

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE OF JAMES  
"RANDY" SMITH

**HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2024*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I offer these remarks in honor of James "Randy" Smith, who passed away on March 12th, at the age of 79. Mr. Smith dedicated his life to public service and the well-being of Virginians.

Mr. Smith was born in Martinsville, Virginia on March 7, 1945. He graduated from Martinsville High School.

His interest in further education led him to Randolph-Macon College and the University of Virginia's School of Law. Upon graduation from the University of Virginia, Mr. Smith began a legal career in Martinsville City's Commonwealth's Attorney office. He served as Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney before being elected as Martinsville's Commonwealth's Attorney, through which he served many terms. His masterful development as a legal mind earned him praise from his community, who often referred to him as a walking codebook.

His outstanding service to the Commonwealth would continue under the administration of Governor Jim Gilmore, where Mr. Smith was appointed to work for Virginia's Department of Rail and Public Transportation, as well as the State's Charitable Gaming Commission.

Mr. Smith's love for his community did not wane. He returned to the Martinsville area, working as an Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney for Henry County for over a decade. Despite retiring in 2015, he still served in an Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney's capacity when needed in Martinsville City, Henry County and Patrick County.

Mr. Smith was a man of profound faith who valued his lifelong membership in the Broad Street Christian Church. He also was a member of the Martinsville Rotary Club.

He is survived by his cousins, Dr. John R. Smith, Jane Clark Moorman and J. Hubert Smith, Jr.

RECOGNIZING MR. DON JOHNSON  
AS A LIVING LEGEND

**HON. JASMINE CROCKETT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2024*

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Don "The Energizer" Johnson, an outstanding and dedicated leader in the South Dallas community. Johnson has dedicated his life to serving and uplifting those around him. As a member of the Dallas South Lions Club and founder of Welcome House, Inc., he has helped those facing difficulty to get the resources they need to acclimate back into society. For more than 50 years, Johnson

has set an example for all members of the community to follow.

As a founder of Welcome House, he brought much needed resources to those battling with alcohol, drug, and HIV/AIDS related issues. Johnson became the first African American president of the Past District Governors of Texas Lions and served in various roles in the Dallas South Lions Club, the Dalclif-Wynnewood Lions Club and associate member of the Duncanville Lions Club. Through the Lions Club he has served on the boards of Lions Youth Camp, Lions Sight and Tissue Foundation, Lions Club's Charities and many other Lions Club activities. He also serves on Duncanville's Citizens on Patrol program, the Duncanville Park Board, and chairman of the Welfare Board, Mr. Johnson has committed his life to being an active community leader. He is vocal about the issues facing our community and ensures that others know that their voice matters too. A member of St. John Missionary Baptist Church, Johnson teaches classes for deacons and elders, and is a mentor to youth in the community. Mr. Johnson is a family man, and is a proud father to six daughters, a grandfather, a great-grandfather, and a great-great grandfather.

We are indebted to the service that Johnson has provided to the South Dallas community and Texas' 30th Congressional District. I am proud to recognize such an extraordinary constituent who is the embodiment of faith, perseverance, and community. May we all strive to live a life of service like Mr. Don Johnson.

RECOGNIZING THE GRADUATION  
OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE  
AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT'S  
161ST RECRUIT CLASS

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2024*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department and the graduates of the 161st Class. As they prepare to join the ranks of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, I encourage the 24 graduates to reflect on the history of the department and the contributions and dedication of the brave men and women who have served before them to protect our community.

The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department's Recruit School consists of an extensive and demanding 24-week program. In addition to two weeks of orientation, recruits completed nine weeks of EMT training and eleven weeks of fire suppression training. Upon graduation, these recruits will be certified at the level of Firefighter I/II by the Virginia Department of Fire Programs.

These recruits have the distinct honor of joining one of the best Fire and Rescue Departments in the United States. The efforts of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Depart-

ment have been recognized across this country. Members from the Department serve on the elite VA Task Force 1, which is among the first units called to disaster zones to provide search and rescue support. Members of that Task Force were recognized by the International Association of Fire Chiefs with the Benjamin Franklin Award for Valor as a result of their efforts in the aftermath of the devastating earthquakes that struck Nepal in 2015.

Fairfax County is fortunate to have such excellent ambassadors for our community and I commend them for all that they have done to protect lives and property not only here in Fairfax County, but around the world. As the newest members of the Fire and Rescue Department, the 161st Recruit Class graduates join the department as integral parts of our community's emergency response and public safety team. I am confident that this graduating class will serve the residents of Fairfax County with honor and distinction. It is my great honor to include in the RECORD the names of the 161st Recruit Class:

Ramere S. Bethea  
Andre M. Morris  
Alex D. Bowers  
Marshall E. Neel  
Joshua L. Bright  
Alex F. Padilla-Aguilar  
Emilio C. De Leon  
Colin J. Reilly  
Ian S. Dingman  
Jorge A. Reyna-Guzman  
Alexander T. Eiben  
Ahmad C. Richardson  
Spencer K. Engel-Natzke  
Dean A. Rocco  
Cody W. Fischer  
Jake L. Schoffelen  
Angelo J. Gannon  
Han E. Tak  
Archie L. Haines  
Nikita D. Timashev  
Stephen J.D. Hayes  
Christopher J. Venditti  
Margaret E. Leatherland  
Andrew R. Wilvert

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the newest members of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. I thank them for their service to their community and to all members of the Fire and Rescue Department, past and present, I say: "Stay safe."

RECOGNIZING THE KELLAM HIGH  
SCHOOL SOFTBALL TEAM

**HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2024*

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Kellam High School Softball Team on winning the Class 5 Region A Championship.

As their Congresswoman, I am proud of these young athletes and their recent achievement.

• 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.

Located in Virginia Beach, Virginia, the Kellam High School Knights were able to bring the Class 5 Region A Championship back home to their fellow students, faculty, families, and friends through their hard work and dedication to their team. The Kellam High School Softball Team fought their way to victory, defeating their opponents in a close game ending in a three to two win, and defending their regional championship from last season, defeated their opponents in overtime, finishing the game eight to seven.

As a former athlete myself, I want each of these young women to know Virginia's 2nd District is extremely proud of their accomplishment and applauds them on their well-earned victory. Again, congratulations to the Kellam High School Softball Team on the Class 5 Region A Championship.

WISHING DR. FRANK WALERKO A  
VERY HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY

### HON. RUDY YAKYM III

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2024*

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate and wish a very happy and special 100th birthday to World War II and Korean War veteran Frank Walerko, M.D.

Born on July 28, 1924, Dr. Walerko embodies what it means to be a member of the "Greatest Generation." When the forces of fascism and tyranny threatened the peace, security, and freedom of millions upon millions of people throughout the world, Frank answered the call to serve. Frank served in the Navy during World War II, and later as a Captain in the Army Medical Corp during the Korean War.

President Reagan reminded us that freedom is fragile and must constantly be fought for and guarded by each generation. That noble mission is exactly what Dr. Walerko helped carry out when he wore the uniform of the United States Military. Because of the service and sacrifice of veterans, generations of Americans have been able to experience the blessings of liberty and live in a land that is free. For that, all of us owe Frank and his fellow veterans a debt that we can never fully repay.

In addition to his military service, Dr. Walerko holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Notre Dame, and his Medical Degree from the St. Louis University School of Medicine. He also established a family practice in Mishawaka and South Bend, where he met the specific medical needs of Hoosiers in our area.

As Dr. Walerko celebrates a century of life well lived, I Join Hoosiers throughout Indiana's Second District and beyond in wishing Frank a very happy 100th birthday. I commend him for his loyal service and the many positive contributions he has made to the Second District and our country. May God bless Frank Walerko.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2024*

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 346 (Dem Motion to Table on H. Res. 1344—Merrick Garland Contempt), and YEA on Roll Call No. 347 (Dem Motion to Refer to the Rules Committee on H. Res. 1344—Merrick Garland Contempt).

### RECOGNIZING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF MS. GERTHA LEE STEWART

#### HON. MICHAEL A. RULLI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2024*

Mr. RULLI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Ms. Gertha Lee Stewart on her 100th birthday. Gertha Lee Stewart is a venerable matriarch who has become the heart and soul of her large family, consisting of 250 members. Her wisdom and love have prospered generations, making her a cherished figure in their lives. Known for her incredible life story, Gertha Lee has been a beacon of strength and resilience.

A devout Christian, Gertha Lee's faith has been the cornerstone of her existence. She has spent countless hours in prayer and service, always ready to lend a helping hand or a listening ear. Her deep spirituality and unwavering commitment to her beliefs have inspired many in her community to find their own paths of faith and devotion.

Beyond her family, Gertha Lee is recognized as a pillar of her community. Her charitable acts, wisdom, and leadership have earned her the respect and admiration of all who know her. Whether organizing community events, supporting local charities, or simply offering sage advice, Gertha Lee Stewart embodies the spirit of kindness and community service, leaving an indelible mark in her wake.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Ms. Gertha Lee Stewart and her family as we congratulate her on 100 years of life. May she continually be a blessing and light to all who know her.

