

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO BENJAMIN RAMEY

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 14, 2024*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart as I include into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the Obituary for Benjamin Ramey. Ben's father, Dave Ramey, is a dear friend who worked for me for 24 years and was my Chief of Staff for most of that time. I remember when Ben was born and how incredibly proud both Dave and Jen were to have a son and sibling for their daughter, Maddie. Ben was well-liked, funny, kind, smart and a bit mischievous. He will be missed beyond measure.

On Saturday, November 16, 2024, we will celebrate the life of Ben Ramey and remember the joy and goodness he brought to so many lives. We will also mourn the loss of such a bright young man and lend our shoulders to Dave, Jen and Maddie as they navigate a world without their dear son and brother. May the outpouring of love and support provide some measure of comfort to the broken hearts of the Ramey family.

Benjamin Gregg Ramey was born in Rockville, MD on May 14, 1997. In his beautiful 27 years of life, he touched many lives with love and light. He graduated from Rockville High School in 2015 and went on to study marketing and business analytics at the University of Maryland's Robert H. Smith School of Business. He graduated in 2019 with his BA.

After a long and difficult struggle with various illnesses, our beloved Ben died by his own hand early in the afternoon on Saturday, October 12th.

He is survived by his parents, Jennifer and David Ramey, his sister, Maddie Ramey, eight aunts and uncles and eight cousins.

Ben was hilarious, Ben was so smart, Ben felt things deeply. Ben loved his friends and they loved him back. Ben was the cherished "Bub" of his family, the jokester, the sneaky and beloved baby of the family. Ben loved music, Ben taught kids how to play tennis. Ben loved sleeping late and Ben had a gigantic head that his cousin Will once said must contain two brains. It is, of course, impossible to summarize his life in this little box. His memory will live on in the stories we tell about him and in the moments that have not yet happened, but will happen, where we will wish more than anything that he was there, and he will not be.

He charged us not to remember him by his struggles but rather to Live . . . in Love and Light.

He lives now in Heaven, in peace . . . caressed by pure love and pure light.

CELEBRATING THE HEREFORD  
INLET LIGHTHOUSE 150TH ANNI-  
VERSARY

**HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 14, 2024*

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Hereford Inlet Lighthouse located in North Wildwood, South Jersey. The Hereford Inlet has served as a beacon of safety since the 17th century when it was first used by whalers to draw in and prepare their catch. Through the course of time, the need for a lighthouse became more apparent due to the high number of shipwrecks, so the Hereford Inlet Lighthouse was built and first put into use on May 11, 1874. This remarkable structure was designed by Lighthouse Boards Chief Draftsman, Paul J. Pelz, who later went on to design the Library of Congress here in Washington, D.C. Over the years, the Hereford Lighthouse has stood the test of time despite many tides, storms and hurricanes threatening to tear it down and eliminate the assurance it has provided mariners over the years, but it continues to stand strong. Currently, the Hereford Inlet Lighthouse is managed by the City of North Wildwood's Historical Commission, who are an excellent group of volunteers from the local community that have done a tremendous job maintaining the appearance of the magnificent building. Known as one of the most important structures on the Five Mile Beach of South Jersey, it continues to operate as a navigational aid and is open to the public to learn about its history, take in the ocean air, and walk the beautiful gardens to the seashore. Happy 150th Anniversary to the Hereford Inlet Lighthouse and here is to 150 more.

May God bless the Hereford Inlet Lighthouse and God bless the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING CARL WILLIAM  
"WILL" RUSH

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 14, 2024*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Carl William "Will" Rush's bravery to save an American flag from burning during the anti-Israel protests at Union Station.

On Wednesday, July 25th, several anti-Israel protests erupted around Washington D.C. in reaction to Prime Minister Netanyahu's address to Congress. Outside of Union Station, protesters vandalized the Christopher Columbus Memorial Fountain with pro-Hamas graffiti and profanity. Additionally, American flags were lowered and replaced with Palestinian flags. Once the American flag was replaced, the crowd doused it in lighter fluid and

set it on fire. During the chaos, Will grabbed the American flag from the ground and was then chased by a large group of people. Will's courage to stand up for the American flag was an incredible display of patriotism and bravery.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing Will's actions during these disruptive and violent protests. I hope that his courage will inspire other Americans to stand up for their flag and country. May God bless Will and his family in all their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE DISTINGUISHED  
SERVICE OF MAJOR BRENNAN  
RANDEL

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 14, 2024*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my deepest gratitude for the service of Major Brennan Randel to my office and the United States Congress. As a Department of Defense Fellow, Brennan conducted himself with the utmost professionalism, assisting my office on a number of crucial legislative issues to include appropriations, defense policy, military construction, veterans affairs, and energy, water, and environmental issues.

By managing our office's appropriations for four separate accounts, Brennan developed a unique understanding of the federal budgeting process. Through his efforts and advice to me, the House Appropriations Committee supported my request for funding for an emergency operations center in my district and programmatic funding for several of my constituents' priorities.

