

Today, these beliefs still sit at the very core of this great experiment in democracy.

Sadly, Dr. Wood passed away on June 7 at the age of 92. He was but weeks away from receiving a very special accolade on behalf of Brown University's semiquincentennial initiative—Brown 2026—for “his unparalleled contributions to history and to education.” Indeed, Dr. Wood's scholarship has added tremendous depth to our understanding of the ideas behind the founding of our Nation, which we will be celebrating with great fanfare in a few short days.

I want to join the Brown University community and a long list of colleagues, former students, and friends in extending my condolences to Dr. Wood's wife Louise, his children, and grandchildren. His kindness, humility, intellect, wisdom, and generous mentorship influenced countless people, and his legacy will live on to enrich and remind us of the hopeful potential that was and is America.

Gordon Wood will be rightfully remembered as one of the great scholars of American history. Today, I also ask that you remember him as a great American.

REMEMBERING JOHN J.H. SCHWARZ, M.D.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay special tribute to former Congressman John Joseph Henry “Joe” Schwarz, M.D., my friend, veteran, physician, and dedicated public servant, who passed away on May 27, 2026.

Born and raised in Battle Creek, MI, Congressman Schwarz's journey was defined early on by excellence in leadership, athletics, and service. At Battle Creek Central High School, he was elected as the class of 1955 president and earned varsity letters in football, baseball, and swimming. He went on to attend the University of Michigan, where he earned a degree in history in 1959. While at U of M, he participated in football, men's glee club, and was a lifelong member of the Theta Theta Chapter of the Sigma Chi Fraternity. He earned his medical degree in 1964 from Wayne State University.

Before being elected to public office, Congressman Schwarz served in the U.S. Navy, where he was the battalion surgeon for the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment in Vietnam and Southeast Asia and later as assistant naval attaché to Indonesia. He also worked with the Central Intelligence Agency to help locate prisoners of war. In 1974, he returned home to Battle Creek with his wife Anne and daughter Brennan and entered private medical practice.

His commitment to public service began as a city commissioner and later mayor of Battle Creek, before being elected to serve 16 years in the Michigan Senate. Congressman Schwarz faithfully served the people of Michigan's former 7th Congressional District from 2005 to 2007. During his term in the House of Representatives, he

earned a reputation as a principled decision maker, a tireless advocate for his constituents, and a respected colleague on both sides of the aisle.

Even after leaving Congress, Joe remained deeply engaged in public life and his counsel was sought by leaders across the State of Michigan. He served as a trustee of the University of Olivet, a member of the university bank board and the Kellogg Community College Foundation Board, and on the Michigan Legislative Retirement Board, the Purple Rose Theatre Company Board, and the Brass Band of Battle Creek Board. He was a past president of the Calhoun County Medical Society and on the board of the Michigan State Medical Society.

My thoughts and prayers are with his family and all who mourn his loss. While we grieve his passing, we also celebrate a life well lived and a legacy of service that will endure for generations.

I ask the Senate to join me in honoring the life of former Congressman John J.H. “Joe” Schwarz, M.D. for his decades of service to the Battle Creek community, the State of Michigan, and our Nation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO COMMANDER JOHN “JACK” HOLLAND, USN (RET.)

• Mr. BUDD. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a patriot and veteran, retired U.S. Navy Commander John “Jack” Holland.

Mr. Holland's passion for flying came from joining the naval aviation program following his last semester of college. He received his Navy wings a year and a half later and began an illustrious career as a pilot at Naval Air Station Miramar just outside of San Diego. His first orders were to join an attack squadron flying a Douglas AD Skyraider.

Over the next 23 years, Mr. Holland transitioned to jets and completed eight aircraft carrier deployments to the Western Pacific, including five deployments to Vietnam. A notable position of honor was serving as the Navy Seventh Fleet Liaison Officer with the U.S. Air Force at Tan Son Nhut Air Base in Saigon. Mr. Holland last served as the commanding officer of a Navy Fighter Aggressor Squadron at Naval Air Station Oceana in Virginia Beach.

