

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MR. JOE B. ALLEN

**HON. SYLVIA R. GARCIA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Joe B. Allen, an accomplished attorney and civic leader who has devoted his career to strengthening and uplifting the City of Houston. Scenic Houston has recognized Mr. Allen with its Scenic Visionary Award for his leadership and his lasting contributions to our community.

For decades, Mr. Allen has helped guide Houston's growth with a steady hand and a clear vision. Through his work in public infrastructure and policy, he has advanced the idea that a great city must be both functional and beautiful. It must be a place that serves its people and reflects their pride. He has been a leading voice for thoughtful urban design and the protection of green and scenic spaces across our region.

His commitment to preserving the character of our city has inspired generations of Houstonians to see beauty as an essential part of civic life. Mr. Allen's influence endures in the parks, neighborhoods, and gathering places that define our city.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Mr. Joe B. Allen on this well-deserved honor and thank him for a lifetime of service that has made Houston a stronger, more welcoming place for all.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT COLONEL CHARLES H. WAGAMON, USAF, RETIRED, WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMENDATION

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to present a Congressional Veteran Commendation to a member of our greatest generation, retired USAF Lieutenant Colonel Charles H. Wagamon, of Huntsville, Texas. Lt. Colonel Wagamon served as a Captain, Bomber and Navigator flying in B-25 Mitchell Bombers with the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. His servant's life reflects the hard work and dedication that exemplifies the best of our Nation's values.

Lt. Col. Wagamon entered active duty in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in September of 1944 at twenty years of age and served an important role during period of World War II, flying reconnaissance missions over Italy detailing German activities along the railway system until the end of the war. He served in the North Apennines, Central Europe and Po Valley campaigns.

Lt. Col. Wagamon served in the 6th Bomb Group, 313th Bombardment Wing, 340th Bom-

bardment Group, 486th Bombardment Squadron earning; the Air Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with 4 Bronze Battle Stars, American Campaign Medal, Distinguished Unit Badge and the WWII Victory Medal.

After the Allied Victory, Lt. Col. Wagamon returned home and served in the reserves and ultimately retired with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. During his service in the reserves and after, he continued his service to country and community, through his faith and devotion to God, he lead his family of five in service to the Catholic Church and received many recognitions including the very special Vatican Award, which required many levels of nomination to be considered and the Benemerent Medal from Pope Francis given to him in 2014, recognizing 65 years of service to the Roman Catholic Church.

With his wife Marion right beside him, he has served the Huntsville community in various capacities for over 30 years that included Huntsville school teacher from 1978 to 1982, Deputy Director of Education Service Center Region 6 from 1968 to 1982, owner of Wagamon Printing that was opened in 1981, and Walker County Judge from 1994 to 2002.

As a longtime volunteer, Lt. Col. Wagamon has poured numerous hours into the HEARTS Veterans Museum of Texas. Setting up displays and doing tours educating visitors and students was a weekly occurrence. In addition to his work at the museum, he spent many hours and full days at many schools within the Huntsville Independent School District providing exceptional experiences for its students. It is with this level of love for God, country and community that I proudly commend retired USAF Lieutenant Colonel Charles H. Wagamon of Huntsville, Texas to his friends, family, and community and salute his service by awarding him the 2025 Congressional Veteran Commendation.

RECOGNIZING MS. AVA DUVERNAY: ART AS A CATALYST FOR CHANGE

**HON. KWEISI MFUME**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a trailblazing woman who fearlessly creates works of art that serve as a compelling force for change.

Award-winning filmmaker, screenwriter, and producer Ava DuVernay grew up in the communities of Lynwood and Compton, in California, and spent her summers visiting her father's home state of Alabama. It was in Alabama that DuVernay found her passion for film through cherished time spent with her aunt, Denise Sexton.

Setting out into the film industry first as a film marketer, Ava was on set with some of the world's most renowned filmmakers includ-

ing Steven Spielberg, Michael Mann, Clint Eastwood, Raoul Peck and Gurinder Chadha. Influenced by these masters of their craft, DuVernay shifted roles and began working behind the camera.

In 2008, Ava DuVernay released her first documentary, *This Is the Life*, about the rise of alternative hip hop in 1990s Los Angeles. Then, in 2010, she debuted her first narrative feature film, *I Will Follow*, which showed a woman's heartache after the passing of a dear relative. DuVernay's aunt, Denise Sexton, who nurtured her love for film and tragically passed away from breast cancer in 2003, was the inspiration for the film.

DuVernay's second feature film, *Middle of Nowhere*, premiered at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival and won the award for Best Direction. This film elevates the stories of women of color whose lives are unsettled when a spouse becomes incarcerated.

Ava DuVernay's 2014 film *Selma* followed the civil rights march shepherded by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. that resulted in the enactment of the Voting Rights Act. When developing this film, DuVernay drew from her father's direct recollection of witnessing this historic moment, as civil rights legends advanced across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama. For *Selma*, Ava became the first African American woman nominated for best director at the Golden Globes.