### RECOGNIZING THE 55TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES VIENNA-OAKTON CHAPTER 1116

#### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2024*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) Vienna-Oakton Chapter 1116 on its 55th anniversary. The Northern Virginia region is home to tens of thousands of federal employees and many retirees who have chosen to stay in the region. Throughout their careers, these dedicated civil

servants have given their time and effort to serve their fellow Americans, and NARFE has consistently provided them with coordinated support.

Founded in 1921, NARFE is a nonpartisan organization dedicated to protecting and enhancing the earned pay, retirement, and health care benefits of federal employees and retirees as well as their spouses and survivors. Vienna-Oakton Chapter 1116 is one of more than 1,600 NARFE chapters nationwide.

The Charter for Chapter 1116 was signed on June 3, 1969. At that time, the Chapter name was "Vienna," and ended up being changed to "Vienna-Oakton" in 2005. Four of the past presidents are still active in this chapter. Chapter members have had a strong voice in many national and local legislative issues affecting federal retirees, senior citizens, and the public at large. The Board members of Chapter 1116 work to uphold the association's mission and promote the education and welfare of area members and participate in the Virginia Federation of NARFE meetings and conferences.

This chapter's members support and contribute to Alzheimer's Research which had contributions of over \$16 million at the end of April 2024. Chapter 1116 members' contributions helped make Virginia Number One in the nation with a total of over \$37,000 contributed for the last fiscal year. The support of the Vienna-Oakton Chapter, and chapters throughout the country, is vital to the goal of a world without Alzheimer's or dementia.

The Vienna-Oakton Chapter is also very active in the community and has strong ties to civic organizations in the Vienna area. They are a member of the Vienna Business Association, which is the local Chamber of Commerce which promotes growth through professional development, networking, and marketing activities. Chapter 1116 is also active in the local American Legion Dyer-Gunnell Post 180, volunteering at the monthly breakfasts which raise money for scholarships and community activities for children at Easter and Christmas.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Vienna-Oakton Chapter 1116 for fifty-five years of dedicated service to Northern Virginia's federal employees. These individuals are the lifeblood of our federal government. I am grateful for their service and proud to represent such outstanding individuals. I wish them the best on their anniversary, and continued success in future endeavors.

### RECOGNIZING THE FIRST COLONIAL WOMEN'S TENNIS TEAM

#### HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2024*

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the First Colonial Women's Tennis Team on winning the Class 5 Region A Championship.

As their Congresswoman, I am proud of these young athletes and their recent achievement.

Located in Virginia Beach, Virginia, the First Colonial Patriots were able to bring the Class

5 Region A Championship back home to their fellow students, faculty, families, and friends through their hard work and dedication to their team. The First Colonial Women's Tennis Team fought their way to victory after five hours of play. Coach Diane Deaton continued to encourage her team, even when the odds were not in their favor, and led the team to a five to four victory.

As a former athlete myself, I want each of these young women to know Virginia's 2nd District is extremely proud of their accomplishment and applauds them on their well-earned victory. Again, congratulations to the First Colonial Women's Tennis Team on their Class 5 Region A Championship win.

OPPOSING H.R. 8281—SAVE ACT

**HON. TERRI A. SEWELL**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2024

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to include in the RECORD a letter from the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights that indicates the strong opposition to the SAVE Act of 146 local, state, and national organizations.

MAY 16, 2024.

Hon. BRYAN STEEL,  
*Chair, Committee on House Administration,*  
*Washington, DC.*

Hon. JOE MORELLE,  
*Ranking Member, Committee on House Administration,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIR STEEL AND RANKING MEMBER MORELLE: On behalf of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, a coalition of national organizations committed to promoting and protecting the civil and human rights of all persons in the United States, the Declaration for American Democracy, a coalition of local, state, and national organizations working to strengthen U.S. democracy; and the undersigned 123 organizations, we write in strong opposition to the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act.

Congress has a pivotal constitutional responsibility to safeguard free and fair elections and to ensure all Americans have the freedom to vote. The SAVE Act represents a dangerous departure from fulfilling this vital duty. The bill's requirement of documentary proof of American citizenship to register to vote in federal elections is wholly based on falsehoods and, even worse, seeks to promote fear-mongering and divisive rhetoric. Instead of proceeding with this legislation, Congress should take actions that will help voters and promote democracy such as passing legislation that will strengthen protections against discrimination in voting and expand access to the ballot for all communities.

The SAVE Act is both unnecessary and dangerous. Our electoral system already deploys processes to ensure that our elections are secure and that only eligible voters are participating in our democracy. Voters in every state are already required to affirm or verify their citizenship status when registering to vote. State election officials already have in place existing systems to verify an individual's voter eligibility and ensure voter rolls are accurate.

Moreover, federal law already prohibits noncitizens from voting in federal elections. Every single state bans noncitizens from voting in state elections. These protections have proven very effective, given that there is simply no evidence of widespread noncit-

izen voting in elections. Indeed, it defies logic that non-U.S. citizens would risk their immigration status, the potential of criminal prosecution, future opportunity for naturalization, and freedom for themselves and their families by unlawfully committing an affirmative act to vote in an election in which they are prohibited from participating. The penalties for registering or voting as a non-U.S. citizen include imprisonment or deportation. The risks for any non-U.S. citizen to vote in a federal election are serious and steep, and our laws already effectively prevent significant unlawful voter registration and voting.

Introduction and advancement of this bill is the most recent example of what has been a string of recent efforts to make voter registration and voting more difficult, particularly for voters of color. False claims of non-citizen voting have been disingenuously used to enact more onerous voter identification requirements, limitations on voter assistance in languages other than English, and attempts to spread misinformation about voting. This legislation seeks to intimidate members of immigrant communities and communities of color from exercising their lawful right to vote. It also would make it harder for voters of color and naturalized citizens to register to vote and would prevent their full participation in democracy. These are already communities who are unfairly targeted by anti-immigrant policies at the federal, state, and local level. Congress should be doing everything possible to encourage and promote the political participation of these citizens, rather than seeking to diminish it through threats and fear tactics.

Legislation like the SAVE Act is intended to elicit irrational fear of the growing number of citizens of color. Congress should instead act to ensure that every eligible U.S. citizen has the freedom to vote unimpeded by discriminatory rules rooted in fear and division. We urge you to instead focus on passing real pro-voter reforms to ensure that everyone can fully participate in our democracy. If you have any questions, please contact Leslie Proll, senior director of the voting rights program at The Leadership Conference, at [proll@civilrights.org](mailto:proll@civilrights.org).

Sincerely,

The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights; Declaration for American Democracy; 18by Vote; Accountable US; Advancement Project; AFT; All About The Ballots; All On The Line; All Voting Is Local Action; America's Voice; American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD); American Association of University Women (AAUW); American Civil Liberties Union; American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees; Arab American Institute (AAI); Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF); Asian Americans Advancing Justice—AAJC; Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote (APIA Vote); Autistic Self Advocacy Network.

Baltimore County Progressive Democrats Club; Black Voters Matter Fund; Brennan Center for Justice; Campaign Legal Center; Carolina Jews for Justice; Center for Common Ground; Center for Living & Working, Inc.; Center for Popular Democracy; Chicago Survivors; Chispa LCV; CivicGeorgia; Clean Elections Texas; Coalition on Human Needs; Common Cause; Common Defense; Communications Workers of America; Courage for America; Defend Democracy; DemCast USA; Democracy 21.

Democracy Maine; Democracy Matters; Democracy SENTRY; Demos; Detroit Disability Power; End Citizens United // Let America Vote Action Fund; Fair Elections Center; Faith Commons; Faith in Public Life Action; Fix Democracy First; FLIC Votes; Free Speech For People; Georgia Coalition

for the Peoples Agenda; Get Money Out—Maryland; Government Information Watch; Greenpeace USA; HeadCount; Helping Hands Outreach Services of Mississippi; Hip Hop Caucus; Indivisible Santa Fe.

Interfaith Alliance; Japanese American Citizens League; JustLeadership USA; LDF; League of Conservation Voters; League of Women Voters of the United States; MALDEF; Memphis APRI; Missouri Voter Protection Coalition; MomsRising; MoveOn; Muslims for Community, Action and Support (MCAS); N.C. For the People Action; NALEO Educational Fund; National Action Network; National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA); National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities; National Association of Social Workers; National Community Action Partnership; National Council of Jewish Women.

National Disability Rights Network (NDRN); National Education Association; National Employment Law Project; National Network for Arab American Communities (NNAAC); National Urban League; Native American Rights Fund; NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice; New Georgia Project Action Fund; Out of Many 1 Advocacy; People For the American Way; People Power United; Pride at Work; Project On Government Oversight; Protect Democracy; Public Citizen; RepresentUs; RespectAbility; Safer Country; Scrutineers; Secure Elections Network; Southern Poverty Law Center Action Fund.

