



Rep. Kean Jr. still absent from D.C. and Congress

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Vigil attendee Elaina Polding, 17, writing on a memorial cross for an 8-year-old child who died on Aug. 27, 2025, during the Annunciation Church shooting in Minneapolis. COREY SCHMIDT/ST. CLOUD TIMES

Protecting against 'acts of hostility'

Some Christians say carrying guns is their spiritual duty

Deena Yellin

NorthJersey.com | USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW JERSEY

With violence at houses of worship grabbing headlines, more U.S. churches are relying on members of the flock — and even pastors — to defend the congregation in case of a mass-shooter attack.

A growing number of conservative Christians also see it as their spiritual duty to pack in the pews and get firearms training.

"Religion and guns have become intimately entangled

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Law enforcement officers set up barriers after a shooting at Annunciation Church in Minneapolis, where an attacker killed two children last August. BEN BREWER/REUTERS

Jersey Fan Hub will anchor Cup events

Slate of gatherings meant to hype state's presence

Katie Sobko

NorthJersey.com

USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW JERSEY

The divisions between New York City and New Jersey over the World Cup experience continue to expand.

The regional host committee's Jersey Fan Hub will charge fans \$10 to attend its watch parties taking place this June and July at Sports Illustrated Stadium in Harrison, while kids 12 and under can attend for free.

Meanwhile, across the Hudson River, the committee is hosting free fan events in all five boroughs at a mix of public and private spaces, such as Rockefeller Center, Brooklyn Bridge Park and the Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in Queens.

Natalie Hamilton, a spokesperson for the host committee, said the fan hub is the "host committee's tentpole fan experience in New Jersey and

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New York City World Cup fan events are receiving support from New York State and the city, while the Jersey Fan Hub will charge adults to attend its watch parties at Sports Illustrated Stadium in Harrison, since no state funds are involved. BRENDAN MCDERMID/REUTERS

Will Hamawy's ties to a terror suspect slow his NJ-12 run?



Political Stile

Charles Stile
USA TODAY NETWORK

Dr. Adam Hamawy, a plastic surgeon from South Brunswick, brings a compelling biography to his first run for Congress.

The self-proclaimed "outsider" candidate spent two years in Iraq as a U.S. Army combat surgeon. During that service, he saved the life of a Blackhawk helicopter pilot, Tammy Duckworth, now a U.S. Senator from Illinois. Duckworth, who lost both legs and partial use of her right arm, returned the favor by endorsing his campaign back in January.

As a resident at New York Presbyter-



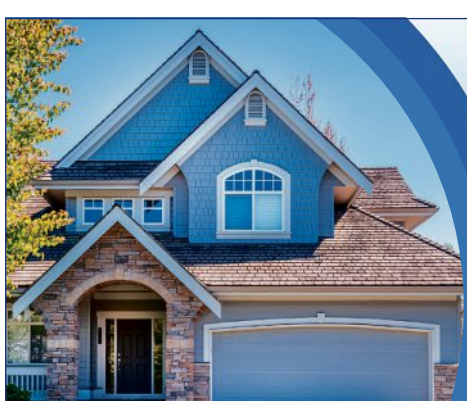
Hamawy

an, Hamawy treated first responders to the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks at the World Trade Center buildings. And most recently, Hamawy was among a group of American doctors trapped near the Rafah border crossing after Israel seized the territory in the war in Gaza. It was, in part, Duckworth's intercession that

helped win their release.

These missions of mercy are prominently featured in his television ads and mailings the Democratic Party primary in New Jersey's 12th Congressional District, which stretches across a deep-blue swath through parts of Mercer, Middlesex, Somerset and Union counties. It is also those experiences that

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