Beyond his work on appropriations, Brennan took the initiative to expand his knowledge base and contribute above expectations. While defense fellows typically only cover the defense and veterans affairs policy portfolios, he asked to take on the energy, water, and environment portfolio. When Brennan discovered that the biannual Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) was due for reauthorization, he developed a plan to reach out to local stakeholders to determine how I could best advocate for our district. He then started working with community leaders and other members' staff and achieved great results; three of my requests were included in the House-passed WRDA bill, including a provision that a bipartisan pair of representatives joined my office in supporting.

Another one of Brennan's great qualities is his ability to manage a project from start to finish. When Veterans Affairs Secretary Denis McDonough came to Georgia's 2nd District for a VA clinic grand opening, Brennan took on the assignment of planning a town hall event in conjunction with the clinic grand opening. He worked with the Secretary's team to ensure the event met everyone's expectations, secured a venue, planned the event, and helped send invitations to local veteran leaders. Brennan's hard work set the stage for me

• 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.

to host local elected leaders and local veterans service organization leaders together in an intimate discussion with the VA Secretary.

Throughout his time in my office, Brennan exemplified intelligence, diligence, compassion, and a joyful spirit of public service in all that he did. He was also lovingly supported by his wife Elizabeth, and his three children, Eva, Roman, and Maeve. They were integral supporters of his success, and I am equally grateful to them.

Following his time in my office, Brennan went on to work as a Congressional Budget Liaison for the United States Army, where he continued to make innumerable contributions to the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join my wife, Vivian, and me, in extending our best wishes to Brennan and his family as he transitions to a new assignment and expressing profound thankfulness to him for his service to our great Nation.

**SUPPORTING H.R. 82, THE SOCIAL SECURITY FAIRNESS ACT OF 2023**

**HON. PRAMILA JAYAPAL**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 14, 2024*

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, on November 12th the House of Representatives took an important step by passing H.R. 82 and eliminating two harmful provisions that unfairly deny workers, their spouses, and their children the Social Security benefits they deserve. These provisions—the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) penalties—unfairly target Social Security benefits earned by public service workers, including teachers, police officers, firefighters, and hundreds of thousands of federal retirees.

WEP unfairly penalizes retirees who have spent careers in public service but who have also paid into Social Security at some point. More than 6 million public employees are or would be affected by WEP and around 800,000 Americans would have benefits reduced or eliminated by the GPO. Social Security keeps millions of seniors, children, disabled individuals and their families out of poverty, which is why it is crucial that Congress act to remedy these penalties. That is why I voted for H.R. 82.

That is also why I cosponsor Rep. JOHN LARSON's Social Security 2100 Act, which would repeal WEP and GPO while providing the appropriate pay-for measures needed to strengthen and preserve Social Security. The Social Security 2100 Act would improve Social Security's Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) so it reflects the inflation experienced by seniors, cuts taxes for middle-income beneficiaries among other important measures, and do so by ensuring millionaires and billionaires pay their fair share of Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) taxes.

Conversely, H.R. 82 would fully repeal WEP and GPO without a pay-for. The Congressional Budget Office has estimated that this would move up the date of insolvency for the combined Social Security Trust Funds. Given that the President-elect and House Republicans are unwilling to support commonsense

solutions to strengthen Social Security, it is crucial that we work to prevent benefit cuts for Social Security recipients, especially our most vulnerable citizens.

Congress must achieve the goals of protecting American federal workers while also preserving the crucial benefits that all Americans are entitled to through Social Security. H.R. 82 would cost the Social Security Trust Fund \$200 billion over 10 years, and it is imperative that Congress act to fill in this gap.

I urge the Senate to address H.R. 82's pay-for shortcomings as this bill moves forward.

**FRIENDSHIP UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 14, 2024*

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, Friendship United Methodist Church in Buena, New Jersey has done an outstanding job spreading the good news of Jesus for over 200 years. This extraordinary place of worship has been standing in the same place it was back in 1808, when it became one of the first Methodist Episcopal churches in the area. In the early days of South Jersey and the United States, there were not many places to worship, but the dedicated followers of Jesus Christ made sure that the people of Buena, New Jersey had a place to fellowship with their Lord. The church has endured hardships through the years and even had to close its doors at one point, but with the commitment from the ancestors of some of its original members, the house of God once again reopened in 2010 and has stood strong ever since. To this day, it is the oldest known church structure that is still in use by its congregation, and it looks forward to many more years of bringing people close to God and remembering the history- of Christianity in South Jersey.

God bless Friendship United Methodist Church and God bless the United States of America.

**HONORING CARLOS LEON'S CAREER IN SERVICE**

**HON. VERONICA ESCOBAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 14, 2024*

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor El Paso County Commissioner, Carlos Leon, a lifelong El Pasoan, who has dedicated his career to serving El Paso, Texas for over four decades.

Commissioner Leon began his career in 1974 with the El Paso Police Department, where he served for three decades. As a captain, he championed community policing, the law enforcement policy of fostering strong relationships between law enforcement and residents that builds trust and creates safer neighborhoods. In 1999, he was appointed Chief of Police, leading El Paso to its first national recognition as the safest city in America.

