

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING TREVOR
WADDINGTON

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, last month, I had the honor of attending Trevor Waddington's Eagle Scout Court of Honor. Trevor is a sophomore at Pennsville Memorial High School, who at the age of 15 has already made significant contributions to our South Jersey community. He is a dedicated member of Boy Scout Troop No. 7015, where he currently serves as the Senior Patrol Leader, showcasing his exemplary leadership abilities. He has earned an impressive 41 Merit Badges, which underscores his commitment to personal growth and skill development. For his Eagle Scout project, Trevor built a Gaga Ball Pit at Riverview Beach Park in Pennsville, South Jersey. This project encourages outdoor play and recreation for our local children. Trevor's dedication extends beyond scouting. He actively participates in community service, including organizing food collections for the Visiting Nurse Association and assisting with Toys for Tots during the holidays. Furthermore, Trevor excels in sports, playing football with both the Junior Varsity and Varsity Pennsville Eagles Football Team, participating in the Pennsville Varsity Wrestling Team, and representing the Pennsville Weightlifting Team as their spokesperson. Trevor's values, shaped by his experiences in Scouts and sports, make him a role model for his peers. I am so proud of his accomplishments, and I know he has a bright future ahead of him. God Bless Trevor and God Bless the United States of America.

CONDEMNING THE SUPPORT OF
HAMAS, HEZBOLLAH, AND
OTHER TERRORIST ORGANIZA-
TIONS AT INSTITUTIONS OF
HIGHER EDUCATION, WHICH MAY
LEAD TO THE CREATION OF A
HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT FOR
JEWISH STUDENTS, FACULTY,
AND STAFF

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the resolution offered by the gentleman from Utah, Mr. Owens. America's institutions of higher education should be welcoming learning environments for all students and faculty. I strongly denounce antisemitism: it has no place on our Nation's campuses.

That said, the resolution does not completely paint an accurate picture of what took

place on some of the campuses it mentions. For example, while the resolution describes the actions taken by a Stanford instructor, it does not report that the instructor was suspended by the University. Furthermore, the resolution fails to acknowledge that the Brandeis University Student Union, as the University described in a statement designed to correct the record, "decided to strongly condemn Hamas, and it has communicated its stance to the Brandeis community, and the media more broadly." As a co-equal branch of the federal government, Congressional documents should be accurate and reflect the truth of the matters they assert. We must be especially careful when pointing out instances of antisemitism as my colleagues in the majority have reminded us before, accusations of racism (including antisemitism) are easily weaponized in our modern era.

Congress must also be vigilant to ensure that college campuses remain places where freedom of speech and thought are maintained. I know this is an important issue to my colleagues in the majority as they have convened multiple hearings on free speech on campuses.

As we denounce actions that create unsafe spaces for Jewish students on our Nation's campus, we must also recognize that while the First Amendment does not protect threats or fighting words, it does protect unpopular and abhorrent speech. It is in trying and tense political moments like this that it is easy for us to forget our truly American ideals with regard to free speech—debates on issues like this are simply outlawed in other Western democracies. I firmly believe the solution to bad speech is more speech. To that end, we should reject attempts to restrict student association or limit speech that may feel comforting but compromise the very freedoms that make America exceptional. I commend the American Civil Liberties Union for their open letter to College and University leaders asking them to reject efforts to restrict constitutionally protected speech on campuses.

The inaccuracies in the resolution, and concerns about free speech notwithstanding, we realize that instances of antisemitism on college campuses have risen precipitously in the past few weeks. And while this recent rise is attributable to events in Israel and Gaza, the fact is antisemitic acts on college campuses have been on the rise for the last six years.

As such, H. Res. 798 is a missed opportunity, to recognize that issues of racial hostility on college campuses are broader and older than the events it cites. Over six years ago, after an uptick in racial incidents on college campuses, I wrote a letter to Chairwoman Foxx requesting a hearing "to examine how institutions of higher education are meeting their responsibility under title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Title VI prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin in 'any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.'1A" In that letter, I contextualized attempts by the Trump Administration to investigate the use of race in ad-

missions, use that had recently been affirmed in the Supreme Court case *Fisher v. University of Texas-Austin* (Fisher II).

While some of us may have forgotten, 2017 saw a marked increase in racially hostile events on campuses. In a 2017 report describing the uptick in racially hostile events on campus, the Anti-Defamation League

(ADL) said "White supremacists, emboldened by the 2016 elections and the current political climate, are currently engaged in an unprecedented outreach effort to attract and recruit students on American college campuses." Jonathan Greenblatt, CEO of the ADL, was quoted in that same report saying "[w]hile there have been recruitment efforts in the past, never have we seen antisemitism and white supremacists so focused on outreach to students on campus." Some of the most infamous events in that year included:

the hanging of nooses with bananas in them on the campus of American University the day after the election of the school's first black student body president, Ms. Taylor Dumpson;

the racially charged murder of Richard Collins, III, a black ROTC student at Bowie State University, during a visit to the University of Maryland, College Park; and

the Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville, Virginia in which white supremacists marched unmasked through the grounds of the University of Virginia, carrying torches and chanting racist and Anti-Semitic phrases such as "Jews will not replace us!" and "Blood and Soil!", direct allusions to Anti-Semitic conspiracy theories and Nazi sentiments from the 1930s. Later that weekend, counter-protestor Heather Heyer was murdered, and 35 others injured by an attacker in his car as they protested the Anti-Semitic and racist presence in Charlottesville.

My request for a hearing on this issue was ignored, and instead, I convened, in partnership with House Judiciary then-Ranking Member John Conyers, an issue forum on September 8, 2017 entitled, "Affirmative Action, Inclusion, and Racial Climate on America's Campuses." In my prepared remarks for that forum, I said:

The presence of some students of color at some predominantly white institutions is questioned, even though those same schools afford advantages to legacy students, families of wealthy donors, and students who have benefited from high-quality education because of the inequities in the educational system. When confronted with racist behavior on campus, students are often told that the First Amendment protects such behavior.