After retirement from the U.S. Navy in 1978, Mr. Holland's contributions and passion for flying continued with his service as an engineering consultant for a Navy contractor at the Naval Weapons Center in China Lake, CA. During his service, he was responsible for developing the software management plan for the Navy's F/A-18 Hornet aircraft and other strategic missile programs.

On July 8, 2026, at 91, Mr. Holland is returning to First Flight Airport and the Wright Brothers National Memo-

rial to commemorate his years of service as a Navy pilot. He will arrive as a passenger, scale Big Kill Devil Hill, walk to the First Flight Boulder, and recall the views from the aircraft that flew over the same ground revered by this great Nation. Join me in saluting Mr. Holland, not only for his faithful service to this country, but for his return visit to First Flight.●

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL WILLIAM BRYAN ANNIE

• Mr. JUSTICE. Mr. President, I rise to acknowledge Col. William Bryan Annie, who is retiring on July 1, 2026, after more than 30 years of military service to our country and the great State of West Virginia.

Colonel Annie grew up in Kanawha County, and in October 1995, he put on a uniform for the first time, joining the 130th Security Forces Squadron of the West Virginia Air National Guard. While serving, he pursued his education, earning a bachelor of science in 1999 and completing airman's leadership school. At that time, he had risen to the rank of staff sergeant, and in 2000, he attended the Academy of Military Science where he then commissioned as a second lieutenant. Colonel Annie wore the bars and then the oak leaves and eventually the eagle of a full colonel—pinned on June 3, 2020—a promotion that capped an arc of relentless growth and deep responsibility.

Colonel Annie's career in uniform transcended national borders and demanded mastery of nearly every facet of Air Force support operations. He completed several overseas missions, including to South Korea for Operation Team Spirit and Operation Fowl Eagle. In immediate response to the attacks on September 11, 2001, Colonel Annie mobilized for Operation Noble Eagle. In 2009, he deployed to Baghdad as a Coalition Joint Plans Officer with Multi-National Force Iraq, serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Throughout his career, he served as a Transportation Officer, Logistics Readiness Officer, and as a Plans Officer. No matter the time, the place, or the task, Colonel Annie dedicated his life to our great Nation.

After returning from Iraq, Colonel Annie took on installation and security responsibilities at the State headquarters level, then moved into command. As the Force Support Squadron commander of the 167th Airlift Wing in Martinsburg, a strategic airlift unit flying the C-17A Globemaster III, he was responsible for the morale, welfare, and readiness of hundreds of airmen and their families. He then commanded the 167th Mission Support Group, overseeing the broad infrastructure of the wing before being selected as deputy wing commander, where he helped guide more than 1,100 military members in training and worldwide missions. His command career was defined by steadiness, accountability, and genuine care for the people under his charge.

Colonel Annie received extensive decorations for his service: a Defense Meritorious Service Medal, a Meritorious Service Medal with five oakleaf clusters, Air Force and Army Commendation Medals, a Combat Action Medal, the Armed Forces Service Medal with six service stars, the NATO Medal with a service star. He also received State awards from West Virginia to fill an additional column, including the Distinguished Unit Awards, Emergency Service Ribbons, and Commendation Medals. Taken together, they are not merely a collection of ribbons, but a map of a life lived wherever the mission required, doing whatever the mission demanded.

Colonel Annie is a West Virginian in the deepest sense—rooted in his community, committed to its people, and unwilling to mistake rank or recognition for purpose. He was a soldier-scholar, a commander-servant, and by every measure, the kind of officer the institution of the West Virginia National Guard was built to produce. His leadership in the military organization will be felt for many years to come, as well as his positive impact on the many, many lives he changed for the better. I express my sincerest gratitude for Colonel Annie's service and patriotism, and I send my best wishes for his health and happiness in retirement.●

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL CHERRY FESTIVAL IN TRAVERSE CITY, MICHIGAN

● Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the National Cherry Festival in Traverse City, MI.

