

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 2026 CONGRESS-BUNDESTAG/BUNDESRAT EXCHANGE

HON. MIKE JOHNSON

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, since 1983, the U.S. Congress (House and Senate) and the German Bundestag and Bundesrat have conducted an annual exchange program for staff members from both countries. The program gives professional staff the opportunity to observe and learn about each other's political institutions and engage in discussion regarding mutual interest.

A staff delegation from the U.S. Congress will be selected to visit Germany from Friday, October 2 through Sunday, October 11, 2026. During this exchange, the delegation will attend meetings with Bundestag/Bundesrat party staff members, and representatives of numerous political, business, academic and media agencies.

A comparable delegation of German staff members will visit the United States from Saturday, November 14 through Sunday, November 22, 2026. They will attend similar meetings in Washington organized by the members of the U.S. delegation.

The Congress-Bundestag/Bundesrat Exchange is highly regarded in Germany and the United States and is one of several exchange programs sponsored by public and private institutions in the United States and Germany to foster better understanding of the politics and policies of both countries. This exchange is funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

The U.S. delegation shall consist of experienced and accomplished Hill staff who can contribute to the success of the exchange on both sides of the Atlantic. The Bundestag reciprocates by sending senior staff professionals to the United States.

Applicants should have a demonstrable interest in events in Europe. Applicants need not be working in the field of foreign affairs, although such a background can be helpful. The composite U.S. delegation should exhibit a range of expertise in issues of mutual concern to the United States and Germany such as, but not limited to, trade, security, the environment, economic development, health care, and other social policy issues. This year's delegation should be familiar with transatlantic relations within the context of recent world events.

Please note that there is a significant time commitment aspect for those selected for the program. In addition, U.S. participants are expected to plan and implement the meetings and programs for the Bundestag/Bundesrat staff members when they visit the United States.

Members of the House and Senate who would like a member of their staff to apply for participation in this year's program should di-

rect them to submit a resume and cover letter in which they state their qualifications, the contributions they can make to a successful program and some assurances of their ability to participate during the time stated.

Applications should be sent to the Office of Interparliamentary Affairs, HC-4, the Capitol, by 5 p.m. on Friday, February 27, 2026. Please submit your application and any questions to interparliamentary.affairs@mail.house.gov.

CONGRESSIONAL FIELD HEARING ON HAITIAN TPS TERMINATION

HON. AYANNA PRESSLEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2026, I convened a Congressional Field Hearing in my district on Haitian TPS Termination. Senator MARKEY and Representative MOULTON also participated along with community stakeholders. I include in the RECORD my opening remarks:

Thank you to Jubilee—we are so appreciative of their partnership in providing this space for us today. I want to also thank tech. I want to thank security, and everyone else. I think it's very apropos on the wake of the many faith events that we have been at celebrating the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., to invoke one of my favorite adages, which is, when you pray—and we have been doing a lot of that, and I certainly do that as a woman of faith myself—move your feet. And so, I will continue to pray and to move my feet, to steward every tool available to me in the work of resistance, the actualization of justice and the furthering of progress—using the power of my congressional letterhead, using the power of my pen as a lawmaker, using the power of my platform, using the power of convening, which is what brings us here today.

I also do want to take a moment to acknowledge the indefatigable efforts of my staff that I call the A team who make great personal sacrifices and labor in love on behalf of the Massachusetts Seventh every single day, which includes majority of parts Boston, Cambridge, all of Somerville, Randolph, Everett, Chelsea and Milton, can we please just thank my staff?

Then, of course, I wish to thank all of you and a partner in good to the left of me. I thank Senator Markey for his collaborative partnership today in this Congressional field hearing. I proudly serve as the Co-Chair of the House Haiti Caucus, a caucus that had been dissolved that I worked actively to reassemble, not knowing what was on the horizon. And so it is in that role—as the Congresswoman for the Massachusetts Seventh and as the Co-Chair of the House Haiti Caucus—that we arrive here today.