Commissioner Leon's dedication continued with his election as County Commissioner for

Precinct 1, where he has served three terms. I had the privilege of working with Commissioner Leon on the Commissioners' Court, witnessing firsthand his passion for a responsive, efficient government. He was instrumental in creating a County Administration Office to streamline and professionalize county operations, expanding healthcare access through University Medical Center clinics, and championing a \$15 minimum wage for all County employees.

It is my privilege to honor Commissioner Carlos Leon for his decades of dedicated service to the citizens of El Paso County. His leadership in public safety, infrastructure, access to healthcare, and economic equity has left a lasting impact on our community. I extend my heartfelt gratitude for his years of service and wish him and his beloved family, the very best in his well-deserved retirement.

**CONGRATULATING THE ST. ELIZABETH HORNETS, THE MISSOURI CLASS 1 SOFTBALL STATE CHAMPIONS**

**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 14, 2024*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the St. Elizabeth Hornets softball team for their remarkable achievement of capturing the Class 1 state championship. Their commanding victory over Gallatin in the title game, with a final score of 11-1, is a testament to their hard work and extraordinary talent.

Under Coach Oligschlaeger's leadership, the Hornets showcased consistency and greatness by going 30-2. What makes winning 30 games even more impressive is that they played most of their games against schools in larger classifications. When postseason play began, the dominance continued. They astonishingly outscored their opponents 78-7.

This championship adds to the legacy of the St. Elizabeth softball program, marking the fifth in its history. The continued success of this program is an excellent example of what happens when a community comes together to embrace and support its school.

I extend my sincerest congratulations to St. Elizabeth's players, coaches, staff, and fans. The shared effort of hard work, determination, and perseverance has brought honor to the school, town, and Mid-Missouri region. This St. Elizabeth softball team season shows what can be achieved when a community comes together to support a common goal.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 14, 2024*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from votes on November 13, 2024. Had I been present, I would have voted: NAY on Roll Call No. 459, and NAY on Roll Call No. 460.

CONGRATULATING RICHIE  
DEMARIA, SR.

**HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Richard DeMaria on having May 20, 2024, officially being named “Richard DeMaria Day” in the Borough of Buena because of the incredible contributions he has given to the area. Richie has owned and operated the Landisville Liquor Store since 1957 and has made it an integral part of the Buena Borough by providing great service to the community as well as initiating and maintaining its economy. The Landisville Liquor Store has been a model for businesses and has set the standard for customer service, quality, and professionalism throughout the years. Leading up to starting the Landisville Liquor Store, he worked in his grandpop’s feed store and bar, and he was a very likeable young man playing three sports in high school and having many friends. After graduation, he joined the Navy and sailed around the world several times before coming back to Buena, buying the bar from his grandpop on credit and paying it off creating what we have today as the Landisville Liquor Store. Richie has risen above many challenges in his life to not only become a successful businessman, but also an outstanding role model family and local community. I thank Richie, for all he has done for South Jersey and congratulate him on a well-deserved new holiday.

God bless Richard DeMaria and God bless the United States of America.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ERIC  
PAULSEN

**HON. STEVE SCALISE**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2024

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Eric Paulsen and his many contributions to our community in New Orleans and the state of Louisiana.

Eric tragically lost his battle with cancer on October 26, 2024.

For five decades, Eric kept our community informed as a local news legend, including forty years as a morning news anchor and reporter for WWL TV in New Orleans, making him one of our nation’s longest-tenured broadcasters.

For many people in Southeast Louisiana, turning to Channel 4 to hear the morning news from Eric was a part of their daily routine. For nearly half a century, Eric covered some of our region’s best and worst moments; from the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and other major storms to capturing the culture of New Orleans at Jazz Fest, he was there for Louisiana families through it all. His love and passion for the New Orleans food and music scene inspired many of his stories and earned him countless friendships across the City.

Earlier this year, Eric earned the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award from the Press Club of New Orleans and was recognized by the New Orleans City Council for his out-

standing journalism and commitment to the city and surrounding regions.

In addition to his broadcasting excellence, Eric was also a fixture at so many charitable events around the city and should serve as an inspiration to all of us to strive to give back to this community that has given us so much.

Not only was Eric a true friend, but his professionalism mixed with witty humor and a deep love of the city of New Orleans made him one of a kind who will be irreplaceable.

Eric Paulsen was loved by all who met him and will be sadly missed.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COURT  
IMPROVEMENT EQUITY ACT

**HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO  
SABLAN**

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2024

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Court Improvement Equity Act which authorizes grants to improve child welfare services in Guam, American Samoa, and my district, the Northern Mariana Islands.

As it stands, courts located in the Pacific territories are the only entities that do not receive support from the Court Improvement Program (CIP) under Title IV-B of the Social Security Act. In all other territories and states, the CIP provides a grant to the highest court of appeal to assess and improve the handling of foster care and adoption proceedings.