Stand UP Alaska; Stand Up America; State Voices; Storied Analytics LLC; The National Vote; The Workers Circle; Transformative Justice Coalition; Transparency International U.S.; Un-PAC; UnidosUS; Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice; United Church of Christ; Vote.org; Voter Participation Center; Voters Rights and Protection Taskforce; Voto Latino; WALKING TO FIX OUR DEMOCRACY; We Are All America; Westchester for Change; Wind of the Spirit Immigrant Resource Center; Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice; Women's March; WV Citizen Action; WV FREE (West Virginia Focus: Reproductive Education and Equity); ZERO TO THREE.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF HUGH ARMSTRONG

**HON. LANCE GOODEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2024

Mr. GOODEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Hugh Armstrong, a dedicated civic leader and former district manager of the Athens office of Texas Power and Light, who passed away on Monday at the age of 84. Hugh Armstrong managed TP&L's Athens office from 1982 to 2002. In 1987, his outstanding contributions to the community were recognized when he was named Athens Citizen of the Year.

Mr. Armstrong served as president of the Athens Chamber of Commerce, the Athens Economic Development Corporation, and the Athens Rotary Club. Hugh was honored as a Paul Harris Fellow in recognition of his substantial contributions to Rotary's humanitarian and educational programs. In 2014, Keep Athens Beautiful awarded Hugh the Margaret Myers Award for his dedicated service. When the city reorganized its Park Board in 2015, Hugh was chosen as Vice Chairman.

Born in Paris, Texas, Hugh graduated from high school in 1958 and earned a bachelor's

degree from North Texas State University, where he met his wife, Carol. After graduation, he served in the Marine Corps from 1962 to 1968 as a long-range artillery specialist. For 42 years, Hugh was a devoted and respected member of Athens Methodist Church.

I extend my heartfelt condolences to Hugh's family and friends. His memory will not be soon forgotten.

RECOGNIZING THE 55TH ANNIVERSARY OF HERNDON-RESTON FISH AND THE 2024 STARFISH HONOREES

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2024*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 55th Anniversary of Herndon-Reston FISH, Inc. and the 2024 "StarFISH" Honorees.

Since 1969, Herndon-Reston FISH, Inc. has provided Friendly, Instant, Sympathetic Help for neighbors in need in Reston and Herndon. FISH meets immediate critical needs for rental assistance, furniture, utilities, medical care, and other emergencies. FISH also manages a thrift shop, operates an information and referral service, and offers financial workshops to provide clients with the tools necessary to achieve and maintain self-sufficiency.

During fiscal year 2023, FISH helped with rent, utilities, prescription costs, and more for 1,906 families, or almost 7,000 people, which totaled \$446,448 monthly. During the winter holiday season, FISH provided gift cards totaling almost \$11,000 to 218 families, made up of 894 individuals, of which 57 percent were children 18 and younger. In addition to the gift cards, they provided 510 holiday gifts to children in Herndon and Reston. FISH was also able to purchase \$42,500 in grocery gift cards with funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to help with their food assistance programs.

At its annual gala, FISH recognizes individuals and companies who have made extraordinary contributions over the past year. I am pleased to include in the RECORD the names of the 2024 "StarFISH" honorees.

Elliot Wicks is President of the Herndon-Reston FISH Board and their webmaster. He enjoys the comradery with the Board, staff, volunteers, and others. Elliot is impressed and inspired by their dedication and skill and is passionate about FISH's mission of helping people in need.

Renee Boyle, a FISH Emergency Assistance Volunteer and FISH Fling Auction Co-Chair, became interested in FISH five years ago. Renee hopes to honor her mother's work as a social worker through volunteer efforts with FISH. Renee continues to be an advocate for FISH because the need for their services continues to grow in our communities.

Sheila Grooms is a FISH Emergency Assistance Volunteer. When her daughter was two years old, Sheila became a single parent and received help from a church to get herself on her feet. Sheila has been paying this assistance forward in her community and has been with HRFISH since 2022. She is motivated by random acts of kindness to her community and is passionate about teaching her grandsons to help their neighbors.

Paulette Makar was introduced to The Bargain Loft when she was looking for places

that sold recycled things. It wasn't long before she became a volunteer and has been with The Bargain Loft since 2011. Paulette has continued to add to her responsibilities over the years and is an integral part of the team working at the shop. She likes to live by the saying, "Don't count the days or years but make them count."

Rosemary Leonard became a volunteer at The Bargain Loft 11 years ago when she moved to Reston. Rosemary has a wealth of knowledge when it comes to antique and vintage items, so she is a great researcher and pricer at the shop. Rosemary enjoys that FISH brings together a great bunch of people who serve for one purpose: to help people in need—the epitome of volunteerism.

Kurt Rose and Aspen Jewelry Designs is the Corporate StarFISH of the year. Kurt has generously given his time and expertise in helping The Bargain Loft. Over the years, Kurt has graciously evaluated many of the jewelry donations pro bono and has given The Bargain Loft checks for broken jewelry that would not otherwise generate revenue.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending Herndon-Reston FISH for 55 years of service. I also extend my personal congratulations to this year's honorees and express my sincere appreciation to these individuals for contributing their time and energy to helping the most vulnerable in our community.

RECOGNIZING THE OCEAN LAKES BASEBALL TEAM

**HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2024*

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Ocean Lakes Baseball Team on winning the Class 5 Region A Championship.

As their Congresswoman, I am proud of these young athletes and their recent achievement.

Located in Virginia Beach, Virginia, the Ocean Lakes Dolphins were able to bring the Class 5 Region A Championship back home to their fellow students, faculty, families, and friends through their hard work and dedication to their team. Ocean Lakes baseball coach, Pete Zell, led his students to an eight to six victory to take home the regional championship, concluding an amazing season.

As a former athlete myself, I want each of these young men to know Virginia's 2nd District is extremely proud of their accomplishment and applauds them on their well-earned victory. Again, congratulations to the Ocean Lakes Baseball Team on their Class 5 Region A Championship win.

HONORING THE LIFE OF HAROLD SLEMP

**HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2024*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Harold Slemp, who passed away on April 20th, at the age of 89.

Mr. Slemp was born in Sugar Grove, Virginia on October 10, 1934. He mostly grew up in Marion, Virginia.

In 1957, Mr. Slemp graduated with a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Economics from Virginia Tech.

The insurance industry welcomed Mr. Slemp's hard work and dedication. He began a business career with Allstate Insurance in Roanoke, Virginia before returning to Marion, where he started as an insurance agent and later became president of Giles and Miles Insurance company. His run as president and a leading insurance voice would last forty years.

As a successful insurance agent, his customers and colleagues appreciated his work and recognized him. The Independent Insurance Agents of Virginia offered Mr. Slemp to serve one term as chairman of their association. He was awarded the "Golden Eagle" for his outstanding contributions to the insurance industry, and named agent of the year.

The well-being of others was of particular interest to Mr. Slemp. He served a term on Smyth County's Board of Supervisors, served as president of the Marion Lions Club, chairman of the Smyth County Chamber of Commerce. Also, Governor George Allen appointed Mr. Slemp to the Charitable Gaming Commission, which included a two-year stint as chairman. His charity and service to his community were well-documented.

Mr. Slemp cared much for serving his country. While at Virginia Tech, he served in the university's Corps of Cadets program. In 2007, he was inducted into the "Old Guard" of the Corps of Cadets.

He is survived by his sons, Christopher Slemp (Heidi) of Marion, VA, David Robinson-Slemp of Washington D.C.; daughter, Amy Slemp (Toby) of Gothenburg, Sweden; his "little sister," Mavis Williams (Roger) of Marion, VA; brother, Scottie Slemp (Robin) of Cartersville, GA; sister, Patty Slemp Mauney of Decatur, GA; sisters-in-law, Thelma Mathena (Don) and Nancy Robinson; grandchildren, Thomas, Jacob, Noah, Emma, Austin, Autumn, Alex and Ashlynn; several accomplished nieces, nephews and cousins; godchildren, Andrea Boone and Jenny Boone; and numerous friends.

Smyth County has produced some of the finest human beings I have ever met, Mr. Slemp being one of them. He had profound impacts on his loved ones as a husband, father and family member, and his community as an insurance agent, public official and friend.

I had the honor of knowing Mr. Slemp for many years. When I was younger, Mr. Slemp and his wife would take my mother, sister and me out to lunch at Bailey's cafeteria. This treat was a gesture I remember fondly. He was very good to my family when there was nothing to gain, except the knowledge that he was doing something nice.

As a student at Emory & Henry College, he offered to assist me in any way. He was a leading Republican figure for years and served as Chairman of the Smyth County Republican Committee. He was a big supporter of mine in politics and a good friend. He will be missed by many.