Reviving the Haiti caucus was a significant priority for me, because my district represents the third largest Haitian diaspora in the country. More than 77,000 Haitians call the Commonwealth their home. Our Haitian neighbors are attorneys, nurses, social work-

ers, chefs, artists, teachers, pastors, and elected officials—and so much more. Their contributions are an integral part of our community, culture and economy. And the island of Haiti, which is only a short distance from Florida, must be recognized as an important ally to the United States' national security interests.

On a personal note, I credit the people of Haiti, especially as we are coming off of celebrating independence, for teaching me my earliest lessons in the work of resistance. So today, on the one year anniversary—feels much longer—on the one year anniversary of this cruel and hostile administration, we are doing the work of resistance like we did one year ago today. We are here in community, listening to the people closest to the pain.

Today's hearing is an opportunity to examine the necessity of extending TPS for Haiti. For those unaware, Temporary Protected Status, or TPS, is an immigration designation in recognition of a country facing conflict, disaster or extraordinary conditions. TPS has received bipartisan support for over 30 years as a program. With this status, Haitians have been able to live and work in the United States, whether they came to the US in 2010 after the catastrophic earthquake, or more recently, following the assassination of the President and the rise in gang violence. Which I must acknowledge the trafficking of guns from the United States contributes to.

The people of Haiti are our neighbors, and have helped build our communities into loving, joyful, and safe places where everyone can thrive. Now, Massachusetts (I do think these numbers are important), has about 45,000 Haitian TPS holders. So it is in the interest of the integrity of this Massachusetts Seventh and the Commonwealth and our economy and all that keeps our families and our neighborhoods whole. Everyone who calls the Commonwealth Home, who calls the Massachusetts Seventh home, who calls the city of Boston home, should be invested in this fight.

Lives and livelihoods are at risk. If Donald Trump and his anti-immigrant crusade are successful, more than 350,000 Haitian nationals will lose their legal status on February 3rd. I want everyone to know that this Congresswoman is fighting tooth and nail to stop this from happening. Since being elected to Congress, I've stood shoulder to shoulder with our immigrant neighbors. Together, we have helped immigrate new arrivals to the Commonwealth by making sure kids are enrolled in school, adults can find work, and families are healthy.

In Washington, DC, I've urged Democratic and Republican Presidents alike—Democrat and Republican Presidents alike—to support Haiti. To support Haiti and its efforts to build the nation, to support a Democratic transition, one that is led by Haitian civil society. And just this month, I voted to pass legislation to strengthen Haiti trade relations and to support its economy. Despite these efforts, we know there is much more work to do, and I'll not stop fighting, and I'm grateful to all those who are in that fight with me, who have been my teachers in this movement.

I look forward to hearing from the esteemed panelists on the importance of protecting TPS status and supporting the people of Haiti.

For the full video of the hearing, visit <https://pressley.house.gov/2026/01/20/video-pressley->

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

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APPRECIATING KAREN METZ

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this week in Washington and Charleston will hold services appreciating the extraordinary life of Karen Metz, whose accomplishments have meaningfully impacted many communities. Our deepest sympathy goes to Chief of Staff Craig Metz, and their son Preston. I include in the RECORD the following obituary from the website of Joseph Gawler's Sons, LLC.:

Karen Angela McCleary Metz, the wife of Craig Huseman Metz for 41 years, and the mother of Preston Worthington Metz, died peacefully at home in Washington, DC, on January 25, 2026, following more than eight years of courageously enduring severe complications from ANCA Vasculitis. A Fourth Generation Memphian (born July 30, 1955), she was the daughter of Harry Robert McCleary, Jr. and Mary Angela Gallina McCleary, who resided in Germantown, Tennessee, with horse stables in Collierville, Tennessee. She was the granddaughter of Harry Robert McCleary, Sr., the President and Co-Founder of McCleary Industries, Inc. and McCleary Brothers, Inc., and Sadye Marie "Peggy" Trebing McCleary, of Memphis and Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and Joseph Charles Gallina, who owned and operated a 7,500 acre commercial farming enterprise along the Mississippi River in Shelby County, with his brother, John Gallina, for many years, and Frances Facelli Gallina, of Memphis. One of the largest truck farming operations in the Mid-South, producing vegetables and cotton, the innovative Gallina Brothers Farms employed on average 300 seasonal workers and was one of the first agriculture sites in the Mid-South to utilize crop dusting for aerial application on fields and to employ massive irrigation systems on a large-scale basis.

