

perpetuates existing healthcare access inequities. This legislation would help address this disparity.

Additionally, the three-day stay waivers issued during the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE) empowered clinicians to focus on patient needs, rather than an outdated administrative policy. The three-day stay waiver helped facilitate the Society of Hospital Medicine transfer of patients based on their clinical needs, rather than a payment policy, helping patients get the care they needed at the appropriate level. Medicare expenditure data from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) during the PHE shows that expanding access to SNF coverage did not dramatically increase spending or utilization. This PHE era policy demonstrates how the current three day stay requirement is an unnecessary impediment to SNF coverage.

The Improving Access to Medicare Coverage Act is an important step to ensuring patient access to postacute care. We need to pass legislation to begin eliminating bureaucratic barriers to necessary medical care.

On behalf of SHM, thank you for reintroducing the Improving Access to Medicare Coverage Act. SHM is pleased to offer our support to help secure the passage of this legislation.

Sincerely,

EFREN C. MANJARREZ, MD, FACP,
SFM,
President.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO BILL WEST

• Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate mayor Bill West on his retirement as mayor of Georgetown, DE. During his 12 years as mayor, Bill has remained an unwavering advocate for economic progress and pragmatic problem-solving. The progress made by Mayor West will continue to benefit Georgetown and Sussex County for generations to come.

A native son of Sussex County, Mayor Bill West served his community in both law enforcement and elected leadership during his 47 years as a Georgetown resident. Throughout his career, Bill has championed public safety, including during his 4 years with the Georgetown Police Department and 25 years with the Delaware State Police. First elected to municipal leadership in 2012, Mayor West initially served one term as a member of the Georgetown Town Council before his election as mayor of Georgetown in 2014. A problem-solver and creative thinker, Mayor West's political leadership has resulted in the establishment of numerous economic development projects and community facilities that continue to improve the lives of Georgetown residents every day.

Outside of his political leadership, Bill is a cornerstone of his community. His leadership has been recognized throughout Sussex County and the State of Delaware, notably through his service as president of the Sussex County Association of Towns and as vice president of the Delaware League of Local Governments. Bill's leadership

also supports his fellow law enforcement officers and their families through his participation in the Delaware State Troopers Association and his service on the board of the Delaware State Police Credit Union.

I am personally grateful to Mayor West for his guidance on the issues facing Georgetown and its residents. Whether through visits to small businesses in downtown Georgetown or welcoming me to the Richard Allen Gala, Bill has been a trusted friend and adviser throughout our long relationship. I wish him the best in his retirement and remain confident that he will continue to serve his community for many years to come.

Today, I invite my colleagues to join me and the people of Georgetown, DE, in congratulating Bill West on his retirement as mayor and for an outstanding life of public service.●

RECOGNIZING MOTHER MURPHY'S FLAVORS

• Mr. BUDD. Mr. President, today, I rise in honor of National Small Business Month to recognize North Carolina's 1.1 million small businesses that drive our State's growing workforce and thriving economy across all 100 counties. There is no doubt that our State's small businesses are the reason for North Carolina's ranking as the No. 1 state in the country for doing business. Making up a significant percentage of all businesses across our great State, North Carolina's small businesses represent the very best of American ingenuity, resilience, and determination.

As a small business owner myself, I understand the daily challenges and sacrifices that come with keeping a business on its feet. This National Small Business Month, I want to recognize one of North Carolina's leading small businesses, Mother Murphy's Flavors, a three-generation-owned-and-operated business based in Greensboro, NC. This year, Mother Murphy's Flavors celebrates its 80th year in business, crafting high-quality flavors for food and beverages. The company currently employs over 150 North Carolinians and, over the years, has grown its international footprint, now shipping products to over 30 countries worldwide.

What started as a side business venture for founder Kermit Murphy, Sr., and Dr. Richard Stelling in 1946 has become an internationally recognized company with a steadfast commitment to enhancing the food and beverage industry by creating flavor solutions with quality ingredients that customers can rely on.

From taking orders with pen and paper to becoming a trusted partner for global food corporations and specialty beverage manufacturers, Mother Murphy's Flavors is a testament to what vision, grit, and craftsmanship can build. Over eight decades, this small business with humble beginnings has

grown into a multigenerational success, proving that small business excellence, when passed down with care, becomes a legacy that endures.●

REMEMBERING FIRST SERGEANT CHARLIE BRYANT, JR.