## RECOGNIZING JUDY MARTZ

**HON. RYAN K. ZINKE**

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2024*

Mr. ZINKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the former governor of Montana, Judy Martz. Governor Martz is having her statue unveiled at the Montana State capitol this month. I want to highlight the incredible legacy that Governor Martz has left on our state.

Judy Martz was born on July 28, 1943, in Big Timber, Montana, left an indelible mark on her state's history. Raised by ranching parents, she embodied the spirit of the American West. Her journey from speed skating champion to Montana's first female governor is a testament to her resilience and leadership.

Judy attended Butte High School, graduating in 1961. Her athletic prowess was evident early on, earning her a spot on the 1963 U.S. World Speed Skating Team and later representing the nation at the 1964 Winter Games in Innsbruck, Austria. Beyond the ice rink, her ranch upbringing also led her to claim the title of Miss Rodeo Montana in 1962.

In 1965, Judy married Harry Martz, and together they operated a garbage disposal business in Butte. They raised two children, Stacy and Justin. Judy's commitment to her community was unwavering. She served as vice-chair of the St. James Hospital Board of Directors and as President of the Butte Chamber of Commerce.

From 1989 to 1995, Judy worked as a Field Representative for U.S. Senator Conrad Burns. In 1996, Governor Marc Racicot appointed her as Lieutenant Governor, making her the first woman to hold that office in Montana. In 2000, she ran for Governor, partnering with the Honorable Karl Ohs. Despite being outspent by her opponent, Judy took the oath of office on January 2, 2001, becoming Montana's first, and only, female governor.

During her term, Judy focused on education, economic development, and healthcare. Her impact extended beyond politics. She served on the boards of Maternal Life International, University of Montana Western, and the Big Sky State Games. Sadly, in 2014, she was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, and on October 17, 2017, Montana lost a trailblazer and a dedicated public servant.

Judy Martz's legacy lives on—woman who broke barriers, served her state, and inspired generations.

Mr. Speaker, my esteemed colleagues, I ask you to join me in recognizing the great legacy of the late Judy Martz.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2025

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 11, 2024*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 8772—Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2025.

As with all the additional appropriation bills up for consideration on the House Floor, I

strongly oppose the passage of this bill for a myriad of reasons—including the following.

First, although this bill provides for a 3.5 percent increase over FY24 levels, sadly the underlying text contains many of the same harmful partisan policy riders as last year.

In particular, this bill fails to confront the climate crisis by removing a longstanding provision to eliminate or reduce plastic waste across the Legislative Branch and the requirement for Members to lease low-emission vehicles;

contains the repeated misguided and harmful clause prohibiting discrimination against any person with a "sincerely held religious belief, or moral conviction, that marriage is, or should be recognized as, a union of one man and one woman," opening the door for discrimination against LGBTQI+ Members and staff; and

bars funding for any diversity, equity, and inclusion training or implementation, a clear prohibition on the return of the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (ODI) that was eliminated last year.

Indeed, it is truly unfortunate that this bill, like several others that the House Appropriations Committee recently reported, continues the Republican's obsession with cutting federal funds and eliminating programs that help to grow and diversify our country.

Yes, it is certainly a sad day in our nation's government that where we are at a place in time that backtracks and rolls back critical advances in diversity and inclusion.

It is bad enough that last year's bill eliminated dedicated funding for the House Office of Diversity and Inclusion, an office put in place to diversify and expand access to the House of Representatives.

To continue efforts to prohibit any funding for programs and training aimed at supporting diversity, equity and inclusion is simply an untenable legislative policy within our nation's government.

This House should make every effort to be reflective of the ENTIRE Nation we serve, and the districts Members represent.

Which is why I also put forth the following amendment that was shamefully excluded during the Appropriations Committee markup.

The Jackson Lee Amendment No. 30 if adopted would have stricken from the bill Sec. 212, which seeks to prohibit funding to be used for purposes of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion "DEI".

The Legislative Branch bill should never be a place for divisive politics.

Rather, it should be used to ensure Congress has the tools it needs to legislate and support the constituents we serve.

In my home state of Texas, I proudly represent TX-18, a district that embodies the diverse melting pot of America.

According to the Greater Houston Partnership, Houston is one of the most diverse cities in the nation, with no ethnic majority and where nearly one-in-four residents are foreign-born.

Specifically, according to census data, Houston's population is 46.8 percent White, 44.5 percent Hispanic or Latino, 22.6 percent Black, 10.8 percent two or more races, and 6.8 percent Asian.

Additionally, as one of the fastest growing cities in the nation with increasingly important industries, Houston has the opportunity to set the standard for DEI practices in the workforce and society.

Despite dangerous attempts by the Governor of Texas to roll back and strip out DEI across educational and state-wide agencies, we must continue to push back and fight for what is right for our country and for the future generations of our Nation.

I look forward to contributing to diversity efforts around the nation and in my community in Houston.

Yes, it is important to embrace diversity—and it is good for the economy, too.

Not only have waves of immigration changed the face of the nation, but they have also brought in fresh perspectives, skills, and technologies to help the U.S. develop a strong adaptability to change.

It is no secret that economies generally fare better when they openly embrace and capitalize on new ideas.

Cultural diversity is also a mighty economic engine that powers our city, state, and national economy.

Diversity is important in all industries, as it allows businesses to work with a variety of perspectives, which can lead to best results for more communities.

I am a strong proponent of diversity in all of its forms as a means of advancing opportunity, inclusiveness and quality of life for everyone.

As a society, we have collectively directed a critical eye on the injustices that many Americans unfortunately face due to the color of their skin, gender, sexual orientation, migration status, socioeconomic standing.

We cannot let words like diversity, equity and inclusion become tarnished by extremists talking points.

No, DEI is not anathema to a free society, as it has been so disingenuously portrayed.

This pernicious emergence of a counter-narrative to DEI has spread false and dangerous misnomers that diversity and cultural inclusion is the promotion of racism and discrimination and that acknowledging and aiming to redress disparate impact is somehow inherently racist.

As we all know, "equity" literally means "fairness and justice".

How this term has somehow become a dirty word is symbolic of the dangerous territory we are now entering and must remain vigilant in claiming and reclaiming not only the words, but the meanings and actual and true implementation and realization of what we all know (and should know) words like "justice" "fairness", "equality" and "equity" mean and look like.

For these reasons, it is disappointing that this Jackson Lee Amendment No. 30 did not receive the full and fair consideration it deserves.

I respectfully request that my colleagues vote in opposition to H.R. 8772, the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2025.

HONORING THE AWARDEES OF  
THE ENGLISH EMPOWERMENT  
CENTER'S 2024 RECOGNITION  
CEREMONY**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2024*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the English Empowerment Center

(EEC) and to congratulate the volunteers, instructors, students, community partners, and others who will be recognized at the 62nd EEC Recognition Ceremony.

The mission of EEC is to teach adults the basic skills of reading, writing, speaking, and understanding English in order to empower them to participate more fully and confidently in their communities and in society as a whole.

EEC provides the crucial first steps of language and literacy proficiency for workplace, citizenship, and community integration to help adults make measurable improvements in their lives. This past year, they have served over 2,000 adult learners, with the help of at least 500 volunteers who gave over 20,000 hours of service.

Each year EEC recognizes students and members of the community who have contributed their time, energy, and resources to achieving the mission of EEC. EEC will also recognize the recipient of the Patricia M. Donnelly Merit Scholarship along with the Mid Allen Rees Award. It is my great honor to include in the RECORD the following names of the 2024 EEC honorees and scholarship recipient:

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Mainstreet Bank  
Fairfax County's DPWES, Solid Waste Management  
Philip Graham Fund

VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

Dan Clancy  
Eva Kaplan  
Kathleen McCleary

PARICIA M. DONNELLY MERIT SCHOLARSHIP  
RECIPIENT

Carminia Zurita

MID-ALLEN REES AWARD

Jackie Corkins

I also want to recognize those volunteers who are celebrating service anniversaries with EEC. Volunteers are being recognized for the service milestones of 20, 15, 10, and 5 years.

20 years: Elizabeth Magee

15 years: Naomi Gittins, Mary Kalfatovic, Kenneth Portnoy, Anne Spear

10 years: Mark Charette, Stan Citron, Pam DiRamio, Cheryl Heidel, Corrie Paeglow, Dennis Shannon, Marie Tibor, Linda Zenker

5 years: Parisa Ashraf, Eric Barboriak, Robert Brown, Ann Therese Carlozza, Madeline Chulumovich, Zoe Danon, Jacqueline Davey, Linda Debrewer, Astrid DeJesus Rivera, Eric Dittmeier, Glen Finland, Harriette Kinberg, Nisha Kumar, Karen Lillard, Mario McMillan-Okuadido, Bill Meara, Elaine Michl, Sandra Olson, Debra Pfaff, Ray Potter, Jennifer Pryor-Abraham, Jane Schulman, Maura Sleevi, Natalie Southwood, Anuradha Srirangarajan, Janet Swanson, Kathleen Utgoff, Joy Yamamoto

I have always believed that education is one of the most fundamental and important skills to have in one's life. As we have learned here in our own community, reading is one of the basic foundations on which to build a young person's education and their career opportunities. I want to extend my personal thanks to the Center and its many volunteers for your tireless efforts to promote literacy as a lifelong skill.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the English Empowerment Center and in thanking and congratulating each of the honorees of the 62nd EEC Rec-

ognition Ceremony. I wish all of them great success in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE FIRST  
COLONIAL WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAM

HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2024

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the First Colonial Women's Soccer Team on winning the Class 5 Region A Championship.

