

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF THE UNRWA FUNDING EMERGENCY RESTORATION ACT OF 2024

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I am both pleased and saddened to introduce a bill that helps relieve the ongoing humanitarian crisis unfolding in Palestine. I thank my colleagues Representatives JAYAPAL and SCHAKOWSKY for joining me as co-leads, with 65 original co-sponsors and over 100 national organization endorsements. This important bill will: (1) Repeal the funding prohibitions on UNRWA included in the FY24 Appropriations bill and the Israel Security Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2024; (2) Express a Sense of Congress that it supports appropriating critical funds to UNRWA for FY25; (3) Urge the Secretary of State, as soon as practicable, to rescind the temporary pause in funding for UNRWA and resume funding to UNRWA under current authorities of the Department of State; and (4) Require the Secretary of State to report to Congress on a quarterly basis on the steps UNRWA is taking to implement the recommendations contained in the independent outside review of the Agency's neutrality mechanisms and procedures.

House-passed bills prohibiting UNRWA funding significantly erodes the United States' ability to provide life-saving assistance and basic services to Gaza's 2.2 million people. To date, over 40,000 Palestinians have been killed and about 100,000 more have been seriously injured without access to functioning hospitals. Among the victims of this catastrophe are women and children. According to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), over 150,000 pregnant women and new mothers are struggling to survive and access basic health care. Women in Gaza today are birthing children and having cesarean sections with no anesthesia. In addition, an estimated 700,000 women and girls in Gaza who require menstrual hygiene supplies are unable to manage their menstrual cycle in dignity, with some reports of contraceptive pills being taken to avoid the unhygienic menstrual conditions. Today, the fear of polio in children spreads across Gaza through fecal matter, limited clean drinking water, and destroyed infrastructure. Additionally, since October 7, thousands of Palestinian children have had one or both arms or legs amputated—without anesthesia. I want to reiterate—without anesthesia.

We must prioritize addressing the humanitarian crisis and catastrophe in Gaza. UNRWA serves nearly six million Palestinian refugees across the West Bank, East Jerusalem, Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon and is the primary humanitarian aid organization operating in Gaza. The U.S. has historically been one of the largest financial supporters of UNRWA but paused funding following allegations by the Government of Israel that 12 Agency employees had

direct involvement in the October 7 terrorist attack.

Following these allegations, the United Nations (UN) and UNRWA acted swiftly and decisively, immediately terminating the employees allegedly involved, ordering an independent outside review of the Agency's neutrality practices, and directing a review of the allegations by the UN's highest investigative body, the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS).

The outside review of UNRWA neutrality, led by former French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna, concluded UNRWA has robust, well-developed internal mechanisms and that it possesses a more developed approach to neutrality than other similar UN or NGO entities. The review also identified steps the Agency can take to further ensure its commitment to neutrality. UNRWA welcomed the report and stated it is "fully committed" to implementing its recommendations. An American, UNRWA Deputy Commissioner-General Antonia De Meo, is leading the implementation effort.

Just last month a donor review of UNRWA operations, funded in part by the U.S., concluded, "The Agency's ability to deliver education, health, and social services at scale to one of the world's most vulnerable populations is unparalleled."

Following the UN's investigation and proactive commitments made by UNRWA toward complete accountability and reform, nearly all countries have resumed UNRWA funding including the European Union, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, Finland, Germany, Japan, and Sweden. Only the U.S. has failed to restore this essential funding.

International humanitarian NGOs and the major United Nations humanitarian organizations have made it clear that given UNRWA's role as the backbone of the humanitarian response, it is imperative that funding be restored and maintained to the Agency. These statements are especially relevant considering several of these humanitarian organizations would be required to drastically scale up their efforts at an impossible speed and scope to attempt to fill the humanitarian void that would be created should UNRWA cease to operate.

Additionally, the U.S. joined 118 UN Member States in signing the Joint Commitments Initiative to Support UNRWA which stated that "UNRWA is the backbone of all humanitarian response in Gaza and recognizing that no organization can replace or substitute UNRWA's capacity."

If we fail to act now, this escalating humanitarian crisis will only grow worse in Gaza, and further exacerbate tensions across the Middle East. It is in the strategic interest of both the U.S. and our allies, including Israel and Jordan, to resume and maintain full funding to UNRWA to stabilize the region and alleviate the humanitarian catastrophe that no other organization or agency will be able to effectively address.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important bill to save lives and provide desperately needed humanitarian aid.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT JUDY THOMPSON

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Judy Thompson of Cooper, Texas, and present her with the Congressional Patriot Award. Judy has dedicated herself to faithfully serving our community.

Born in Paris, Texas, Judy graduated from the Cooper Schools in 1967, before graduating from East Texas State University with a double degree in French and English in 1970. She felt a calling for teaching and went back to school to earn a master's degree in education in 1980. Judy spent 41 years as a schoolteacher in the Cooper ISD, where she taught English, French, journalism, speech, drama, math, music, art, and physical education throughout every grade level. She also spent 38 years driving the school bus for students of the Cooper ISD. She received the Best-all-around student award in 1967 and is proud to have directed the State Championship winning Cooper High School One Act Play UIL in 1987.

Judy's commitment to public service and desire to leave a lasting positive impact in her community drives her to stay involved today. Currently, she serves as the Secretary and Treasurer of the Jim Chapman Lake Steering Committee and is encouraged by the vast potential of the lake. Judy is very active in the church, playing the piano for worship music since she was 16, and serving as the Minister of Music and Choir Director for 22 years. Today, she is a proud member of the worship team at New Hope Church in Cooper. I commend Judy for her dedicated service to the people of our community and wish her continued success for many years to come.

It is an honor to bestow Judy with the Patriot Award for her exceptional service to the people of North Texas.

RECOGNIZING MEDICAL RESEARCH WEEK

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize September 16–20, 2024, as Medical Research Week.

It is by no accident that America leads the world in medical innovation. America's free enterprise system alongside strong federal support of medical research has led to new cures, treatments, and hope for tomorrow that more therapies are on the horizon. I am proud that Pennsylvania institutions and companies play leading roles in developing these new technologies.

• 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.

In 2023, over \$2 billion in funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) was made available to researchers in Pennsylvania. This funding supported nearly 22,000 jobs and resulted in over \$5 billion in total economic activity across the commonwealth.

Pennsylvania is also home to a vibrant and growing biopharmaceutical industry, which employs over 56,000 individuals through direct employment creating billions of dollars economic impact.

In Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District, Franklin and Marshall College as well as Millersville University, are recipients of grant funding from NIH.

As we recognize Medical Research Week, may we all give thanks for the medical breakthroughs that have improved our lives and the individuals whose dogged determination and pursuit of progress made them possible.

HONORING RAYMOND "RAY"
HOLDWICK AS VETERAN OF THE
MONTH FOR MICHIGAN'S 9TH
DISTRICT

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ray Holdwick, the Veteran of the Month for September from Michigan's 9th Congressional District. I am honored to highlight the exemplary service and dedication of this true American hero, whose courage and commitment has left a lasting mark on our nation's history.

Ray was born and raised in Sterling Heights, Michigan, graduating from Sterling Heights High School in 1981. Demonstrating an early commitment to service, he enlisted in the U.S. Army that same year. From there, he joined the 170th Military Police Company. Ray was stationed at the Presidio in San Francisco from 1981 to 1983, where he was charged with maintaining law and order and ensuring the safety of his fellow service members. His military service extended into the reserves from 1983 to 1987, where he continued to exemplify the virtues of discipline and dedication.

Beyond his military service, Ray's commitment to community support and law enforcement has been unwavering. In 2006, he and his wife embarked on a venture to establish a donation-based support program for K-9 units through the Macomb County Police Department. This initiative reflects Ray's ongoing dedication to supporting our law enforcement community in a meaningful and impactful way.

Ray and his wife also founded Rocko's Pet Shop in Macomb Township, a business that not only serves the community but also champions charitable causes for law enforcement. Their active involvement in local charities has made a lasting difference, enhancing the resources available to K-9 units and strengthening the bond between law enforcement and the community they protect.

Mr. Speaker, Ray Holdwick's life story is one of service, sacrifice, and unwavering dedication to our country and his community. It is with immense pride that I honor him today as the Veteran of the Month for September, a fitting tribute for a distinguished veteran who truly embodies the spirit of American valor and resilience.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our deepest gratitude for Roy Holdwick. His life of service serves as a powerful reminder of the sacrifice of our service members and their families.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PA-
TRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT JIM
CHAPMAN

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jim Chapman of Horseshoe Bay, Texas, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Jim has dedicated himself to faithfully serving our community.

Growing up in Sulphur Springs, Jim graduated from Sulphur Springs High School in 1963. He then went on to obtain his bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Texas and earned his Juris Doctor degree from Southern Methodist University's Law School. Jim started his career as an attorney for six years, before being elected District Attorney for the 8th Judicial District of Texas in 1976, where he served 2 terms. He was then elected to Congress in 1985 through a special election, representing Texas' 1st congressional district for 6 terms. Throughout his time in Congress, he received the National Defense Achievement Award every year he served, and was recognized and endorsed by every teacher group, law enforcement group, the NRA, and many more. After retiring from Congress in 1997, Jim joined Bracewell & Patterson LLP and worked 15 years in the firm's D.C. and Austin office, co-chairing the Government Relations Group.

