

HONORING KAY FORD

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kay Ford as a recipient of the 2026 Legacy Leader Award.

Mrs. Ford is the definition of a driven and committed leader, currently serving as chair of BankSouth's advisory board for the Savannah market.

She has held numerous senior-level positions within retail banking and private wealth management, including becoming the first female chair of the Savannah Economic Development Authority Board of Directors in its century-long history.

Throughout her career, Ford has served on a wide variety of community-driven boards, like the Savannah Fund for Excellence in Education, St. Mary's Home, and Senior Citizens, Incorporated.

Her passion for engaging and contributing to her community is a testimony to the servant-leader she is: tireless, inclusive, and invested in making her community stronger.

From business ventures to community involvement, Kay Ford has left a positive impact on the southeast Georgia community.

HONORING SANDRA COLLINS

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Sandra Collins, who passed away on January 29 at the age of 81.

A lifelong member of St. Philip Monumetal A.M.E. Church in Savannah, Sandra lived a life rooted in deep faith, integrity, and kindness.

Her moral strength and compassionate concern for her fellow Georgians inspired countless others and shined in her devotion to family and friends.

Sandra served her community with dedication, lending her talents to the boards of the Georgia Association for Primary Healthcare, the Savannah Branch NAACP, and the Savannah Chapter of the American Businesswomen's Association.

Known for her love of travel, she explored 6 continents and 45 States, yet her great legacy was always close to home. She maintained a generous spirit that made the world better through simple acts of fairness, intelligence, and warmth.

Though we grieve her passing, we celebrate a life of faith, service, and love. Sandra Collins will long be remembered and deeply missed.

RECOGNIZING JUDGE KRISTI GOODWIN CONNELL

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Judge Kristi Goodwin Connell, who was appointed as the sixth Superior Court judge of the Augusta Judicial Circuit.

Judge Connell returns to the same circuit where she began her legal career.

Judge Connell earned degrees in biology and political science from Converse University. She later received a master's degree in healthcare policy and a Juris Doctor from Mercer University.

Judge Connell served as an assistant district attorney in the Columbia Judicial Circuit, prosecuting felony and misdemeanor cases. She was also a partner at the Connell Law Firm, where she handled civil, domestic, and criminal defense matters.

With more than 25 years of legal expertise, Judge Connell brings profound knowledge and expertise to the bench.

We are confident she will continue to strengthen the courts of the Augusta Judicial Circuit with integrity and dedication.

□ 1830

JUDGE JAMES "JIM" KIGER

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Judge James Kiger for his recent appointment as superior court judge for the Douglas Judicial Circuit in Douglas County.

Judge Kiger has 34 years of legal expertise, previously serving in the Douglas County Public Defenders' Office. Prior to his service as public defender, he practiced with a general law firm in Valdosta, Georgia.

Judge Kiger graduated with honors from Valdosta State College and earned his Juris Doctor from the University of Georgia College of Law in 1991.

He and his wife, Brenda, live in Douglasville, Georgia, and have two children, Atticus and Barbara.

Once again, I would like to recognize Judge Kiger for his extraordinary service to the Georgia legal system and congratulate him on a well-deserved appointment.

HONORING JUDGE PAMELA "PAM" BETTIS

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Pamela Bettis on her appointment as judge of the State Court of Henry County. Pam was sworn in on February 3, 2026, by Governor Brian Kemp.

Judge Bettis brings over 35 years of distinguished service in criminal justice. She began as a Henry County deputy sheriff in 1990, then served as a patrol officer, undercover narcotics agent, criminal investigator, and leader at Clayton State University Police.

A Georgia State University graduate with BS and MS degrees in criminal justice, Pam earned her JD from Emory University School of Law in 2025. She advanced as assistant solicitor general, co-founded the law firm Bettis & Howard, and was appointed solicitor general by Governor Nathan Deal in 2018, earning Solicitor General of the Year in 2020.

A lifelong Georgian and 20-year Henry County resident, Judge Bettis embodies unmatched commitment to justice, accountability, and humble service.

Congratulations to Judge Pam Bettis on this well-deserved elevation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

NEW CENTURY OF WESTERN STRENGTH AND POLITICAL FREEDOM

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. HARIDOPOLOS of Florida was recognized for 30 minutes.)