As their Congresswoman, I am proud of these young athletes and their recent achievement.

Located in Virginia Beach, Virginia, the First Colonial Patriots were able to bring the Class 5 Region A Championship back home to their fellow students, faculty, families, and friends through their hard work and dedication to their team. The First Colonial Women's Soccer Head Coach, Joe Tucia, led this talented team to a two to zero victory.

As a former athlete myself, I want each of these young women to know Virginia's 2nd District is extremely proud of their accomplishment and applauds them on their well-earned victory. Again, congratulations to the First Colonial Women's Soccer Team on winning the Class 5 Region A Championship.

CELEBRATING CHEF BOBBY  
ANDERSON

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2024

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate an incredible member of our community, Chef Bobby Anderson. A trailblazing culinary artist, passionate leader, and dedicated mentor, Mr. Anderson has shaped the futures of countless young people in Western New York.

Born and raised in Niagara Falls, Mr. Anderson studied at the Culinary Institute of America, pursuing his passion for sharing culture through food. After graduating, Mr. Anderson returned to Buffalo to begin his career at the Hyatt Regency's EB Green's Steakhouse. Under his leadership, EB Green's Steakhouse was recognized as the fourth-best steakhouse in the nation. Following this success, Mr. Anderson spearheaded the opening of the Seneca Niagara Casino Restaurant and Buffet, which received a four-star recognition.

Mr. Anderson then entered the national culinary stage, competing on Chef Gordon Ramsay's TV series, Hell's Kitchen. His outstanding performance allowed him to finish in the top four. Gordon Ramsay then extended the rare opportunity for Mr. Anderson to work at two of his restaurants in Manchester and London.

Upon returning home to Niagara Falls after his time abroad, Mr. Anderson wanted to use his skills to give back to our community. In 2009, Mr. Anderson founded his nonprofit, Food Based Interventions with Technology, Science, and Energy, better known as F BITES. By providing students with culinary

training, F BITES equips youth with hard and soft skills necessary for their future success in the industry. Over 85 percent of F BITES program graduates have enrolled in higher education or entered the workforce, improving the youth poverty rates and employment rates in Western New York.

Under Mr. Anderson's stellar leadership, F BITES has become a comet stone of our community, Beginning as an afterschool program in Niagara Falls City School District, F BITES has now expanded to over 60 institutions in the region, ranging from schools, community centers, city programs, and reentry initiatives. From opening the first Barista Training Program in America at Niagara Falls High School, to giving students their first job opportunity at F BITES eateries around Niagara Falls, Mr. Anderson has made our community a more equitable place.

Despite his numerous culinary achievements, Mr. Anderson remains most proud of the transformative impact he has had on countless individuals in our community. Today, we thank Chef Bobby Anderson for his tremendous work in using his culinary talent to bring opportunities and joy to all.

RECOGNIZING THE INCREDIBLE  
PUBLIC SERVICE OF MR. GREG  
PORTER

HON. JASMINE CROCKETT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2024

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Greg Porter, City Manager for the City of Cedar Hill, TX in my District. Mr. Porter assumed this role in January 2015 and has steadfastly served since then. While he has played a key role in putting Cedar Hill on the map and driving the growth of this rapidly developing City, it is important to acknowledge that Mr. Porter strayed away from his core of being a servant.

Mr. Porter began his career with the City of Cedar Hill as an intern in 1987 and has dedicated the entirety of his 37-year career to the city. I have had the privilege of witnessing firsthand his unwavering dedication to our neighbors and his unwavering commitment to building community. Serving in roles with the city's planning, parks & recreation, human resources, economic development, public safety, animal control, emergency management, utilities, and public works departments, it's safe to say that Mr. Porter is well-versed with the ins and outs of the city.

Although Mr. Porter is set to retire from the city at the end of this month, I am confident that he will never cease to be the epitome of a true public servant. Because of him, I know that our communities across Cedar Hill have grown stronger, and many will continue to benefit from his leadership, impact, and foundation of service that he laid. Congratulations to Mr. Greg Porter on a job well done.

HONORING FAIRFAX ACE HARDWARE FOR 100 YEARS SERVING THE COMMUNITY

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2024*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Fairfax Ace Hardware as a cornerstone of the Fairfax neighborhood and an exemplary example of commitment to service, innovation, and community spirit.

From humble beginnings to becoming a cornerstone of neighborhoods all over the country, Ace Hardware has been a hub for DIY enthusiasts, builders, and neighbors alike and since its opening in 2011, Fairfax Ace Hardware has become a helpful place, in more ways than one, for their Fairfax neighbors.

For 13 years, Fairfax Ace Hardware has been more than just a place to purchase tools and grilling supplies. It has been a gathering place where neighbors connect, share stories, and support one another. The employee-owned store's knowledgeable team, led by CEO Craig Smith, has always gone above and beyond to ensure the consistent delivery of outstanding customer service, a dedication to customer service and a no-hassle return policy.

The dedication of the Fairfax Ace Hardware team has led to multiple instances of being noticed by Ace Hardware's national offices, most recently and most monumentally being chosen as one out of ten stores to host a celebration commemorating 100 years of operation of Ace Hardware. This celebration, aptly named "The Biggest Block Party" and hosted on June 29, 2024, serves as a glowing manifestation of years of superb customer service and community engagement.

In addition to retail success, Fairfax Ace Hardware has been an outstanding corporate citizen sponsoring countless Fairfax events, fairs, and initiatives, supporting youth sports teams, and contributing to numerous charitable causes including raising over \$20,000 over the last two years for Children's National Hospital through a national partnership with Ace Hardware. Their generosity and community spirit have left an indelible mark on our town, fostering a sense of unity and pride among its residents.

As we celebrate this achievement, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations and deepest gratitude to the Fairfax Ace Hardware team. Your hard work, dedication, and love for our community have made a lasting impact.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Fairfax Ace Hardware for its outstanding contributions to Fairfax and in being an example of Ace Hardware's century long commitment to fostering community spirit. We look forward to many more years of success and service.

RECOGNIZING THE GRASSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL WOMEN'S TRACK TEAM

**HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2024*

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the

Grassfield High School Women's Track team on winning the Class 6 Women's State Track Championship.

As their Congresswoman, I am proud of these young athletes and their recent achievement.

Located in Chesapeake, Virginia, the Grassfield High School Grizzly Bears were able to bring the Class 6 Women's State Track Championship back home to their fellow students, faculty, families, and friends through their hard work and dedication to their team. The Grassfield High School Women's Track team star runner, sophomore Sophie Ranbo, took home three top place positions in the 100 meter, 200 meter, and 400 meter dashes. Head coach, James Nixon, led this group of young women to victory and concluded a great season.

As a former athlete myself, I want each of these young women to know Virginia's 2nd District is extremely proud of their accomplishment and applauds them on their well-earned victory. Again, congratulations to the Grassfield High School Women's Track Team on winning the Class 6 Women's State Track Championship.

CONGRATULATING THE ELECTED OFFICERS OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY FEDERATION OF CITIZENS ASSOCIATIONS

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2024*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations (the "Federation") and to congratulate its recently elected officers who will serve in leadership positions for the 2024–2025 term.

Founded in 1940 and re-incorporated in 1995, the Federation is a coalition of civic and homeowner's associations who work together to promote and support initiatives that will benefit the community as a whole. The Federation realized early in its existence that by joining with other civic and homeowner's associations from every corner of the county and speaking with one unified voice, its influence and contributions would be far more powerful and effective.

The Federation is composed of thousands of volunteers who actively participate in matters of local and state government that impact then communities. Individual members serve on countless task forces, boards and commissions to help preserve the quality of life that is enjoyed by all who call Fairfax County home. As a former two-term President of the Federation, I understand that those who volunteer their time, energies, and talents to civic activities play a vital role in making Fairfax County one of the best places in the nation in which to live, work, and raise a family.

The Federation would not be nearly as successful and effective without the leadership of its officers. It is my great honor to include in the RECORD the names of the following newly elected Federation officers:

President: Tim Thompson. Tim is currently a Federation Past President and is co-Chair of the Budget Committee and, as co-Chair of the Legislation Committee, fre-

quently represents Federation issues to Fairfax General Assembly members. He served as the Federation delegate to the Fairfax County Redistricting Committee.