Every child, regardless of where they grow up in our country, has the right to a safe, secure, and nurturing family. My bill would enshrine this right by extending the same base grant currently available everywhere else to our islands.

The gentleman from Guam, Mr. MOYLAN, is an original cosponsor of the bill. I urge my colleagues to support this vital bipartisan legislation.

STOP TERROR-FINANCING AND  
TAX PENALTIES ON AMERICAN  
HOSTAGES ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2024

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 9495, the Stop Terror-Financing and Tax Penalties on American Hostages Act.

This legislation would grant the Secretary of the Treasury the unilateral authority to suspend the tax-exempt status of any organization deemed “terrorist supporting” without due process or evidence. U.S. law already prohibits nonprofits from providing material support to terrorists. Additionally, I am deeply concerned about how this legislation could provide President-elect Trump’s incoming administration with unchecked power to cause irreparable damage to any nonprofit he deems a threat to his own political agenda. This could be disastrous for nonprofits across the country, including those doing important work in the Fourth District like Springboard for the Arts,

the Playwrights’ Center, and the Center for Victims of Torture. More than 120 civil society groups—including the ACLU, the American Federation of Teachers, the NAACP, and the League of Conservation Voters—signed a letter opposing this bill due to the potential for abuse. I include in the RECORD this letter. I stand with them, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

SEPTEMBER 20, 2024.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,  
Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. HAKEEM JEFFRIES,  
Democratic Leader, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER JOHNSON AND LEADER JEFFRIES: We write to express our deep concerns with H.R. 9495, the Stop Terror-Financing and Tax Penalties on American Hostages Act. Specifically, this bill includes the text of H.R. 6408, legislation we strongly oppose as it raises significant constitutional concerns. Because H.R. 6408 vests vast unilateral discretion in the Secretary of Treasury, it creates a high risk of politicized and discriminatory enforcement. The executive branch already has extensive authority to prohibit transactions with individuals and entities it deems connected to terrorism and nonprofit organizations are already prohibited from providing material support to terrorist organizations. In fact, it would be a federal crime for them to do so.

Moreover, we do not oppose the provisions in H.R. 9495 that relate to preventing the IRS from imposing fines and penalties on hostages while they are held abroad. Indeed, these provisions have already passed the Senate on their own, and if the House of Representatives were to pass a version of this bill that did not include the text of H.R. 6408, it could be sent immediately to the President for his signature.

Without any evidence as to the need for this legislation, H.R. 6408 authorizes broad and easily abused new powers for the executive branch. It grants the Secretary of the Treasury virtually unfettered discretion to designate a U.S. nonprofit as a “terrorist supporting organization” and to strip it of its tax-exempt status if the Secretary finds that the nonprofit has provided material support to a terrorist group, even if the “support” is not intentional or connected to actual violence.

While the sponsors of this legislation have stated that it is needed to avoid what they refer to as “time-consuming bureaucratic process” under current law, what the bill sponsors are actually seeking to avoid is fundamental due process. If this bill were to become law, the Secretary of Treasury could strip a US nonprofit of its tax-exempt status without providing the nonprofit a meaningful opportunity to defend itself before a neutral decisionmaker. The legislation further does not require disclosure of all the reasons for such a decision or the evidence relied upon to support it. Nor would the government be required to provide any evidence in its possession that might undermine its decision, leaving an accused nonprofit entirely in the dark about what conduct the government believes qualifies as material support.

The potential for abuse under H.R. 6408 is immense as the executive branch would be handed a tool it could use to curb free speech, censor nonprofit media outlets, target political opponents, and punish disfavored groups across the political spectrum. Moreover, the addition of this authority to the tax code would allow the IRS to explicitly target and harass domestic nonprofits using its investigative authority. It is also not hard to imagine a future administration using this power in far broader circumstances that have nothing to do with the

hostilities in Gaza. And as more recent congressional oversight efforts make clear, these efforts are part of concerted attack on civil society that is targeted at more than just groups involved in the campus protests regarding Gaza. The executive branch could use this authority to target its political opponents and use the fear of crippling legal fees, the stigma of the designation, and donors fleeing controversy to stifle dissent and chill speech and advocacy. And while the broadest applications of this authority may not ultimately hold up in court, the potential reputational and financial cost of fending off an investigation and litigating a wrongful designation could functionally mean the end of a targeted nonprofit before it ever has its day in court.

The lack of guardrails creates the potential for future administrations to weaponize these powers against groups on both ends of the ideological spectrum. Even if they may never be designated as “terrorist-supporting,” let alone charged with a crime, nonprofits will curtail their activities as a precaution in order to avoid stigmatizing and financially devastating punishments. That is why we strongly urge you to oppose the inclusion of H.R. 6408 in H.R. 9495.

