

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

BRITISH FRIENDS OF ISRAEL

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of the Congress and Citizens of the United States a praiseworthy statement signed by thousands of our staunch ally, the United Kingdom, whose thought leaders and public figures declared solidarity with Israel and the Jewish people during one of the greatest periods of catastrophe, suffering, and trial since the Nazi Holocaust. As Co-Chair of the Congressional Hellenic-Israel Alliance, as well as the International Religious Freedom Caucus, I feel it a duty highlight and commend these significant gestures.

At a time when the world is in urgent need of moral clarity, leaders of media, government, business, sport, and the arts of the UK have risen masterfully to the occasion to establish British Friends of Israel with its clear-eyed statement—the October Declaration, signed by, as of this moment, nearly 100,000 of some UK's most influential, accomplished, and notable citizens. Many excerpts best express what much of the world holds true regarding our Jewish brothers and sisters who are tragically confronting the ugliness of anti-Semitism in real time. In part, the Declaration reads:

“We unequivocally condemn all acts of terrorism against civilians in Israel, especially the massacre on 7 October 2023.

“On 7 October 2023 the State of Israel and her citizens, both Jews and non-Jews, were subjected to a brutal terrorist attack, which resulted in the murder, torture, rape and kidnapping of over 1,500 people.

“More Jews were killed on that day than on any other day since the Holocaust. We are aware that Jews are not the only victims of this tragedy. Hamas knew that there would be consequences to 7 October, but the consequences did not weigh with Hamas.

“Its ongoing terrorist operation is calculated to cause maximum fear and distress. The people of Israel have been subjected to a near constant bombardment of rockets from Gaza and Lebanon. Civilians of all kinds—including the elderly, disabled, women, children, and babies—have been targeted in a direct breach of the rules of war.

“We call for all the hostages taken on 7 October to be released immediately. It is an essential step on the path to peace and the cessation of hostilities.

“We stand in support of British Jews and condemn acts of anti-Semitism.

“British Jews should not live in fear because of actions taken by the state of Israel to defend itself. The British state must do everything in its power to protect them.

“We ask the media, members of all political parties and everyone in public life to call out Hamas for what it is: a terrorist organisation.

“Hamas, whose actions have led directly and indirectly to the tragic deaths of many Palestinian civilians as well as Israelis, is a proscribed terrorist organisation in the UK as well as in many other states. The Home Secretary and the Prime Minister have iden-

tified Hamas as a terrorist organisation. Failure to use the correct language—describing Hamas as ‘militants’ or ‘fighters’, for instance—creates the false impression that Hamas and Israel’s armed forces are morally equivalent and is an affront to the group’s victims—the dead, their families, and those currently being held hostage.

Mr. Speaker, in our time, who could have anticipated the need to take such a stand in nations like the United States and the United Kingdom against unspeakable events that unfolded exactly one month ago today. But regrettably, denial of the atrocities and the willingness of some to side with Hamas have exposed a layer of society that raises concerns about the value placed on Jewish lives.

The idea for British Friends of Israel came from leading British public figures including journalists Laura Dodsworth, Allison Pearson, Toby Young, legal scholar Francis Hoar, Think Tank head Emma Webb and others who recognize the duty to express solidarity with global Jews. The speed at which the media narrative shifted from the savagery of Hamas attacks to concern about the destruction in Gaza is disheartening.

We have witnessed bias and antagonism by public figures, some in this Congress, some in the media, and some at leading American universities in the face of these atrocities. This is beyond troubling.

In the words of Sir Tom Stoppard, “Before we take up a position on what’s happening now, we should consider whether this is a fight over territory or a struggle between civilization and barbarism.”

Let us stand united with British Friends of Israel and The October Declaration. By lending our voices, we send a powerful message of support to our Jewish brothers and sisters in Israel and around the world. The stakes are critical in the fight for Civilization over barbarism.

HONORING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PIKES PEAK FIREARMS COALITION OF COLORADO

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 30th anniversary of the Pikes Peak Firearms Coalition of Colorado, a leading voice for firearms rights in my Congressional District. The organization’s purpose is to advocate, support, and protect the right to keep and bear arms as enumerated in the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and Article II, Section 13 of the Colorado Constitution, and to promote the safe, responsible, and lawful use of firearms.