First Vice President: Morgan Jameson. Morgan has served the Federation as Corresponding Secretary and as the Federation representative to and Vice Chair of the Fairfax County Airports Advisory Board. He previously served as the Federation 1st Vice President and has represented Federation legislative issues to the Fairfax delegation to the Virginia General Assembly in Richmond.

Second Vice President: Sue Shuman. Sue has served on the Mantua Citizens Association (MCA) Board as president, vice president, and parks and environment chair. Sue is the Neighbor Network founder and president. She previously served on the Federation board as co-Chair of the Citizen Association Services and as an MCA delegate to the Federation. She was appointed in 2021 to the Fairfax County History Commission and has served as treasurer. Sue served on the county's Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance Exception Review Committee.

Treasurer: Jeff Parnes. Jeff has been active in the Federation for 20 years, including the elected offices of Treasurer, First Vice President, and President. Jeff is the Federation webmaster and chairs the Transportation, Resolutions, and Citizen of the Year committees. He has been active in Providence, Hunter Mill, and Sully District Councils over his forty-four years in Fairfax County. He served the Sully District Council as its vice-president, president, land use and transportation chair and webmaster. Jeff served as the Greenbriar Civic Association Land Use Committee chair and as President, Treasurer and Civic Affairs Committee chair for the Chantilly Highlands Homes Association.

Recording Secretary: Bill Barfield. Bill is a Federation Past President and a Past 2nd Vice President. He is currently Chair of the Nominations Committee, the Citizen of the Year Committee, and co-Chair of the Legislation Committee from which he produces the annual Federation Legislative Issues report for the Fairfax delegation to the General Assembly. He has been President of two community associations, Chairman of the Braddock District Council of Community Associations, founding member and Vice Chair of the Braddock District Land Use and Environment Committee, and was 1st Vice President of his current community.

Corresponding Secretary: Luann Whittenburg. As a Federation member since 2019, Luann is ready to serve as Federation Corresponding Secretary. In 2023, she served on the Federation's Bylaws Committee. Her other community activities include representing the Fairfax Medical Reserve Corp on the Fairfax Citizens Advisory Council, 2022-present. Her ongoing activities in her community association include creating Neighborhood Watch and supporting the annual Fairfax National Night Out and community emergency and disaster preparedness events.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking all of the members of the Fairfax Federation of Civic Associations and in congratulating the 2024–2025 officers on being elected to lead this dynamic organization. I commend them for their efforts on behalf of the community and wish them continued success.

RECOGNIZING THE CAPE HENRY COLLEGIATE GIRLS LACROSSE TEAM

**HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2024*

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Cape Henry Collegiate Girls Lacrosse team on winning the 2024 Tidewater Conference of Independent Schools (TCIS) Championship.

As their Congresswoman, I am proud of these young athletes and their recent achievement.

Located in Virginia Beach, Virginia, the Cape Henry Collegiate Dolphins were able to bring the TCIS Championship back home to their fellow students, faculty, families, and friends through their hard work and dedication to their team. The Cape Henry Collegiate Girls Lacrosse Team defeated their opponents in overtime, finishing the game eight to seven. Coach Ashmore Standing received the TCIS co-coach of the year award, and her student, Madeleine Keogh, won TCIS's Player of the Year.

As a former athlete myself, I want each of these young women to know Virginia's 2nd District is extremely proud of their accomplishment and applauds them on their well-earned victory. Again, congratulations to the Cape Henry Collegiate Girls Lacrosse team on the 2024 TCIS Championship.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF JOHN C. ELLIS LODGE NO. 17 BASED IN DECATUR, ILLINOIS

**HON. NIKKI BUDZINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2024*

Ms. BUDZINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 150th anniversary of John C. Ellis Lodge No. 17 based in Decatur, Illinois. John C. Ellis lodge, a part of Prince Hall Freemasonry, is the oldest active fraternal organization in the State of Illinois. Since Decatur Lodge No. 17 was founded on July 18, 1874 they have worked to promote service to their community and mankind.

In 1966, Decatur Lodge No. 17 voted to change its name to John C. Ellis Lodge No. 17 after Dr. John C. Ellis, who was a member and one of the longest serving Grand Masters in Illinois history. Dr. Ellis was also the first African American medical doctor in Decatur, Illinois and dedicated his life to serving his community in Central Illinois.

A century and a half after its founding, John C. Ellis Lodge No. 17 is still dedicated to perpetual improvement in their community. They work together to reach the principles of brotherly love, fellowship, and service. I want to thank the generations of Decatur-area residents who have made up John C. Ellis Lodge No. 17 for their dedication to serving Central Illinois and their commitment to bettering their community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2024*

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for the following roll call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 336 and YEA on Roll Call No. 337.

COMMEMORATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF VISIT FAIRFAX

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2024*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of Visit Fairfax.

Visit Fairfax, established in July 2004, is a 501(c)(6) non-profit organization that works in conjunction with their stakeholders to distinguish Fairfax County as a premier tourist destination. Their mission is to promote, market, and sell Fairfax County as a year-round destination for visitors from all market segments including all business travel, leisure, and sports travel.

Tourism is a proven economic development strategy for Fairfax County, bringing in over \$3.3 billion annually. Within the entire Commonwealth of Virginia, Fairfax County is the third largest contributor of expenditures to Virginia's tourism industry. In 2022, visitors to Fairfax County directly supported approximately 22,000 local jobs. While the majority of these jobs were in the leisure and hospitality industries—accommodations, food service, arts, entertainment and recreation—tourism impacts a multitude of businesses and crosses numerous industries.

Those figures are largely due to the work of the talented tourism professionals at Visit Fairfax. Based on the principles of partnership, cooperation and mutually beneficial alliances, their program of work is managed by objectives, and accountable for tangible, measurable results ensuring a significant Return on Investment.

Staff of Visit Fairfax work tirelessly to achieve the mission of the organization throughout the county. This includes sales calls, trade and travel shows, and one-on-one appointments with hospitality partners to increase leisure travel to Fairfax County. They also have to work closely and proactively with meeting planners and event coordinators to bring groups and organizations to Fairfax County, and they actively pursue adult and youth sporting events and activities to maximize the usage of local sports facilities.

Behind the scenes, staff from Visit Fairfax compile events and attractions, update information on restaurants and hotels, and much more to create a comprehensive database for those visiting Fairfax County, as well as residents looking to make the most of their community. With countless activities going on year-round, it is no small undertaking to have everything accessible and organized. Visit Fairfax's website also includes tools that allow people to plan a trip to Fairfax County and has

potential itineraries for everyone. These resources make it easier for people to access all that Fairfax County has to offer.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Visit Fairfax on their 20th Anniversary. This milestone would not have been achieved without the dedication of the staff and Board of Directors of the organization. Fairfax County is an incredible place to live, work, and play, and thanks to Visit Fairfax, our residents and visitors have the chance to see that for themselves. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding this organization and wishing them the best for their next 20 years.

RECOGNIZING THE GRASSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL TEAM

**HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2024*

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Grassfield High School Softball team on winning the Class 6 Region A Championship.

As their Congresswoman, I am proud of these young athletes and their recent achievement.

Located in Chesapeake, Virginia, the Grassfield High School Grizzlies were able to bring the Class 6 Region A Championship back home to their fellow students, faculty, families, and friends through their hard work and dedication to their team. They are a group of strong women who had a near-perfect record going into their state championship game. They have not won the regional championship game since 2018 and assistant coach, Larry Murphy, led these women to a four to one victory.

As a former athlete myself, I want each of these young women to know Virginia's 2nd District is extremely proud of their accomplishment and applauds them on their well-earned victory. Again, congratulations to the Grassfield High School Softball team on winning the Class 6 Region A Championship.

RECOGNIZING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE VICTORY CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL OF WOODBRIDGE, VIRGINIA

**HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2024*

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and celebrate the 19th anniversary of the opening of the Prince William County, Virginia branch of Victory Christian Ministries International. This milestone represents nearly two decades of dedicated service, spiritual guidance, and community support to the Prince William community.

With humble beginnings in Clinton, Maryland, Pastors Tony and Cynthia Brazelton have dedicated themselves to growing and nurturing the Victory Christian Ministries International community. VCM's story began in the Brazeltons' Maryland basement where they hosted simple, yet powerful prayer meetings that rapidly grew. Soon, people from different



parts of the Washington, D.C. metro area began to join. To accommodate their growth, they incorporated Victory Christian Ministries International of Woodbridge, Virginia in July 2005. Over the years, VCMI has grown from a single church to an international ministry with several locations across our nation and in Europe. This growth is a testament to the positive influence and transformative power of their message.