• Mr. KAINÉ. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life, legacy, and distinguished military service of 1SG Charlie Bryant, Jr., a 34-year veteran of the U.S. Army and the New York Army National Guard, who passed away on March 18, 2026, at the age of 85. Charlie was born on December 31, 1940, in Lumpkin, GA, to the late Sarah Rodgers and Charlie Bryant, Sr. At the age of two, he moved with his mother to the Bronx, NY, where he was raised. At Samuel Gompers High School, Charlie was an avid member of the school's swim team, and that love of the water would lead him to serve as a lifeguard at the YMCA. In 1959, at Edgewood Park in the Sugar Hill neighborhood of Harlem, a chance meeting brought him face to face with Barbara Porter, the love of his life and his partner of the next 63 years.

Answering his Nation's call, Charlie enlisted in the U.S. Army and rose to the rank of specialist. He reenlisted in 1964 and joined the 82nd Airborne Signal Battalion, serving during the Cuban Missile Crisis and seeing combat in the Dominican Republic, for which he earned the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal. Charlie was honorably discharged from Active Duty in 1965. In 1968, he returned to the uniform as a member of the New York State National Guard's 719th Transportation Unit, assigned to the historic 369th—the legendary “Harlem Hellfighters”—where he served with distinction as platoon sergeant. In 1991, at the age of 50, Charlie was activated for Operation Desert Storm and served nearly a year in combat operations during the Gulf War. After 34 years of honorable service to our country, he retired in 1992 as first sergeant of the 1569th.

Between tours of duty, Charlie served the people of New York City as a dedicated bus operator for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority from 1967 until 1992—a quiet, daily service to his community that ran in parallel to his service in uniform. He and Barbara were united in marriage on March 10, 1963, and raised three children together: Charlene Lynette, Charles Winford, and Christopher Eric. In 1998, Charlie and Barbara relocated to Suffolk, VA, where they would make their home for the remainder of his life.

A lifelong devotee of Mopar muscle cars—beginning with the 1968 440 Dodge Charger R/T that sparked a decades-long passion—and a loyal companion to his dogs BA, Harley, Max, Smokey, and Bandit, Charlie brought warmth, humor, and a steady presence to every room he entered. Affectionately known as “Uncle Charlie,” he was a guiding presence and father figure to countless young people he considered his adopted

children, including his beloved godchildren Letta Porter, Tratia Wilson, and Jasmine Purkett.

Charlie is survived by his beloved wife of 63 years, Barbara; his children Charlene, Charles, and Christopher; his aunt Dorothy Wilson; his devoted godchildren; and a host of relatives, neighbors, fellow servicemembers, and friends whose lives he shaped.

First Sergeant Charlie Bryant, Jr., leaves behind a legacy of service, strength, love, and dedication to his country, to his family, and to every young person fortunate enough to have been welcomed into his orbit. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring his memory and in extending our deepest condolences to his wife Barbara, to his children, and to all who loved him. May he rest in peace.●

RECOGNIZING VIRGINIA AMERICAN REVOLUTION 250TH COMMISSION AND LAND SPEED RECORD HOLDER

● Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, as we celebrate our Nation's 250th anniversary, I would like to recognize the Virginia American Revolution 250th Commission, which was formed to celebrate the Commonwealth's contribution to the Nation upon the 250th anniversary of its independence from Great Britain, and the VA 250 Car Project, which is part of a national motorsports celebration in honor of the United States of America's semiquincentennial.

The Virginia American Revolution 250th Commission is chaired by Delegate Terry Austin of Botetourt County, VA. Danny Turner, former mayor of Martinsville, VA, Joey Arrington of Henry County, VA, and former Congressman Virgil Goode of Rocky Mount, VA, devised the VA 250 Car Project.

Additionally, on March 23, 2026, the car known as the "Martinsville Missile" broke the land speed record for stock cars at the Launch and Land facility in Cape Canaveral, FL. The top was 253.1 mph, breaking the former record of 244.9 mph set back in 2007. The "Martinsville Missile" is a 1969 Dodge Daytona Charger with a 358-cubic-inch engine generating over 1,000 horsepower at 9,500 rpm. The car and engine were built by Joey Arrington in Martinsville, VA. The car was driven by Tommy Hurley of Ridgeway, VA.