Initially formed in 1992 as the Colorado Springs Chapter of the Firearms Coalition of Colorado, in 1993 the group formed their own local organization as the Pikes Peaks Firearms Coalition and incorporated as a Colorado

non-profit. Since then, they have advocated for firearm rights before the Colorado Springs City Council, the El Paso County Board of Commissioners, and the Colorado General Assembly. The effect of their advocacy is far-reaching. They sponsor groups that teach young people the safe handling and storage of firearms. Additionally, they provide financial support to local gun ranges including the Cheyenne Mountain Shooting Complex at Fort Carson and previously assisted in cleanup efforts for the U.S. Forest Service Rampart Range shooting area while it was in operation. In their monthly meetings, they promote the safe and lawful use of firearms. They invite speakers to present programs on various firearm issues, equipment, training, and techniques. Hundreds of people have benefited from the Pikes Peak Firearms Coalition of Colorado’s educational and practical approach.

At their core, Pikes Peak Firearms Coalition members believe that the Second Amendment protects an individual’s right to keep and bear arms in defense of their home, person, and property and to protect against a tyrannical government. Ultimately, they believe the firearms issue to be entered entwined with civil rights, and object to all anti-gun proposals which limit the ability of the elderly, the poor, the handicapped, or other legally armed citizens to defend themselves. Finally, they firmly believe that to control crime, we must focus on the perpetrator rather than his instrument. The irresponsible banning of a weapon based solely on emotion only serves to empower criminals, as law-abiding citizens, by definition, do not break the law.

I would like to offer my sincere congratulations on 30 years of advocacy to a group that upholds and protects the Second Amendment so well.

REMEMBERING WACONIA FIREFIGHTER JEFFREY BORG

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Waconia Firefighter Jeffrey Borg who passed away late last month.

Jeff’s passion for helping others was evident in everything he did. As a firefighter for more than 27 years, he risked his life to protect the safety of his community. Over his years of service to the department, he went on to train many new firefighters, including his son Carter. The father-son duo served together in the Waconia Fire Department during the last few years of Jeff’s life.

As an employee of the City of Victoria, Jeff took pride in his work and put the needs of others first, often working 18-hour shifts plowing snow for the city and then coming home to plow his driveway. During his tenure at the City of Victoria, he joined the Victoria Fire Department while simultaneously serving as a firefighter for the City of Waconia.

• 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.

Jeff will be remembered as a loving father, husband and son. Whether it was serving as pit crew to his father LeRoy in local demolition derbies or being the number-one fan at his kids' sports games. Jeff's happiest moments were by his family's side.

We offer our deepest condolences to Jeff's family, friends and colleagues. May his memory bring them comfort during this challenging time.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EISNER MEMORIAL RED BANK PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate the Eisner Memorial Red Bank Public Library as its administration, Board of Trustees, volunteers, and community members gather to kick off the commemoration of its 100th anniversary. The Red Bank Public Library has been an integral part of the local community since its establishment and continues to uphold its mission to provide residents with an inclusive environment to learn and gather.

Although the community had a library since 1878, patrons were charged a subscription fee by the institution, and were restricted to borrowing one book at a time. In 1923, residents voted to create a free public library—no longer limiting access to those who could afford it—and on January 2, 1924, the Borough took control of the assets in this endeavor. Today, the library is a member of the Libraries of Middlesex Automation Consortium, significantly expanding its circulation materials and accessibility.

Throughout its history, the Eisner Memorial Red Bank Public Library has supported and been supported by the community. Sigmund Eisner was a prominent Red Bank resident and longtime benefactor of the library. The library's current location is the former Eisner residence, which was gifted to the library by his sons. The family continues to support the library today.

The Eisner Memorial Red Bank Public Library maintains outstanding resources and accessibility for its patrons. Over the years, the library has expanded its collection and offerings. It has evolved with technology and the changing needs of its visitors and pivoted during the COVID-19 pandemic to still meet the needs of the community while observing health protocols and precautions.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in marking the 100th anniversary of the Eisner Memorial Red Bank Public Library. Its continued service to the community is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained due to local and

state elections in my district, and I regret missing the votes on the Amendments to H.R. 4820, Making Appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, HUD, an related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024. Had I been present, I would have voted nay on Roll Call No. 613; yea on Roll Call No. 614; nay on Roll Call No. 615; nay on Roll Call No. 617; nay on Roll Call No. 618; yea on Roll Call No. 619; and nay on Roll Call No. 620.

ADDRESSING VOTES ON H. RES. 559, H.R. 340, H.R. 3774, AND H. RES. 798

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address my votes on bills passed through the House of Representatives under suspension of the Rules the week of October 30, 2023: H. Res. 559, H.R. 340, H.R. 3774, and H. Res. 798.