Since its establishment, the Woodbridge branch of VCMI has been a beacon of hope and a source of strength for many in the community. Through their dynamic Sunday services and engaging weekly activities, they have offered spiritual nourishment and guidance to countless individuals and families. VCMI's commitment to youth development is particularly noteworthy. Their Christa Teens program has provided a safe and nurturing environment for our young people from all walks of life to explore their faith, develop leadership skills, and give back to their community.

As we commemorate this 19th anniversary, we celebrate not just the longevity of an institution, but the countless lives that have been touched, the families that have been strengthened, and the communities that have been enriched by their work.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Victory Christian Ministries International's Woodbridge branch on their 19th anniversary. I applaud Pastors Tony and Cynthia Brazelton as well as the entire VCMI community for their contributions to Prince William County—guided by the values of love, compassion, and community service.

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HONORING THE LIFE OF JAMES  
HATCH

**HON. MARK DeSAULNIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2024*

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of James "Jim" Hatch.

Jim was dedicated to serving our community and was always kind and helpful. Included in his long career, he assisted with former Congressman George Miller's campaign and the Youth Fund. Additionally, Jim was incredibly hardworking and was a skilled handyman. He also enjoyed traveling the world and was a proud dog parent to Minnie the Pooch. Jim will be remembered for his optimism, positivity, and the impact he's had on countless lives.

Jim is survived by Carol, his loving wife of 60 years, and his children Suzanne (Rob) and Jill (Steve), grandchildren Sophie (Joshua), Sarah (Rick), Matthew, Lauren, Kristi (Ben) and Sarah (Jason Henry), great grandchildren Olivia and Cameron, his sister Sandra, brother Robert, and bonus daughter and grandsons Tomoko, Hiro, and Akira Tamura.

Please join me in honoring my friend Jim Hatch. He will be remembered for his outstanding character and his commitment to his community.

RECOGNIZING THE GREAT BRIDGE  
HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' SOCCER TEAM

**HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2024*

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Great Bridge High School Boys' Soccer team on winning the Class 5 Region A Championship.

As their Congresswoman, I am proud of these young athletes and their recent achievement.

Located in Chesapeake, Virginia, the Great Bridge High School Wildcats were able to bring the Class 5 Region A Championship back home to their fellow students, faculty, families, and friends through their hard work and dedication to their team. The Great Bridge Boys' Soccer team is undefeated this season, and goalie, Griffin Thomas, recorded a shutout in the net, and Carson Danner scored the game winning goal to secure their championship.

As a former athlete myself, I want each of these young men to know Virginia's 2nd District is extremely proud of their accomplishment and applauds them on their well-earned victory. Again, congratulations to the Great Bridge High School Boys' Soccer team on winning the Class 5 Region A Championship.

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INTRODUCTION OF THE MAJOR  
GENERAL DAVID F. WHERLEY,  
JR., DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
NATIONAL GUARD RETENTION AND  
COLLEGE ACCESS PROGRAM ACT

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2024*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Major General David F. Wherley, Jr., District of Columbia National Guard Retention and College Access Program Act. This bill would permanently authorize funding for the Major General David F. Wherley, Jr., District of Columbia National Guard Retention and College Access Program, which provides financial assistance for higher education to members of the D.C. National Guard, which is an exclusively federal entity.

This program and bill are named for Major General David F. Wherley, Jr., former Commanding General of the D.C. National Guard, who, along with his wife, Ann, and seven others were tragically killed when Metro trains collided on the Red Line on June 22, 2009. I named this bill for Major General Wherley because he worked tirelessly with me for many years to get funding for this program, and because of his devotion to D.C. youth and to the D.C. National Guard.

This program was recommended by Major General Wherley and his successor at the D.C. National Guard, Major General Errol Schwartz, to stem the troublesome loss of D.C. National Guard members to other units, including National Guards in surrounding states that offer financial assistance for higher education to their members. I am grateful that Congress has consistently provided funding for this program, most recently \$600,000 in fis-

cal year 2024. Permanently authorizing this program will help ensure that members of the D.C. National Guard receive the same benefits as members of other National Guards and help the D.C. National Guard recruit and retain members.

This program not only benefits D.C. National Guard members, the great majority of whom live in Maryland or Virginia, but also helps the D.C. National Guard to maintain the force necessary to protect the federal presence in D.C. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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HONORING AND CONGRATULATING  
JUDGE ROBERT O. BOWEN ON  
HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. RUDY YAKYM III**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2024*

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Judge Robert O. Bowen of the Marshall County Superior Court No. 1 as he prepares to retire from serving on the bench.

A 1974 graduate of Indiana University, Judge Bowen obtained his Juris Doctor from Valparaiso University in 1977. In addition to his service on the bench, Robert also served as a Legislative Assistant in the Indiana General Assembly. Since his tenure on the Marshall County Superior Court No. 1 began on January 1, 1995, Judge Bowen has dedicated himself to advancing the principles of justice and ensuring that Hoosiers get a fair shake before the law.

The Rule of Law tradition we have inherited helps secure individual liberty and promotes the conditions necessary for human flourishing. It is incumbent on us to do our part to make sure these principles of justice and Rule of Law precepts are passed seamlessly from one generation to the next. That mission is one Judge Bowen has embraced wholeheartedly and worked tirelessly to advance.

While serving on the Court, Judge Bowen has also demonstrated his steadfast commitment to the local community, most especially in his church membership where he taught adult education over the years. Additionally, the Sagamore of the Wabash Award he has been honored with is another testament to Judge Bowen's leadership abilities and his civic-oriented nature.

As Judge Bowen's career comes to a close, I have no doubt that the Marshall County community is better off because of his service. I know that Robert's wife Patty and their three children—Andrew, Chris, and Betsy—are all very proud of him, and I am too. I join Hoosiers throughout Indiana's Second Congressional District in expressing our gratitude to Judge Robert O. Bowen for his service and in wishing him a very happy retirement and all the best going forward.

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RECOGNIZING THE NANSEMOND-  
SUFFOLK SOFTBALL TEAM

**HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2024*

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the

Nansemond-Suffolk Softball team on winning the 2024 VISAA DII State Championship.

As their Congresswoman, I am proud of these young athletes and their recent achievement.

Located in Suffolk, Virginia, the Nansemond-Suffolk Saints were able to bring the VISAA DII State Championship back home to their fellow students, faculty, families, and friends through their hard work and dedication to their team. The Nansemond-Suffolk Softball Team is celebrating their fifth straight state championship title with their head coach, Britany Thornburg, leading her team to victory.

As a former athlete myself, I want each of these young women to know Virginia's 2nd District is extremely proud of their accomplishment and applauds them on their well-earned victory. Again, congratulations to the Nansemond-Suffolk Softball Team on winning the 2024 VISAA DII State Championship.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2024*

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on July 8th and 9th as I had an immovable commitment. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on H.R. 5441—Roll Call No. 337; YEA on H.R. 897—Roll Call No. 336; YEA on H.R. 7700—Roll Call No. 343; and YEA on H.R. 7637—Roll Call No. 341.

#### NEWSLETTER FROM CONGRESSMAN CHUCK EDWARDS

### HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2024*

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following newsletter to give an update to my constituents on issues surrounding our NATO partners and election integrity.

DEAR FRIEND: As a member of the House Appropriations State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Subcommittee, I recently traveled with a small delegation to the Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, then Poland. There we met with those nations' top military and political leaders and diplomats. Throughout this trip I was constantly reminded of the evil that has reigned our earth for centuries.

In the U.S. we are somewhat isolated geographically. In this volatile region they live under the constant reminder of their struggles for freedom and despicable acts of centuries of occupation, depopulation, repopulation, and genocide. Daily, these critical NATO allies are exposed to Putin's verbal threats as well as living in the fear of regular cyber and terrorist attacks.

More importantly, those in the Baltics are watching the reality of Russian aggression, cruelty, and massacres play out in their own backyard today. They saw the barbaric act of Putin bombing a children's hospital. They saw that over 20,000 Ukrainian children have been kidnapped and moved to Russia as part of their history's reputation for depopulating those they dominate.

The leaders in this region talked with me because of their close proximity to Russia

and Belarus about their constant fear that they could be annihilated within seconds, and might never see it coming. They know that Putin is ruthless enough and has the thirst for power and land to do it.

We don't see these pressures from our secure vantage point in the U.S., outside of our new threats created by Joe Biden's lackadaisical policies over our own border. However, these European partners feel a daily struggle to cling to their democracy and freedom.

Each of these vulnerable countries are doing their part. Each of them contributes well over 2 percent of their GDP toward their own defense, knowing they'll likely have to face another Russian invasion of their homeland some day. Additionally, they are contributing to the military and humanitarian needs in Ukraine.

But one thing became very clear to me on this trip. None of them have the size, the economy, nor the military capability to preserve freedom and democracy on their own. Their existence is dependent on all of our NATO partners.