Jim's dedication to public service expands more than just public office. He served as Outside General Counsel for the Board of Hopkins County Memorial Hospital District, President of local United Way, and as Board Chairman and General Counsel for Peoples National Bank of Sulphur Springs. He's a proud member of 1st United Methodist Church, where he serves as chairman of the administrative board and as a Sunday school teacher for adult couples. I commend Jim for his dedicated service to the people of our community and wish him continued success for many years to come.

It is an honor to bestow Jim with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to the people of North Texas.

RECOGNIZING AIRWAY TRANSPOR-
TATION SYSTEM SPECIALIST
MYLES OCONNER MAULDIN

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Myles OConner Mauldin and his service in ensuring the safety of his fellow Americans as a Transportation System Specialist for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Together we mourn the loss of a community member, gone too soon.

Myles worked with the FAA at the Ontario Airport in my district for 13 months, where he was responsible for maintaining a wide range of radar equipment for the National Air Space System. This entailed modifying and certifying radar, automation, and voice switches. As a safe-keeper of the systems that ensure air travel is safe, Myles helped support the backbone of our national airspace system.

Sadly, our community is now in mourning. On June 24, 2024, Myles passed away in a tragic accident while on his way to FAA training in Oklahoma. He is survived by his wife and their son. I offer my deepest condolences on their loss.

For his outstanding accomplishment, it is my honor to recognize Airway Transportation System Specialist Myles OConner Mauldin. His commitment to civic service and to the safety of the American people are worthy of the highest commendation. He will be missed.

RECOGNIZING LINDA BUSAM

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Arizona's 8th Congressional District, it is my honor to recognize Linda Busam of Peoria, Arizona.

Linda is a dedicated public servant, serving as a West-MEC Governing Board Member and in various leadership positions throughout the community. She is also a strong advocate for conservative principles and works diligently to educate and train citizens on civic engagement.

Her support for elected officials, candidates, and the Republican Party has been instrumental to their success. I am thankful for Linda's leadership and dedication to conservative principles. I sincerely appreciate her service to Congressional District 8 and the State of Arizona.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT
OF COLONEL DOUG HOUSTON

HON. ZACHARY NUNN

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to take this opportunity today to honor and congratulate a distinguished member of our military on his well-deserved retirement.

Colonel Doug Houston, a native of Fort Dodge, Iowa, and an alumnus of Fort Dodge High School and Iowa State University, began his professional career as a Police Officer with the Cedar Rapids Police Department—serving from 1992 through 2002. He enlisted in the Iowa Army National Guard's Headquarters & Headquarters Company 224th Engineer Battalion in 1997 at the age of 27. Upon completion of Initial Entry Training, Doug enrolled in the Iowa Military Academy's Officer Candidate School, commissioning in August 1999, and branching Engineer. Doug led Soldiers as a Platoon Leader, served as a Company Executive Officer, Detachment Commander, and then as a Company Commander of Company

C 224th Engineer Battalion, which had armories in Mount Pleasant and Keokuk.

In October 2004, then-Captain Houston mobilized with his 111 Soldier Company in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, spent 10 weeks at Fort Sill, Oklahoma preparing for deployment, and then deploying to Camp New York in Udairi, Kuwait, and on to Camp Habbaniyah, Al-Anbar Province, Iraq in January 2005. Important to note that the Al-Anbar Province was known as the most dangerous place in the world throughout 2005 Doug's company performed a relief in place of Company C 153rd Engineer Battalion, and began conducting route clearance operations in support of the I Marine Expeditionary Force and its Ground Support Element, the 1st Marine Division, from January through March 2005, and then for the II Marine Expeditionary Force and its Ground Support Element, the 2nd Marine Division, from April to December 2005, throughout Multi-National Forces-West—known at the time as area of operation Tokpeka.

Colonel Houston regards his 2004–2005 deployment as the Commander of Company C 224th Engineer Battalion as a space in time which held the most impact in his career. Doug was responsible for the 111 Soldiers assigned to his company in addition to the explosive ordnance disposal and joint tactical air control teams attached to him during route clearance operations Doug's unit supported all combat units in Multi-National Forces-West during their 12 months in-theater In addition to both the 1st & 2nd Marine Divisions, Company C supported Marine Regimental Combat Teams 1, 2, 7, 8, the 11th & 13th Marine Expeditionary Units, the 2nd Brigade Combat Team 2nd Infantry Division and their subordinate battalions, including the 1st Battalion 506th Infantry in Habbaniyah, the 155th Brigade Combat Team "Mississippi Rifles", and the 2nd Brigade Combat Team 28th Infantry Division, as they sought to destroy the insurgency in Al-Anbar Province. Doug's unit was engaged in combat operations throughout the Al-Anbar Province, including the cities of Anah, Baghdadi, Fallujah, Habbaniyah, Hadithah, Haqliniyah, Hit, Husaybah, Karmah, Khalidiyah, Kubaysah, Al-Qaim, Ramadi, Rawah, Rutbah, Trebel, and Waleed. In addition, Captain Houston was responsible for maintaining open lines of communication with his rear detachment Soldiers and Family Support Groups in Mount Pleasant and Keokuk.

On January 30, 2005, the Iraqi people participated in a historic event—their first free election in that Nation's history. Then-Captain Houston and a reinforced platoon of Company C engineers conducted route clearance operations on this historic date near the City of Hit, which straddles the Euphrates River, and has a population of more than 50,000. Marines from Regimental Combat Team 2 were tasked with ensuring security at polling station in Hit, and it was the mission of Doug's unit to ensure freedom of movement throughout the city by clearing the area of roadside bombs. On election day, as Doug's engineers approached the South side of Hit along the main highway, they discovered a series of roadside bombs and began investigating them with the Buffalo mine clearing vehicle's hydraulic arm. While investigating these improvised explosive devices, Doug's unit came under small arms fire from multiple locations inside the City of Hit. Several vehicles in the element were struck by

insurgent's rounds. Doug and his Soldiers located the enemy firing positions, returned engaged with small arms and crew served weapons systems, and suppressed the enemy. Within minutes, the enemy began firing 60-millimeter mortars on the convoy of vehicles which was stopped on the road as the engineers investigated the IEDs. After approximately a dozen mortars were fired with increasing accuracy, the engineer element broke contact and moved North approximately two kilometers on the highway, leaving the excavated IEDs on the roadside. Prior to leaving the Buffalo arm operator was able to secure the remote trigger for the IEDs which rendered them inoperable and essentially unexploded ordnance. Captain Houston sent two squads to go back to area and overwatch the IEDs that were left to ensure insurgents were not able to regain control of them. Over the next half hour, the engineers received additional rounds of inaccurate mortar fire. After a short period of no mortar or small arms fire, Captain Houston directed the two squads to go secure the ordnance and return to the unit's new position. The combat engineers secured four South African 155-millimeter artillery rounds which were later destroyed using C4 explosives north of Hit and away from any structures or Iraqi citizens.

This mission was a crucible moment for many in the element, as it was the first time they had received direct and indirect fire from insurgents with the express intent of killing them. They responded with precision in the most disciplined and military manner, positively identifying where the enemy was located before returning fire. The Soldiers not engaged in returning fire calmly focused on their individual responsibilities from the Buffalo arm operator to the radio operators, to the vehicle drivers scanning other sectors and prepared to take evasive action if necessary. Events of this day, and many similar moments during the deployment for Company C 224th Engineer Battalion, became the glue for a bond across this company that still endures today—nearly 20 years later. Doug maintained the leadership lessons of this deployment throughout the remainder of his career. Lessons on mission accomplishment, teamwork, motivating others, critical thinking, integrity, personal courage and many others formed the foundation for an officer who sought out difficult jobs and made a difference within the Iowa Army National Guard and the Soldiers with whom he served. Doug's legacy will continue through the many officers and enlisted he mentored throughout his career.

Captain Houston was nominated by the 224th Engineer Battalion, the 67th Troop Command, and The Adjutant General of Iowa as Iowa's nominee for the 2005 General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award. On May 17, 2006, then-Captain Houston and his family traveled to Washington, DC where Army Chief of Staff General Peter Schoomaker recognized him and seven other company grade officers from across the United States Army National Guard, and 28 total U.S. Army warrant officers, lieutenants, and captains with the General Douglas MacArthur Leadership award during a ceremony in the courtyard at the Pentagon. Recipients of the General Douglas MacArthur Leadership award demonstrate MacArthur's ideals of "Duty, Honor, Country", and have a proven record of extraordinary performance, leader-

ship and achievement Doug Houston epitomizes those ideals.

Following company command in 2007 Doug transitioned to the Iowa Army National Guard Recruiting & Retention Battalion where he served as an Operations and Training Officer—leading Non-Commissioned Officers and working the vital mission of enlisting the next generation of Soldiers. He was promoted to Major while in this position. In January 2010, Doug began a tour as the Training Officer of the 671st Troop Command. In 2012 he was assigned as the Executive Officer for The Adjutant General of Iowa and served in this capacity for 19 months. In June 2013 Doug returned to Recruiting and Retention as the Battalion Commander and was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel. He completed this tour in August 2015. Doug was then assigned as the Active Guard/Reserve (AGR) Manager and Human Resource/Equal Opportunity Officer for the Iowa National Guard where he was responsible for managing this part of the full-time support force of the Iowa Army and Air National Guard. In January 2018 he was reassigned as the Iowa Army National Guard Deputy Director of Personnel (G1), serving in that capacity until March of 2021 when he was selected as the Director of Personnel and promoted to Colonel. In December 2022, he was appointed as the Chief of Staff, Iowa Army National Guard as his final assignment, retiring in August 2024 with over 27 years of service.

Colonel Houston earned a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Iowa State University, a Master of Education from Graceland University, and a Master of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College. Doug's military schools include Engineer Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, Combined Arms Service and Staff School, Intermediate Level Education (ILE)-Common Core (resident), ILE-Advanced Operations Course, the Recruiting and Retention Force Leadership Course, and the U.S. Army War College. Doug and his lovely wife of 30 years, Angela, have three children, Sydney—28, Jack—26 and Evan—23. They reside in Johnston, Iowa.

Mr. Speaker, I invite you and my colleagues to join me in applauding Colonel Doug Houston. Let's all extend our thanks and best wishes as he steps into his well-earned retirement.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT MELBA JEFFUS

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Melba Jeffus of Paris, Texas, and present her with the Congressional Patriot Award. Melba has dedicated herself to faithfully serving our community.

Growing up in the Paris, Texas, Melba graduated from Paris High School in 1962 and went on to study at Paris Jr. College after graduation. Melba started her professional career as a title clerk for the Lamar County Tax Assessor in 1963. Melba then worked for Rowland Edwards Signs in Dallas and the Boy Scouts of America while her husband enlisted in the military. Upon the birth of her daughter

Jennifer, she's served as the head room mother and PTA President. Melba then went on to work at Eastfield College, from the Financial Aid department to marketing, and ended as the IT Director. Her commitment to serving the public was recognized when she was awarded the TFRW Tribute to Women Award in 2016, the Rockwall County GOP Chairman's Award in 2017, and the RCRW Woman of Influence Award in 2019.

Melba's love for her community led her to serve the public in several capacities. She's a member of the Rockwall County Republican Women's Club, where she's held several leadership roles including Hospitality Chair, Vice President, and President. She also sat on the Rockwall Architectural Review Board and the Rockwall County Tax Appraisal Board. Melba considers her faith to be very important and was heavily involved with First Presbyterian in Mesquite for over 20 years, serving on the Board of Deacons, the Board of Elders, the Fellowship Committee, the Search Committee for Minister of Music, and as Secretary for Sunday School. Today, she is a member of First Baptist of Rockwall. I commend Melba for her dedicated service to the people of our community and wish her continued success for many years to come.

It is an honor to bestow Melba with the Patriot Award for her exceptional service to the people of North Texas.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MORGAN MCGARVEY

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Mr. MCGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, I was regretably unable to vote on Roll Call No. 418. Had I been able to vote, I would have voted "nay" on Roll Call No. 418.

IN MEMORY OF JACI WINSHIP

HON. ANN WAGNER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Jaci Winship.

My team and I are absolutely devastated that Jaci Winship, our Senior Community Liaison, passed away this week. Over the past decade, Jaci has faithfully served the people of Missouri's 2nd District with compassion and dedication. She has been a core part of the team from the very beginning, and her passion for her work shined through in all she did.

Jaci's commitment to helping the most vulnerable truly made our community better each and every day. She was a leader in our fight against human trafficking and in helping victims of domestic violence. Local advocates and community leaders knew they could count on her when they needed help at all hours of the day.

She had an innate desire to help others and foster a stronger, more creative, and more hardworking next generation of students. She worked with high school students and art teachers as the head of our Congressional Art Competition, she championed emerging lead-

ers in the tech space during the Congressional App Challenge, and she was a tireless advocate for students serving our Nation in United States Service Academies. The future is bright in Missouri thanks to Jaci's work pushing students to work even harder and break out of their comfort zones.

Jaci served in numerous positions throughout the Missouri Republican Party. Whether she was working on a campaign for office or leading an issue-related organization, her passion inspired others to excellence. Called by her unwavering faith to Jesus Christ, Jaci was a staunch defender of the unborn and an activist in the pro-life community. She was a champion of Israel and the Jewish community here in St. Louis where she made numerous friends and touched countless lives through her advocacy.

Jaci was a fighter for those in need, a deeply caring coworker, and a loving mother. My heart breaks knowing she is no longer with us. She made us all better people and we will be forever grateful to have known her.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MICHAEL AUGUSTINE GUTIERREZ

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Michael Augustine Gutierrez, who passed away surrounded by his loved ones at age 86.

Michael was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, family member, and friend. Born in 1938 and hailing from Brea, California, he proudly served as a private first class in the U.S. Army from 1961 to 1963. He often recalled this period of his life with humor and affection, and loved to share stories of his service.

After leaving the military, Michael spent his career working for the City of Anaheim. A gifted artist at heart, Michael loved to spend his free time painting, drawing, building models, and doing woodworking.

He also built a beautiful family alongside Virginia Gutierrez, his beloved wife with whom he shared 59 wonderful years of marriage. Michael was a loving father to his daughter, Sharon Siegel, and son, David Gutierrez, as well as a proud father-in-law to Randy Siegel. He especially cherished his role as a grandfather to his granddaughter, Anna Siegel, who brought immense joy to his life.

Michael's love for storytelling, his lively wit, and his generous spirit will be deeply missed by all who knew him. He leaves behind a legacy of love, laughter, and creativity that will continue to inspire those who were fortunate enough to have known him.

Please join me in celebrating the life of Michael Augustine Gutierrez, a patriot and loving father who brought love, joy, and laughter to his family and our Anaheim community.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT ANNA CAMPBELL

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Anna Campbell of Rockwall, Texas and present her with the Congressional Patriot Award. Anna has dedicated herself to faithfully serving our community.

Anna Campbell was born in the Panama Canal Zone to an American soldier and a Panamanian teacher, where she was raised until the signing of the Panama Canal Treaty. She then moved to the United States, growing up in the Florida Keys before moving to the great state of Texas in 1990. Anna is a proud graduate of Texas A&M Commerce, where she earned a double degree in English and Spanish. Now entering her 25th year as a teacher, she continues to proudly fulfill her passion for sharing her love of the Spanish language and culture, while helping students achieve their college degrees. In June 2020, Anna was appointed to, and then elected to the Rockwall City Council for 3 terms. She has also served as Council Liaison of several City Boards and continues to serve the wonderful citizens of Rockwall with honor. Her dedication to public service was recognized when she was awarded Williams Middle School Teacher of the Year, the Hawk Award-Most Influential Teacher of the Year twice, Region 10 Secondary Teacher of the year, the Multi-Cultural Secondary Teacher of the Year, and many others.

Anna's love for North Texas has motivated her to serve the public in several capacities, sitting on several boards of non-profit organizations that focus on raising money for college scholarships for the youth in our community. She's also served as a board member of the Rockwall County Republican Women's Club and has held additional leadership roles with the Boys and Girls Club. As the founding member and former President of the Rockwall County Hispanic Republican Club she actively reached out to the Spanish-speaking community in Rockwall with several forms of outreach. I commend Anna for her dedicated service to the people of our community and wish her continued success for many years to come.

It is an honor to bestow Anna with the Patriot Award for her exceptional service to the people of North Texas.

RECOGNIZING FRANK RIZZO

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Arizona's 8th Congressional District, it is my honor to recognize Frank Rizzo of Surprise, Arizona.

Frank is a hardworking and dedicated leader with an outstanding track record of supporting the community and serving in Republican Party leadership roles. Frank is a strong advocate for conservative principles and works diligently to educate and train citizens on civic engagement.

His support for elected officials, candidates, and the Republican Party has been instrumental to their success.

I am thankful for Frank's leadership and dedication to conservative principles. I sincerely appreciate his service to Congressional District 8 and the State of Arizona.

CONGRATULATING BOB HOUSER
ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give thanks and to congratulate Bob Houser on his well-earned retirement.

2024 marks the 60th and final year that Mr. Houser is adding something sweet to the community through his Bob's Sno Balls business. The 76-year-old York County resident has been running Bob's Sno Balls since he was just 16. In his six decades running the business, Mr. Houser has become a staple in the York County community. His classic white truck and ringing bell have attracted patrons from all over the York area during the summer months.

While the summers are spent selling snow cones, Mr. Houser spends the rest of the year as an accountant. Mr. Houser remarked "I've got two professions . . . People aren't usually smiling when they come to the tax office. Sno ball truck's a whole different operation. People are happy. Kids are happy."

It has been the smiles and happiness that has brought Mr. Houser back for the past six decades. He stated that being able to make people, especially the children, happy has been his biggest joy in all his years of business.

Mr. Houser's six decades of business in York County have made a lasting impact on the communities and individuals that he has served. Generations of people have been fortunate enough to have someone like Mr. Houser in their community, not only as a business owner but as a friendly face.

It is with great pride that I congratulate Mr. Houser on his 60th year in business, and I wish him continued success and joy in his retirement.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL TRUCK
DRIVING AWARD WINNER FROM
MISSISSIPPI JACKIE REED

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize fellow Mississippian Jackie Reed for his extraordinary accomplishment of winning the National Truck Driving Championships last month in Indianapolis. Jackie, from Collinsville, Mississippi, was named the Bendix Grand Champion at the 2024 Truck Driving and Step Van Championships. As we celebrate National Truck Driver Appreciation Week this week, I am honored to have the chance to recognize Jackie Reed.

Jackie has over 30 years of professional truck driving experience for FedEx and has

driven more than 3 million miles without an accident. For the third time, Jackie qualified for the National Truck Driving Championships by winning the state title at the Mississippi Truck Driving Championships.

I am proud of Jackie Reed's much-deserved recognition as the 2024 Grand Champion of the 87th National Truck Driving Championships. Jackie's record proves that he has had a career of excellence, and I am grateful for his expertise in this vital profession.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PA-
TRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT
CORBETT HOWARD

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Corbett Howard of Celina, Texas, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Corbett has dedicated himself to faithfully serving our community.

Corbett was born in Roswell, New Mexico. He received his Bachelor of Arts in History and Political Science from Southern Nazarene University and graduated from Engineer Officer Candidate School in Fort Belvoir, Virginia. After graduation, Corbett commissioned in the United States Army and served with the Military Assistant Command, Vietnam (MACV) as an advisor for the South Vietnamese Army. For his meritorious service, he was awarded the Bronze Star, Air Medal, and Vietnam Cross of Gallantry.

Corbett was first elected to the Celina City Council in 1999. In 2002, he was elected to serve as the Mayor of Celina and was re-elected twice. Under Corbett's leadership, Celina transformed economically through increased job growth and critical business investments. As a result of his advocacy for Celina residents, he was recognized as a top influential leader in Collin County. After his tenure as mayor, Corbett served as the Executive Director of the Celina Economic Development Corporation for ten years. He also served on the Board of the Upper Trinity Regional Water District and the McKinney Urban Transit District. He is the past President of the Preston Trail Rotary Club and the current Chairman of Government Affairs for the Celina Chamber of Commerce. Corbett currently serves as the Market President of Lamar National Bank and is a board member of the Military Warriors Support Foundation, which donates homes and cars to wounded veterans. A devoted man of faith, he attends the Stonebriar Community Church in Frisco, where he has led Bible study classes for over 33 years. I am proud of the work Corbett has accomplished, and I wish him continued success for many years to come.

It is an honor to bestow Corbett with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to the people of North Texas.

INTRODUCTION OF THE UNION
STATION REDEVELOPMENT COR-
PORATION FUNDING ELIGIBILITY
ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce a bill to make the Union Station Redevelopment Corporation (USRC), a nonprofit, eligible for funding under the Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail (FSP) Program, the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Program, the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Program and the National Infrastructure Project Assistance Program, also known as the Mega Program. Funding under these transportation programs is essential to implement the planned expansion and modernization of Union Station in the District of Columbia, known as the Washington Union Station Expansion Project (USEP). I am pleased Senator CHRIS VAN HOLLEN has introduced this bill in the Senate.

Union Station is owned by the federal government, and USRC manages and operates the station under a lease with the federal government. The members of USRC's board of directors are the Federal Railroad Administration, Amtrak, Federal City Council, the District of Columbia and the USRC President and CEO. USRC is the only entity exclusively dedicated to the management and operations of Union Station and therefore should be eligible for funding under the FSP Program, the CRISI Program, the RAISE Program and the Mega Program.

Union Station is a vital local, regional and national intermodal transportation hub that, pre-pandemic, welcomed more than 100,000 travelers and visitors each day—more than either Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport or Washington Dulles International Airport. Located five blocks from the U.S. Capitol, Union Station serves as a gateway to the Nation's capital, as well as the backbone that connects East Coast rail lines to the north and south. People rely on Union Station every day to get to work and to visit the Nation's capital.

Despite the vital role Union Station plays in the Nation's capital, it has not undergone major renovation since the 1980s. The USEP represents a historic transportation and economic development opportunity for the Nation's capital and the national capital region, but billions of dollars are needed to carry it out. This bill would give USRC access to critical funding.

RECOGNIZING THE GRASSROOTS
GRANDMAS

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Arizona's 8th Congressional District, it is my honor to recognize two special individuals in the Phoenix West Valley, Barbara Wylie and Corky Haynes, otherwise known as the "Grassroots Grandmas." Both Barbara and

Corky educate constituents on the civic engagement process and are a strong force for conservative causes across Arizona. They have been instrumental in the success of elected officials, candidates, and others in the Republican Party. During my tenure in the U.S. House of Representatives, I have been thankful for their leadership and dedication to conservative principles. I sincerely appreciate their efforts and service to Congressional District 8 and the State of Arizona.

CONGRATULATING KYLE
HOSTETTLER

HON. JERRY L. CARL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Mr. CARL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kyle Hostetler, a first responder and recent winner of The Atmore Advance Readers' Choice Awards. The residents honored Kyle by selecting him as their favorite first responder in the area. The award is chosen annually by the individuals residing within a 60-mile radius of Atmore, Alabama. The ceremony was held on September 10, 2024, to honor Kyle and the recent winners of these awards. Prior to attending his graduation from the Alabama Fire College in 2021, Kyle attended Coastal Alabama Community College's Brewton campus. As a first responder, Kyle bravely goes above and beyond to ensure the safety of Atmore's residents. I am honored to have such a courageous individual residing in and serving the people of the First District of Alabama. I am proud to congratulate Kyle on receiving this outstanding award.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PA-
TRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT JUDGE
TRAVIS RANSOM

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Judge Travis Ransom of Atlanta, Texas, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Judge Ransom has dedicated himself to faithfully serving our community and country.

A distinguished alumnus of Atlanta High School, Judge Ransom attended Texarkana College and earned his Bachelor of Applied Arts and Science at Texas A&M University at Texarkana. He began his career as a legislative aide in the Texas State Senate, a position he held for eleven years. Since May of 2022, Judge Ransom has served as Cass County Judge and was previously the Mayor of Atlanta, Texas, for five years. As Mayor, Judge Ransom lowered tax rates for Atlanta residents and fought for the creation of new jobs, improved public infrastructure, and increased economic development. He concurrently works as a Commercial Insurance Agent for Offenhauser Insurance and is a 27-year veteran of the United States Army Reserves. In the Army, Judge Ransom served as the Brigade Command Sergeant Major for the 505th Military Intelligence Brigade at Fort Sam Hous-

ton and deployed several times in support of peacekeeping and contingency operations around the world. When he returned from Afghanistan in July 2021, Judge Ransom was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for his meritorious service.

On top of his professional career, Judge Ransom is an active leader in our community and has served in a variety of volunteer positions. He is a current member of the Executive Board for the ARK-TEX Council of Governments and is the past president of the Texarkana Regional Arts and Humanities Council and the Atlanta Lions Club. As an Eagle Scout himself and the father of a proud Eagle Scout, Judge Ransom serves on the advisory board for the Caddo Area Council Boy Scouts of America. He is a devoted man of faith and attends First Baptist Church in Atlanta with his wife, Emily, and their three children. I'm proud of the work Judge Ransom has accomplished, and I wish him continued success for many years to come.

It is an honor to bestow Judge Ransom with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to our Nation and the people of North Texas.

RECOGNIZING MAJOR RAYMOND
ROBERTS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of Major Raymond Roberts of Denton, Texas, who passed away on August 29, 2024. With his celebration of life ceremony being held this week, I would like to share about his tremendous life of service to his country and our great state of Texas.

Since he could first walk, Ray always wanted to be a pilot, which prompted him to join the U.S. military at the young age of 14. Initially joining the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve and then transitioning to the Army Air Corps, Ray spent 22 years serving in our Nation's military.

Ray's storied military career included assignments as an airman, mechanic, and flight engineer during the Cuban Missile Crisis and the Vietnam War. In 1948, Ray was also one of the few pilots to fly nonstop as part of the greatest humanitarian airlift in history to carry supplies to the encircled people of West Berlin. Despite the great risks and challenges that came with supplying the necessities of food and fuel for thousands of people, he remained dedicated and committed to providing the resources necessary to sustain the men, women, and children in dire need on the ground. Ray played a pivotal role in history and the success of our military.

After leaving military service, Ray did not stop serving his community. Developing a career as an entrepreneur, corporate manager, car salesman, aviation administrator, and private pilot, he ensured our state continued to grow economically. Ray loved his country and numerous times put his life on the line for the future generations of Americans. I am glad to call him a constituent of mine and was honored to nominate his son, Brandon, for the Air Force Academy back in 2012 and see him successfully follow his father in service to his country.

May his extraordinary life be remembered by many in the 26th District of Texas and across the United States. Sending my prayers and love to his family and friends, as they celebrate his life.

HONORING THE CAREER OF TAD
WEBER

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tad Weber, an esteemed journalist, and Opinion Page Editor at The Fresno Bee, on his retirement.