I voted no on H. Res. 559 because it contained language that could insinuate U.S. support for potential military action against Iran at a moment when de-escalation is necessary. This legislation was overly broad, and without an opportunity for proper debate on the House Floor, this bill has the potential to give license to the United States to use any means, including military action, against Iran without Congressional approval.

I voted no on H.R. 340, the Hamas International Financing Prevention Act, because it was intentionally amended to delay humanitarian aid to Gaza, where people are suffering without access to food, drinking water, fuel, and medical care. The United States has rightly designated Hamas as a terrorist organization since 1997—but holding Hamas accountable cannot come at the expense of Palestinian civilians living in Gaza, roughly 40 percent of which are under 14 years of age. This is dangerous, as civilians must be protected under international law.

I voted no on H.R. 3774, the SHIP Act, because the bill contains overly broad language that would have serious impacts on the global economy and the U.S. economy as well. Sanctions are one of the most important and impactful diplomatic tools that we have in managing our relationships and security around the globe. The Executive Branch that administers them needs to be able to adjust and scale sanctions for them to be effective. The waiver within this bill provides the Executive with limited flexibility—rendering the waiver provision nearly unusable.

I voted yes on H. Res. 798 condemning the support of Hamas, Hezbollah, and other terrorist organizations at institutions of higher education because every student deserves a safe environment in which to learn and live. This resolution fails to mention the concurrent rise in anti-Muslim and anti-Arab hate. It is a glaring omission not to include other protected classes. Antisemitism and Islamophobia are on the rise in the U.S., and hatred in all its forms is unacceptable and must not be tolerated anywhere.

All people deserve safety and security, and the only sustainable path forward is one where

international human rights and international law are at the forefront and democratic ideals are upheld. Peace must remain our utmost goal in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

RECOGNIZING SERGEANT DANIEL J. SWIFT OF THE HORNELL POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR HIS SERVICE AND SACRIFICE

HON. NICHOLAS A. LANGWORTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to rise today and commemorate Sergeant Daniel J. Swift of Hornell, New York for his service and sacrifice to the City of Hornell. On October 24, 1973, Sergeant Swift was targeted and murdered by a young man who had stolen his father's car with the intention to wreak havoc within his community. At only 25 years old, Daniel was cruelly taken from our world: a world which he only sought to protect. His badge number—16—has been retired from use within the City of Hornell Police Department ever since.

On October 28, 2023, constituents of the Hornell community and greater Southern Tier assembled to view the unveiling of a memorial honoring Sergeant Swift, for his service and sacrifice to his community. While some choose to target and defame members of law enforcement because their presence in our lives, members of my district chose instead to rally around the memory of one of the many police officers who chose every day to leave the safety of their homes and families in order to protect all of ours.

I am honored to join the City of Hornell in recognizing Sergeant Daniel J. Swift for his service and dedication to the City of Hornell. May his memorial forever remind us of the vital role which our law enforcement officers play in protecting our communities and freedoms.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, due to the last minute House floor schedule changes, I had previously committed to an event in my home state of Florida which I could not miss, so I missed the vote on H. Res. 845. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on Roll Call No. 622.

HONORING THE CAPTAIN JAMES MCFARLAND AMERICAN LEGION POST 79

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Captain James McFarland American Legion Post 79 in Burlington City as

they celebrate the 100th anniversary of the construction of the Post's building this Veterans Day.

After starting operations in 1919, both veterans and community members of Burlington City came together to erect the building that currently stands today. Originally constructed to honor those who bravely served our nation in World War I and completed in 1923, this weekend marks the Post's 100 years of service to our community and continued mission of honoring the service of our veterans. Named after Captain James McFarland, a resident of Burlington, who served as a medical doctor in the 113th Infantry during the first World War, his legacy lives on today in Post 79 and the veteran community that continues service to others by following in his footsteps.

While many community members locally know Post 79 for their success in maintaining a Drum and Bugle Corps and attending many local events and parades, the Post has also coordinated many efforts to connect our neighbors with crucial resources. From blood drives to their annual Thomas Ryan Scholarship for students, they have made an indelible impact on those around them. Now as an organization consisting of 55 members, Post 79 is undoubtedly an integral part of what makes our community thrive.

Beyond these first 100 years of service to our community, Post 79 is taking even more steps to honor our veterans' stories through establishing their Memorial Walkway. This will provide all families of veterans with a place to reflect and honor our servicemembers' sacrifice for many years to come.