Sincerely,

#WelcomeWithDignity, 18 Million Rising, Advocacy for Principled Action in Government, Alliance for Peacebuilding, American Atheists, American Civil Liberties Union, American Federation of Teachers, American Friends Service Committee, American Oversight, Americans United for Separation of Church and State, Amnesty International USA, Anethum Global, Arab American Institute (AAI), Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC, Asian Law Caucus, Aunties Coalition, Ayuda, Bend the Arc: Jewish Action, Borderlands Resource Initiative, Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law,

Center for American Progress, Center for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC), Center for Common Ground, Center for Constitutional Rights, Center for Democracy & Technology, Center for International Policy, Center for Media and Democracy, Center for Popular Democracy, Center for Victims of Torture, Charity and Security Network, Chinese for Affirmative Action, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW), Civil Liberties Defense Center, Coalition for Civil Freedoms, Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA), COLAGE, Colorado Immigrant Rights, Coalition Color of Change, Community Change Action, Council on American-Islamic Relations.

DAWN, DC Volunteer Lawyers Project, Defending Rights & Dissent, Demand Progress, Democratic Messaging Project, EarthRights International, Earthworks, Emgage Action, Empowering Pacific Islander Communities, Ensaaf, Equality Federation, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Faith in Action, Food Shift, Free Press Action, Freedom of the Press Foundation, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Friends of Human Rights, Greenpeace USA, HEART.

Hindus for Human Rights, Human Rights First, Human Rights Watch, ICNA Dallas, Immigration Hub, Indivisible, International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN), International Jewish Anti-Zionist Network, International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP), Islamic Association of The Colony, Islamic Center of Quad Cities, Just Foreign Policy, League of Conservation Voters, McKinney Islamic Association, Medical Center Islamic Society, Middle East Democracy Center (MEDC), MLFA, MoveOn, MPower Change Action Fund, Multicultural Center.

Muslim Advocates, Muslim Counterpublics Lab, Muslim Justice League, Muslims for Just Futures, NAACP, National Council of Asian Pacific Americans, National Disabled

Legal Professionals Association, National Education Association, National Immigration Law Center, National Iranian American Council Action, National Lawyers Guild-Mesoamérica subcommittee, National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund, National Network of Abortion Funds, National Women’s Law Center, NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice, New Georgia Project Action Fund, New Israel Fund, North American Indian Muslim Association, NTIC, Oil Change International.

Organization for Identity & Cultural Development (OICD.net), Othman Bin Affan Mosque, OPAWL—Building AAPI Feminist Leadership, Oxfam America, Palestine Legal, PASNY, Peace Action, Peace Appeal Foundation, Peace Catalyst International, Peace Direct, People for the American Way, People’s Action, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Plus, Positive Women’s Network-USA, Presbyterian Church (USA), Office of Public Witness, Project On Government Oversight, Project South, Protect Democracy, Public Citizen.

Refreshed Refined Reformed R3 Inc, Reproductive Freedom for All (former NARAL Pro-Choice America), Restore the Fourth, September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows, Shoulder to Shoulder Campaign, Southern Poverty Law Center, Stop AAPI Hate, The Interfaith Center of New York, The Seed Program by Kai, Inc., The Sikh Coalition, The United Methodist Church—General Board of Church and Society, The Workers Circle, The X-Lab, Tides Center, Tides Foundation, Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC), US Campaign for Palestinian Rights Action (USCPR Action), Win Without War, Women for Weapons Trade Transparency, Women’s March.

#### HONORING JAMES SCALICE

#### HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 14, 2024*

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, this past month, it was my honor to attend the Eagle Scout Court of Honor for an incredible young man, James Scalice. James has learned an incredible amount through the merit badge program earning 41 total badges in subjects such as Life Skills, Business, and Science. Within his troop, this young man has developed leadership skills through elected positions and has learned the value of serving his community by participating in countless hours of service to his church and community. He has displayed his love for God by earning two religious emblems including “Pope Pius the twelfth” from the Catholic Diocese of Camden. With a deep love for his country and great respect for veterans, James decided to help out the American Legion Post 28 in Absecon, South Jersey for his Eagle Scout project.

#### RECOGNIZING DR. MARK BOUMAN ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY IN CHICAGO

#### HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 14, 2024*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize the service of Dr. Mark Bouman

who is retiring this week from the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago. Dr. Bouman worked for the Field Museum for over 15 years, serving most recently as the Senior Environmental Social Scientist and, before that, as the Chicago Region Program Director at the Museum’s Keller Science Action Center. His work focused on efforts to build better bridges between people and nature across the Chicagoland region and the urban world.

A lifelong Chicagoan who received his undergraduate degree in Geography from Valparaiso University and a M.A. and Ph.D. in Geography from the University of Minnesota, Dr. Bouman has taught at Valparaiso, the University of Minnesota, University of British Columbia, Elmhurst College, Chicago State University, and the University of Chicago. He has received numerous awards for teaching excellence, funding for research and technical assistance projects, and authored or co-authored a myriad of peer-reviewed articles and publications.

Dr. Bouman has played a leading role in raising awareness of the incredible culturally- and environmentally-diverse Calumet region. The Calumet region is a bi-state area that spans from the Pullman National Historical Park to the Indiana Dunes National Park. It is loosely bounded by the former U.S. Steel South Works in Chicago, portions of suburban Chicago, and the Indiana counties of Lake, Porter, and LaPorte. From Lake Michigan to the Indiana Dunes to the Grand Calumet River to the Kankakee River. The Calumet is a landscape reworked for industrial use that is now undergoing vigorous restoration for recreational and educational uses to enrich the lives of its residents and visitors.