Since that initial request in 2017, I welcome the recognition by the majority that colleges have a duty to provide healthy learning environments for all students. This is a point Democrats have made consistently in the wake of issues surrounding racial hostility and free speech on college campuses. We have done so while having to hear past and current colleagues mock students as "snowflakes" and assert the problem when it comes to free speech on campus is that students are not

• 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.

being allowed to “freely express their beliefs without the fear of retribution from fellow students, faculty, and administrators.” I am glad that the majority has finally woken up to the realization that free speech issues cannot be separated from demographic changes on campus, the legacy of structural racism and the recent explosion in hate speech on campus. I only wish that the majority would realize that the same protections that apply to Jewish students must be enforced for other students as well.

Under the majority’s leadership in the House, we have had multiple hearings and markups where the mere existence of trans students has been questioned. Research shows that due to stigma, trans youth experience depression and suicidal ideation at disproportionate rates compared to their peers. Recent data from the CDC show that transgender youth are 10 times more likely to experience homelessness. Transgender students are also more likely to feel unsafe at school, to experience bullying and other forms of violence including being threatened with a weapon at school, and social isolation. Experiences of a hostile school climate, potentially compounded by an unstable living situation, lead to disproportionate drop out rates for these students. Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, was modeled after Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; in the same way schools have to provide safe learning environments to all students irrespective of race, they must also do so irrespective of sexual orientation or gender identity. Democrats have consistently raised this issue only for it to fall on deaf ears with our majority colleagues.

Our committee has held multiple hearings and markups where the idea of having professionals tasked with making sure our colleges and universities are diverse, equitable, and inclusive (DEI) has been ridiculed. We have attempted to explain that institutions of higher education that were not designed to serve diverse student populations are facing specific challenges related to the changing demographics of their student bodies, and having DEI personnel on hand to address these issues can help schools foster the healthy learning environment all students need. To suggest that efforts aimed at inclusion are somehow responsible for the proliferation of AntiSemitic acts on college campuses, as the sponsor of this resolution suggested in closing debate on the resolution, defies belief.

Under Title VI, institutions of higher education have a duty to provide safe learning environments for all students. What’s true for Jewish students now was just as true for Black and Brown students six years ago. This resolution could recognize the universality of the charge in our civil rights laws and call for an end to hostility towards all students on campus based on race, religion, sexual orientation and gender identity, but it fails to do so, and as such is a missed opportunity.

And while some might claim that antisemitic behavior is what is on the rise now, the Federal Bureau of Investigations Director Christopher Wray in testimony to Congress just this week highlighted that events in the Middle East are resulting in increases in threats against both Jewish Americans and Muslim Americans—explicitly referencing the murder of a six-year old boy for no other reason than

he was Muslim, an incident the FBI is currently investigating as a federal hate crime.

As I did in 2017, I continue to support efforts to ensure that all schools are safe and healthy learning environments for students. For that reason, I support H. Res. 798. Hate has no place on college campuses, and speech that has crossed the line into threats and hostility directed at Jewish students, or any other group of students, must be exposed and denounced. I firmly believe that colleges and universities can live up to their Title VI obligations to all students, provide forums for students to exercise their rights of free speech and free expression, and be the cauldrons of thought that produce the critical thinkers our country needs to solve the challenges of today and the future.

RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

SPEECH OF

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I will vote against this expulsion Resolution as a matter of House precedent and Constitutional due process. To be clear, I find Representative GEORGE SANTOS’ behavior to be disgraceful, and the fact-patterns in the federal indictment against him are serious and worthy of him resigning his seat. Yet, to date, Rep. SANTOS has not been criminally convicted of the offenses cited in the Resolution. The modern House has voted to expel two Members only when they were convicted of a felony in a court of law. At this moment, the status of the case does not support expulsion under House precedent or due process.

Additionally, I served as Chair of the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct (now named the House Ethics Committee) from 2009 to 2011, and I respect the internal House process. This process has the authority to recommend expulsion of a Member after an appropriate bipartisan investigation. Rep. SANTOS has not yet been found guilty of offenses in the ethics probe. The Ethics Committee has stated it will release its investigatory conclusions and recommendations in two weeks.

Once either the court or official committee processes conclude, I am prepared, based on known facts, to vote to expel the Congressman.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FEDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, November 1, 2023, I accidentally voted No on H.R. 340—*Hamas International Financing Prevention Act*. In fact, I intended to vote Yes on the bill.

HONOR FLIGHT OF SOUTHERN OREGON

HON. CLIFF BENTZ

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Mr. BENTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Vietnam and Korean War Veterans from Oregon’s Second Congressional District who, through the efforts of Honor Flight of Oregon, are visiting their memorials on the National Mall. When I meet these heroes, I am reminded of the enduring words of George S. Patton Jr., who said, “The highest obligation and privilege of citizenship is that of bearing arms for one’s country.” These words, Mr. Speaker, still ring true today. Those who value liberty are indebted to these heroes, for each one of them defended our freedom through acts of service, sacrifice, and bravery on behalf of our country. It is my privilege to include in the Record their names.

The Veterans on this Honor Flight from Oregon are: Joshua Alvarez, Army; Dennis Anderson, Navy; Thomas Beckley, Army; Jerry Chatter Sr, Marine Corps; Fred Conn, Marine Corps; David Cunningham, Navy; William Duncan, Army; Richard Gehrke, Navy/Marine Corps; Edward Goodman, Navy; Roger Haynes, Air Force/Army; Robert Howerton, Navy; Michael Hoffman, Navy; David Johnson, Army; Earl Kilpatrick, Air Force; Jesse Redding, Navy; Paul Loffand, Army; Robert Long, Marine Corps; Jesus Lopez, Air Force; Preton Manville II, Marine Corps; William Mathews, Army/Air Force; Lawrence Mixon Jr, Army; Charles Owen, Army; Robert Rammin, Army; Steven Rolston, Army; Loyd Thurman, Army; Jerry White, Army; and Otto J. Williman, Air Force. These heroes join over 260,000 Veterans, who since 2005, have been honored through the nationwide Honor Flight Network of volunteers. I would also like to recognize the volunteers and guardians traveling on this trip: Janet Wilkerson, and the guardians who have also served our country: Kathrine Berg, Army; Jody Williman III, Marine Corps.