This weekend as we honor both the 100th anniversary of Post 79 and Veterans Day, I wish our veteran community all the best in honoring this momentous occasion. I look forward to continuing to work to honor our veterans' memories for many more years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANTHONY D'ESPOSITO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances, I was unable to participate in voting on the passage of H. Res. 845. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on Roll Call No. 622.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MR. LARRY W. SWALES

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Larry W. Swales, a vital member of our community in Rankin County, Mississippi. Currently serving our community as the Chancery Clerk of Rankin County since 2008, Mr. Swales is the only person to serve as president of both the Mississippi Association of Supervisors and Mississippi Chancery Clerks Association.

Mr. Larry Swales has been a vital part of his community for many years starting with his

membership since 1977 at the St. Mark's United Methodist Church. He has served as a lay delegate to the United Methodist Church Annual Conference and as an usher, as well as on various church committees through the years.

Mr. Swales is a dedicated Hinds Community College alumnus. Having graduated from Hinds Community College, he was the alumnus of the year in 1998, served on the foundation board, and was named one of the 100 people most passionate about Hinds Community College. Throughout his time, he has served in various other capacities at Hinds, including as a member of the Rankin Alumni Association and as President of the alumni association; and since 2023 he has served on the board of trustees.

As a Veteran of the United States Navy, Mr. Swales is a proud American. He has volunteered with the fire department and the Mississippi State Fire Academy in various roles, saving lives and gaining certificates in EMS, basic firefighting, and a certificate of appreciation for his role in aiding the people of Webster County in recovering from a courthouse fire.

His service continues with the Rankin County American Cancer Society, Rankin County Heart Association, Rankin County Rotary Club, Northwest Rankin High School Football Chain Gang, and other various organizations throughout Rankin County. In 2021 he was named the Citizen of the Year by the Junior Auxiliary of Rankin County.

While his community is important to him, more important is his relationship with his family. He has been married for 53 years to Linda and is the father of Josh Swales and Megan Rushing. Larry is also the loving grandfather of five grandchildren: Jackson, Aiden, Jake, Baker, and Remy.

Mr. Swales' service spans many years and many organizations, and I am proud to recognize his service in Rankin County and the state of Mississippi as he prepares to retire from public office.

HONORING MARY ANN GOSSETT MOORE'S LIFE AND LEGACY

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Mary Ann Gossett Moore of Tyler, Texas. Mary Ann was born on March 26, 1926, in Troup, Texas and was later baptized and joined Big Springs Baptist Church in Blackjack, Texas. From an early age, Mary Ann had a quest for education and graduated from Troup High School, in Troup, Texas, and later was the second of her ten siblings to pursue a higher education degree.

Mary Ann would go on to spend two years at Texas College in Tyler, Texas, where she majored in Home Economics. Prior to college, Mary Ann worked alongside her siblings and parents in the cotton fields, where her grandfather owned several hundred acres of farmland.

Mary Ann would go on to marry Robert Moore Jr. for 50 years and have two children, Edward Don, and Della Marie. Mary Ann and her husband lived in North Tyler and were ac-

tive members of True Light Missionary Baptist Church, Tyler, Texas, where she served as president of the senior choir and the deaconess auxiliary, and was a trusted member of the Pastor's Aide Committee for over 35 years. She also dutifully worked for Trane Technologies (formerly General Electric) for 26 years, where she later retired.

As the Matriarch of the Moore family, Mary Ann, was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and great-great-grandmother. She served her family with a steadfast commitment to her deep-rooted values of respect, hard work, and kindness. Mary Ann was also an avid baker and had a deep love for her church, serving as Church Mother until she departed this life.

I extend my prayers to all Mary Ann's loved ones during this time. May her memory be a blessing.

RECOGNIZING THE HEROIC SERVICE OF KADRI CAKRANI DURING THE HOLOCAUST

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I wish to take this opportunity to recognize the humanitarian efforts of Albanian Commandant-General Kadri Cakrani.

On Saturday, November 11, 2023, the Albanian and Southeastern European Studies Program at DePaul University will host an event entitled, The Cakrani Family of Albania: Repairing the Fabric of History, that will honor the work of General Cakrani in protecting Jews during the Holocaust and advancing Democracy in Albania. Illinois is the home of many relatives of General Cakrani, including my constituents Elizabeth Cakrani Vrato, Evan Metaj, and Abigail Vrato—his granddaughter, great-great-grandson, and great-granddaughter, respectively.

During the German occupation of Albania, Commandant-General Cakrani led the protection of over 600 Jewish refugees and residents in the Berat region from Nazi capture during the Holocaust. At risk of death, General Cakrani lied to Nazi officials about the whereabouts of Jews hiding in Albania and guided efforts to shelter Jews in safe hiding locations, including his own home. His courage and leadership contributed to Albania being the only European country that ended World War II with more Jewish residents than at the start of the war. Further, General Cakrani sheltered three American Army nurses and secretly returned them to Allies after their plane crashed in Albania.