While at Chicago State University, which anchors one corner of the Calumet region, Dr. Bouman started the University’s Neighborhood Assistance Center, the Calumet Environmental Resource Center, and the GIS Laboratory. He also helped establish the Lake Calumet Ecosystem Partnership and was Project Director on a map for Chicago Wilderness that serves as an important touchstone for current planning work in the region.

Dr. Bouman’s many involvements in regional affairs have included serving as: President of the Calumet Heritage Partnership, where he has tirelessly advocated for the creation of a Calumet National Heritage Area; Co-Chair of the Calumet Stewardship Initiative, as a Member of the Working Group of Vital Lands Illinois; and as a Member of the Millennium Reserve Steering Committee.

In addition to his volunteer pursuits, Dr. Bouman is a huge Cubs fan with an encyclopedic knowledge of stats and history about the game overall, a community choir singer, and a train buff; one year, he was even given the chance to drive a train for his birthday. He’s also one of those people who shares a lot of obscure trivia, much to everyone’s delight, not just about The Calumet region but about old Hollywood movies, politics, and many other things.

Please join me in thanking Dr. Bouman for his service and extending best wishes on his retirement. I have no doubt he will continue to stay actively involved on behalf of our region.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS (VFW) WILLIE BARRAZA POST 9173

### HON. VERONICA ESCOBAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2024

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Willie Barraza Post 9173 for their 75th anniversary. The Willie Barraza Post has been an important service organization to assist our veteran community, their families, and the wider El Paso community.

The Post was founded in 1949 and named after Willie Barraza, who was an Army Sergeant from Smelertown who went Missing in Action during World War II. Smelertown was located in El Paso, Texas, and housed workers of the American Smelting and Refining Company (ASARCO). Willie Barraza Post 9173 is the second oldest post in El Paso with veteran members from the Korean, Vietnam, and Global War on Terrorism.

The Willie Barraza Post is chartered with 34 World War II service members and currently has 148 members serving our border city and our military base of Fort Bliss. Their members are active participants in supporting our community. They help raise funds for local churches and scholarship opportunities for students. They also serve in recognizing veterans through participation in our district's annual Independence Day and Veterans Day parades.

Today, I want to thank the Willie Barraza Post for their service to the country and our community. I join them in celebrating their 75th Anniversary and commend them for their consistent presence in El Paso. I look forward to the continued work that they do in the coming years and decades.

PINELAND LEARNING CENTER

### HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the great school of Pineland Learning Center in Vineland, South Jersey, which has been of incredible mentorship for children in South Jersey for over four decades. Since its founding in 1980 by the late Fred Eccleston, the school has been an outstanding outlet for students that have struggled in the traditional learning environment by providing alternative learning techniques to fit their needs. Many times, the students that come to PLC have been dealt hands in life that most adults can't even imagine and because of this they have not been able to find their full potential in a typical school setting. With the dedicated staff that Pineland has to offer, the kids are provided with a safe, structured, and consistent learning environment where they can discover their gifts and see all the possibilities life has to offer. The staff gains the children's trust by committing themselves to learning who the student is by understanding the student's personality as well as quirks and triggers that cause outbursts. This allows the kids to learn

who they are by being allowed to be themselves in a culture that feels just like a family. PLC goes beyond academics by also providing the students with work-based learning for jobs that the local community has to offer, and college fairs where many of the kids can attend universities throughout the country. It is my great honor to commend the Pineland Learning Center on many years of great service to the youth of South Jersey and I look forward to many more years of improving their lives. God bless Pineland Learning Center and God bless the United States of America.

TRIBUTE TO DAVE HOBSON

### HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2024

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues from Ohio and across the country in paying tribute to our friend, former Congressman David L. Hobson, who died on October 6.

Dave was one of the Buckeye State's most respected public servants. He worked on behalf of the people of the Seventh Congressional District for 18 years—and served in the State Senate for eight years prior to that. He took great pride in solving problems great and small on behalf of his constituents.

A longtime member of the Appropriations Committee and a Military Construction cardinal, Dave was a champion of our state's military installations of all types, ensuring that they were in the best position possible to contribute to our national defense.

Dave was himself a proud Ohio Air National Guard veteran, serving during the Berlin Wall crisis. In recognition of his service in and out of uniform, in 2022 he was inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame—a high honor accorded to no more than 20 Ohioans each year.

Mr. Speaker, we are grateful that men like Dave Hobson are willing to enter the arena and commit their lives to public service. Our prayers are with his wife, Carolyn, their three children, and their grand- and great-grandchildren at this time of sorrow.