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reflect on the recent speech given by our Secretary of State, Marco Rubio, a fellow Floridian, who spoke to the world in Munich about the path for freedom in the 21st century. He spoke with clarity, strength, and even at times humor to paint a vision that we can all embrace.

Our transatlantic alliance faces both strain and opportunity. The United States and Europe are not merely strategic partners. As Secretary Rubio said so well, we are bound by history, culture, sacrifice, and a shared belief in liberty. Ours is not a temporary arrangement of convenience but a partnership of a shared civilization that has shaped the modern world.

History teaches us something important. Alliances endure not through sentiment but through seriousness. They thrive when nations are confident, self-reliant, and clear-eyed about the future challenges before them.

Today, I want to speak about the renewal of the West and how that renewal reflects the best traditions of American diplomacy and traditions embodied by some of our greatest Secretaries of State: John Quincy Adams, William Seward, George Marshall, and James Baker.

Each faced a fractured world, each acted boldly, and each understood that American strength, wisely applied, could shape a more stable international order.

The United States is a nation born in the European political tradition. Our constitutional order, our philosophy of rights, and our understanding of sovereignty all trace their roots back to this continent. When we say America and Europe belong together, we are not describing a temporary security arrangement. We are acknowledging a shared inheritance.

However, shared heritage does not excuse complacency. The lesson of the last several decades is clear: Alliances weaken when economic foundations erode, when clear defense burdens fall unevenly, and when world leaders avoid hard conversations. A renewal of our alliance requires candid, honest conversations.

In what form will those conversations take?

Secretary Rubio started that conversation in Munich. As a history teacher myself, I trust we will look to actions taken by some of our finest Secretaries of State when they served both their President and our Nation.

John Quincy Adams: After the War of 1812, John Quincy Adams recognized that America was fragile. The great powers of Europe were reorganizing themselves at the Congress of Vienna. It would have been easy for the young

United States to be pulled into European alliances, and, unfortunately, European rivalries.

However, John Quincy Adams, a former Massachusetts Senator and diplomat, who helped negotiate the Treaty of Ghent that ended the War of 1812, understood something profound: American strength depended first on national independence and economic resilience, and, as George Washington warned in his Farewell Address, away from entangling alliances.

As Secretary of State of our fifth President, James Monroe, Adams negotiated the Adams-Onís Treaty, securing Florida, my home State, from Spain and clarifying the American borders along the Atlantic Ocean. Later in 1823, he crafted what became known as the Monroe Doctrine, a declaration that the Western Hemisphere would not be subject to European recolonization.

The lesson was that America should not go abroad in search of monsters to destroy, but neither should it allow others to define our destiny.

That balance, strength without recklessness, independence without isolation, is deeply relevant today.

When we insist on fair trade, secure supply chains, and reciprocal defense commitments, we are not retreating from the world. We are doing what Adams did: ensuring that American sovereignty underwrites American diplomacy.

William Seward, a former Governor and United States Senator from the State of New York, was appointed Secretary of State by his own political rival, President Abraham Lincoln. There Seward guided the United States foreign policy during the Civil War and adroitly kept Great Britain out of our tragic conflict.

After the war in 1867, Seward approved the purchase of Alaska. While his critics in the press mocked this as Seward's Folly, those critics would soon be proven wrong.

Today, we know that acquisition was strategic brilliance. Seward saw beyond immediate criticism. He understood geography, trade routes, and long-term power competition. He expanded America's footprint in ways that would matter for generations to come. He believed deeply in commercial expansion as a tool of diplomacy.

The lesson here is that great statesmanship requires the courage to invest in long-term national power.

Today, securing critical supply chains, revitalizing domestic industry, and preventing adversaries from dominating strategic industries is not economic nationalism for its own sake. It is modern statecraft.

Seward understood that economic strength is strategic strength.

General George Marshall led our American military during World War II as the United States Army Chief of Staff. Though not in the direct field of battle and thus not as well-known as some of the famous generals and admirals of World War II, it was Marshall

whose strategic leadership in concert with Franklin Delano Roosevelt proved decisive in defeating both the Japanese and the Germans in World War II.

Two years after the conclusion of the war, President Harry Truman appointed this wartime leader as Secretary of State, our chief diplomat. As Europe lay in ruins, the United States could have turned inward. Instead, Marshall proposed the European Recovery Program, what we know today as the Marshall Plan.