#### ONLY U.S. CITIZENS SHOULD HAVE INFLUENCE ON U.S. ELECTIONS.

The Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act that I co-sponsored and helped the House pass protects and preserves the right of American citizens to vote. This legislation would require states to obtain proof of citizenship in person when registering an individual to vote in federal elections and requires states to remove non-citizens from existing voter rolls.

Foreign election interference is made possible because of our lax voter registration laws that allow noncitizens to register and vote in federal elections. With the ongoing crisis at our southern border, this piece of legislation is essential to safeguard the integrity of American elections.

The SAVE Act will close the loopholes that allow noncitizen registration, and thereby voting, to improve election security, minimize the risk of foreign interference and restore Americans' confidence in U.S. elections.

#### "UNPLUGGED" TOWN HALL IN YANCEY COUNTY

Reminder: Join my next in-person town hall in Yancey County on Tuesday, July 16. The town hall will take place from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at the Yancey County Courthouse, 110 Town Sq., Burnsville, NC.

I'm looking forward to sharing an update about the latest legislative opportunities and challenges in Congress and answering questions about the issues that matter to you.

#### DC OFFICE'S FIRST GREEN THUMB AWARD WINNER

Congratulations, Jessie Frank, for winning our DC office's first ever Green Thumb Award.

These DC Longworth building offices are drab. To add a little life, spirit, and ambiance to our office, for the past 90 days our team was challenged to keep the area around their workspace green and vibrant. I appreciate my entire team's enthusiasm and light-hearted competition to make our office green and alive. Jessie received the award, but we all benefited with a more pleasant place to work.

With my warmest regards,

CHUCK EDWARDS,  
*Member of Congress.*

#### RECOGNIZING THE GREENBRIER CHRISTIAN BASEBALL TEAM

### HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2024*

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Greenbrier Christian Baseball team on winning the 2024 VISAA DII State Championship.

As their Congresswoman, I am proud of these young athletes and their recent achievement.

Located in Chesapeake, Virginia, the Greenbrier Christian Gators were able to bring the VISAA DII State Championship back home to their fellow students, faculty, families, and friends by their hard work and dedication to their team. The Greenbrier Christian Baseball Team has fifteen State Championship titles under their belt. In the beginning of the year this team was unranked and quickly became unstoppable averaging 8.9 runs per game. This reflects not only their athletic capabilities, but also their steadfast determination to excel.

As a former athlete myself, I want each of these young men to know Virginia's 2nd District is extremely proud of their accomplishment and applauds them on their well-earned victory. Again, congratulations to the Greenbrier Christian Baseball Team on winning the 2024 VISAA DII State Championship.

#### HONORING BISHOP REGINALD THOMAS JACKSON

### HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2024*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated husband, loving father, exceptional community leader, faithful servant of God, and friend of longstanding, Bishop Reginald Thomas Jackson. Bishop Jackson was honored for his 8 years of dedicated service in Georgia as the Presiding Prelate of the Sixth Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. This event was held at the Saint Phillip AME Church in Decatur, Georgia on July 12, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

The genesis of the life of Bishop Reginald Jackson began with his birth on April 26, 1954, in Dover, Delaware. He is a product of Dover Public Schools and in 1976 graduated from Delaware State University with a Bachelor's Degree in History. In 1972, he was called to preach the Gospel and licensed under the pastorate of the Rev. Rudolph W. Coleman; was ordained as an Itinerant Deacon in 1975 under the leadership of Bishop Earnest Lawrence Hickman and appointed Supply Pastor at Graham AME Church. Always working to improve his preaching skills and knowledge of the Gospel, Bishop Jackson graduated from the Turner Seminary at the Interdenominational Theological Center in 1979, was ordained as an Itinerant Elder by Bishop Richard Allen Hildebrand in 1977 and appointed Supply Pastor at St. John AME Church in Atlanta, Georgia in 1978.

Bishop Jackson spent 33 years serving in the state of New Jersey, 2 years as Pastor of

St. John AME Church and 31 years at St. Matthew AME Church. During his long tenure at St. Matthew, he increased the congregation from 75 to over 2,800 members; he instituted more than 30 ministries to meet the spiritual, emotional, educational and physical needs of the church and community; and he increased the church annual budget from \$50,000 to \$2 million. George Washington Carver once said "How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and the strong. Because someday in your life you will have been all of these." Bishop Jackson has used his life's work to advocate for the most vulnerable among us to include minorities, the young, the elderly, and the disenfranchised. He has been a voice for the voiceless and he has given hope to the hopeless.

Bishop Jackson served as Executive Director of the Black Ministers Council of New Jersey, representing over 600 New Jersey Churches; served on the Orange Public School System Board of Education as President for 12 years; and sits on the Board of Trustees of Essex County College, serving as President for 10 years. He was named Man of the Year by New Jersey Monthly Magazine, received the William Ashby Award from the United Way, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Award from the Newark North Ward Center, and Honorary Doctorates from Wilberforce University and Payne Theological Seminary. He is a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity and a Life Member of the NAACP.

In 2012, Reginald Thomas Jackson was elected and consecrated the 132nd Bishop of the AME Church at the 49th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference, held in Nashville, Tennessee and was appointed to the 20th Episcopal District (Malawi Zimbabwe, Tanzania and Uganda) as the Ecumenical and Urban Affairs Officer. He has served as Chairman of the Social Action Commission of the AME Church and is the current Chairman of the Commission on Colleges, Universities and Seminaries.

Eight years ago, Bishop Jackson accepted his charge in Georgia as Presiding Prelate of the Sixth Episcopal District of the AME Church. Continuing his longstanding advocacy for social justice, he has been a staunch champion for voter registration, education and turnout. He has ferociously lobbied the Georgia General Assembly for hate crime legislation and gun reform. Following an arrest for a planned attack on an AME Church in Gainesville, Georgia and the murder of Ahamd Arbery in February 2020, Bishop Jackson led the charge for a bill which was signed into law

by Governor Brian Kemp in June 2020. In 2020, Bishop Jackson also collaborated with the leaders of every Georgia State African American religious denomination in conducting massive voter registration and education efforts throughout Georgia, resulting in the election of President Joe Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris, U.S. Senators Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff, shifting the balance of power in the Senate. Because of this seismic shift, historic legislation to improve lives and communities was signed into law, including the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Inflation Reduction Act, Historic Funding for HBCU's, as well as the appointment of an African American woman to the U.S. Supreme Court. In 2022 and now in 2024, he is leading an historic partnership with the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church to energize and mobilize minority voters for the 2024 elections.

Now, after 8 years in Georgia, Bishop Jackson will be leaving for assignment to another Episcopal District where he will no doubt share his vision and wisdom in service to God's people. While his departure will be a great loss to Georgia, I am certain that his impactful leadership will be a catalytic gain to those in his new region of responsibility.

Bishop Jackson has accomplished much in his life, but none of it would have been possible without the grace of God and the love and support of his wife, Attorney Christy Jackson, who has served along side him as Supervisor of the Sixth Episcopal District, and their children Regina and Seth. Georgia, our Nation and the world, are better because of Bishop Jackson's ministry and service. To God Be the Glory.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's 2nd Congressional District, in extending our sincerest appreciation and best wishes to Bishop Reginald Thomas Jackson upon his departure from Georgia as the Presiding Prelate of the Sixth Episcopal District of the AME Church. May God continue to bless his ministry and service on behalf of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RANDY K. WEBER, SR.**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2024*

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, due to a scheduled appointment at Walter Reed Med-

ical Center, I missed the following votes. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 348; YEA on Roll Call No. 349; YEA on Roll Call No. 350; and YEA on Roll Call No. 351.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2024*

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 348 (Huizenga: amendment No. 1); NAY on Roll Call No. 349 (Self: amendment No. 3); NAY on Roll Call No. 350 (Jackson (TX): amendment No. 4); YEA on Roll Call No. 351 (MTR to H.R. 8772—Leg Branch Appropriations); NAY on Roll Call No. 352 (Final Passage to H.R. 8772—Leg Branch Appropriations); NAY on Roll Call No. 353 (Adoption of H. Res. 1344—Merrick Garland Contempt); NAY on Roll Call No. 354 (On passage of H.J. Res. 165); and YEA on Roll Call No. 355 (On Passage of H.J. Res. 109, the objections of the President to the contrary notwithstanding).

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CELEBRATING THE VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN

**HON. RASHIDA TLAIB**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 15, 2024*

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize the Village of Franklin in Michigan's 12th District as they celebrate their bicentennial anniversary.

Established in 1824, the Village of Franklin is a very special place in our community. The village grew out of increased travel through the region after the completion of the Erie Canal, and its first residents were practical tradespeople skilled in smithing, carpentry, and masonry. To this day, Franklin residents embrace and preserve its beautiful, rural landscape, fondly calling it the "Town That Time Forgot." Because of its numerous original 19th-century properties, Franklin was designated as Michigan's first Historic District, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Please join me and the 12th Congressional District in celebrating the Village of Franklin's 200th birthday.