, mentor, veteran, and cultural torchbearer. His legacy is not only written in music notes but in the hearts of the communities he has uplifted and inspired for over seven decades.

HONORING CHARLES RUSSELL
ABELL

HON. RYAN K. ZINKE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 2, 2026

Mr. ZINKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy and selfless service of Charles "Charlie" Russell Abell, a man who dedicated his life to his community.

Charlie is a son of Whitefish, Montana. He was born there on July 10, 1939, graduated from Whitefish High School in 1958, and went on to earn a degree from the University of Montana in 1963. Like so many Montanans, Charlie came back, rolled up his sleeves, and went to work in his hometown. In June 1965, Charlie was hired by the Whitefish Credit Union where he would spend more than four decades building something that all of Montana is proud of.

When Charlie began, the credit union held \$780,000 in assets. When he retired in 2009, it had grown to more than \$1 billion, becoming the largest credit union in Montana. Even with this extraordinary success, Charlie always stuck to his mantra "not to be the biggest, but the best," and this philosophy was certainly the catalyst for achieving both.

Mr. Speaker, Charlie's story goes well beyond professional success. For 62 years he has been a devoted husband to his wife Susan, and together they raised two sons who carry their values into the world.

Charlie's professional success is matched only by his extraordinary commitment to public service. Charles worked with State Senator Bob Brown to pass the Lakeshore Preservation Act through the Montana Legislature helping to preserve the pristine body of water known as Whitefish Lake. He also played a

key role in the creation of the Whitefish Convention and Visitors Bureau (WCVB) enabling the state lodging tax to benefit Whitefish tourism.

Over the years, he devoted his time and leadership to the County Tax Appeal Board, the County Soil District, the North Valley Hospital Board, including two years as chairman, and the Whitefish School Board. He was also deeply involved in civic organizations such as Jaycees, Rotary, the Whitefish Chamber of Commerce, and the Winter Carnival Ambassadors. Charlie's leadership of the Winter Carnival Parade, involvement with the Doug Betters Winter Classic for Children, and dedication to Whitefish Lake through the Boat Club and numerous regattas has left a lasting mark on the community. Charlie was also named one of the five most influential citizens during the Whitefish Centennial Celebration.

Charlie also answered the call to serve his county through the Army Reserve and continued that commitment through his involvement with the American Legion Post 108. The same sense of duty that called him to serve his community and his country runs through every chapter of his life.

Mr. Speaker, Charles Abell has shown us that success is best measured not only by professional accomplishments, but by service to others. He has a simple saying: "work first, play second." That philosophy embodies his lifelong commitment to family, community, and Montana values.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Charlie and congratulating him on his life and legacy. Whitefish, Montana, and our Nation are stronger and better because of his lifetime of service.

RECOGNIZING REMARKS OF RABBI
DR. ISRAEL ZOBERMAN

HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 2, 2026

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD remarks submitted at the request of a Virginia Beach constituent, Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman of Temple Lev Tikvah, and are a reflection of his views:

I found refuge every morning hiding
Under my grandpa's inviting, embracing
Tallit

Of black and white woven of the tapestry
Of a survivor's spared life,
A wondrous cloth, never abandoned nor
lost,

He managed to safeguard on the run
Twice from Poland, in Siberian exile and
Kazakhstan,

Stained by flowing tears,
The beauty marks of refugees,
An added layer of essential warmth
Which sustained a ravaged body and tested
soul,

Wrapping me, his other saved possession,
In a magical garb whose sacred fringes I
playfully unraveled,

Ever since attempting together tie what
Torn away is forever gone.

The youngest member at the Shoah (Holocaust) survivors'

Minyan (quorum) in Germany's Wetzlar
Displaced Persons Camp,

I hear louder and louder in the dark
With elapsed some eighty years,
The adults' heartfelt davening (praying)
with painful groaning

Of weighing memories while searching for the light,

Gratefully feeling still the loving hands faithfully

Placed on my curly head by proud Grandpa Zvi,

Son of martyred Rabbi Yaacov and Dena of Zamosc,

With radiant grandma Rachel smilingly approving,

Reassuring their first grandchild,
A refugee like Father Abraham and Mother Sara,

Whose birth was surely a divine sign of a threatened

Covenant renewed, to protect me always with a Tallit

Of reaffirmed life even if God's blessing would not.

Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman is the founder and spiritual leader of Temple Lev Tikvah as well as Honorary Senior Rabbi Scholar at Eastern Shore Chapel, both in Virginia Beach.

HONORING ST. MARY'S COUNTY'S TOBACCO BARN DISTILLERY

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 2, 2026

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the founders of the Tobacco Barn Distillery in my district: Dan Dawson, Sean Coogan, and Scott Sanders. Their Maryland Bourbon Cream recently placed first in the Nation in the American Craft Spirits Association's 2025 "Beyond Bourbon" category.