The genius of Marshall was not charity. It was clarity. He recognized that American prosperity required European stability. He understood that free societies require functioning economies, and he insisted that the European nations take responsibility for designing their own recovery.

The Marshall Plan was not a blank check. It was a partnership. Marshall demanded coordination, reform, and seriousness from Europe. In return, the United States invested heavily. Due to these actions, nations on the brink, like Greece, my home country, stayed free, and NATO proved to be the alliance that blocked the evil of communism.

□ 1840

The lesson? Strength begets strength. When we call today for greater European defense spending, for fairer trade balances, and to bring industry home, we are echoing Marshall's insistence that a partnership must be reciprocated.

Secretary of State James Baker. In the final years of the Cold War, James Baker navigated one of the most delicate diplomatic transformations in modern history. After serving as chief of staff and later Secretary of the Treasury under Ronald Reagan, Baker served as Secretary of State under George H.W. Bush.

During this time when the Berlin Wall fell, Germany reunified, and the Soviet Union collapsed, these circumstances, these changes could have triggered chaos. Instead, through disciplined diplomacy, Baker helped manage NATO expansion, reassured allies, and negotiated arms control arrangements that prevented instability.

Baker's approach was pragmatic, not ideological. He listened. He negotiated firmly. He protected American interests while recognizing the dignity of other nations.

The lesson here? Diplomacy must adapt to new realities.

The institutions built after World War II were vital, but institutions cannot become frozen monuments. They must evolve to address new forms of economic competition, technological disruption, and geopolitical rivalries.

Reform is not rejection, it is preservation through adaptation.

Today, in conclusion, we confront the issues highlighted by our Secretary of State, Marco Rubio: economic fragmentation, technological competition, supply chain vulnerability, military imbalances, and political polarization.

The temptation too often is denial or even an overreaction, but the better path, the Adams path, the Seward path, the Marshall path, the Baker path, and hopefully the Rubio path that we can follow is disciplined renewal.

That means restoring industrial capacity, ensuring defense reciprocity, reforming global institutions rather than abandoning them, and maintaining alliance unity grounded in sovereignty.

When we call on Europe to invest more in its own defense, we are not weakening NATO, we are strengthening NATO.

When we insist on true fair trade that does not hollow out our middle class, we are strengthening democratic legitimacy.

When we call for reform in global institutions, we are ensuring that they reflect the realities of 2026, not 1945.

Each of these Secretaries of State that I have highlighted understood something enduring: America must be strong at home to be credible abroad. Adams secured borders, Seward expanded territory, Marshall built alliances, and Baker managed transition.

None confused cooperation with dependency. None confused sovereignty with isolation. The United States remained committed to Europe, but commitment does not mean complacency. It means candid conversations about defense spending. It means honest assessments about economic policy. It means joint responsibility for the future of Western civilization.

We stand at the threshold of what can be the new century of Western strength if we choose seriousness, not political correctness. The West succeeded in the 20th century because it combined economic dynamism, military preparedness, cultural confidence, and institutional flexibility. Those traits must define us again. The path forward is not nostalgia, it is renewal.

When future historians look back at this moment, they will ask: Did we retreat from our responsibilities? Did we allow economic complacency to erode democratic stability? Did we allow alliances to drift into imbalance or did we act with the clarity of John Quincy Adams, with the foresight of William Seward, with the strategic generosity of George Marshall, and with the disciplined diplomacy of James Baker?

The answer depends on whether we remember the core principle that unites them all: American diplomacy works best when it combines strength, reciprocity, and long-term vision.