DuVernay's Oscar-nominated documentary *13th* put a spotlight on racial prejudice in the United States by dissecting the American prison system and its racial inequalities. *13th* would take home four of the nine Emmy awards it was nominated for and go on to collect numerous additional accolades. She has since shifted her focus back to feature films and television, with a few of her noteworthy works to date being *Queen Sugar*, *A Wrinkle in Time*, and *Origin*.

As an artist, Ava DuVernay creates both bravely and unapologetically, tackling issues that are unique to her experience as an African American woman, but that still resonate with people from all backgrounds. Her work is important and will doubtless be viewed as one of the premier artistic vehicles for social change in the modern era.

I had the distinct pleasure of welcoming Ava DuVernay to Capitol Hill when she visited Washington, D.C. in 2024. Joined by Speaker Emerita NANCY PELOSI and Congresswomen JOYCE BEATTY and AYANNA PRESSLEY, we were all struck by her poise, her genius, and her passion for artistry and activism.

Mr. Speaker, the impact of Ava DuVernay's artistry extends far beyond her portfolio. Rather, it is the voices that may otherwise have gone unheard and the generations of filmmakers who she has inspired that will be credited as her most powerful and enduring legacy.

● 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.

GREG GUTFELD ANALYSIS  
CORRECT

## HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2025

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Satirist Greg Gutfeld of Fox Television Channel was at his best on September 23rd correctly analyzing the consequence of violence by the Fake News Media in America. Deranged false accusations of Fascism, National Socialism, against conservatives is dangerous.

"All right. So, NBC claims that investigators have found no link between Charlie Kirk's assassin and any left-wing groups." As for this narrative's timing, all you have to see are the responses which is, see everyone? No left-wing group was involved in this murder. Congrats, NBC, you provided the cover. You can add that to your other scoops. The laptop is fake, COVID came from bad soup, Trump colluded with Russia, Joe was sharp as a tack.

The mainstream media misses more mayhem than a blind cleaning lady at Motel 6. So, is it a relief to know that the assassin wasn't part of some radical group? That he was just some guy who acted upon a daily reminder that in order to save democracy you had to murder someone? True, there were no records of him showing up at the nightly potluck at the YMCA. He didn't need to. Every single day he was fed the message that all US are nazis, fascists, white supremacists. From colleges to comedy shows, you cannot escape the brainwash.

So, the media says good news, he wasn't radicalized by a group. Yeah, because he was radicalized by you, the media. The constant drumbeat from democrats, the press, activists who have been screaming for years that people like Charlie aren't just wrong, they are evil. Who needs an armed group having a clandestine meeting in a basement when you have nightly programming on MSNBC? They have more blood on their hands than Jeffrey Dahmer after a first date, I know. Never a second date with him. But if you are thrilled there was no organized group behind this hate and how do you explain the reaction after the assassination? It wasn't universal horror. You had thousands of ghouls cheering his demise. Pop stars, talking heads, teachers, bureaucrats. ANTIFA wasn't needed because culture did the work for them. Saying no left-wing group was involved doesn't mean there is no left-wing influence. It means the poison has seeped into the groundwater. You don't need a special club when the entire ecosystem is the club.

It's like Charles Manson bragging that he didn't kill anybody himself personally. No Charlie, it wasn't you. Just a gaggle of human scum, that you brainwashed. These creeps gave motive, permission, and the hopes that Kirk's assassin would be seen as a hero. Meanwhile, the same fools now cite bogus studies and say political violence comes from the right. But the stats are less believable than the shoe polish on Jesse's bald spot. They ignore everything that doesn't fit the script. When their once vaunted economist magazine cited a study showing that the most political violence is right wing, they failed to mention that the study by an outfit called The Prosecution Project was run by a self-proclaimed ANTIFA member. And yet the media devoured this fanfiction like it was objective data.

Coming up with a bogus study to smear the right and laundering it through the media,

rinse and repeat. So, you have to wonder, why lie? Why did Jimmy Kimmel blame MAGA for Kirk's death? It wasn't bad timing; it helped provide cover for future left-wing violence. So don't tell me no group. The group is CNN; the group is Hollywood. The group is the late-night hosts losing millions but still propped up by the networks. The group is every politician who calls the country nazis. And they are shocked when some unhinged loser believes them? If you can't see that, it means you're part of that group too.

## HONORING JENNIFER SEVILLA KORN AS A 2025 SHE LEADS AMERICA CHRISTIAN WOMAN OF DISTINCTION

## HON. LISA C. McCALIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2025

Mrs. McCALIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jennifer S. Korn as a 2025 She Leads America Young Christian Woman of Distinction award recipient.

A native of East Los Angeles and a proud Marine Corps spouse, Jennifer is a national conservative leader, policy expert, and political strategist whose faith has guided her throughout a distinguished 20-year career in public service. She helped elect and advise two U.S. Presidents and two U.S. Attorneys General while leading national grassroots and communications efforts that achieved historic gains among minority, veteran, and faith voters.

Appointed by President Trump as Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of the newly created White House Faith Office, Jennifer works to protect religious freedom, ensuring Americans of all faiths have a voice in their government. She advises the President on matters of faith at home and abroad. Previously, she co-founded the National Faith Advisory Board, the largest faith coalition in the United States, representing leaders from every state, denomination, and ethnic background.