IN MEMORY OF MRS. BRENDA  
DAVIS MURRELL

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

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2024

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary public servant, trailblazing leader, wife, mother, grandmother, sister, mentor and friend of longstanding, Mrs. Brenda Davis Murrell. Sadly, Brenda transitioned from labor to reward on November 9, 2024. A celebration of her remarkable life will be held at 11:00 a.m. on November 15, 2024, at Victory Baptist Church, 640 Meriwether Road, Milledgeville, Georgia.

Brenda Davis Murrell was born August 11, 1951, in Cleveland, Ohio to the late Lexie Davis, Sr. and Ms. Bobbie Davis Arnold. Her family relocated to Milledgeville, Georgia when

Brenda was 10 years old, where she began the early stages of her life's journey of achievement, service, and empowerment of others. She was a product of the Baldwin County School System where she excelled academically and graduated from Boddie High School in 1969.

Upon graduation, Brenda attended the historic Paine College in Augusta, Georgia where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology in 1973 and joined the sisterhood of her beloved Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc, where she served for more than 50 years holding numerous leadership positions and leveraging her influence and vision for the sorority to make a lasting impact in communities across Georgia and beyond.

In pursuit of further knowledge and mastery, Brenda completed her master's degree in education from the University of Georgia in 1985 and armed with a keen understanding of human behavior, she began employment as a counselor within the Georgia Department of Corrections, rising through the ranks, breaking barriers, and setting unprecedented standards. Her tenacity, intellect and leadership skills earned her appointment as one of the first 3 Black and female wardens in the State of Georgia and her service as Warden at multiple institutions sealed her reputation as one of the most highly competent, effective, compassionate, and admired prison administrators in the profession. She was instrumental in implementing a wide range of transformative policies and programs which remain active today, including life changing prison ministries. Correctional officers and offenders who served under her leadership all say of Brenda that she always treated them with dignity and respect.

Her career culminated as Director of Facilities Operations for the Georgia Department of Corrections, overseeing more than 60 facilities with 10,000 employees and 47,000 offenders, reaching the zenith of her profession and setting a powerful example for future generations of leaders.

Following her retirement, Brenda continued to influence the field as a private consultant sharing her expertise with facilities and organizations nationwide. However, as she stepped away from corrections, she redirected her energy to her "first love"—DST. As a Delta, she embraced the Red Hat society, an organization dedicated to women's empowerment, embodying the message of living life boldly and with purpose.

Brenda was an avid traveler who cherished exploration, traversing continents and embarking on 19 adventures with Carnival and Caribbean Cruise lines.

A woman of unwavering faith, Brenda's life was grounded in her Christian beliefs and no matter where her career moved her, she sought out churches in her community, finding strength and kinship through worship. Her spiritual journey began at Flagg Chapel Baptist Church in Milledgeville where she served for many years as Church announcer, utilizing her distinctive voice and perfect diction there, and within her community as a respected public speaker.

Brenda loved her family. Her sons, Brandon and Bruce Butts were the loves of her life, and she was a doting grandmother, to say the least. Moreover, she loved her siblings and extended family; frequently organizing family reunions, and providing warmth, laughter, and support to all of them.

Brenda was a friend to many who were blessed by the bond of her friendship. She was frank and honest in her friendship—sharing not just what you might want to hear but what she felt you needed to hear. On a personal note, I will forever cherish the wise counsel and sage advice Brenda gave me over the last 32 years. It was at her kitchen table with Brenda and several friends, poring over maps and pages of data, and in fervent prayer, that I resolved to run for Congress in 1992. As she did for me, Brenda touched so many lives in so many ways and because she did, the world is a better place.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the people of Georgia and beyond in celebrating the extraordinary life of Brenda Davis Murrell and in extending our deepest condolences to her family, friends, sorors, and all who mourn her loss. Moreover, I pray that we will all be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

CONGRATULATING JASON ANDERSON ON 20 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE CITY OF ROCHELLE

**HON. DARIN LAHOOD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 14, 2024*

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Jason Anderson for his 20 years of impactful service as Economic Development Director for the City of Rochelle. In this role, Anderson worked with Illinois businesses and others in the Rochelle community to attract increased economic investment and improve public infrastructure in Rochelle.

Anderson graduated from Texas A&M University with a degree in Business Administration. Before becoming the Economic Development Director, Anderson served in many roles, including Northern Illinois Regional Director for former U.S. Senator Peter Fitzgerald.

Through Anderson's tenure, the City of Rochelle saw robust improvement in their economy and infrastructure. Since 2005, there has been \$1.3 billion in capital investments made by businesses and 2,200 jobs created in Rochelle. Highlights of this economic growth include investment projects from companies like Wheatland Tube and the CHS Ethanol plant as well as the construction of the Rochelle Business Technology Park.

Additionally, the City of Rochelle has received over \$125 million in funding for infrastructure over the past two decades. Anderson's work as Economic Development Director focused specifically on infrastructure modernization of the railroad and airport. In Anderson's 10 years overseeing Rochelle's airport it received almost \$11 million in funding and the Rochelle railroad's yearly revenue quadrupled under Anderson's vision.