Since its founding as the first licensed distillery in St. Mary's County back in 2014, the Tobacco Barn Distillery has been an institution in our community. Dan, Sean, and Scott transformed their former tobacco farm into a true "dirt to bottle" distillery, growing the corn that goes into their bourbons themselves. From the start, three principles have guided their enterprise. First, they maintain a high standard of excellence for their product, ensuring that every bottle of their spirits exceeds expectations. Second, they are committed to caring for the land and the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Accordingly, they practice "no till" farming, applying minimal fertilizer, and recycle 100 percent of their cooling water. They are even members of the Maryland Green Registry. Third, they pride themselves on being community oriented and community driven, believing that their success is linked to the success of the people and local businesses around them. I also ought to note, Mr. Speaker, that the Tobacco Barn Distillery is a Veteran-owned business and a strong supporter of numerous charities benefiting our Veterans.

I don't drink, but I'm told their product is as good as their values. No wonder the Tobacco Barn Distillery has earned national recognition. In addition to its recent award, it was named America's number 1 "Farmer-Distiller" by the American Craft Spirits Association in 2023 and 2024.

Mr. Speaker, I have long championed my Make It In America agenda. The only thing better than making it in America is making it in Maryland. The Tobacco Barn Distillery is a paragon of that principle. Dan, Sean, and Scott continue a rich, centuries-old tradition of distilling in our state. They carry on the legacy

of Hayden, Willett, Mattingly, Dant, and Wathen, who all got their start in Maryland before building up the bourbon industry in Kentucky.

Mr. Speaker, Dan, Sean, and Scott do our county and our state proud. I ask all my colleagues to join me in thanking them for giving back to their community and in congratulating them on this recent, well-deserved award.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, February 3, 2026 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 4

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting to consider S. 90, to prohibit the use of funds by the Secretary of the Interior to finalize and implement certain travel management plans in the State of Utah, S. 91, to improve Federal activities relating to wildfires, S. 290, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to upgrade existing emergency communications centers in units of the National Park System to Next Generation 9-1-1 systems, S. 291, to establish an interest-bearing account for the non-Federal contributions to the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program, S. 365, to amend the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act to allow for additional entities to be eligible to complete the maintenance work on Bolts Ditch and the Bolts Ditch Headgate within the Holy Cross Wilderness, Colorado, S. 446, to prohibit Big Cypress National Preserve from being designated as wilderness or as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System, S. 700 and H.R. 837, bills to require the Secretary of Agriculture to convey the Pleasant Valley Ranger District Administrative Site to Gila County, Arizona, S. 730, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of establishing the African Burial Ground International Memorial Museum and Educational Center at the African Burial Ground National Monument, S. 790, to redesignate the National Historic

Trails Interpretive Center in Casper, Wyoming, as the "Barbara L. Cubin National Historic Trails Interpretive Center", S. 791, to establish the Justice Thurgood Marshall National Historic Site in the State of Maryland as an affiliated area of the National Park System, S. 815, to designate the outdoor amphitheater at the Blue Ridge Music Center in Galax, Virginia, as the "Rick Boucher Amphitheater", S. 1319, to withdraw certain Federal land in the Pecos Watershed area of the State of New Mexico from mineral entry, S. 1321, to amend the Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999 to provide for the transfer of the Moab site to Grand County, Utah, S. 1341, to amend the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993 to add certain land to the Sarvis Creek Wilderness, S. 1353, to extend the authority for modifications to the Second Division Memorial in the District of Columbia, S. 1413, to authorize additional funding for the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement Act, S. 1476, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain segments of the Gila River system in the State of New Mexico as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, to provide for the transfer of administrative jurisdiction over certain Federal land in the State of New Mexico, S. 1516, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the Cahokia Mounds, Emerald Mounds, and Pulcher Mounds in the State of Illinois, S. 1518 and H.R. 1550, bills to redesignate Saratoga National Historical Park as Saratoga National Battlefield Park, S. 1777, to amend the California Desert Protection Act of 1994 to expand the boundary of Joshua Tree National Park, to redesignate the Cottonwood Visitor Center at Joshua Tree National Park as the "Dianne Feinstein Visitor Center", S. 1870, to adjust the boundary of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to include the Rim of the Valley Corridor, S. 2102, to establish the Ralph David Abernathy, Sr., National Historic Site, and S. 2881, to provide for the transfer of administrative jurisdiction over certain Federal land in the State of California.

SD366

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the future of self-driving cars.

SR-253

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine identifying and addressing cybersecurity challenges to protect America's water infrastructure.

SD-562

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider S.J. Res. 102, disapproving the action of the District of Columbia Council in approving the D.C. Income and Franchise Tax Conformity and Revision Temporary Amendment Act of 2025, and H.J. Res. 142, disapproving the action of the District of Columbia Council in approving the D.C. Income and Franchise Tax Conformity and Revision Temporary Amendment Act of 2025.

TBA