Her earlier career includes serving as Deputy Political Director at the Republican National Committee, Director of Hispanic and Women's Affairs in the George W. Bush White House, and Senior Advisor to two U.S. Attorneys General at the Department of Justice. As a She Leads America honoree, Jennifer believes leadership is a calling to serve others with both truth and compassion, empowering individuals, strengthening families, and preserving freedom for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this outstanding woman of distinction.

## RECOGNIZING TOM DOWNEY

## HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2025

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tom Downey of Ireland Stapleton, PC for being named Lawyer of the Year. Additionally, Tom has been named one of The Best Lawyers in America for Administrative and Regulatory Law and Government

Relations by The Best Lawyers in America publication.

As a regulatory attorney, Tom has provided legal assistance to a wide range of clients, helping them navigate regulatory agencies. Tom has been particularly impactful within the City of Denver, having rewritten Denver's liquor licensing rules, helped create regulations for recreational marijuana, and designed the licensing structure for pedal cabs in the city. His work with the American Arbitration Association has helped further its mission for more equitable and accessible conflict resolution.

Tom also gives back to the legal community by serving as a guest lecturer at law schools such as the University of Denver and helps clients in his private practice.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's 7th Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Tom Downey for his awards and thank him for his contributions to our community.

## HONORING THE GEYSERS AND THE CALPINE CORPORATION

## HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise along with my colleague Congressman JARED HUFFMAN, to honor Calpine Corporation (Calpine) as The Geysers, located in our Lake and Sonoma Counties, celebrates 65 years of commercial geothermal operations.

Commercial geothermal power generation at The Geysers began in 1960, marking the first such operation in the United States. Today, The Geysers remains the world's largest geothermal field, and Calpine has served as its primary operator for almost three decades.

In 1997, Calpine acquired 19 geothermal power plants and their associated steam fields, creating a unified approach to managing our critical natural resources. That same year, Calpine partnered with Lake County to construct a 29-mile pipeline delivering treated wastewater to replenish the geothermal steam reservoir. In 2003, the company completed a second 40-mile pipeline in collaboration with the City of Santa Rosa. Together, these systems now supply approximately 20 million gallons of treated wastewater each day, sustaining renewable energy production while providing environmentally sound wastewater solutions for our neighboring communities.

Today, Calpine is the nation's largest producer of geothermal energy, operating 13 plants at The Geysers that generate roughly 725 megawatts of baseload renewable power. These operations employ more than 300 full-time workers and support an additional 150 contractors, contributing significantly to the economies of our Lake and Sonoma Counties.

Beyond its role in energy production, Calpine has demonstrated a long-standing commitment to community partnership and philanthropy. Since 2011, the company has contributed over \$3.4 million to youth programs, local nonprofits, and schools throughout our region. These efforts include scholarships for graduating seniors, support for 4-H and Future Farmers of America, sponsorship of youth sports, and donations of meat from the Junior Livestock Auction to the Clearlake

Senior Center's Meals on Wheels program. Calpine also sponsors numerous community events, including Windsor's Concerts in the Park, the Cobb Area Council's Cobbler Festival, and the Rotary Club of Cloverdale's Asti Tour de Vine.

The company has shown equal commitment to public safety and environmental stewardship. Calpine has partnered with the Northern Sonoma County Fire Foundation to install helicopter dip tanks that enhance wildfire response in The Geysers region. Calpine also supports the Lake County Sheriff's Foundation, the South Lake Fire Protection District Volunteer Firefighters Association, and the Lake County Silver Foundation. Calpine employees have collectively contributed over 23,000 hours of volunteer service, assisting with local trail restoration, food distribution, and community clean-up projects. The company also hosts annual educational tours for approximately 400 visitors, helping to inspire the next generation of clean energy leaders.

Mr. Speaker, for 65 years, The Geysers has produced clean, reliable power for our region, and Calpine Corporation has been a steadfast partner to our local communities. Their leadership in renewable energy and dedication to community service have strengthened both our regional economy and our shared environmental future. It is fitting and proper that we recognize them here today on this milestone anniversary.

**RECOGNIZING CHRISTOPHER AARON MCGOWEN WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMENDATION**

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct privilege to rise today to present Christopher Aaron McGowen of Nacogdoches, Texas, as a recipient of the 2025 Congressional Veteran Commendation in recognition of his outstanding service to both his country and his community.

Aaron, a proud son of Nacogdoches, answered his country's call to service in February 1992, when he entered the United States Army as a Combat Medic. During his military career, he distinguished himself through professionalism, courage, and selfless service. His commendable service was recognized with numerous decorations, including the Bronze Star Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Combat Medic Badge, the Parachutist Badge, the Driver and Mechanic Badge, and the Operation Enduring Freedom Campaign Medal. These honors stand as a testament to his steadfast commitment and the vital role he played in safeguarding the lives of his fellow soldiers.

Following his honorable discharge, Aaron continued his life of service by dedicating himself to veterans and his community. While living in Washington State, he became an active member of the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association, contributing countless hours to fundraising efforts that provided construction projects for disabled veterans, ensuring safe homes and greater mobility for those who sac-

rificed for our freedoms. He further demonstrated his compassion and solidarity by volunteering at local VA hospitals and participating in funeral escorts to honor fallen service members and veterans.

In 2022, Aaron returned to his hometown of Nacogdoches, reuniting with his high school sweetheart, Melissa Milford McGowen, and resumed his mission of community service. As a member of the Nacogdoches Lions Club, he has worked tirelessly in the Vision Screening Program and collaborated with the Nacogdoches County Veterans Service Officer to ensure local veterans receive the resources and care they deserve.

His commitment deepened further in May 2023, when he assumed leadership within the Nacogdoches Hero Foundation as Chair of the Action Committee. Through this role, Aaron has made significant contributions to projects that directly support veterans, law enforcement officers, first responders, and their families, improving lives and strengthening the bonds of community.

Christopher Aaron McGowen embodies the highest ideals of service, both in uniform and as a citizen leader. His legacy is one of valor, compassion, and unwavering devotion to others. It is an honor to recognize him today with the 2025 Congressional Veteran Commendation.

**TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF WAYNE MARTIN**

**HON. HAROLD ROGERS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a Kentucky icon and longtime friend, Wayne Martin from Winchester, Kentucky. Throughout his career, Wayne built a stellar legacy of excellence in broadcasting, basketball and education, developing a wide network of fans, friends and business partners across our Commonwealth.

In Kentucky, basketball royalty is a highly coveted currency at the collegiate level, something that Wayne Martin obtained at multiple institutions. As head coach of the men's basketball team at his alma mater Morehead State University (MSU) from 1978 to 1987, he led the Eagles to two NCAA tournaments. During his stent as head coach and athletic director of then-Pikeville College, his teams earned three impressive national tournament trips, bringing great pride to the Kentucky Appalachians. He also served as assistant basketball coach at Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and head basketball coach and business teacher at Pikeville High School.

After investing 20 years in education and coaching student athletes, Wayne transitioned from earning a spot on the nightly news and sports highlights to broadcasting them for Gray Television stations in Kentucky. He began his broadcast news career as General Sales Manager and General Manager of WYMT-TV in Hazard, Kentucky. As a former successful coach, Wayne always had an effective game plan, and he used it to move up the ranks quickly in the television news industry. He served as President and General Manager of WKYT-TV from 1993 to 2013, where

he expanded news programming and earned Lexington's first Emmy Award for station excellence. He was also promoted as Regional Vice President of Television for Gray Television, Inc. and President of Gray Kentucky Television, Inc., operating WKYT-TV in Lexington, WYMT-TV in Hazard, WBKO-TV in Bowling Green and President of WVLT-TV in Knoxville, Tennessee.

In addition to an Emmy Award, Wayne has earned a number of accolades, including Ohio Valley Conference (OVC) Coach of the Year in 1982, OVC Hall of Fame Inductee in 2004, MSU Athletic Hall of Fame Inductee in 1995, the 2017 MSU Distinguished Alumni Award, and most recently, the MSU Founders Award for University Service in 2025.

Wayne has used his legacy on the sidelines and the power of the airwaves to give back to the Commonwealth that he so deeply cherishes. He hosted annual fundraisers for the Cardinal Hill Rehabilitation Hospital in Lexington, chaired both the United Way board of directors and the annual campaign, and served as chairman of the Children's Advocacy Center board of directors. His expert gameplans have also been sought after by the Kentucky and the Greater Lexington Chambers of Commerce, Morehead State University Board of Regents, Kentucky Broadcaster's Association, Governor's Scholars Foundation, Central Bancshares, Baptist Health, Kentucky-American Water Company, and the American Heart Association.

Wayne has mentored young entrepreneurs, student athletes and journalists who have become respected leaders in their fields and established exceptional businesses across the state. His coaching success and business expertise have been of great value to Kentuckians, building an endearing and longlasting fan base that I am honored to be a part of. I salute Wayne for investing in the lives of countless student athletes and giving Eastern Kentucky so much to be proud of.

**CONGRATULATING VISIONCORPS PRESIDENT AND CEO DENNIS STEINER ON HIS RETIREMENT**

**HON. LLOYD SMUCKER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor and congratulate Mr. Dennis Steiner on his retirement as President and CEO of VisionCorps.

VisionCorps is a non-profit organization that provides rehabilitative, preventative, educational, and employment services to the blind and vision impaired. Mr. Steiner's history with the company stretches back 41 years when he joined the agency in 1984 as a case manager. In 2008, he became President and CEO of the agency.

A strong advocate for the blind and visually impaired, Mr. Steiner shifted the focus of VisionCorps toward independence and autonomy. He introduced summer youth programming, implemented free rehabilitative services to clients, and utilized new technology such as smart glasses and magnifiers. He also oversaw the expansion of VisionCorps from one facility in Lancaster to rehabilitation and employment sites in Adams, Chester, Lebanon, and York Counties, as well as in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Additionally, Mr. Steiner serves as the North America/Caribbean World Blind Union representative for the National Industries for the Blind. He is a board member for VisionServe Alliance, the Pennsylvania Association for the Blind, UniqueSource, and the National Association for the Employment of People Who Are Blind, the last of which he served as the president from 2014 to 2016.

Under Mr. Dennis Steiner's leadership, VisionCorps has helped thousands of individuals lead independent and successful lives. Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District is grateful for Mr. Steiner's impact, and I wish him all the best in his well-earned retirement.

**HONORING THE LIFE OF LEVITTOWN'S OWN BERNADETTE MARIE MORAN**

**HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my constituent Bernadette Marie Moran, a beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and lifelong resident of Levittown, Pennsylvania, who passed away peacefully on October 7, 2025, at the age of 92.

Born in Philadelphia in 1932, Bernadette was a proud graduate of Little Flower High School, Class of 1950. She lived most of her life in Levittown, Pennsylvania, where she and her late husband, William M. Moran, Sr., raised their eight children. Her home was always filled with warmth, laughter, and the welcoming spirit that reflected her deep love for family and faith. For 66 years, she was a devoted parishioner of Queen of the Universe Church, where her faith guided every chapter of her life.

Bernadette embodied a joyful and adventurous spirit that inspired everyone who knew her. Whether she was parasailing at the Jersey Shore, whitewater rafting in Montana, or skydiving to celebrate her 80th birthday, she lived with courage, enthusiasm, and an enduring sense of wonder. She had a lifelong appreciation for music, especially the timeless songs of Frank Sinatra, and a special fondness for autumn, when she would take long drives with her children to admire the beauty of the changing seasons.

After raising her family, Bernadette continued to give back to her community. She volunteered for many years at Mary's Cupboard in Levittown, Pennsylvania, helping those in need with compassion and humility. She also worked for the Pennsbury School District beginning in 1983, first as an administrative substitute and later as a full-time assistant in the Pupil Services Office, where she served for over 15 years until her retirement in 2007. Bernadette treasured her work and the friendships she built along the way.

Bernadette was preceded in death by her husband, William Sr., her daughters Patricia Moran Simkanin and Bernie Moran Rossi, and daughter-in-law Barbara "Bobbie" Palmer. She is survived by her children William Jr., Thomas, Teresa, Kenneth, Kevin, and Cara, along with 19 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren who lovingly knew her as "Mom-Mom." Her family was the light of her life, and

she filled their hearts with stories, laughter, and unconditional love.

Mr. Speaker, Bernadette Moran's life was one of faith, family, service, and joy. She leaves behind a legacy defined by resilience, kindness, and a boundless spirit of adventure. May her memory continue to inspire all who had the privilege of knowing her.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Pennsylvania's First Congressional District's Bernadette Marie Moran, whose life reminds us that love, faith, and laughter are among the most enduring gifts we can give.

**HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MISS CANDIS KING**

**HON. EUGENE SIMON VINDMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Miss Candis King, an adored sophomore at Colgan High School in Prince William County, Virginia.

Candis, a lifelong resident of Prince William County and the cherished daughter of Virginia House Delegate Candi King and Fairfax Deputy Sheriff Joshua King, was a proud member of her school's Color Guard, a dancer, and someone who lit up every room with her kindness and creativity.

Her love for Transformers was more than just a hobby; it was a reflection of her cheerful spirit. Candis had a gift for bringing happiness to all those around her, and her presence made a lasting impact on her peers, teachers, and entire community.

Sadly, Candis passed away due to complications from sickle cell disease, a devastating and often overlooked condition that affects marginalized communities. This serves as a critical reminder of how much work still needs to be done in sickle cell research, treatment, and awareness. We need to invest more in medical research, expand access to care, and raise greater national attention to the seriousness of this disease.

I want to offer my deepest condolences to Delegate Candi King and Deputy Sheriff Joshua King. Your strength during this time of an unimaginable loss is inspiring. I hope you find comfort in knowing that Candis's light touched many lives and that her memory will live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved her.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Candis King. Though her time with us was far too short, her legacy of joy, creativity, and resilience will live on.

**HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF KENT DOUGLAS WONG**

**HON. JUDY CHU**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Kent Douglas Wong, who tragically passed away on October 8, 2025.

Mr. Wong dedicated his life to fighting for the rights of workers and immigrants, and his legacy will live on in the institutions he built, the progress he fought for, and the genera-

tions of leaders he fostered over his decades of work in California and across the country.

As the director of the UCLA Labor Center for 32 years, Mr. Wong brought it to national prominence as the leading institution for innovative research, advocacy, and leadership development on labor issues. He was instrumental in expanding and renovating a new headquarters for the center near MacArthur Park, which was named after his mentor, non-violent civil rights leader, Rev. James Lawson, Jr. Under his leadership, the University of California established labor centers at all nine campuses. Mr. Wong also led the establishment of such centers at three universities in Mexico and helped strengthen labor education programs overseas in China, Korea, Vietnam, Japan and the Philippines. Mr. Wong was the founding president of the United Association for Labor Education and a vice president of the California Federation of Teachers. His leadership within such a multitude of institutions demonstrated his lifelong dedication to advancing the rights and empowerment of immigrants and workers.

In 1992, Mr. Wong founded the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA), the first and only national organization of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islanders (AANHPI) workers. Under Mr. Wong's leadership, APALA gave AANHPI workers a stronger voice in the labor movement and developed a comprehensive strategy to address the unique challenges that AANHPI communities face nationwide.

As a fifth-generation Chinese American whose grandmothers were stripped of their American citizenship under the Chinese Exclusion Act, Mr. Wong believed every individual, regardless of background, deserves equal rights and the opportunity to succeed. From teaching in UCLA's Asian American Studies and Labor Studies programs to launching Dream Summer, the first paid, national fellowship for undocumented youth, he brought immigrant voices to the heart of labor and education. He authored and co-authored several books teaching lessons of immigrant and labor organizing as well as nonviolent philosophy, including "Dreams Deported: Immigrant Youth and Families Resist Deportation."

Mr. Wong was born and raised in Los Angeles and attended the University of California, Berkeley, before earning a law degree and beginning a career fighting for civil and workers' rights. He was the first staff attorney for Asian Americans Advancing Justice, which was then known as the Asian Pacific American Legal Center for Southern California, before serving as an attorney for the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 660.

Mr. Wong's courage, humility, and unwavering commitment to justice inspired everyone who had the privilege of knowing him, and I was fortunate to count him as a dear friend. I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating his life and recognizing his incredible legacy, which will continue to energize the next generation of leaders in the fight for equality and opportunity for all.

RECOGNIZING DANNY WALLACE SMITH WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to present Danny Wallace Smith of Crawford, Texas, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation for his exceptional armed forces service and unwavering commitment to our country, state, and local communities. Danny served three years in the United States Army, including 18 months in Vietnam during the Tet Offensive of 1968, one of the most significant and challenging periods in United States military history. His bravery and dedication were recognized with numerous commendations, including the National Defense Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with 5 Bronze Service Stars and one Silver Star, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, Navy Valorous Service Ribbon, and a Presidential Unit Citation.

Following his military service, Danny pursued higher education at Hardin Simmons University and earned a B.A. from Wayland Baptist College. He then dedicated 32 years to the Texas Department of Public Safety, where he rose to the rank of Regional Commander, overseeing 46 counties. His leadership and commitment to public safety earned him widespread respect. Notably, he served as the Commander of all DPS uniformed forces during the Mt. Carmel incident, further underscoring his critical role in high-stakes situations.

After retiring from DPS, Danny continued to serve by leading in the field of education. As Director of the Law Enforcement Academy and Division Chair of the Emergency Services Education Center at McLennan Community College, he mentored and trained future law enforcement professionals. His service extended further when he was called upon to serve as Interim Police Chief in Bellmead (2019) and Robinson (2020), Texas. In 2023, he was appointed as the full-time Police Chief of Robinson, where he later retired in August 2025.

Spanning over 54 years, Danny's career reflects a lifetime of selfless service, from the battlefield to public safety leadership, education, and community policing. His enduring contributions have had a lasting impact on the people of Texas and the broader law enforcement community.

It is with great honor and respect that I present Danny Wallace Smith with a Congressional Veteran Commendation from the 17th Congressional District of Texas. His exemplary service to our Nation and continued contributions to his community stand as a powerful example of public duty and honor.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MAYOR WILLIAM S. "SANDY" STIMPSON

**HON. BARRY MOORE**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the remarkable ac-

complishments of Mayor William S. "Sandy" Stimpson, 108th Mayor of the City of Mobile, Alabama. Since his election in 2013, Mayor Stimpson has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to public service, fiscal responsibility, and the shared vision of building Mobile into a city that is safer, more business-friendly, and more family-friendly for all.

Under his leadership, Mobile has achieved major financial reform, including reducing their bonded debt by nearly \$210 million and their unfunded liabilities by more than \$200 million. These reforms led to multiple credit rating upgrades and allowed for significant investments to improve public safety, infrastructure, and city personnel.

Mayor Stimpson has also championed long-term improvements, including modernizing the city's zoning code and launching a nationally recognized urban blight reduction program. As a founding member and chairman of the Alabama Big 10 Mayor Association, his influence extends beyond Mobile, strengthening the voice of Alabama's cities across the state.

On behalf of the people of Alabama, I want to thank Mayor Stimpson for his leadership and deep commitment to public service. Through his work, every Mobilian has been empowered to have a voice and a seat at the table in shaping a better future for their city.

**HONORING MR. DENZEL WASHINGTON: NO ROLE TOO BIG**

**HON. KWEISI MFUME**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an esteemed artist who truly needs no introduction: actor, producer, and director, Denzel Washington. The two-time Oscar winner and Tony Award recipient has carved a path for actors and performers who seek to dedicate their lives to the pursuit of artistic accomplishment.

Born in Mount Vernon, New York, Denzel developed his acting skills at Fordham University, the American Conservatory Theater, and even at a summer stock theater in St. Mary's City, Maryland. His film debut was in 1977's *Wilma*, which proved significant for reasons entirely unrelated to the movie—it was on that set that he met Pauletta Pearson, who 6 years later would become his wife. He credits her as the most important person in his life, the one who keeps him grounded and fills his days with love and purpose.

Denzel began receiving national attention for his talent in the early 1980s. He impressed critics and audiences alike in the television drama *St. Elsewhere*, and his true breakout film role was in 1984's, *A Soldier's Story*.