The United States and Europe belong together, but belonging together requires effort from both sides. Let us rebuild industrial strength. Let us renew defense commitments. Let us reform institutions, and let us move forward together. Let us do so with the vigor worthy of the statesmen who came before us and now the vision offered by our United States Secretary of State Marco Rubio and our President of the United States, Donald J. Trump.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Kevin F. McCumber, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 972. An act to amend the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area Act to adjust the boundary of the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2815. An act to provide equitable treatment for the people of the Village Corporation established for the Native Village of Saxman, Alaska, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 46 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, March 5, 2026, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. UNDERWOOD:

H.R. 7782. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of State from charging a fee for the issuance or reissuance of a passport card; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. McCLELLAN (for herself and Mr. OBERNOLTE):

H.R. 7783. A bill to direct the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to publish a report on the integration of artificial intelligence into the commercial telecommunications infrastructure of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. TITUS:

H.R. 7784. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to establish requirements regarding visual and automated track inspections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mrs. BEATTY:

H.R. 7785. A bill to improve accountability and training for Immigration and Customs Enforcement; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BUCHANAN (for himself and Mr. SOTO):

H.R. 7786. A bill to establish protections against digital impersonation fraud, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Science, Space, and Technology, and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CARTER of Louisiana (for himself, Mr. TURNER of Ohio, Mr. MCCORMICK, and Ms. CLARKE of New York):

H.R. 7787. A bill to amend title VII of the Public Health Service Act to strengthen the mental health workforce, and for other pur-

poses; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. ELFRETH (for herself, Mr. OLSZEWSKI, Mr. MFUME, and Mr. RASKIN):

H.R. 7788. A bill to authorize the Chesapeake Bay Program Office to serve as a member of certain State watershed programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. FINSTAD (for himself and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHU):

H.R. 7789. A bill to authorize the creation of "Lending.gov" as a shared services platform to provide a single source of access to loans provided by Federal agencies, and modern technology to support effective management of Federal credit programs, in order to reduce costs, prevent fraud, increase the speed of origination, improve transparency, improve access and customer experience, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. FOSTER (for himself and Mrs. BEATTY):

H.R. 7790. A bill to amend the HITECH Act to allow an individual to obtain a copy of such individual's protected health information at no cost unless certain circumstances apply, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HARDER of California (for himself and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 7791. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to prioritize the award of certain housing grants to applicants located in, or serving, low-income communities; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. HIMES (for himself, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. HARDER of California, and Mr. LICCARDO):

H.R. 7792. A bill to amend title I of the National Housing Act to increase the loan limits and clarify that property improvement loans may be used for construction of accessory dwelling units; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mrs. HOUCHIN (for herself, Mr. FONG, and Mr. OBERNOLTE):

H.R. 7793. A bill to prohibit the issuance of commercial driver's licenses to individuals who are not citizens or lawful permanent residents of the United States or holders of certain work visas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. KENNEDY of Utah:

H.R. 7794. A bill to amend the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 to provide transparency and accountability in the administration of Federal child care funds expended by the States; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Ms. KING-HINDS:

H.R. 7795. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish and maintain a database of certified veteran-owned small businesses and service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses to assist the Department of Veterans Affairs in meeting its subcontracting goals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. LAWLER:

H.R. 7796. A bill to assist communities affected by stranded nuclear waste, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

H.R. 7797. A bill to provide certain requirements and guidance relating to license plate

readability, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin (for herself, Ms. SCHOLTEN, and Ms. GARCIA of Texas):

H.R. 7798. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide grants to hire and retain school social workers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. MORAN:

H.R. 7799. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that 501(c)(3) organizations are liable for the use of funding provided as a fiscal sponsor; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. VAN ORDEN):

H.R. 7800. A bill to establish the White House Council on Fathers and Sons, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. OBERNOLTE (for himself, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, and Mr. MCCORMICK):

H.R. 7801. A bill to require the Director of the National Science Foundation to carry out a cloud laboratory network program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. PAPPAS (for himself, Mr.

RASKIN, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. AMO, Ms. BALINT, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BERA, Mr. BISHOP, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. CASAR, Mr. CASE, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. COHEN, Ms. CRAIG, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. CROW, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DELUZZIO, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. DEXTER, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. ELFRETH, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. FROST, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GARCIA of California, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. GOODLANDER, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. HERNÁNDEZ, Mr. HIMES, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. HOYER, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. IVEY, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. KEATING, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KENNEDY of New York, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHU, Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. LEE of Nevada, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEU, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MAGAZINER, Mr. MANNION, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. MCBRIDE, Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY, Ms. McCLELLAN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. MCIVER, Ms. MENG, Mr. MIN, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. NADLER, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. OLSZEWSKI, Mr. PANNETTA, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. PETERS, Ms. PETERSEN, Mr. POCAN, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. RANDALL, Ms. ROSS, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms.