

## HONORING THE SERVICE OF KEN MOORE

## HON. TIM WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 2025*

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, it is my special privilege to recognize Ken Moore of Monroe as the Veteran of the Month for September and honor him for his dedicated service to our great Nation.

Ken Moore served with distinction as a member of the Air Force during the Vietnam War and was honorably discharged in 1967. For his heroic contributions, he was awarded the Expert Marksmanship Badge, the Vietnam Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Upon returning home from Vietnam, Ken served for 25 years as a member of the Monroe Police Force, initially as an officer and later as a detective, ensuring the safety of our communities.

Ken has remained actively involved in the veteran community. He has made significant contributions to the VFW and American Legion, and he is a devoted member of AMVETS Monroe.

Notably, Ken also co-founded Flag O'er Veterans with Sam Struth after he observed several cemeteries in the community did not have American flags honoring veterans. The initiative pays tribute to deceased veterans in the Monroe community by raising funds and installing flagpoles with an American flag, lights, and memorial plaques in local cemeteries where veterans are laid to rest.

Ken Moore's remarkable life of service and his leadership working on behalf of America's veterans inspire us all. May others know of my high regard for Ken, as well as my deep gratitude for his lasting contributions to the country we love.

## RECOGNIZING THE VISIT OF ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

## HON. LaMONICA McIVER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 2025*

Mrs. McIVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend a warm welcome to His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, an esteemed leader of the Eastern Orthodox Church, upon his visit to the United States.

For more than three decades, Patriarch Bartholomew has stood as a moral voice in times of global challenge. When Europe faced the refugee crisis, he joined hands with Pope Francis to affirm the dignity and humanity of those fleeing Syria, Africa, and beyond in search of safety and a better life. In an increasingly divided world, he has worked tirelessly to build bridges—fostering interfaith dialogue among Christians, Jews, Muslims, and people of all faith traditions. As the global climate crisis deepens, he has reminded us that creation itself is a sacred trust, urging us to honor and protect the natural world with which God has blessed us. For this leadership, he is being awarded the prestigious Templeton Prize during his visit.

Patriarch Bartholomew's spiritual guidance has inspired Orthodox Christians across the globe. In my own district, he has been a shepherd to the congregation of St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Union, New Jersey. Under his leadership, the St. Demetrios community has flourished as an example of faith in action—welcoming neighbors from every walk of life to their Annual Greek Cultural Festival and offering vital community services year-round.

It is therefore my great honor to join my constituents and colleagues in welcoming His All-Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, to our Nation. We are confident that his visit will be both meaningful and successful.

## ISSUES WITH H. RES. 713, CENSURE OF REP. OMAR

## HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 2025*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I strongly object to this censure resolution which does not include a single quote from Representative ILHAN OMAR (MN-05) and seeks to punish her for comments she never made. After the unconscionable act of gun violence that took the life of Charlie Kirk, Representative OMAR clearly and immediately condemned this assassination. She expressed her profound shock, sadness, grief about this despicable act of political violence. She expressed sympathy and empathy for Mr. Kirk's wife and young daughters who are enduring unimaginable pain and sorrow.

Sadly, Republicans are misleading Americans and deliberately using this resolution to further divide Democrats and Republicans at a time when all Americans need to come together to condemn acts of political violence, which are becoming all too commonplace in our Nation.

Censure is a serious tool that should be reserved for holding Members of Congress accountable for unethical or criminal behavior, like committing assault or accepting bribes, or for specific categories of speech that are not protected by the First Amendment, including direct threats against individuals, inciting treason or insurrection, or the use of aggressively insulting "fighting words" against another Member on the House Floor.

Mr. Speaker, I voted against this censure and will continue to defend our right to free speech to represent our constituents and voice our conscience as Representatives in this great democracy.

## HONORING FOX LAKE, ILLINOIS MAYOR DONNY SCHMIT ON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE GRANT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL HALL OF FAME

## HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 2025*

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my dear friend, and Fox Lake, Illi-

nois's 23rd Mayor, Donny Schmit, a public servant, community leader, and proud alumnus of Grant Community High School. I am proud to recognize Mayor Schmit for his decades of dedicated service to the people of Fox Lake and his lifelong commitment to civic and community engagement. And I am proud that Donny's service is now forever recognized with his induction this year into the Grant Community High School Hall of Fame.

The Grant Community High School Hall of Fame honors alumni who have achieved distinction, outstanding accomplishment, or significant contribution in their professions, their communities, their schools, their families, or their personal lives. Inductees are chosen as role models for students and as examples of the excellence the school seeks to inspire. Donny's life and career undoubtedly reflect these very ideals.

Donny graduated from Grant in 1971, where he lettered in both football and wrestling. Following high school, he embarked on a successful career in the trades, but his true calling has been in service to his hometown community. Over the years, he has served as a Village Trustee, Planning Commission Board member, and is currently in his fourth consecutive term as Mayor of Fox Lake. In this role, Donny has been a steadfast supporter of Grant High School, regularly attending events, welcoming student interns to the Village, incorporating student voices into municipal planning, and honoring students and coaches.

His service extends well beyond his mayoral responsibilities. Donny dedicated more than 25 years as a volunteer with the Fox Lake Fire Department, coached young athletes with the Lakeland Cardinals, and helped lead programs with the Lions Club, including as an instructor for the blind bowling league. In addition, he has been an active member of his church, where he received the Christy Fidelis Award from Cardinal Francis George for his exceptional volunteer work.

Through his leadership, Donny has guided significant improvements to the Village of Fox Lake and has been a tireless advocate for his community. He embodies the values of service, leadership, and integrity and serves as a role model for students and citizens alike.

As part of his Hall of Fame induction, Donny will be celebrated during a series of homecoming events—including a reception, pep assembly, the varsity football game, and the homecoming parade—giving the community and students alike the opportunity to honor his achievements.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mayor Donny Schmit for his extraordinary service to Fox Lake, his devotion to Grant Community High School, and his well-deserved induction into the Grant Community High School Hall of Fame. His contributions will have a lasting impact, and his example will continue to inspire future generations.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

## HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 2025*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I was present for the vote but my voting card did not record. I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 276.