Jason Anderson's tireless work has left a lifelong impact on the Rochelle community and the state of Illinois. His commitment to our community is truly inspiring and I congratulate Jason on 20 years of service to Rochelle and wish him the best in all future endeavors.

RAYLEN WEAVER

**HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 14, 2024*

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege of attending a masterful Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Raylen Weaver from Mullica Hill, South Jersey. Raylen has been involved in boy scouts for seven years since he was a rising fifth grader as a Webelos Scout and now in the tenth grade he has already achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. He has held multiple leadership positions which includes the Den Chief, Scribe, Patrol Leader and earning his way up to the position of Senior Patrol Leader. On his climb up to Senior Patrol Leader, he spent 59 nights camping, hiked 84 miles, and logged 76 hours of service to better his community before he is accredited with completing 130 more hours to complete his Eagle Scout project. For his project, he decided to create the Little Way Children's Garden to benefit the Mary Mother of Mercy Church in Glassboro, South Jersey. This garden is a beautiful prayer area defined by edge stones with concrete and wood benches complete with statues of St. Therese, Mary, and St. Joseph in a perfect display to benefit children of the church and parishioners. Raylen is also an avid runner and biker participating in a Duathlon and the 100-mile MS ride City to Shore. He plans to attend the Naval Academy or West Point to serve his county and continue to improve himself. I have all faith that Raylen will make his country proud and continue to make his local community proud. God bless Raylen Weaver and God bless the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING KAY GRANGER FOR HER REMARKABLE SERVICE IN CONGRESS

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 14, 2024*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, it is difficult to imagine a Congress without my good friend and longtime colleague Kay Granger—an effective and accomplished lawmaker who has diligently represented the people of Texas since 1997, when she was elected as the first Republican congresswoman from the Lone Star State.

An incredibly strong, well-informed and tenacious leader, Kay has worked tirelessly over the years to make our government more transparent and accountable while helping those in need.

Having worked closely with her over the years, I know her deep personal commitment and unwavering resolve to protect unborn children and their mothers from the violence of abortion.

During her remarkable 25 years of service on the powerful House Appropriations Committee, she has fought relentlessly to preserve critical protections for the weakest and most vulnerable, including the Hyde Amendment—which has saved more than 2.5 million lives.

She has also strongly supported the Smith Amendment, which I first authored in 1984, to

prevent U.S. taxpayer dollars from funding abortions for federal employees and their dependents, and her work on foreign aid has helped protect so many unborn babies and women in need around the globe.

As the first Republican Chairwoman on the House Appropriations Committee, Kay also led our efforts in the House on many other important matters. She worked hard to cut wasteful spending, promote fiscal responsibility, and ensure hard-earned American taxpayer dollars are spent more efficiently and effectively.

At every turn, Kay has been steadfast in her support of our courageous service members, veterans, and their families and absolutely dedicated to boosting our national security, especially while she served as Chairwoman of the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee.

She has worked tirelessly to hold public officials to account, including those at the U.S. State Department in the aftermath of the horrific attack on our diplomatic compound in Benghazi that tragically left four Americans dead.

Kay's unyielding commitment to improve the lives of her constituents and Americans across the country has truly made a difference. We will always cherish our time with her in Congress and the incredible lasting impact she has had on all of us who have known and worked with her.

CONGRATULATING THE FATHER TOLTON TRAILBLAZERS, THE MISSOURI CLASS 4 SOFTBALL STATE CHAMPIONS

**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 14, 2024*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, today, I recognize the Father Tolton softball team for their remarkable achievement of clinching the Class 4 championship. Their 24–10 season record and 5–0 shutout victory over Belton in the title game, is the culmination of all the work they put in and the great amount of talent on this team.

It is worth noting that this state championship is the second in Father Tolton's program history. Their last softball state championship came in 2020. This championship serves as an example of the upward trajectory of where the program is headed.

I extend my sincerest congratulations to the Father Tolton softball team, coaches, and its supporters. Winning a championship is a collective effort that takes an all-hands-on-deck approach. The community recognizes and highly values their dedication and passion for softball.

TONY BOCELLE

**HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 14, 2024*

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to wish Tony Bocelle a happy 100th birthday after so many great years of serving our country, being a great family man, and

giving back to his community. Tony gave years of his life to his country by serving in the United States Army during World War II being in the 11th Airborne Division where he was involved in several combat missions. In his time of service, he bravely assisted in a daring prison raid in Los Banos, Philippines, which resulted in freeing nearly 3,000 American prisoners from the horrific treatment from the en-

emy's military. The operation took place on February 23, 1945, when prisoners were lined up to be executed before the 11th Airborne division made their attack and liberated the thousands of allied prisoners of war and civilians. Tony was shown homage for his service to his country on his 100th birthday on April 19th of this year when 100 flags were placed in his yard from Americans and Filipinos

thanking him for his service. Since the end of War World II, Tony has continued to be an outstanding member of society and has fathered a beautiful family that have added to their father's legacy. I wish Tony a happy birthday and I wish him 100 more extraordinary years. God bless Tony Bocelle and God bless the United States of America.