

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

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

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 8, 2023*

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

#### RECOGNIZING SFC WILLIAM MONTGOMERY ON RECEIVING THE PURPLE HEART

### HON. LAUREN BOEBERT

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 8, 2023*

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

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

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

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

#### CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

### HON. GREG CASAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 8, 2023*

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

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

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

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

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

### HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 8, 2023*

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 8, 2023*

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

#### CONGRATULATING BLAIR OAKS VOLLEYBALL ON THEIR CLASS 3 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

### HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 8, 2023*

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