In 1951, General Cakrani moved to the United States after President Harry Truman granted him political asylum. He worked with the U.S. Intelligence to try to bring Democracy to Albania for the remainder of his life. The lives and safety of families and individuals depended on General Cakrani's silence about his efforts during his lifetime. The DePaul event is a step to recognize his humanitarian work during and after the war.

The Auschwitz Memorial Museum, the United States Holocaust Museum, the Illinois Holocaust Museum, the Jerusalem Post, and the Israel Hayom have all recognized General

Cakrani's service and bravery. Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker recently issued an executive proclamation recognizing November 11, 2023, as Kadri Cakrani Day in Illinois.

I wish to add my voice to those recognizing the service and bravery of Commandant-General Kadri Cakrani in the protection of Jews during the Holocaust and his work to promote Democracy in Albania. I wish his family well as they honor his work this week at the DePaul event on Kadri Cakrani Day in Illinois.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained due to local and state elections in my district, and I regret missing the votes on the Amendments to H.R. 4820, and the motion to table H. Res. 845 Transportation, HUD, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call No. 608; Nay on Roll Call No. 609; Yea on Roll Call No. 610; Nay on Roll Call No. 611; and Nay on Roll Call No. 612.

RECOGNIZING SFC WILLIAM MONTGOMERY ON RECEIVING THE PURPLE HEART

HON. LAUREN BOEBERT

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Sergeant First Class William Montgomery, a true American hero who has finally been awarded the Purple Heart for injuries suffered in the line of duty in service to our great country. The price of freedom is not free, and I am overjoyed that my office can help heroes like Sergeant First Class Montgomery receive the recognition they so richly deserve.

Sergeant First Class Montgomery was born in Tucson, Arizona, and graduated high school in Spring Creek, Nevada. He enlisted in the U.S. Army as a 19D Cavalry Scout and attended One Station Unit Training in Fort Knox, Kentucky, graduating with honors. His long and distinguished military career includes deployments in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, where he earned numerous awards and accolades including the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Valorous Unit Award, and the Iraq Campaign Medal with 3 Stars, reflecting his exceptional service to our country. He has now earned the Purple Heart, an award reserved only for those who are wounded or killed in service to our nation. In July of 2015, Sergeant First Class Montgomery was medically discharged from the United States Army and now resides in Colorado's Third District with his six wonderful children: Rain, Porter, Lexington, Izabella, Kai, and Koda.

Mr. Speaker, Sergeant First Class Montgomery's service is a shining example for all Americans. His distinguished career has been marked with selfless courage and an unwaver-

ing willingness to put everything on the line for our nation and everything it stands for. I urge all Americans to join me in congratulating Sergeant First Class Montgomery for receiving the Purple Heart and for being a beacon of American pride and inspiration for Colorado's Third Congressional District and America.

CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. GREG CASAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Mr. CASAR. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Mt. Zion Baptist Church on the celebration of its 150th anniversary this year.

Founded 1873 in Williamson Creek, this church soon faced its first challenges. Only 10 years after its founding, a flood destroyed the church building. Through resilience and faith, the congregation worshipped and held services in their homes while their community rebuilt what was lost.

In 1948, the old walls of Mt. Zion Williamson Creek were transported and reinstalled at their new home in Austin, where it became Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church. Beginning in 1970, under the leadership of the late Rev. Dr. G. V. Clark, the church experienced a large increase in membership and expanded its facilities on and around East 13th Street. With a deep commitment to his faith and community, Dr. Clark served the congregants of Mt. Zion for five decades. Our whole community is greatly indebted to him for a lifetime of service.

For over 150 years, Mt. Zion has been a pillar of East Austin. Under the current leadership of Reverend Dr. Daryl Horton, Mt. Zion continues a tradition of commitment and service to our community through charity and volunteerism, like housing the elderly, feeding children, and the poor. As the Congressman for the 35th District of Texas. I am proud to congratulate them on their 150 years of faithful service and dedication to improving the lives of so many in Austin.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY OF BISHOP DONALD HILLIARD, JR.

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with the congregation of Cathedral International in honoring Bishop Donald Hilliard, Jr. on his 40th Pastoral Anniversary. Bishop Hilliard's dedication to faith and community are truly deserving of this body's recognition.