In 1989, Mr. Washington reached the pinnacle of his profession, winning his first Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor in the film *Glory*, directed by Edward Zwick, wherein he portrayed a soldier in the illustrious 54th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment, fighting for his race's freedom in the Civil War.

His portrayals on the silver screen demonstrate his brilliance and remarkable range as an actor. Washington's films are both critically acclaimed and beloved by the viewing public. Some of his most notable works include *The Preacher's Wife*, *American Gang-*

*ster*, and *Training Day*, which earned him a second Oscar, this time for Best Actor. Denzel was only the second Black actor in history to win the Best Actor award, after Sidney Poitier won it in 1964 for his performance in *Lilies of the Field*.

Mr. Washington's contributions to society extend far beyond the lives that he portrays in his films. Denzel has redefined what it means to be a star in Hollywood, speaking out about his commitment to service and efforts to be an advocate for good.

Since the 1990s, Mr. Washington has served as both a board member and national spokesman for the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, which provide voluntary after-school programs for our nation's young people. He even received the distinction of having a New York City elementary school named in his honor, thanks to his extensive work with the Boys & Girls Club.

Denzel was also named the 2021 Honorary Sergeant Major of the Army due to his work with the Fisher House Foundation, a non-profit that constructs housing for military and veteran families, free of charge. In 2022, President Joe Biden awarded Mr. Washington the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor.

In 1996, I had just departed from the Congress to become the president and CEO of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). That year, I selected Denzel and songstress Whitney Houston to co-host the NAACP Image Awards, which celebrate the outstanding achievements and performances of people of color across film, television, music, and more.

Mr. Speaker, Denzel Washington's career encapsulates what it means to use art for good. He is an artist who wields his platform to foster inclusion and support numerous worthy causes. His work doesn't just entertain—it empowers people of every race, color, and creed. It is a true honor to recognize Mr. Denzel Hayes Washington, Jr., as an inspiring force for future generations of filmmakers and artists.

**HONORING PHIL COTURRI**

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Phil Coturri as he celebrates his 60th harvest in Sonoma Valley. Over six decades, Mr. Coturri has become a pioneer in organic viticulture and a leading voice in sustainable winegrowing, leaving a lasting impact on California's agricultural and environmental landscape.

Born on October 3, 1952, in San Francisco, Mr. Coturri grew up in the Italian neighborhood of Visitation Valley and spent weekends and summers at his family's home in Glen Ellen. When Mr. Coturri was eight, his parents purchased a small property on Sonoma Mountain, where they planted two acres of Zinfandel. By age eleven, he was making wine alongside his father and brother, sparking a lifelong passion for viticulture. Mr. Coturri later earned a Bachelor of Arts in American Literature from Sonoma State University and married his wife, Arden Kremer, with whom he shares two

sons, Sam and Max, and four grandchildren: Althea, Sabine, Hudson, and Wilder.

Mr. Coturri's professional journey began with his first harvest in 1965 at Laurel Glen Vineyard, where he gained firsthand experience in vineyard management. In 1979, he founded Enterprise Vineyards, setting out to prove that organic practices could thrive in commercial winegrowing. At a time when chemical use was the industry norm, Mr. Coturri pioneered a holistic, year-round approach focused on soil health and biodiversity. Under his leadership, Enterprise Vineyards has grown to employ more than 160 full-time workers and manage over 700 acres of certified organic and biodynamic vineyards across our Sonoma, Napa, and Solano Counties. His work has helped establish organic viticulture as a cornerstone of modern sustainable agriculture.

Throughout his career, Mr. Coturri has earned widespread recognition for his leadership and innovation. Often referred to as the "Master of Mountain Viticulture" and the "Godfather of Sonoma Wine Country," he has shaped both the cultural and physical landscape of our Sonoma Valley. Mr. Coturri's grapes have supplied many of California's most celebrated wines, with the North Bay Bohemian naming him Winemaker of the Year in 2020 and Winegrower of the Year in 2023. He also played a key role in the 2013 designation of the Moon Mountain District AVA, reflecting his decades of expertise farming the volcanic terrain.

In 2005, the Coturri family founded Winery Sixteen 600, dedicated to Rhone and heritage varietals sourced from notable sites across our Sonoma Valley, including Moon Mountain. In 2015, the family opened the Winery Sixteen 600 Tasting House in downtown Sonoma, which has since become a local hub for music and art. The tasting room features a vast vinyl record collection and artwork celebrating Bay Area creativity. His sons, Sam and Max, now carry on the family legacy through their leadership in the winery and vineyard operations.

Beyond his professional achievements, Mr. Coturri has been an active supporter of the local community. He has contributed to organizations such as the Sonoma Valley Vintners and Growers Alliance, Swim America Sonoma, the Seva Foundation, the Rex Foundation, and La Luz Center, reflecting his enduring commitment to the place and people that shaped his life's work.

Mr. Speaker, we thank Phil Coturri for his six decades of leadership, innovation, and service to our Sonoma Valley. It is fitting and proper that we honor him here today for his lifelong dedication to sustainable agriculture and his lasting contributions to our community.