Mr. Speaker, in his 1983 Memorial Day address, Ronald Reagan said, “We are forever indebted to those who have given their lives that we might be free.” As a nation, we must never take for granted the liberties we enjoy today, recognizing that these freedoms have been hard-won by the honor, commitment, and sacrifice of our Veterans. Each Member in this chamber and citizen in these United States should be humbled by the courage of the brave Veterans who voluntarily underwent the dangers necessary to preserve our country. Colleagues, please join me in thanking these Veterans and the volunteers of Honor Flight of Oregon for their remarkable service and devotion to our great country.

RECOGNIZING JAMAR MACK

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, today, I want to celebrate an act of exceptional sportsmanship witnessed at the Cape Atlantic Cross-Country Championships, highlighting the true

spirit of unity and compassion within our community. During the race, Cam Koryga, a star-runner from Egg Harbor Township High School encountered difficulties, stumbling and falling as he neared the finish line. In an inspiring act, Jamar Mack, a freshman on the Middle Township High School cross country team, came to his aid and guided him down the course, even though they were rival runners. Jamar's support for Cam continued throughout the race, and in a touching moment, Jamar allowed Cam to cross the finish line ahead of him. This act of sportsmanship is a shining example of the values we hold dear in our community—compassion, selflessness, and unity. It reminds us of the positive impact of sports beyond competition. It is my privilege to recognize and celebrate Jamar Mack's outstanding sportsmanship and I wish this exemplary young man all the best in his future. God Bless Jamar and God Bless the United States of America.

CELEBRATING SECOND
BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Second Bethlehem Baptist Church's Centennial Celebration that commemorates the lives and accomplishments of Second Bethlehem Baptist church.

Founded in 1923, right in the heart of Savannah, this church has been committed to serving its community for a century. The influence that the Second Bethlehem Baptist church has in its community is outstanding, positively influencing over 40,000 individuals in the region, and over 100,000 worldwide.

The church has numerous outreach achievements, one being the establishment of Life Skills for Empowerment Center Inc., a non-profit organization that is working to fight against violence in Savannah.

Second Bethlehem Baptist Church also offers feeding programs, clothing closets, and various types of assistance to those in need.

I thank the Second Bethlehem Baptist Church for being a beacon of hope in our community, and congratulate them on 100 amazing years.

CONGRATULATING FRANCIS HOWELL
SOFTBALL TEAM ON THEIR
CLASS 5 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Francis Howell High School on their victory in Missouri's Class 5 Softball State Championship.

The team claimed the Class 5 title for the first time and exacted a measure of revenge by beating the same team they lost to in last year's championship game. Senior Lorin Boutte led the way to an 8-0 victory by tossing a four-hit shutout and adding a grand slam

for run support. The team should be commended for all their hard work throughout the past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the Francis Howell softball team for a job well done.

HONORING THE LIFE OF WILLIAM
"BILL" CZMYR, JR.

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of William "Bill" Czmyr, Jr., who passed peacefully at the age of ninety-one. Bill has been a long-time friend of my office and is affectionately remembered by all who knew him. Through his life, Bill has been a true patriot and model citizen, serving in the United States Navy during the Korean War and dedicating himself to veteran's advocacy back home. His presence will be sorely missed in the Eastern Connecticut community.

Born in 1932 to William and Viola Czmyr, Bill learned early on the value of volunteering and sacrifice for causes greater than oneself. Transitioning away from his work as a maintenance foreman, Bill enlisted in 1955 to serve in the Navy aboard the YAGR-1 *Guardian*. On this ship, Bill helped ensure that the airspace of the United States remained safe from enemy aircraft through its radar monitoring technology.

Shortly after his honorable discharge from the Navy in 1957, Bill continued his service to his country—this time by building the boats which keep our shores safe. He joined General Dynamics, Electric Boat in Groton and worked for an impressive 37 years as an outside machinist, retiring in 1994.

Bill did not squander his newfound time in retirement, dedicating his life to stewarding former servicemembers of all creeds. 'No' was not a word in Bill's vocabulary, and he garnered a well-earned reputation for his tenacious advocacy for veterans who needed it the most. His championing the needs of his fellow veterans starts with American Legion Post 15 in Jewett City, Connecticut. In 1993, a year before Bill's retirement, the post was forced to close. Immediately recognizing the need for a new, rejuvenated Post, Bill got to work raising money to erase the old Post's debt and repaint the headquarters from top to bottom. By 1995, Post 15 was back in working order.

Remaining active in Post 15, Bill embarked on his next big project to support former servicemembers: the rehousing of 18 homeless veterans. Bill was able to help facilitate the construction of two-room, furnished apartments in a building attached to the Post's headquarters, providing much needed access to medical care, shopping facilities, and a public library. Some of the residents of this new community were homeless for over a decade, and thanks to Bill's tireless efforts, they had a safe place under a roof to call their own.

Bill worked with my office to make this dream a reality where he helped foster a multi-level partnership with the Department of Veterans Affairs and Connecticut Housing Finance Authority to secure funding for the

project. For his monumental efforts, Bill was rightly named the Veteran of the Year in 2012.

Mr. Speaker, I count myself incredibly fortunate to represent constituents like Bill Czmyr. Bill's patriotism and dedication to those who sacrificed the most in defense of liberty is an example all citizens should aspire to. The hole left by his passing will not soon be filled, though the Eastern Connecticut community can take solace in the fact that his legacy lives on through the lives of the countless people he has touched. We mourn with Bill's family, including his three sons Mark, Luke, and John, his six grandchildren, and all of their respective spouses.