Mr. Weber has dedicated more than 50 years of his life to a career in journalism, of which over a decade was carried out here in Fresno at The Fresno Bee newspaper. Before coming to The Fresno Bee in 2013, Mr. Weber worked at newspapers in Santa Maria, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo, California. His journey eventually led him to Fresno, where he served as Metro Editor of the Fresno Bee, directing news coverage of the Central San Joaquin Valley. In 2018, Tad was promoted to the Opinion Page Editor, a position which granted him the responsibility of writing editorials shaping opinion on key issues impacts the Valley. He is known for his dedication, fairness, and well-thought-out commentaries.

Over his lengthy career, Tad earned many awards and leaves a legacy of fair and accurate news coverage. The Executive Editor of the San Luis Obispo Tribune, Sandra Duerr, describes Tad as "a key player in strengthening news coverage countywide, producing terrific journalism that has made a difference to readers and won many state and national awards." Most recently, Mr. Weber was awarded Best Editorial in Large Digital/Print for the 2024 George F. Gruner Awards for San Joaquin Valley news outlets.

Tad will enjoy his retirement in Clovis, California, with his wife Donna and adult children, Katie and John, and their family dog, Ginger.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating the phenomenal career of Tad Weber. May we never forget his contributions and commitment to journalism throughout his life. We hope his legacy of excellence inspires future generations of journalists.

RECOGNIZING LOU SNIDERMAN

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Arizona's 8th Congressional District, it is my honor to recognize Lou Sniderman of Sun City, Arizona. Lou is a hardworking and dedicated leader with an outstanding track record of supporting his community.

Lou is a strong advocate for conservative principles and works diligently to educate and train citizens on civic engagement. His support for elected officials, candidates, and the Republican Party has been instrumental to their success. I am thankful for Lou's leadership and dedication to conservative principles. I

sincerely appreciate his service to Congressional District 8 and the State of Arizona.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT
SHAWN TEAMANN

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Shawn Teamann of Sherman, Texas, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Shawn has dedicated himself to faithfully serving our community.

Growing up in the Texoma area, Shawn graduated from Anna High School in 2000. He then went on to earn his bachelor's degree from Southeastern Oklahoma State University while playing football, on an academic and athletic scholarship. As a high school student, Shawn started a residential/commercial landscaping business. He took this business into college, until he acquired ownership in Nautilus Family Fitness, a local fitness center. Since that time, Shawn has expanded regionally, opening 7 locations all across North Texas. His political career was launched in 2016 when he was elected to the City Council in Sherman, Texas, where he served for 8 years. Today, he continues to serve the public as the Deputy Mayor of Sherman. His decorative career in public service features being awarded Community Leader of the Year in 2018, and the Ambassador of the Month award in March 2019 and February 2022 by the Sherman Chamber of Commerce. He was also named to the Herald Democrat's Texoma 40 under 40.

Shawn's dedication to public service includes serving as the secretary and treasurer of the Texoma Behavioral Health Leadership Team, a board member of the Sherman Kiwanis Club, an ex-officio board member of the Sherman Economic Development Corporations, a board member of the Sherman Chamber of Commerce, and a board member of the Lamar County Coalition of Business and Industry. Shawn is a proud member of Western Heights Church of Christ, where he serves on the Christians in Action team. I commend Shawn for his dedicated service to the people of our community and wish him continued success for many years to come.

It is an honor to bestow Shawn with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to the people of North Texas.

RECOGNIZING THE 125TH FOUNDERS' DAY CELEBRATION FOR THE TOWN OF HOBSON CITY, ALABAMA

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize Hobson City's 125th Founders' Day Celebration.

The Town of Hobson City was first known as Mooree Quarters, a Black settlement dating back to 1868 in a section of Oxford, Alabama.

In 1890, a Black man ran for Justice of the Peace in Oxford and the white mayoral candidate vowed if the Black man won, he would go to the State Capitol and have the boundary lines redrawn excluding Mooree Quarters. The Black man won the election, and in 1896 Mooree Quarters Settlement was removed from the Oxford Town limits.

According to the 1899 Alabama Constitution, to be eligible to vote, a resident had to have lived in the county of his residence for 12 months, be a male at least 21 years old, able to read and understand the Constitution, have a steady job for 12 months, own at least 40 acres of land and pay taxes among other requirements. Some Black property owners were allowed to vote in city and county elections. Twenty men responsible for the incorporation of the town qualified to vote under those terms.

For almost three years, Mooree Quarters settlement sat alone in the county. Taking matters into their own hands, a committee of citizens took their concerns to attorney Ross Black in Anniston, Alabama. Black attorneys were not allowed to practice law in Alabama during this time. The attorney advised them to incorporate the territory into their own municipality. On July 20, 1899, approximately 125 Blacks living in Mooree Quarters filed a petition with Calhoun County Probate Judge E.F. Cook to become a separate and distinct municipality. After proper legal proceedings, the town became incorporated on August 16, 1899, making it the first city in Alabama established exclusively for and by Black people. S.L. Davis was elected the first Mayor of Hobson City. Hobson City was named for Richard P. Hobson, a white Naval hero in the Spanish American War and a representative of the Alabama Legislature. Today Hobson City is under the leadership of Mayor Alberta McCrory.

This year's honorees include Dr. David Satcher, 16th Surgeon General of the United States and Alabama State Representative, Dr. Barbara Bigsby Boyd.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Hobson City's 125th Founder's Day Celebration.

HONORING PETER CARNES

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the life of Peter Carnes.

With a passion for public service from a young age, Peter first began his extensive career in law enforcement in 1973 as a patrolman with the Wenham Police Department after receiving his associate's degree in law enforcement. Over the next two decades, Peter rose through the ranks, being promoted to sergeant in 1981 and Chief of Police in 1984. Peter continued to serve his home community as Wenham Police Chief for the next 11 years.

In 1995, Peter took on the role of Chief of Police of the Yarmouth Police Department. Throughout his 13-year tenure as Yarmouth Police Chief, Peter helped to implement greater community policing initiatives and grow the department into a technologically advanced public safety organization. After retiring from

the Yarmouth Police Department in 2008, Peter continued his career as Chief of Police and Director of Campus Safety at Stonehill College.

Seeing the challenges that many police departments on Cape Cod faced when having to send recruits to distant academies, Peter took the steps to petition the Municipal Police Training Committee to establish a police academy on the Cape and was appointed Director of the Cape Cod Regional Municipal Police Academy at Joint Base Cape Cod in 2019. The academy was a great success and was eventually replaced by a state-funded police training academy in Falmouth, MA, which Peter played a key role in developing to meet the region's need for law enforcement training.

With a commitment to expanding his knowledge on law enforcement and public safety, Peter continuously sought opportunities to further his education. Peter received his bachelor's degree from Northeastern University and master's degree from Anna Maria College in law enforcement. Additionally, Peter completed programs at Babson College's Command Training Institute, Boston University's Law Enforcement Trainers Institute, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation Law Enforcement Executive Development Program.

Throughout his career, Peter was a mentor to many and a leader in the law enforcement community. Over the years, he served as President of the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association, Municipal Police Institute, Essex County Chiefs of Police Association, Massachusetts Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators, and Cape Cod Chiefs Council. Further, Peter was active in the International Association of Chiefs of Police, Rotary Club International, as well as the Service Academy Nomination Committee for Southeastern Massachusetts.

Sadly, we lost Peter too soon on September 4, 2024, at the age of 71. Above all, Peter was a devoted husband to his wife, Karen, and father to his son, Brendan. From his decades of service in law enforcement to his unwavering dedication to supporting and advocating for the safety and well-being of his fellow officers, Peter's efforts to better the lives of those around him serves as an example to all.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the life of Peter Carnes and ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing his lifelong commitment to public safety and serving his community.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT RAY HUFFINES

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Samuel "Ray" Huffines of Plano, Texas, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Ray has dedicated himself to faithfully serving our community and country.

Ray was born and raised in Texas, graduating from the Schreiner Institute in 1970. He earned a Business Management degree from Texas A&M in 1974 and was a member of the National Champion Freshman Military Drill

Team. Upon graduation, he worked at his family's car dealership until 1979. Ray felt a calling for public service and launched his political career as a fieldman for Ronald Reagan's Presidential Campaign from 1979 to 1980. After helping President Reagan win his election, Ray served as a personal assistant for Governor Bill Clements for four years, before going back to his family's Chevrolet dealership in 1984. He is proud to have played a part in expanding Huffines Auto Dealerships to ten dealerships across North Texas today.

Ray's exceptional work was recognized when he was awarded Business Executive of the Year in 2008 and Corporate Citizen of the Year in 2013 by the Plano Chamber of Commerce and was awarded Texas A&M University's Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2019.

Ray's commitment to service continued through his roles with the Plano Rotary Club, Chamber and Economic Development Board. Additionally, his involvement includes board membership at Dallas Baptist University, Trinity Christian Academy, and the 12th Man Foundation for Texas A&M, to name a few. Ray is a man of faith and attends Bent Tree Bible Fellowship Church. I commend Ray for his dedicated service to the people of our community and wish him continued success for many years to come.

It is an honor to bestow Ray with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to the people of our Nation and the people of North Texas.

COMMEMORATING THE ONE-YEAR
ANNIVERSARY OF THE ATTACK
ON ARTSAKH

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, this week marks the one-year anniversary of Azerbaijan's military assault on the Republic of Artsakh, which began on September 19, 2023, following its long-term blockade of the Lachin Corridor. Their unjustified use of military force resulted in the surrender of the Artsakh government and the unprecedented expulsion of over 100,000 residents from their ancestral homes.