As Senior Pastor of Cathedral International, Dr. Hilliard has ushered immense expansion of the church. When Dr. Hilliard became Senior Pastor at the age of 26, there were 125 congregants; today membership has grown to 10,000 and serves the communities of Perth Amboy, Asbury Park, and Plainfield. His vision to embrace technology and add streaming capabilities to the church not only allows the church to reach those who are unable to wor-

ship in person, but also served the full congregation during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Throughout his tenure, Dr. Hilliard has encouraged his congregants to practice faith in action, serving the needs of people through several worship and outreach ministries. Likewise, the Cathedral Community Development Corporation that Dr. Hilliard founded provides support and services to uplift the local community. His leadership has fostered greater spirituality, fellowship, and community involvement of diverse populations.

His contributions to the community have been recognized with several awards and board positions, including the Drew University Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award, the National Conference for Community and Justice Humanitarian Award, and the Perth Amboy Chamber of Commerce Executive of the Year Award. Additionally, he is a lifetime member of the NAACP.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating Bishop Donald Hilliard, Jr. on his 40th Pastoral Anniversary. Dr. Hilliard continues to provide outstanding spiritual leadership to the Perth Amboy, Asbury Park, and Plainfield communities and his service is to be celebrated.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, had I been present for votes on November 2, 2023, I would have voted in the following manner: Roll Call No. 579 on the Crane Amendment No. 85, I would have voted No; Roll Call No. 580 on the Crane Amendment No. 86, I would have voted No; Roll Call No. 581 on the Fulcher Amendment No. 89, I would have voted No; Roll Call No. 582 on the Gosar Amendment No. 91, I would have voted No; Roll Call No. 583 on the Greene Amendment No. 94, I would have voted No; Roll Call No. 584 on the McCormick Amendment No. 101, I would have voted No; Roll Call No. 585 on the McCormick Amendment No. 102, I would have voted No; Roll Call No. 586 on the Miller Amendment No. 103, I would have voted No; Roll Call No. 587 on the Nehls Amendment No. 107, I would have voted No; Roll Call No. 588 on the Norman Amendment No. 110, I would have voted No; Roll Call No. 589 on the Norman Amendment No. 112, I would have voted No; Roll Call No. 590 on the Norman Amendment No. 113, I would have voted No; Roll Call No. 591 on the Norman Amendment No. 115, I would have voted No; and Roll Call No. 592 on the Ogles Amendment No. 116, I would have voted No.

CONGRATULATING BLAIR OAKS VOLLEYBALL ON THEIR CLASS 3 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Blair Oaks High School on their

victory in Missouri's Class 3 Volleyball State Championship.

The team claimed the Class 3 title for the third straight year by beating the Ursuline Bears in a tightly contested match. After falling behind early, Seniors Gabby Horn and Autumn Bax led the Lady Falcons to an improbable comeback in the final three sets. 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 Blair Oaks volleyball team for a job well done.

HONORING RIVER ROCK
OUTFITTER

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Ms. SPANBERGER Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate April and Keith Peterson and the River Rock Outfitter team on their hard-earned nomination for the United States Chamber of Commerce's 2023 Top Small Business award.

Located in Downtown Fredericksburg, River Rock Outfitter provides apparel, gear, and guided outdoor experiences to customers while bringing awareness to local recreational opportunities in the region. River Rock Outfitters is committed to supporting access to recreation and conservation efforts in the community and is widely known for its friendly and knowledgeable staff. Notably, over 70 percent of its staff are women—actively challenging gender biases in the outdoor sector and creating an inviting environment for women to explore the outdoors through their programming, like their GirlsGO! initiative.

In response to supply chain backlogs and an increased interest in the outdoors during the pandemic, April and her team implemented the "Re-Boot with River Rock consignment program." This initiative expanded River Rock Outfitter's reach to a national level, encouraged people across the country to explore the outdoors, and promoted sustainability.

April's contributions as an owner extend past River Rock Outfitter's storefront—she has become a prominent fixture in the community as an active member of the Fredericksburg Virginia Main Street, serving as its president from 2020 to 2021. She has also earned multiple accolades from organizations such as the Rotary Foundation, Chesapeake Conservancy, and Blue Ridge Outdoors, for her contributions to the community and philanthropy.

River Rock Outfitter has embraced community, inclusivity and representation, and sustainability throughout their journey. These attributes distinguish them as an outstanding small business, and Fredericksburg is lucky to have them in our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating River Rock Outfitter, a finalist for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's 2023 Top Small Business award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Ms. STEFANIK Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call No. 611, I mistakenly voted Aye when I intended to vote Nay.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF DONALD JAMES KEEHAN UPON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE OHIO VETERANS HALL OF FAME

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Mr. LATTA Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and remember the life of a dedicated veteran upon his induction into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame. Donald James Keehan, who sadly passed away last year, has been inducted posthumously after his years of service and contributions to his community and Ohio.