RECOGNIZING JORDAN WERNER

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, today, I want to recognize the outstanding achievements of a remarkable young man, Jordan M. Werner. Jordan's scouting journey began in Troop 416 in Greensburg, Pennsylvania. After relocating to Pittsgrove, South Jersey in 2019, he continued his Scouting efforts as a member of Scout Crew 58. It is within this crew that he diligently fulfilled the requirements necessary to achieve the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout. His Eagle Scout project involved the transformation of a storage shed at Emanuel Lutheran Church in Elmer, South Jersey, into a Disaster Warehouse for The North American Lutheran Church. This warehouse serves as a vital resource, storing essential items required by individuals and families who find themselves facing the aftermath of a disaster. These items include health kits, school kits, blankets, flood buckets, and Bibles, providing critical support to those in dire need. Jordan's dedication to service and his selfless commitment to helping others in times of crisis exemplify the highest ideals of the Scouting movement. I congratulate him on this important milestone and wish him all the best in his future. God Bless Jordan and God Bless the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING DR. DAVID WAIN
COON

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. David Wain Coon upon his retirement as the President and Superintendent of the College of Marin after 13 years of exceptional professional service.

Dr. Coon earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Central Washington University, Master of Education degree from Western Washington University, and Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Seattle University. He served in prominent administrative roles in colleges throughout Washington State before moving to the California Community College system. After five years as the President of Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Dr. Coon joined the College of Marin in 2010.

Dr. Coon led the College of Marin into a new era. He fostered positive relationships with students, staff, and trustees. He oversaw two community-funded facility modernization projects with a budget of more than \$515 million. Under his leadership, the college developed innovative programs including COM-PASS and Summer Bridge that are models for other community colleges throughout California. He developed partnerships with Marin County's primary and secondary schools and nonprofits to strengthen pathways to higher education. Dr. Coon responded to many challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic with innovative solutions and calm and collaborative guidance.

Dr. Coon has a deep commitment to equity and inclusion which extends beyond his work with the College of Marin both as the co-chair of the Marin Promise Partnership and member of the Board of Directors for the San Rafael Chamber of Commerce. His accomplishments earned both the College of Marin and Evergreen Valley College prestigious accolades, including the Dr. John W. Rice Diversity & Equity Award.

Known for his thoughtfulness, integrity, collaboration and good sense of humor, Dr. Coon exemplifies what it means to be a public servant. And it is no surprise that his years of service more than double the average tenure for community college superintendents. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you join me in expressing gratitude to Dr. Coon for his enduring commitment and invaluable contributions to the College of Marin and greater community.

RECOGNIZING EDWARD VINER, MD

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Edward Viner, MD on his Retirement.

Dr. Edward Viner, a graduate of Harvard College, earned cum laude status before continuing his education at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. During his time at the University, he was elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society. For two years following the completion of his residency, Dr. Viner completed a fellowship in Hematology/Oncology with his alma mater at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Edward Viner is a trailblazer and leader. Through his own personal experience as a critically ill-patient a few years prior, Dr. Edward Viner roughly 50 years ago decided to begin the first hospice program in the entire Philadelphia region. A major step toward his mission of improving end of life care throughout the nation. Through his expertise and hard work, Dr. Viner was invited to testify before the House of Representatives Select Committee on Aging only 10 years after starting the program.

Dr. Edward Viner stepped into the role of Chief of Medicine at Cooper University Hospital in 1987 and remained in the position for another twenty years. During his tenure, he led the development of an academic Department of Medicine and created Cooper's Suburban Practice Network. Under his guidance,

Cooper University Hospital adopted a hospitalist system to care for patients and is recognized as the first in the Philadelphia region to do so.

Today, he is recognized for his unrelenting effort toward the creation of the Cooper Medical School of Rowan University, the 135th allopathic medical school in the United States. For his efforts, he was honorarily named the first Dean of the school in 2009. He is a board member of the New Jersey Council for the Humanities and is the recipient of several awards dating back to 1984 when he received the Philadelphia Caring Award for his work to provide hospice care to the region.

Dr. Edward Viner has been listed in Who's Who in America and has been acknowledged several times as one of the nation's best doctors. Dr. Viner received Laureateship from the American College of Physicians in 2003 before achieving Mastership within the college as well. He has been recognized with the Lifetime Achievement Award for Humanism in Medicine from the school he fought so hard to create as well as, the prestigious Strittmatter Award from the Philadelphia County Medical Society.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring and commending Dr. Edward Viner of Cooper University Hospital, a practitioner dedicated to his community and who has thoroughly served his patients to the best of his ability.

CELEBRATING RITA JOSEPHINE LYNCH ON THE OCCASION OF HER NINETY-FIFTH BIRTHDAY

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the birthday of Rita Josephine Lynch, who on October 27th reached the incredible milestone of her 95th birthday.

Rita Josephine was born one of seven children to Behia and James Thomas, who emigrated from Lebanon in the early 1920s to pursue the American Dream. Rita graduated from Olean High School, attended Canisius College, and is a proud graduate of Mercy School of Nursing in Buffalo, New York. Before meeting the love of her life, Thomas "Tom" Meecham Lynch, she worked at hospitals in Olean and Buffalo, New York.

Rita and Tom married in 1955 and later moved to Dunkirk, New York, where Rita worked as a nurse and Tom as a pharmacist. Rita and Tom grew their family to six children, even as Rita continued to pursue her career in nursing for local families and friends.

Throughout her life, Rita has always been a committed volunteer for many selfless causes. Rita has volunteered with the Red Cross, providing blood pressures appointments at local drugstores, she has served on the Altar Rosary Society at her local Catholic church, and the Brooks Hospital Auxiliary Board.

Rita has always helped others; from caring for her mother and mother-in-law to her youngest brother, Rev. Donald N. Thomas, after his retirement and her late husband until his passing.

Today, friends, family, and her faith continue to be focal points in her life as she stays in contact with old friends from nursing school

along with her six children and their families, which includes 18 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren.