Despite promises and assurances that there would be no such attack, Azerbaijan used the language of "anti-terrorist operations" to justify its military assault on the peaceful inhabitants of Artsakh. Yet, Azerbaijan's blockade of the region since December 12, 2022 provided a clear warning of what was to come. When Azerbaijan's military forces closed the Lachin Corridor, the narrow strip of traversable land between Artsakh and Armenia, the United Nations and U.S. officials called on the Azerbaijani government to lift the blockade, which had caused a massive region-wide humanitarian crisis. Azerbaijan refused and the blockade remained in place until September 2023 when Azerbaijan's military commenced its assault. By then, the blockade had already crippled Artsakh due to the lack of essential goods and services, including food and fuel. The blockade was so devastating in its isolation of Artsakh that its inhabitants suffered from severe malnutrition, including a fourfold increase in the number of recorded miscarriages compared to the previous year. The

blockade created such a humanitarian crisis that the International Association of Genocide Scholars warned of the risk of genocide against the Armenian population in the region.

Then came the military assault. After more than nine months of the blockade, Azerbaijan launched a military offensive on September 19, 2023. The following day, the government of Artsakh was forced to surrender to the invading force. Azerbaijan took many of the senior political leadership of the government of Artsakh as prisoners and continues to hold eight high-ranking officials of the former Republic of Artsakh, as well as several other officials and civilians. In November 2023, I introduced House Resolution 861, which calls on Azerbaijan to immediately comply with international commitments regarding the release and treatment of prisoners of war, hostages, and other detained persons. Yet, one year after its military assault, Azerbaijan continues to illegally hold the officials and civilians from Artsakh.

Additionally, since Azerbaijan's occupation of Artsakh, the risk of the intentional destruction of Armenian cultural heritage has only grown. There are nearly 500 Armenian cultural heritage sites in Artsakh and the surrounding region that have significant value to not only the global Armenian community, but also to the entire world. Yet, Azerbaijan has now embarked on a campaign to destroy these sites and erase Armenian heritage. To prevent the further destruction of these Armenian cultural heritage sites, I wrote a letter, co-signed by a bipartisan group of 47 fellow Members of the House of Representatives, to urge Secretary of State Antony Blinken to prioritize this issue in bilateral meetings with officials from the government of Azerbaijan.

However, the inescapable tragedy in this sad story is one of human suffering. The tragedy of Azerbaijan's actions one year ago can be measured in the lives that were inexplicably disrupted—over 100,000 residents who were forcibly displaced from their homes only to become refugees in neighboring Armenia. These displaced persons had homes, jobs, farms, businesses—full lives—in Artsakh. They had the ability to generate a revenue and to live with dignity in their ancestral homeland. Through no fault of their own, the Azerbaijani attack disrupted their lives, forcing them to flee to Armenia and seek shelter as refugees.

The government of Armenia has compassionately and courageously provided assistance to the refugees from Artsakh from a sense of moral duty and obligation to international norms. However, the responsibility to shoulder the costs incurred from the displacement of nearly every resident of Artsakh should fall on the government of Azerbaijan. This liability must include payments for the lost revenue that the residents of Artsakh would have generated had the attack and the subsequent displacement not occurred. To address this tragic situation, I introduced the Artsakh Revenue Recovery Act, a bill that not only places the liability for lost revenue on the government of Azerbaijan, but also establishes a mechanism by which those who lost the ability to generate revenue could receive compensation, even if the government of Azerbaijan refuses to do so. This mechanism involves the seizure of Azerbaijan's sovereign assets in the United States, and then transferring those assets to the Artsakh Revenue Recovery Fund.

The Fund will compensate the lost revenue of those who were displaced from Artsakh until Azerbaijan decides to accept the responsibility for paying compensation to these victims. The compensation is for the lost revenue from jobs and property in Artsakh and does not impact the ownership status of any property. The original property owners will continue to have the right to return to their property.

Azerbaijan must accept responsibility for the enormous humanitarian crisis that its blockade and military assault on Artsakh created. It must release the hostages and prisoners and commit to the preservation of Armenian cultural heritage. It must assure those who have property in Artsakh the ability to return to their ancestral home and to rebuild their lives and ease the suffering of refugees now. Azerbaijan must accept the responsibility to compensate lost revenue of those who left Artsakh. This compensation cannot fully address the disruption to lives. But, it is an important start to address the current suffering of those who lost so much.

On the one-year anniversary of Azerbaijan's assault on Artsakh, we remember the broken promises, the human suffering, and the continued tragedy that has fallen on those who were displaced from Artsakh. We stand with those who were forcibly displaced from Artsakh. We stand for justice.

RECOGNIZING VANCE LELLI

HON. MARILYN STRICKLAND

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Ms. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Vance Lelli, who retired earlier this month from his positions as a committed longshoreman and as head of the Pierce County Central Labor Council. He also served over two decades on the Washington State Labor Council Central Committee.

The Lelli family are known for their instrumental role in attracting new businesses and economic opportunities to the Port of Tacoma and transitioning it into one of the principal ports of entry on the Pacific Coast. Vance Lelli has built upon this legacy in his own way, profoundly impacting our local longshoremen and women and the broader labor community in Washington State.

Throughout his career, Vance has been a tireless advocate for working people, championing their rights and welfare with dedication. His efforts have strengthened working conditions and are supporting working families and retirees across the state. On behalf of the thousands of union households in the South Sound, I thank Vance for his decades of service and leadership. His contributions have made a lasting difference. I wish him all the best as he begins this new chapter of his life.

Congratulations to Vance.

RECOGNIZING THE PRESIDENTIAL
SERVICE BADGE FOUNDATION

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the work of the Presidential Service Badge

Foundation, a new organization seeking to raise awareness about the importance of public service by empowering servicemembers and their families.

Through philanthropic efforts, including a newly launched scholarship fund, the Foundation seeks to raise awareness of the connection between family and our military. Additionally, the Foundation seeks to showcase the honored men and women who earn the Presidential Service Badge through non-partisan support to the Office of the President.

As the Dean of the Massachusetts and New England Delegations, I would like to join Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey in recognizing this organization and commending them for their support of those who have served our democracy. I am proud of the fact that New England is home to more Presidential Service Badge recipients than any other region in the country, with over 2,000 in Massachusetts alone. I thank them for their hard work, and I wish them many more years of success and prosperity.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT SAM PACK

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Sam Pack of Dallas, Texas, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Sam has dedicated himself to faithfully serving our community.

Sam was born in Stephenville, Texas, and attended Tarleton State College to study business. As a young man, he worked at his family's gas station and convenience store, as well as Piggly Wiggly and Safeway. Sam began working for the Ford Motor Credit Company in 1962 and rose up the ranks to become a Branch Manager. As a result of his expertise in the automobile industry, he decided to pursue a career as a full time dealer. In February of 1980, Sam purchased Lee Jarmon Ford, now known as the Sam Pack Auto Group. For over 40 years, the Sam Pack Auto Group has continued to provide North Texas residents with excellent auto and customer care through a focus on employee success, personal growth, and community outreach.

For his outstanding entrepreneurship, Sam has received countless awards, including Business of the Year, Retailer of the Year, and the Lou Sartor Heart for the Community award. Sam Pack Auto Group won Time Magazine's Quality Dealer of the Year in 1998 and was inducted into the Ford Motor Company's Hall of Fame. In 2023, Sam earned an honorary doctorate's degree from Tarleton State University, and it has established the Dr. Sam Pack College of Business in his honor.

In addition to his professional career, Sam is involved with the Holy Angels nonprofit organization in Shreveport, Louisiana, to assist individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. For over 67 years, he has been married to his wonderful wife Carol. They have two sons, Tony and Todd, and two grandchildren, Carly and Macy. A devoted man of faith, Sam attends the Good Shepherd Epis-

copal Church in Dallas. I am proud of the work Sam has accomplished, and I wish him continued success for many years to come.

It is an honor to bestow Sam with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to the people of North Texas.

IN MEMORY OF DR. SHELIA ROSS

HON. JERRY L. CARL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Mr. CARL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember a dear friend, Dr. Shelia Ross who passed away on September 13 after a hard-fought battle of cancer. As the Director of The University of South Alabama Health Stroke Program, Dr. Ross was focused on working with other health officials and community members on advocating for brain health and stroke care. She used every opportunity to educate the residents of Mobile about the functions of the brain, in specific relation to strokes. I am honored to have had such a courageous individual and friend residing in and helping the people of the First District of Alabama, and we will miss her greatly.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADRIANO ESPAILLAT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, due to an unforeseen matter, I was not present for one vote on Tuesday, September 17, 2024 and one vote on Tuesday, September 10, 2024. Had I been present, I would have voted: NAY on Roll Call No. 403, and YEA on Roll Call No. 419.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF NICK F. KASTRANTAS DURING WORLD WAR II

HON. HALEY M. STEVENS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to recognize the honorable life of Sergeant Nicholas F. Kastrantas, a distinguished veteran, father, and artist. Mr. Kastrantas, in his military service, creative endeavors, and personal life displayed intelligence, dedication, and a commitment to fighting on behalf of the greater good.