Traverse City is known as the Cherry Capital of the World for good reason. More than 70 percent of the Nation's tart cherries are grown in the Grand Traverse region, and for a century, this remarkable harvest has been celebrated through a festival that honors both the quality of the crop and the hard-working people who produce it.

The inaugural Cherry Festival was held in 1926, though celebrations of the cherry harvest date back even earlier. In the 1910s, local growers gathered for an informal event known as the Blessing of the Blossoms, laying the foundation for what would become one of Michigan's most beloved traditions. Over the past century, the festival has grown from a modest 3-day event into an 8-day celebration of the dedication, resilience, and community spirit that define the Grand Traverse region.

The National Cherry Festival is no small spectacle. Each year, hundreds of thousands of visitors travel to Traverse City to take part in cherished traditions, from the crowning of the Cherry Queen to the breathtaking performances of the Blue Angels over Grand Traverse Bay. The festival has also welcomed notable guests throughout its history, including three Presidents. In 1925, a giant cherry pie was pre-

sented to President Calvin Coolidge; in 1929, President Herbert Hoover attended the opening-day ceremony; and in 1975, President Gerald Ford proudly served as grand marshal of the Cherry Royale Parade.

Yet the National Cherry Festival is about far more than celebrating a bountiful harvest. It is a tribute to the growers, families, businesses, and volunteers whose efforts sustain both the festival and the broader community. Thousands of volunteer hours are dedicated each year to preserving its traditions and creating memorable experiences for residents and visitors alike. Their commitment has helped make the festival a lasting symbol of civic pride and community engagement.

For generations, the National Cherry Festival has created cherished summer memories for families from Michigan and across the Nation. Today, it remains as important to the Grand Traverse region as it was at its founding a century ago. As the festival celebrates this historic milestone, I congratulate its organizers, volunteers, growers, and supporters for carrying forward a tradition that showcases the very best of Michigan.

I ask the Senate to join me in celebrating the National Cherry Festival as it marks its 100th anniversary. For a century, this iconic Michigan tradition has honored the growers and communities whose dedication has made the Grand Traverse region a leader in cherry production and a source of pride for our State. May the festival continue to strengthen community ties, celebrate Michigan's agricultural heritage, and bring joy to future generations for another hundred years.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Hanley, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:03 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 6644) to increase the supply of Housing in America, and for other purposes.

At 2:16 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by

Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 629. An act to amend the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 to remove barriers to agricultural producers in accessing funds to carry out emergency measures under the emergency conservation program, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 826. An act to require the Inspector General of the Small Business Administration to submit a quarterly report on fraud relating to certain COVID-19 loans.

H.R. 4238. An act to improve accountability in the disaster loan program of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7396. An act to establish an Office of Native American Affairs within the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

H.R. 8879. An act to amend the Small Business Act to require a report on small business concern participation in a covered contracting programs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 8880. An act to require the Comptroller General to evaluate Federal cybersecurity assistance to small business concerns, and for other purposes.

H.R. 8881. An act to amend the Small Business Act to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to report on the use of artificial intelligence and machine learning by the Administration, and for other purposes.

H.R. 8882. An act to amend the Small Business Economic Policy Act of 1980 to examine how the competitiveness of small businesses is affected by the enforcement of Federal antitrust laws, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 826. An act to require the Inspector General of the Small Business Administration to submit a quarterly report on fraud relating to certain COVID-19 loans; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 7396. An act to establish an Office of Native American Affairs within the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 8879. An act to amend the Small Business Act to require a report on small business concern participation in a covered contracting programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 8880. An act to require the Comptroller General to evaluate Federal cybersecurity assistance to small business concerns, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 8881. An act to amend the Small Business Act to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to report on the use of artificial intelligence and machine learning by the Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 8882. An act to amend the Small Business Economic Policy Act of 1980 to examine how the competitiveness of small businesses is affected by the enforcement of Federal antitrust laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.