While at home, if she isn't watching EWTN, she is watching Fox News, TMC, or her favorite sports—football, hockey, or golf. In her free time, she loves to go for drives around the Point and Dunkirk Pier—sometimes, she looks for bargains at T.J. Maxx.

She loves to see her great grandchildren and watch them compete in baseball, football, volleyball, and dance performances every opportunity she has. Every week, when she is able, you can find her in a pew at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Fredonia, New York.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and my colleagues in celebrating the wonderful occasion of Rita Josephine Lynch's 95th birthday. I cannot wait to wish her a happy 100th.

HONORING JOSEPH ARENA, JR.

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor the life and remarkable contributions of a South Jersey native, who has dedicated himself to his community and the local industry, Mr. Joseph Arena, Jr. The roots of his family's business run deep in the community. In 1920, his grandfather had the vision to establish the enterprise of Arena Automotive, and it quickly became a local institution. As time passed, the torch of responsibility was passed down to the next generation. When his grandfather and uncle chose to retire, it was in 1978 that he and his father assumed the mantle of sole ownership of the business, solidifying their commitment to its enduring legacy. In 1992, he embarked on another significant journey when he married his wife, Rose. Together, they have been blessed with two sons, Andrew and Nicholas, who have undoubtedly inherited his values and sense of community. Throughout his entire adult career, he has remained steadfastly dedicated to Arena Automotive. This unwavering commitment has not only enriched the local industry in South Jersey but has also fostered deep connections within the community. Mr. Arena's contributions to the community of Hammonton were so outstanding that he was honored by the New Jersey Sons of Italy at this year's Christopher Columbus celebration. His remarkable dedication and commitment have made him a pillar of the local industry, earning him the respect and admiration of his peers. It is essential to acknowledge and honor individuals like him who have made a lasting impact on their community, and I thank Mr. Arena for his dedication. God Bless Joseph and God Bless the United States of America.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF ALVA GREENE

HON. RASHIDA TLAI

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Ms. TLAI. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize longtime Detroit and 12th District

resident, Alva Greene as we mourn her passing.

Born and raised in Tyler Town, Mississippi, Ms. Greene was the eldest of eight in her close-knit family. She was a proud graduate of Mississippi Valley State University, where she met the love of her life Joe Green, who she married in 1960.

Ms. Greene was drawn to a career in education. She worked as a home economics teacher in the Water Valley Mississippi Public School System and in Detroit Public Schools when she and her family moved to Detroit in 1966. Her dedication to caring for the youth of our community, combined with her love of the church made her an absolute beam of light to be around. Her work throughout her life speaks volumes to her courageous and generous character. She was a beloved educator at Detroit's Northwestern High School for more than thirty years, retiring in 2000 to spend more time traveling and enjoying time with her family, especially her granddaughters Breanna and True.

In addition to her teaching career, Ms. Greene was always involved in her church community. As an active member of Hartford Memorial Baptist Church, she dedicated her time volunteering to visit sick and hospitalized church members in need of empathy and cheer and working with the Hartford Vacation Bible School.

Alva Greene's ambitious, kindhearted, and encouraging attitude will be greatly missed. Please join me in honoring her memory.

CONGRATULATING PEST END ON
BEING NOMINATED TO AMERICA'S
TOP SMALL BUSINESS
SUMMIT

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Pest End, a New Hampshire small business that was recently nominated to the 2023 America's Top Small Business Summit. For over 40 years Pest End has embodied our state's values of hard work and service, driven to provide quality customer service and innovative solutions. This recent recognition from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce is a testament to its strong skills, impact on the local economy, and involvement in the community. The next generation of New Hampshire business leaders will look to Pest End for inspiration.

Pest End is an industry leader and a trusted community partner. Attention to detail, years of experience, and a customer-focused approach define the team at Pest End's hard work in keeping our community pest-free. Additionally, their business is intimately involved with service opportunities addressing local needs through active outreach. The Granite State is thankful for small businesses like Pest End that not only protect our homes from termites and rats, but foster relationships between neighbors and strengthen the local economy.

I look forward to seeing all that the Pest End team accomplishes in the years to come, and I am confident that they will continue to serve as a guide for other business leaders in the state. On behalf of the constituents of New

Hampshire's First Congressional District, I applaud Pest End for its commitment to the values of business innovation and community compassion. I wish Pest End continued success in its future endeavors.

CELEBRATING THE EXTRAORDINARY
LIFE AND LEGACY OF
WILLIAM GRIFFIN

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and legacy of a trailblazing engineer for the City of Chicago, my best friend's father, Mr. William Griffin, who passed away on his 100th birthday, on October 24, 2023.

Mr. Griffin was born on October 24, 1923, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to Willie Griffin and Alma Daigre. He was raised in Chicago, Illinois, growing up in the Washington Park community. Mr. Griffin attended DuSable High School, where he excelled in classical literature and mathematics while making a name for himself as a tight end on the Black Panthers football team. Upon graduating in 1943, he continued his education at Wilson Junior College to pursue engineering.

Mr. Griffin was drafted into the United States Army as an Army Private in 1943, working his way up the ranks as a Basic Instructor, Airplane Handler, and Rifleman, until he found his niche as a Heavy Machine Gunner. Serving in the 365th Infantry, 92nd Division, Mr. Griffin operated heavy weaponry and supported infantry units to break through enemy defenses. He was honorably discharged as a well-decorated officer on February 15, 1946. His military awards and recognitions include the Good Conduct Medal, the European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with 2 Bronze Battle Stars, and a World War II Victory Medal.

Mr. Griffin met his life partner, Esther Murphy, a beautiful southern belle, who moved to Chicago from Sheffield, Alabama, when she rented a room in his mother's boarding house. The couple wed on March 31, 1959, and from their union had three children.