Mr. Kastrantas was born in Pennsylvania and grew up in Greece, where he joined the Greek army and mastered the art of cartography. He returned to the U.S. in 1939 and immediately enlisted to serve his country. He was personally selected by Lieutenant Colonel James Gavin to contribute his artistic and linguistic abilities to the 505th Parachute Infantry. Mr. Kastrantas was a skilled mapmaker and spoke five languages fluently, allowing him to be an incredible asset to the 82nd Airborne Division during World War II.

Affectionately nicknamed "The Greek," he used his skills to map drop points at Nor-

mandy and completed four combat jumps in Normandy, Sicily, Salerno, and Holland as a paratrooper. His intelligence and abilities were invaluable, enabling him to create a 3-dimensional sand table map for his unit's mission on D-Day. Nick also fought in the Battle of the Bulge and earned six bronze stars, the Combat Infantryman Badge, and the Parachutist Badge through his heroic service.

Mr. Kastrantas settled down in Detroit, MI after the war and made a name for himself as a commercial artist. He lived a long life and left us on August 31, 2011. His legacy lives on through his daughter, Ann, and in his murals that can be found in restaurants around Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply honored to recognize the life and service of Private Nicholas F. Kastrantas—a man who used his creativity and dedication to serve his country in his hour of need. Please join me in celebrating his wondrous life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PRAMILA JAYAPAL

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I missed Roll Call votes 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, and 417 on September 9, 2024, September 10, 2024, September 11, 2024, and September 12, 2024 due to illness. Had I been present, my votes would have been as follows: Nay on Roll Call No. 401; Nay on Roll Call No. 402; Nay on Roll Call No. 403; Nay on Roll Call No. 404; Yea on Roll Call No. 405; Nay on Roll Call No. 406; Yea on Roll Call No. 407; Nay on Roll Call No. 408; Yea on Roll Call No. 409; Yea on Roll Call No. 410; Nay on Roll Call No. 411; Yea on Roll Call No. 412; Nay on Roll Call No. 413; Yea on Roll Call No. 414; Nay on Roll Call No. 415; Yea on Roll Call No. 416; and Nay on Roll Call No. 417.

RECOGNIZING THE BILBY FAMILY

HON. JAMES COMER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Bilby Family of Franklin County who has received the 2024 Angels in Adoption Award from the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute.

Each year, CCAI selects individuals across the country who are committed to improving the lives of children in need of loving homes.

The Bilby Family started their journey in 2017 and immediately recognized the need for foster parents in Kentucky. In 2019, 2-year-old James came into the family's life. Since adopting James, the Bilby Family has grown closer, and James has become an integral part of their family. Their story can serve as a blueprint for others who seek to open their homes and hearts to children in need of a forever family.

The entire 1st Congressional District of Kentucky should be proud of the Bilby Family.

Their advocacy is inspiring and will have a lasting impact in Franklin County and beyond. I thank the Bilby family for supporting and advocating for Kentucky families.

HONORING SENATOR WENDELL H. FORD

HON. MORGAN MCGARVEY

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Mr. MCGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the great leaders in the history of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, former Governor and United States Senator Wendell H. Ford. September 8, 2024, would have been Senator Ford's 100th birthday, and the day brought back many special memories for me, my family, and countless others whose lives were improved by his lifetime of service.

Born September 8, 1924, he is the first and only Kentuckian to ever serve as a state senator, lieutenant governor, governor, and United States senator. His career started in 1965 as a state senator from his hometown of Owensboro, later saw him serve as the Commonwealth's 49th governor from 1971 to 1974, and concluded with his retirement in January 1999 after four consecutive terms in the United States Senate.

First elected to the Senate in December 1974, he served as Democratic whip from 1991 until his retirement. In the Senate, he played a key role in shaping many key pieces of legislation, including the National Voter Registration Act, the Federal Aviation Administration Authorization Act of 1994, the Family and Medical Leave Act, the National Energy Security Act of 1992, the Aviation Safety and Capacity Act of 1990, the Airport and Airways Capacity Expansion Act of 1987, the Age Discrimination Act in Employment Act Amendments of 1986, the Tobacco Reform Act of 1985, and the Energy Security Act of 1977. As chairman of the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, he led the Joint Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies for the inaugurations of President George H.W. Bush in 1989 and President William Jefferson Clinton in 1993 and 1997.

In reflecting on Senator Ford's long and accomplished career—and what it might mean for us today—three thoughts stand out:

First, he believed with all his heart that the sole purpose of government was to serve people, and he lived that philosophy every day in every office he held.

Second, he thought that politics was an honorable calling and that government at any level could not succeed unless individuals from all walks of life took time to become involved and engaged.

Third, coming from the state that produced Henry Clay, he recognized democracy could not work without compromise involving give and take from all sides. He was fond of saying that there are no victories in Washington, only varying degrees of defeat.

Senator Ford continued his life of service after his Senate career ended, teaching at the University of Kentucky, working with young people at the Wendell H. Ford Education Cen-

ter in Owensboro, and serving as a mentor to countless young leaders across the Commonwealth. He passed away on January 22, 2015, at the age of 90. His wife Jean celebrated her 100th birthday on March 1 of this year and still lives in the family home in Owensboro. She and Senator Ford were married 71 years before his passing.

On a personal note, I would add that one of those young people receiving Senator Ford's wise counsel was me. He was a tremendous role model for me, a close friend of my family, and someone who demonstrated the true meaning of public service. Let his lifetime commitment of service be an example for us all as we remember him on the occasion of his 100th birthday.

ANGELS IN ADOPTION—JONI CARRICO

HON. JAMES COMER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Joni Carrico of Graves County on being chosen as the 2024 Angel to Adoption by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute. Ms. Carrico has worked tirelessly with Hope That Binds, a nonprofit organization based out of Western Kentucky that aims to provide financial assistance for foster and adoptive families. Through Hope That Binds, a network of loving families is growing and expanding. To date, over 100 families have been assisted through the organization's fundraisers and grant program.

Throughout her time at Hope That Binds, Ms. Carrico has been a voice of advocacy in her church and community. Her service has provided much encouragement to the 1st Congressional District of Kentucky and our constituents. She remains an important voice for hopeful parents seeking to grow their home.

Ms. Carrico is an outstanding leader in Western Kentucky and her work impacts our communities daily. I thank Ms. Carrico for supporting, connecting and advocating for Kentucky families.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT GARY THOMPSON

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gary Thompson of Cooper, Texas, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Gary has dedicated himself to faithfully serving our community and country.

Growing up in Lake Creek, Texas, Gary studied at the Delmar Schools and graduated from Cooper High School in 1967. He then attended East Texas State University and earned a degree in History and P.E. in 1983. Gary joined the US Navy in 1971 and served our country for over 20 years before retiring in

1995 as an E6 Petty Officer Crew Chief on a DC-9. Throughout his time in the Navy, Gary was stationed at NAS Memphis, where he was trained for 3 months, stationed at NAS Miramar in Vietnam for three and a half years and stationed at NAS Dallas during Desert Storm for three months. He continued his public service in law enforcement, serving as a Delta County Constable and Sheriff's office Investigator, and Lamar County Investigator. Today, Gary spends most of his time running his ranch.

Gary's commitment to public service continued as Commander of the American Legion, Red Henderson Post 483, where he helped initiate a local scholarship program and placed flags in local cemeteries to honor our veterans. He stays involved with his community today, sitting on the Delta County Museum Board, the Camp Shed and Mt. Joy Cemetery Board, the Red River Valley Veterans Memorial Board and the Red River Valley Tractor Club. Gary is a proud member of New Hope Church in Cooper, where he sings in the Lighthouse Gospel Quartet, and serves as the treasurer. I commend Gary for his dedicated service to the people of our community and wish him continued success for many years to come.

It is an honor to bestow Gary with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to the people of our Nation and the people of North Texas.

APPRECIATION FOR BEA HOLDING

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to recognize former staff member Beatrice Holding for her service to the citizens of the District of South Carolina.

Beatrice was a valued team member, and both her contributions and presence will be missed. Upon graduating from the University of North Carolina, she took on staff assistant duties in the Washington Office and immediately became a welcomed, energetic face.

As the daughter of former Congressman George Holding from North Carolina, Beatrice was already familiar with the work of Congress and was able to jump directly into policy work, eventually earning her the title of Legislative Aide.

Beatrice brought a unique background to the office being a dual U.S.-U.K. citizen, always helping the staff and myself to use proper English. I offer her the best of luck as she continues her career in politics working on the campaign of North Carolina U.S. Congressional Candidate Brad Knott.

In conclusion, God bless our troops who successfully protected America for 20 years as the Global War On Terrorism moves from the Afghanistan safe haven to America. We do not need new border laws. We need to enforce the existing border laws. HARRIS shamefully opens borders for dictators as more 9/11 attacks across America are imminent, as repeatedly warned by the FBI.

RECOGNIZING MR. SCOTT ORR

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a loving husband, dedicated father, seasoned legislative affairs executive, and dear friend of longstanding, Mr. Scott Orr for his nearly 42 years working at Georgia Power. Scott will be retiring after 42 years of working with the company and a reception will be held in his honor on September 18, 2024, at the Southern Company DC Office.