Following her mother and her aunts, she was graduated from the Saint Agnes Academy for Girls, founded by the Dominican Sisters, in Memphis, in 1951, which she attended from Kindergarten through the Twelfth Grade. She received the Bachelor of Science Degree in Interior Design from The University of Tennessee, where she was an officer of the Delta Delta Delta Sorority.

Following her graduation from college, she returned to Memphis, where she joined Kimbrough, Inc., the firm of Kenneth Kimbrough, as an Interior Designer, and she continued with the firm when it merged with E.C. Denaux & Co., to become Denaux-Kimbrough. She later moved to Mills Morris, where she concentrated on commercial interior design. During this time, she was an Associate Member of the Memphis Chapter of the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) and served a term as Secretary. She was also the Chairwoman of the House Corporation of the Delta Delta Delta Chapter at Rhodes College, overseeing the renovation of the Chapter House and establishing an annual fundraising drive for philanthropy.

With a keen interest in Culinary Arts, she changed careers, receiving the Blue Ribbon Diploma from Peter Kump's New York Cooking School and studying Classic French Culinary Techniques in France. She became the

Head Instructor at Peter Kump's New York Cooking School in 1984, and she assisted Peter Kump and Julia Child during their formation of the James Beard Foundation and the purchase of the James Beard Residence, in New York City, for the headquarters. She was certified as an Instructor by the International Association of Cooking Professionals (IACP), and she assisted James Beard, Jacques Pepin, Marcella Hazan, and Diana Kennedy, among other culinary leaders, in conducting classes. She was also named to Outstanding Young Women of America in 1984.

Upon her relocation to Washington, DC, in 1987, she became the United States Representative for Ecole de Cuisine La Varenne, one of the first professional cooking schools in France to conduct simultaneous instruction in French and English, with locations in Paris and Burgundy. For a number of years, they also operated "La Varenne at The Greenbrier," providing specially designed intensive programs for guests at the resort.

Seeking to express her creativity in other areas related to the culinary field, in 1991, she formed Karen Metz & Company, through which she designed and produced gift boxes for baked goods. Her first commercial customer was Chuck Williams, the founder of Williams-Sonoma, who requested that she design and manufacture a box to his specifications in the signature green of their brand, which was carried in all of their stores. Various designs of other boxes that she created were featured in catalogues and culinary specialty stores internationally under the brand that she established, "Baker's Wrap." During this time, she was an active member of the Food and Libations Association of Virginia (FLAVA), a trade association for the specialty food industry.

She later established a branch of Peter Kump's Cooking School for the Washington, DC Area, where she led classes that continued until his death in 1995 and the sale of the school. From that point, she re-activated Karen Metz & Company as a culinary consulting business, with HADCO, which was later acquired by Viking Range, as a principal client. She was also selected by the United States Air Force to develop the meals for inflight service on Air Force Two, at the request of the Vice President of the United States for a higher level of cuisine onboard.

She was the Past Chairwoman of the National Capital Area Chapter of the American Institute of Wine and Food (AIWF), having served on the Board of Directors for a number of years. She also led fundraising events for AIWF Scholarships, that were held at Union Station and The Hay-Adams, featuring Julia Child and the leading Chefs of Washington, DC.

She was an active member of the Junior League in Memphis, New York City, and Washington, DC, where she was a member of the committee that developed and published Capital Classics—Recipes from the Junior League of Washington, and where she later became a Sustaining Member.