Following his Army discharge, Mr. Griffin resumed his education at the Illinois Institute of Technology, earning his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering in 1951. He became a licensed Civil Engineer by 1957 and would go on to obtain his Structural Engineer license in 1964. Mr. Griffin began his trailblazing career in engineering for the City of Chicago and the State of Illinois. Mr. Griffin held numerous lead civil engineering and supervisory roles in the Bureau of Engineering, Bureau of Construction Services, and Operations Division, ultimately becoming the Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Public Works for the City of Chicago in the Harold Washington Mayoral Administration.

The engineering legacy of Mr. Griffin lives on in the infrastructure of Chicago. The inner workings of the engineering systems throughout the city have felt the impact of Mr. Griffin's creativity and dedication to his craft, which traces back to him riding the L train as a child.

From his childhood he developed a deep appreciation and curiosity for urban systems

and architecture. His love for the City of Chicago is felt in every gear, beam, and buttress of the bridges and left an undeniable mark on the engineering system of one of the most visited cities in the United States.

Mr. Griffin was a community leader in the Jeffery-Yates Neighbors Community Organization. Mr. Griffin stayed active into his later years, nurturing his longtime loves such as debate, sports, classic literature, and music as a talented trumpet player.

Above all, Mr. Griffin was a committed family man. He was preceded in death by his parents and beloved wife, Esther Murphy. He is survived by their three children, Ava, Tara, and Eric; his cousin, whom he considered a brother, Elliott Daigre; his furry, four-legged family members: Ebony, Chewbacca, and Milo, as well as Kavik, Prince, Hunter, Langston, Sade, Starlight, Puffy and Friskie; and a host of cousins, dear friends, and family who we know will miss him dearly.

On a personal note, I was honored to get to know Mr. Griffin as the beloved father of my law school best friend, Tara. Mr. Griffin was one of a kind. His quick wit, robust knowledge of all things, and warm and engaging demeanor were a part of his perpetual charm that made him a true Renaissance man. Mr. Griffin excelled in everything he did—as a trailblazing engineer for the City of Chicago, a devoted husband, a self-taught handyman, and a connoisseur of classical literature, jazz, sports, and life learning. I will cherish all the wonderful memories of being in his presence. I am so grateful to Tara, Ava, and Eric for sharing their father with me. I know the legacy of Mr. Griffin will live on through the many people he impacted. We are all blessed that he lived to be 100 years old.

On behalf of a grateful Nation, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the extraordinary life and legacy of William Griffin for his contributions to the engineering profession and decades of service in transforming the City of Chicago.

ATLANTICARE'S 125TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that we celebrate AtlantiCare, an institution deeply ingrained in the fabric of the State of New Jersey, as it marks its 125th Anniversary on November 30, 2023. Sharing the same name as the city it was founded in, AtlantiCare's journey began in 1898 as Atlanti City Hospital, known for its compassionate care of its first patient, eleven-year-old Gussie John. From those humble beginnings, AtlantiCare has blossomed into a cornerstone of healthcare excellence, serving South Jersey with an unwavering commitment to exemplary service. Today, AtlantiCare stands as a testament to the resilience and adaptability required of healthcare institutions over time. With more than 6,500 dedicated employees spread across more than one hundred locations in South Jersey, AtlantiCare continues to evolve to meet the dynamic needs of its community and patients. The numerous accolades bestowed upon AtlantiCare, including designations from The Baldrige Foundation, The

Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services, the Joint Commission, and Magnet underscore the institution's commitment to maintaining the highest standards of medical care. We extend our heartfelt congratulations, paying tribute to its respected history, and acknowledging the profound impact it has had on the people of New Jersey, especially in Atlantic, Cape May, and Ocean County. God Bless AtlantiCare and God Bless the United States of America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 560, H. Res. 559, and YEA on Roll Call No. 561, H.R. 340.

HAMAS AND OTHER PALESTINIAN
TERRORIST GROUPS INTER-
NATIONAL FINANCING PREVEN-
TION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, while I agree with the sense of the Resolution that the terrorist organization Hamas must be denied finances, I align myself with an earlier version of this legislation that included language providing a humanitarian exemption for the provision of agricultural products, food, medicine, medical devices, and other similar products to the civilians living in Gaza under Hamas' rule. I will vote No because the Resolution, as offered on the House Floor, is inadequate to support the grave humanitarian needs of the civilian population in Gaza.

AUTOS DRIVE AMERICA 2023
DRIVE-IN

HON. A. DREW FERGUSON IV

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the career opportunities and economic contributions international automakers operating in my home state of Georgia have made to the state and local community. Auto workers from KIA and Hyundai that build vehicles in Georgia have come to Washington, D.C., advocating for policies that enable their employers to continue investing in their communities and American operations. These hard-working men and women are sharing their stories with us—how their jobs are more important than ever as our Nation rises to meet the challenges of a 21st century economy—and how American workers employed by international automakers are driving growth and innovation.

But that leadership takes investment in American workers. Last year's economic im-

pact report from Autos Drive America found that, nationwide, international automakers employ more than 156,000 Americans, with two-thirds of those jobs in manufacturing. In Georgia, these companies employ more than 6,000 Georgians across 30 facilities, in jobs like production, engineering, technical training, and many other career areas. In fact, 45 percent of all cars and trucks made in the United States today are built by international automakers, who have increased their U.S. production by more than 85 percent in the last 25 years alone.

Mr. Speaker, as we recognized Manufacturing Month in October, let's ensure we are doing all we can in this Chamber to enable international automakers to continue to invest in the United States and create 8,888 careers in automotive manufacturing that has changed the lives and communities of those in my state.

HONORING THE 15TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF TLC FOR KIDS SPORTS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend TLC for Kids Sports, upon celebrating its 15th anniversary serving the Bay Area community. This outstanding achievement is a testament to the critical work that TLC for Kids Sports has accomplished to give every child the opportunity to safely participate in youth sports.

Originally founded in 2009, TLC for Kids Sports is improving local communities and youth sports by transforming youth sports facilities in underserved neighborhoods. Its work across the Bay Area—including in Antioch, Martinez, and Richmond—helps ensure that every child, no matter where they live, can enjoy the countless benefits of team sports.