Donald's leadership both in and out of uniform was exemplary, whether it was through his service to our nation in the Korean War or as founder and CEO of globally recognized Advanced Polymer Coatings. His work as an entrepreneur in the polymers and resins industry included numerous patents and the development of multiple companies that employed many Ohioans.

It was Donald's philanthropic work with youth and military families that established him as a community leader when it came to support for military families, military transition issues, and the broader Northeast Ohio veterans' community. He was instrumental in providing housing for wounded warriors with his rental properties in northeast Ohio. He was also a tremendous mentor to both the professional business community and to the youth of the area.

Passionate about philanthropy, Donald supported education by providing more than one million dollars to St. Edward High School in Lakewood, Ohio, where he served as a trustee, for students to study innovative engineering and entrepreneurship. He also supported and helped grow Young Men's Chance for Change whose mission is to help inner-city young men achieve better lives and opportunities.

Donald's life also revolved around his family. He was married to his wife, Arlene, for 63 years. During that time, they raised six children and became grandparents and then great-grandparents.

Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to the life and service of Donald James Keehan. On behalf of the people of the Fifth Congressional District of Ohio, I recognize the devotion and compassion that Donald had for his family, community, and Nation. I applaud the special acknowledgment that accompanies his induction into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE FLOOD

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Mr. FLOOD Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call No. 610, I mistakenly voted no when I intended to vote aye.

RECOGNIZING AMERICAN AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION STAR OF LIFE NOMINEE TOM FENNELL

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Mr. EMMER Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a first responder in my district, Tom Fennell. Tom has been nominated for the American Ambulance Association's Star of Life Award; a prestigious recognition given to those who have made exceptional contributions to the emergency medical services (EMS) community.

Tom's journey into emergency medical services began in his childhood, growing up with ambulances in his garage. His father owned a local ambulance service, instilling in Tom a deep appreciation for the lifesaving work of EMS providers.

After leaving home, Tom continued to his involvement in EMS, working with a Basic Life Support ambulance service which he helped evolve into an Advanced Life Support service.

Tom's dedication and expertise were evident and he quickly became recognized as a leader in the field. He went on to serve as a regulator for the State of Minnesota's EMS Section, gaining valuable insights into the challenges faced by ambulance service providers across the state.

Tom has made a profound impact on the emergency medical services community in St. Cloud and across Minnesota. He is an inspiration to all those who have had the opportunity to work alongside him.

Throughout the years, we have been grateful to see many exceptional Minnesotans honored as American Ambulance Association Star of Life recipients. America's first female Emergency Medical Technician and Star of Life recipient, Rose Pelzel, and her fellow Star of Life recipient, Marcia Anderson, were both panelists in our office's Young Women's Leadership Program. Both women are pioneers in the emergency medical services field, and we were lucky to have them participate.

Congratulations to Tom on joining these impressive ranks, and I thank him for all his work on behalf of EMTs and first responders in Minnesota.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF PASTOR RALPH E. KELLY, SR.

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Mr. LAMBORN Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and legacy of Pastor Ralph

E. Kelly, Sr. who was welcomed home with the Lord on December 21, 2022.

Pastor Kelly accepted the call of ministry in 1985 as the assistant pastor at Good News Church of Christ Holiness U.S.A. in Pasadena, CA. Six years later, God moved Pastor Kelly and his family to Colorado Springs where he served at Focus on the Family for 23 years.

On September 6, 1992, Pastor Kelly and his family joined two other families to establish Good News Church, initialing meeting in a small room at New Hope Baptist Church. Good News Church mission statement was founded on Matthew 28; 18–20, “Reaching families and our community with the transforming power of Jesus Christ through Evangelism, Education, and Exhortation.”

In addition to shepherding local congregations such as Good News Church, Pastor Kelly served the Pikes Peak Region for over 23 years. As the Regional Manager of Pastoral Ministries in California and Colorado under the leadership of H.B. London Jr. Pastor Kelly graced and served other pastors of every denomination and faith. He provided encouragement and counsel to countless pastors and their families.