Scott Orr began working with Georgia Power in 1982 as an Industrial Marketing Engineer. His work touched the areas of marketing, engineering, district sales, region sales, district operations, and customer service. For the past 22 years, Scott has worked as Manager of Federal Legislative Affairs. Throughout his work at Georgia Power, Scott has worked with over 40 members of the Georgia Congressional Delegation and their staffs over multiple Congresses, advising them on a myriad of issues relative to clean, safe, reliable, and affordable energy.

Scott has made a tremendous impact in the lives of millions of Georgians. His work on the Energy Policy Act of 2005, led to the expansion of Plant Vogtle Units 3 and 4—America's first new nuclear unit in 30 years. He has truly been a friend and fierce advocate for Georgia Power's 2.7 million customers. Moreover, during storms and natural disasters, Scott has been a valued source of real time information for congressional offices and our constituents. He also has been a valued resource in dealing with and navigating countless constituent service issues in mine and other Congressional offices.

It has been said that "Service is the rent that we pay for the space that we occupy here on this earth." Scott has paid his rent, and he has paid it well. His service to numerous social and civic organizations includes serving as Vice Chair of the Georgia Youth Challenge Academy Foundation's Board of Directors, the Athens Chamber of Commerce and the Classic City Kiwanis Club. Moreover, Scott has served on the boards of Southern Polytechnic State University Foundation; New Hope Enterprises; United Way of Northeast Georgia; the Athens YWCO, Athens Regional Medical Center Foundation, and the Foundation for Excellence in Public Education.

Scott has accomplished so much throughout his life and career, but none of it would have been possible without the Grace of God and the love and support of his wife, Benita; their three daughters, Whitney, Jessica, and Ansley and their families, including his five grandchildren.

Sir Winston Churchill often said: "You make your living by what you get; you make your life by what you give." Throughout his career, Mr. Scott Orr has made a concerted effort to serve as a mentor and give a helping hand to new employees at Georgia Power. His legacy of uplifting others will be felt by all those whose lives he touched in the state of Georgia, in Washington, DC, and across this great Nation.

On a personal note, I am blessed to call Scott my friend. It has been a pleasure working with Scott during my time in elective office.

He has become a close and trusted friend. Scott never told me only what I wanted to hear; he always told me what he felt I needed to hear. I will always cherish the fidelity of his friendship and the timbre of his character.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian; and me, along with the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's Second Congressional District, in recognizing Mr. Scott Orr's over four decades of service to Georgia Power, the citizens of Georgia, and our great Nation. May God continue to bless him and his family as he moves to the next chapter of his remarkable life.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

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

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, September 19, 2024 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 24

10 a.m.

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine women's health care.

SD-215

Committee on Foreign Relations

Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy
To hold hearings to examine cyberspace under threat in the era of rising authoritarianism and global competition.

SD-419

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine Novo Nordisk's high prices for Ozempic and Wegovy for patients with diabetes and obesity.

SD-562

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine conflicts of interest in Federal contracting to protect America's future, focusing on safeguarding the homeland.

SD-342

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the Supreme Court's immunity decision.

SD-106

2 p.m.

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings to examine Russia's shadow war on NATO.

210-CHOB

SEPTEMBER 25

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 4667, to amend title 31, United States Code, to establish the Life Sciences Research Security Board, S. 4900, to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to incentivize certain preparedness measures, S. 131, to amend chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, to cover, for purposes of workers' compensation under such chapter, services by physician assistants and nurse practitioners provided to injured Federal workers, S. 2924, to amend title 31, United States Code, to improve the management of improper payments, S. 5067, to improve individual assistance provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, S. 4898, to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to include extreme heat in the definition of a major disaster, S. 3926, to amend the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 to ensure that other transaction agreements are reported to USAspending.gov, S. 4679, to amend title XLI of the FAST Act to improve the Federal permitting process, S. 3181, to designate the Air and Marine Operations Marine Unit of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection located at 101 Km 18.5 in Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico, as the "Michel O. Maceda Marine Unit", S. 4404, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 840 Front Street in Casselton, North Dakota, as the "Commander Delbert Austin Olson Post Office", S. 4803, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 31143 State Highway 65 in Pengilly, Minnesota, as the "First Lieutenant Richard Arne Koski Post Office", S. 4634, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 154 First Avenue East in Jerome, Idaho, as the "Representative Maxine Bell Post Office", H.R. 5799, to designate the checkpoint of the United States Border Patrol located on United States Highway 90 West in Uvalde County, Texas, as the "James R. Dominguez Border Patrol Checkpoint", H.R. 1823, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 207 East Fort Dade Avenue in Brooksville, Florida, as the "Specialist Justin Dean Coleman Memorial Post Office Building", H.R. 3354, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 220 North Hatcher Avenue in Purcellville, Virginia, as the "Secretary of State Madeleine Albright Post Office Building", H.R. 6810, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 518 North Ridgewood Drive in Sebring, Florida, as the "U.S. Army Air Corps Major Thomas B. McGuire Post Office Building", H.R. 6983, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 15 South Valdosta Road in Lakeland, Georgia, as the "Nell Patten Roquemore Post Office", H.R. 7180, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 80 1st Street in Kingsland, Arkansas, as the "Kingsland 'Johnny Cash' Post Office", H.R. 7385, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 29 Franklin Street in Petersburg, Virginia, as the

“John Mercer Langston Post Office Building”, H.R. 7417, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 135 West Spring Street in Titusville, Pennsylvania, as the “Edwin L. Drake Post Office Building”, H.R. 7606, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1087 Route 47 South in Rio Grande, New Jersey, as the “Carlton H. Hand Post Office Building”, H.R. 7607, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at Block 1025, Lots 18 & 19, Northeast Corner of US Route 9 South and Main Street in the Township of Middle, County of Cape May, New Jersey, as the “George Henry White Post Office Building”, H.R. 7893, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 306 Pickens Street in Marion, Alabama, as the “Albert Turner, Sr. Post Office Building”, an original bill entitled, “Taxpayer Resources Used in Emergencies Accountability Act”, an original bill entitled, “Federal Advisory Committee Database Act”, an original bill entitled, “Improving Senate Confirmation and Vacancy Oversight Act”, an original bill entitled, “Modernizing Data Practices to Improve Government Act”, an original bill entitled, “Eliminate Congressional Records Advisory Committee Act”, an original bill entitled, “Northern Border Security Enhancement and Review Act”, an original bill entitled, “Plum Island Preservation Act”, and an original bill entitled, “Cross-Border Tunnel Report Act”.

SD-342

10 a.m.

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Marcus D. Graham, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Farm Credit Administration Board, and Julie Brinn Siegel, of the District of Columbia, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

SR-328A

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Securities and Exchange Commission.

SD-538

Committee on the Budget

To hold hearings to examine economic risks from housing unaffordability, focusing on the costs of inaction.

SD-608

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Carl Whitney Bentzel, of Maryland, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner, Thomas B. Chapman, of Maryland, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board, and Lanhee J. Chen, of California, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors.

SR-253

Committee on Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider S. 4425, to support democracy and the rule of law in Georgia, H.R. 8282, to impose sanctions with respect to the International Criminal Court engaged in any effort to investigate, arrest, detain, or prosecute any protected person of the United States and its allies, and the nominations of Vivek Hallegere Murthy, of Florida, to be Representative of the United States on the Executive Board of the World Health Organization, Kristen Sarri, of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, John N. Nkengasong, of Georgia, to be Ambassador-At-Large for Global Health Security and Diplomacy, Elizabeth K. Horst, of Minnesota, to be Ambassador to the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, Troy Fitrell, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Seychelles, Kelly Adams-Smith, of New Jersey, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Moldova, Juan Carlos Iturregui, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Dominican Republic, Jennifer D. Gavito, of Colorado, to be Ambassador to the State of Libya, Tracey Ann Jacobson, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Iraq, Joshua M. Harris, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, and Peter W. Lord, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Senegal, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, all of the Department of State.

S-116

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine pending nominations.

SD-226

2 p.m.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety

To hold hearings to examine preparing workers for AI.

SD-562

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

To hold hearings to examine FAA oversight of Boeing's broken safety culture.

SD-342

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Criminal Justice and Counterterrorism

To hold hearings to examine sexual assault in U.S. prisons two decades after the Prison Rape Elimination Act.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine S. 4444, to take certain mineral interests into trust for the benefit of the Crow Tribe of Montana, S. 4633, to provide for the settlement of the water rights claims of the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, and the San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe, S. 4643, to approve the settlement of water rights claims of the Zuni Indian Tribe in the Zuni River Stream System in the State of New Mexico, to protect the Zuni Salt Lake, S. 4705, to approve the settlement of water rights claims of the Yavapai-Apache Nation in the State of Arizona, to authorize construction of a water project relating to those water rights claims, and S. 4998, to approve the settlement of water rights claims of the Navajo Nation in the Rio San Jose Stream System in the State of New Mexico.

SD-628

3 p.m.

Committee on Finance

Subcommittee on Fiscal Responsibility and Economic Growth

To hold hearings to examine providing small business relief from remote sales tax collection.

SD-215