TLC for Kids Sports is active in community outreach and frequently collaborates with local businesses and neighborhood volunteers, uniting participants in working toward the common goal of building a better future for our youth. Since its founding, over 5,000 volunteers have worked with TLC for Kids Sports to support communities in need and create safe environments where children can thrive.

The fields built and restored by TLC for Kids Sports are places where our youth can learn sportsmanship, hard work, and confidence, empowering them with the knowledge and skills to build their future. TLC for Kids Sports plays a vital role in improving our communities, supporting our children, and giving youth the resources and space to grow.

On behalf of the constituents of California's Eighth Congressional District, I would like to congratulate TLC for Kids Sports upon its 15th anniversary and extend my sincere gratitude for its years of service to the Bay Area community.

COMMENDING THOMAS POULTON

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend Thomas Poulton for his achievement of the rank of Eagle Scout. Thomas is a senior at Kingsway Regional High School, and he has future plans to pursue a degree in business management. Thomas's academic journey has been marked by excellence, with a particular passion for history, earning college credits through AP History classes. Outside the classroom, Thomas has been an active participant in sports, contributing to his school's cross country, winter track, and tennis teams for three years. Thomas's impressive 12-year scouting journey culminated in achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. His scouting journey is marked with countless hours of community service, numerous leadership positions, and endless outdoor adventures. For his Eagle Scout Project, he built a gaga pit for a local park, a project which he planned and executed himself from beginning to end. His scouting experience has shaped him into a fine young man, emphasizing leadership, a strong moral compass, and a dedication to positive societal influence. Thomas's achievements are a source of pride for his family and his community, and I congratulate him on everything he has accomplished. God Bless Thomas and God Bless the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF DENNIS, GARTLAND, &
NIERGARTH

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Dennis, Gartland & Niergarth of Traverse City on their 50th Anniversary. A full-service accounting firm, Dennis, Gartland, & Niergarth (DGN) are committed to serving the people of Northern Michigan and improving its communities.

On October 1, 1973, the late Thomas Gartland founded the firm with an emphasis on teamwork and a focus on client success. Sticking to these founding principles, the company quickly became Northern Michigan's largest, full-service, public accounting firm.

For the past 50 years, DGN has been committed to elevating their clients, providing extraordinary attention to detail, and hands-on service to businesses and individuals in their community. DGN has expanded to boast more than 55 professionals, 2 offices, and 12 partners who serve Northern Michigan. When DGN grew, so did the list of services they provide and today DGN is ready to help from Agribusiness to estate and retirement planning. As exemplified by the staff, DGN's community-centric values are what distinguishes them in their endeavor to serve and improve the lives of those in Northern Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Dennis, Gartland, & Niergarth on their 50th anniversary. I'd like to thank them for their

continued dedication to the people of Northern Michigan and wish them and their staff all the best in their future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSH GOTTHEIMER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Mr. Speaker, I missed the following Roll Call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 560; YEA on Roll Call No. 561; YEA on Roll Call No. 562; and NO on Roll Call No. 563.

HONORING ALFRED PONCIA

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Alfred Poncia, who passed away at the age of 83 on August 28, 2023. Al was a farmer, conservationist, and respected community leader.

Born on February 2, 1940, Al grew up on his family ranch in Marin County. He graduated from Tomales High School in 1958 and joined the Army National Guard. He later moved back home to work at his family's dairy and study at Santa Rosa Junior College. While attending college, he met Cathie Brandeburg; they married in 1964 and settled down on the Poncia family farm in West Marin.

While working on his farm, Al also took on leadership roles in both the county and state farm bureaus. He served 18 years on the Marin County Farm Bureau's board of directors, including three years as board president. For decades, Al has been both a formal and informal leader in the local agriculturist community, notably leading efforts to protect open space and family farms in Marin County during successive attempts to develop rural West Marin.

A passionate advocate and an adept communicator, Al worked with a variety of agricultural groups and committees dedicated to conservation, sustainable farming and ranching. He helped lead the Marin County Committee on Small Family Farms, a collection of both conservationists and agriculturists interested in developing solutions to water problems and fair milk prices. In 1971, Al participated in the California Agricultural Leadership Program, an advanced leadership development program for California agriculturists, where he had the opportunity to travel around the United States and the world, meeting with global leaders in farming to learn more about national and international agricultural policy.

In 1981, Al became a founding board member of the Marin Agricultural Land Trust (MALT), the first farmland trust in the nation, representing a broad coalition of ranchers, environmentalists, and community leaders who were dedicated to protecting farming in Marin County. His expertise, insight, and passion were critical to MALT's success at preserving local Marin County farms.

Al is survived by his wife of 59 years, Cathie; three of their children, Jennifer, Melissa, and Loren; and eight grandchildren. Al was predeceased by his daughter, Jessica, and son-in-law, Bill. While he will be greatly missed, Al's legacy will live on through the positive impact he had on his community and beyond.

Today, thanks to Al's lifelong dedication and hard work, Marin County stands as a national example for sustainable agriculture and open space preservation. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you join me in extending condolences to Al's family and friends, and in expressing my appreciation for his decades of work for the public good.

BAPS TEMPLE

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, today, I share an inspiring tale of dedication and unity surrounding the construction of a magnificent Hindu temple in central New Jersey, embodying the values of seva and bhakti. This temple, now celebrated as the largest Hindu temple outside India in the modern era, stands as a tribute to these enduring values. Crafted from marble and limestone, it required about 4.7 million hours of meticulous hand-carving by artisans and volunteers. These stones, originating from Italy and Bulgaria, traveled 8,000 miles to find their place in New Jersey. The Robbinsville temple is one of many built by the BAPS, a worldwide religious and civic organization within the Swaminarayan sect. This project exemplifies volunteerism, personal growth, and universal values that transcend religious boundaries. It symbolizes unity, service, and devotion, reflecting the core principles shared by people worldwide. May it serve as a reminder of the common values that bind humanity together, inspiring us to embrace unity, service, and devotion in our own lives.