Pastor Kelly and his wife, Daisy together raised four children: Darnell, Nicole, Crystal, and Ralph, Jr. Their family heritage continues with nine grandchildren: Amari, Jocelyn, Savannah, Kai’Lon, McKenzie, Justice, Kennedy, Kai’Lynn and Brooklynn. Pastor Kelly and Daisy blessed the Colorado Springs community by living out the example of how to bring your family up in the Lord. Further, as evidence of their true ministry partnership, Pastor Kelly and Daisy together received their Bachelor of Religious Education from the United Theological Bible College & Seminary in 1998, in Colorado Springs.

Pastor Kelly’s life of ministry to pastors epitomizes the pastoral epistles, “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day; and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing,” (2 Tim. 4:7–8). Rest in peace Christian Soldier; his duty has ended. He has fought the good fight.

RECOGNIZING MR. WILLIAM
THOMAS CHARTRAND

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. William Thomas Chartrand, who tragically passed away on October 3, 2023, at the age of 82.

Mr. Chartrand was born in Troy, New York to Ernest and Eva Chartrand. He was the middle of five children. From an early age, he learned the values of hard work and perseverance, spending his youth working on a farm in upstate New York. Mr. Chartrand joined the U.S. Navy shortly after high school, where he served as a jet engine mechanic. Mr. Chartrand retired having achieved the rank of Chief Petty Officer. Some of his fondest memories were from his time spent as a navigator on an A-3 Skywarrior Aircraft. During his more than twenty years of service, he devel-

oped lifelong friendships with his fellow officers, and kept in close contact with them throughout his life.

After retiring from the Navy, Mr. Chartrand moved to Hanford, where he attended College of the Sequoias and earned his associate of arts degree. He was later hired by Sears, Roebuck and Co., and received training in appliance repair in Los Angeles and Chicago. After a long career with the company, Mr. Chartrand started his own appliance repair business in Hanford. Mr. Chartrand was passionate about helping his friends and family with their appliances and continued to lend a helping hand in his retirement. This past May, Mr. Chartrand and his wife, Velma, celebrated 36 years of marriage. Together, they devoted themselves to their Christian faith. Mr. Chartrand served on the Diaconate for First Baptist Hanford in his later years. He is remembered by his loved ones and members of the Hanford community for his kind spirit and compassion for everyone he crossed paths with.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the incredible life of Mr. William Thomas Chartrand. His service to our country, commitment to his family, and dedication to the Central Valley community will be felt for generations to come. My thoughts and prayers are with his family during this difficult time.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, on November 7, 2023, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call No. 547; Yea on Roll Call No. 548; Yea on Roll Call No. 549; Yea on Roll Call No. 550; Yea on Roll Call No. 551; Yea on Roll Call No. 552; Yea on Roll Call 553; Yea on Roll Call No. 554; Yea on Roll Call No. 555; Yea on Roll Call No. 556; Nay on Roll Call No. 557 and Nay on Roll Call No. 558.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, November 9, 2023 may be found in the Daily Digest of today’s RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

NOVEMBER 14

10 a.m.

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine innovation in American agriculture, focusing on leveraging technology and artificial intelligence.

SR-328A

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine oversight of financial regulators, focusing on protecting Main Street not Wall Street.

SD-538

Committee on Foreign Relations

To receive a closed briefing on the current security situation in the Middle East.

TBA

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine standing up against corporate greed, focusing on how unions are improving the lives of working families.

SD-430

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water, and Wildlife

To hold hearings to examine challenges and opportunities to facilitate wildlife movement and improve migration corridors.

SD-406

Committee on Finance

Subcommittee on Health Care

To hold hearings to examine ensuring Medicare beneficiary access, focusing on a path to telehealth permanency.

SD-215

2:45 p.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Spending Oversight

To hold hearings to examine Federal COVID-era spending and preventing future fraud.

SD-562

3 p.m.

Committee on Rules and Administration

Business meeting to consider S. Res. 444, providing for the en bloc consideration of military nominations.

SR-301

NOVEMBER 15

10 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine opportunities in industrial decarbonization, focusing on delivering benefits for the economy and the climate.

SD-406

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine United States leadership on artificial intelligence in an era of strategic competition.

SD-419

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine pending nominations.

SD-226

11 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Harry Coker, Jr., of Kansas, to be National Cyber Director, Jeff

Rezmovic, of Maryland, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security, and Suzanne Elizabeth Summerlin, of Florida, to be General Counsel of the Federal Labor Relations Authority.

SD-562

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine veteran entrepreneurship, focusing on from service to small business success.

SR-428A

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine aging Americans and a waning workforce, focusing on demographic drivers of our deficit.

TBA

3:30 p.m.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine VA's Fourth Mission, focusing on supporting our nation's emergency preparedness and response.

SR-418