I salute this thrilling record, the driver who set it, the long tradition of motorsports in Virginia, and the deep contributions of Virginia to America's history.●

REMEMBERING JIM COLBERT

● Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Jim Colbert, a legendary golfer and proud Kansan whose remarkable career has inspired countless fans and athletes across Kansas and our Nation.

Born in Elizabeth, NJ, Colbert came to Kansas State University in 1961 on a

football scholarship. After injuries ended his football career, he turned his focus to golf, beginning a journey that would define the rest of his life. As a three-year letterwinner for the Wildcats, Colbert quickly established himself as one of the Nation's top collegiate golfers, finishing runner-up at the 1964 NCAA Championship and the Big Eight Championship that same year.

After turning professional in 1965, Colbert built an extraordinary career on the PGA Tour and PGA TOUR Champions circuit. Over the course of his professional career, he earned 28 combined victories, including 8 PGA Tour wins and 20 Champions Tour titles, placing him among the winningest players in senior tour history. His accomplishments included victories at the Texas Open, Colonial National Invitational, and the 1993 Ford Senior Players Championship. He was also named PGA TOUR Champions Player of the Year in both 1995 and 1996.

Beyond his success on the course, Colbert became one of the most recognizable personalities in golf. Known for his trademark bucket hat and competitive spirit, he also made significant contributions as a broadcaster, entrepreneur, and ambassador for the game. He worked as a golf analyst for ESPN and later founded a successful golf course management company that owned and operated courses across the country.

Perhaps nowhere is Colbert's legacy more visible than in Manhattan, KS, where he helped develop Colbert Hills Golf Course, now regarded as one of the premier public golf courses in Kansas and home to Kansas State's golf programs. His dedication to the university and the Manhattan community reflected the deep pride he carried for Kansas throughout his life.

Despite being diagnosed with prostate cancer in 1996, Colbert returned to competitive golf and captured another tournament victory in 1998, earning the PGA TOUR Champions Comeback Player of the Year Award. His determination and resilience inspired many both within and beyond the golf community.

Above all, Colbert was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. He will be remembered not only for his remarkable achievements in professional golf, but also for his generosity, perseverance, and contributions to Kansas State athletics.

I now ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Jim Colbert and in expressing our gratitude for the lasting impact he made on the game of golf and the people of Kansas.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. JOSE-MARIE GRIFFITHS

● Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, today I recognize Dr. Jose-Marie Griffiths, outgoing President of Dakota State University in Madison, SD, for all of the hard work she has done for the State of

South Dakota. Her work over the past 11 years as president has helped make DSU a national leader in cyber security, artificial intelligence, and research. Dr. Griffiths' commitment to her students, her faculty, and to the State of South Dakota are unmatched. Under her leadership, DSU expanded academic programs, particularly in technology and cyber-related fields. Her collaboration with government, military, and industry put DSU in a position to secure significant investments to further promote programming at DSU. I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Dr. Griffiths for all of the work she has done and wish her continued success as she begins her next chapter.●

HONORING DEPUTY JAMES MARK WINDSOR

● Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, 31 years ago Alabama lost a legend, Randolph County Deputy James Mark Windsor, who was killed at the young age of 28 years old in the line of duty on May 6, 1995. Deputy Windsor answered the call to serve his community with courage and humility, dedicating himself to protecting the people of Randolph County and the great State of Alabama. East Alabama is undoubtedly a better, safer place for families in our great State because of the work of Deputy Windsor. Though his time in law enforcement was tragically brief, his impact and sacrifice will never be forgotten.

Deputy Windsor served as a reserve deputy for 2 years before attending the police academy and becoming an active deputy with the Randolph County Sheriff's Office. After only 4 months as a full-time deputy, he made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. His willingness to step forward and serve speaks volumes about his character, sense of duty, and commitment to others.

As the anniversary of his passing comes around each year, it is important that we remember Deputy Windsor's life and impact that he continues to make in his community. The people of Alabama remain forever indebted to him and to all law enforcement officers who put themselves in harm's way in service. His bravery lives on in the lives of his family and friends.

My wife Suzanne and I extend our heartfelt prayers to Deputy Windsor's family, friends, fellow deputies, and all those who knew and loved him as they celebrate the legacy Deputy Windsor has left behind. May they find comfort in knowing that his sacrifice will never be forgotten, and may God continue to bless the memory of Deputy James Mark Windsor.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 11:20 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by