DECLARING IT IS THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES THAT A NUCLEAR ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN IS NOT ACCEPTABLE

SPEECH OF

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, while I strongly oppose a nuclear Iran, I will vote against this Resolution because it states that U.S. policy is "to use all means necessary to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon." That language allows for an open-ended war authorization, using all means necessary, which I deem inappropriate. I believe that America's military commitments must be tied to clearly defined strategies, and vague war authorizations have, unfortunately, been used as justifications for unwarranted military actions in recent history. I will vote against this Resolution, the majority of which I agree with, because I do not want to see foreign policy mistakes mirrored.

CONGRATULATING FATIMA SOFTBALL TEAM ON THEIR CLASS 3 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Fatima High School on their victory in Missouri's Class 3 Softball State Championship.

The team claimed the Class 3 title for the second consecutive year by beating St. Francis Borgia 12–2. Senior Taylor Baumhoer led the way in the circle to finish her season with a sub-1.00 ERA as Fatima cruised in five innings. The Lady Comets have now won 68 of their 75 games in the past two seasons. The team should be commended for all their hard work throughout the past year and for bringing home another state championship to their school and community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the Fatima softball team for a job well done.

DOGS OF HONOR GRADUATION

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, this month, I had the honor of attending the New Jersey Dogs of Honor Graduation ceremony. The New Jersey Dogs of Honor is a nonprofit program founded in 2018 with a noble mission: to provide rescue service dogs, who faced the prospect of euthanasia, to military veterans diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress. This initiative is a collaborative effort involving Maurice River Township Firefighters, Ted's Pet Country Club, Veterans Affairs, local businesses, and individuals who hold a deep appreciation for the courageous men and women who have served our nation. During the recent graduation ceremony on October 14th, we had the honor of witnessing the bond between these veterans and their loyal canine companions. On this day, we celebrated Roger Asher with his dog Gunny, Diana Pitman with Finn, Thomas Huck with Sasha, David Clemenko with Milo, William Hannum with Bailey, and Mario Bellasci with Tucker. These veterans and their dogs represent the spirit of resilience, hope, and companionship. As we commemorate this occasion, let us recognize the significance of such initiatives in supporting our veterans as they navigate the challenges of Post-Traumatic Stress. God Bless the Dogs of Honor and God Bless the United States of America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 552; NAY on Roll Call No. 553; NAY on

Roll Call No. 554; NAY on Roll Call No. 555; NAY on Roll Call No. 556; YEA on Roll Call No. 557; and NAY on Roll Call No. 558.

HONORING THE WORK OF THE
JUSTICE LEAGUE OF GREATER
LANSING

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to a Lansing, Michigan-based organization that is creating innovative partnerships to improve the future for Black residents by assisting them with the cost of higher education, starting a small business, or purchasing a home.

Officially launched in 2022, the Justice League of Greater Lansing has worked tirelessly to engage the faith community in the area in dialogue over the historic harms done to African Americans through the institution of slavery in this country, and to foster greater understanding of its structural and systematic aftermath.

Since the program's launch, ten churches in Greater Lansing have either committed a percentage of their endowment funds, a lump sum donation, or regular contributions from the congregation as a whole and/or individual members to the effort. To date, the League has received more than \$350,000, making it one of the most successful programs of its kind in the nation. That money will be used to provide scholarships for college-bound students, home loans for first-time buyers, and financial assistance for local entrepreneurs.

Among the churches the League has successfully engaged, many of whom have been involved since the organization's infancy, are First Presbyterian Church of Lansing; Edge-

wood United Church of Christ, East Lansing; All Saints Episcopal Church, East Lansing; First Presbyterian Church, Holt; and Red Cedar Friends Meeting, Lansing.

I have had the pleasure of attending meetings of the Justice League of Greater Lansing, and its board members regularly participate in roundtables I host for faith leaders on gun violence prevention and on many other topics related to the betterment of the community. I applaud this organization's commitment to justice, equality, and positive change through meaningful dialogue and mutual understanding. At a time where so many look to further tear the fabric of our society, I am very grateful for their thoughtful efforts to repair and strengthen it. I look forward to seeing how this project will continue to take root in the community.

DECLARING IT IS THE POLICY OF
THE UNITED STATES THAT A
NUCLEAR ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF
IRAN IS NOT ACCEPTABLE

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise supportive of the general sense of this resolution, affirming the position of the United States that a nuclear Islamic Republic of Iran poses an unacceptable threat to international peace. The evidence provided by the International Atomic Energy Agency and our own national assessments have consistently indicated that Iran's nuclear aspirations are of grave concern.

However, while supporting some of the goals of this resolution, I believe that it is imperative to make clear that my commitment to

“using all means necessary” and allowing the “freedom of action” referenced in this resolution does not alter the constitutional responsibility and power of Congress alone to declare war. Further, as it relates to me, the resolution does not translate to a *carte blanche* for actions that violate long-standing principles of international law. Lastly, my vote for the resolution is not a vote to authorize the executive branch to take any military action.

No nation or entity should conclude that my vote for the resolution evidences my support of any actions in which they may engage.

In advancing this resolution, let us not only signal our unwavering commitment to preventing a nuclear Iran, but also our steadfast dedication to upholding the rules of constitutional and international law. These principles, which regulate behavior between nations during peace and war, are the bedrock of global diplomacy and security. It is in this adherence to law that our strength and a peaceful future truly lies.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, on the evening of November 2, 2023, I was unavoidably detained attending to matters in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted No on roll call vote 579, No on roll call vote 580, No on roll call vote 581, No on roll call vote 582, No on roll call vote 583, No on roll call vote 584, No on roll call vote 585, No on roll call vote 586, No on roll call vote 587, No on roll call vote 588, No on roll call vote 589, No on roll call vote 590, No on roll call vote 591, and No on roll call vote 592.