A devoted mother to her son, Preston, she was enthusiastically present for all of his school and sports activities, also volunteering in various support roles at Saint Albans School, including as an Annual Giving Form Representative and with the Washington National Cathedral Flower Mart for nine years. Her devotion extended beyond her connection to his time in school, dedicating herself to raising him to be the compassionate, open-minded young man into which he has developed. She also shared her love for cooking and culture with him, nurturing passions that remain to this day. Most importantly, she quietly demonstrated how to recognize and care for others, committing significant amounts of her time to

helping anyone who she perceived as needing assistance; especially, among the elderly and those who are homebound. Always placing the needs of others before herself, she wholeheartedly volunteered her time to caring for a number of individuals, organizing their living situations, overseeing their medical care, providing meals, and being present in their lives daily, for companionship and to provide hope.

In addition to her husband and her son, she is survived by her brother, Harry Robert McCleary III, and his wife Jennifer Connell McCleary, of Memphis; her sister, Teresa Marie McCleary, of Memphis; her sister, Alisa McCleary Byars, and her husband, Lewis Jefferson Byars IV, of Tusculumbia, Alabama; her aunt, Sandra Gallina Chiles, and her husband, Walter William Chiles, Jr., of Germantown, Tennessee; her mother-in-law, Annette Worthington Metz, of Columbia, South Carolina; her sister-in-law, Carol Metz O'Kelly, of Florence, South Carolina; her former brother-in-law, Dr. James Kevin O'Kelly, Sr., of Florence, South Carolina; the fiancée of her son, Elizabeth Parker Barringer, of New York City; three nieces; a nephew; and two great-nephews. She was predeceased by her parents and a Godfather of Preston, Peter Kump, of New York City.

Memorials may be made to the Madonna Learning Center in Germantown, Tennessee.

The family extends its heartfelt gratitude to those who so generously donate Blood, Platelets, and Plasma, which helped to sustain her at the initial life-threatening manifestation of her underlying illness and for the remainder of her life.

The family also gratefully recognizes the dedicated Medics of District of Columbia Fire Department Engine Company 31 Forest Hills Station, for their skillful and compassionate care at her home and during numerous ambulance trips to hospitals, as well as the Medics of the Air Ambulance Team, for their lifesaving care in transit during one of her three Heart Attacks.

A person of absolute integrity, who lived her Faith through her actions, with an exceptionally compassionate nature and zest for life, she shall be greatly missed by her family and those whose lives that she positively impacted in a variety of ways, including her former students, whom she nurtured, and friends throughout the Country.

On Thursday, February 5th, a Viewing shall be held at the Joseph Gawler's Sons Funeral Home at 1:00, with the Funeral Service to be conducted in the Chapel at 2:00, followed by a reception. Officiating the Service shall be, Reverend Richard Arthur Mullins, Pastor of Saint Thomas, Apostle Catholic Church; with the participation of Reverend Brooks Franklin Hundley, Senior Chaplain, Saint Albans School; and Reverend Dominique Francois Peridans, Rector, Church of the Ascension and Saint Agnes, Episcopal. Honorary Pallbearers are members of the Saint Albans School Class of 2012.

On Saturday, February 7th, the Rite of Committal with Final Commendation shall be held at her graveside, at Magnolia Cemetery, in Charleston, South Carolina, at 2:00, conducted by Reverend Mark Lowell Sargent, of the Catholic Diocese of London, Ontario, Canada; followed by a reception on Queen Street, in Charleston. Active Pallbearers are: Vic Brandt, Butler Derrick, Drew Fanning, Chappy McKay, Brown McLeod, John Moore, Cal Stephens, Ed Vaughan, Charles Waring, and Congressman Joe Wilson. Honorary Pallbearers are: Attorney General Alan Wilson, Dr. Addison Wilson, Julian Wilson, and Hunter Wilson. James A. McAlister Funeral Home has charge of arrangements in Charleston.