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**HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN EVERETT OLIVER, JR.**

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**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of John Everett Oliver, Jr., a devoted public servant and beloved husband, brother, uncle, and friend, who passed away suddenly on September 5, 2025, at the age of 75. Born in Washington, D.C., on

April 21, 1950, John was a true Washingtonian who embodied dedication to country and community. He grew up in Kensington, Maryland, attending Albert Einstein High School, where he excelled on the baseball field.

After high school, John attended the University of Maryland, College Park, and faithfully served his Nation in the U.S. Army Reserves at Fort Meade from 1971 to 1977. His professional journey began modestly, as a payroll clerk in NOAA's Rockville office in 1973. Over the next four decades, through intellect, integrity, and leadership, John rose through the ranks to become the Deputy Assistant Administrator for NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, where he managed a billion-dollar budget and guided thousands of employees. In 1998, John entered the Senior Executive Service, where he was called upon time and again to lead during times of change and crisis. In 2008, he received the prestigious Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Senior Executive Service in recognition of his role as a key architect of NOAA's fisheries management strategic plan. He also served at the Office of Management and Budget, earning deep respect from his colleagues while working on the President's budget. When John retired, the accolades poured in, with words like mentor, integrity, key change agent, accessible in a crisis, and camaraderie. A former NOAA administrator told him he was a "legend, an institution, and a great American." That was John's catchphrase when he wanted to praise someone's work: "You're a great American." To the NOAA community, John was more than a colleague and a mentor—he was family. It was at NOAA where John met Cheryl, the love of his life. They married in 2004 and together built a life full of joy, friendship, and service, eventually retiring in Leland, North Carolina. In retirement, John and Cheryl continued their commitment to community, supporting charities and educational institutions, including East Carolina University's Coastal Studies Institute. Beyond his professional accomplishments, John was a man of passion and warmth. He was a lifelong Washington Redskins fan, attending four Super Bowls and nearly every home game for four decades. He enjoyed a good cigar, a fine bourbon—particularly Maker's Mark—and had a deep appreciation for history, especially the legacy of World War II. His travels with Cheryl to Normandy, Berlin, and beyond were a testament to his reverence for the sacrifices of those who came before. John will be remembered for his big laugh, his gift for friendship, and his steady presence that lifted all who knew him. To his colleagues, he was a legend; to his family, he was "Jack"; and to all of us, he was a great American.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our deepest condolences to John's beloved wife Cheryl, his sisters Joanna Good, Lynn Petty, and Caroline Schofield, his nieces, and his extended family and many friends. May his memory be a blessing, and may we honor his life by carrying forward his example of service, generosity, and friendship.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM (BILL) PATTERSON MATTHEWS, USA, RETIRED, WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

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**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to present retired USA Lieutenant Colonel William (Bill) Patterson Matthews, of Mexia, Texas, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation in recognition of his outstanding service to both his country and his community.

After receiving his Bachelor of Science in Education from Texas A&M University, Lt. Col. Matthews served with distinction in the United States Army for over 24 years. His military career included service in over 30 countries, and a particularly harrowing tour in Vietnam from 1967 to 1968 with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment (Blackhorse), where he served under Colonel George Patton and Colonel Jimmie Leach. During that time, he was twice wounded by RPG attacks, survived two mine explosions, and earned two Bronze Stars for Valor, the Army Commendation Medal, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry. He was medevacked to Fort Hood after his second Purple Heart. He continued to serve in command roles for the rest of his active service and subsequently earned a Master's in Business Administration from Syracuse University, eventually retiring in 1992.

Following his military retirement, Lt. Col. Matthews settled in Mexia, Texas, where he launched a second career in education. He earned teaching and principal certifications from Tarleton State University. Beginning in 1994, he taught 7th grade science in Mexia ISD and went on to become principal at Mexia Intermediate and later R.Q. Sims Intermediate School. He earned a reputation as an innovative and passionate educator, implementing impactful programs like "Blackcats Don't Bully" to combat bullying and "Colonel's Kids" to support underperforming students from low-income backgrounds. These initiatives benefited over 400 students and helped earn him recognition as runner-up for Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE) Elementary Principal of the Year in 2002. He also helped the district achieve its first-ever "Exemplary" rating and introduced several science-focused initiatives, including dedicated labs and an outdoor classroom. His educational philosophy emphasizes that every child can learn when properly led and supported, a belief he carried throughout his career.

In addition to his educational work, Lt. Col. Matthews remained deeply engaged in civic life. He served multiple terms as president and song leader of the century-old Mexia Lions Club and founded the "Red, White, and Blue Car Show" in 2012, which became the club's major fundraising event. He has also been a dedicated member of the First Baptist Church of Mexia since 1992, serving as a deacon, Sunday school teacher and director, and choir member. He has actively participated in church productions like the Easter Pageant and Christmas Dinner Theater. His return to teaching in 2012, where he taught physics and coached golf until his final retirement in 2022, underscores his unwavering commitment to

youth development and community enrichment.

His exemplary record of military valor, educational leadership, and civic dedication makes him an ideal recipient of the Congressional Veteran Commendation. It is with great honor and respect that I present retired USA Lieutenant Colonel William (Bill) Patterson Matthews with a Congressional Veteran Commendation from the 17th Congressional District of Texas.

**HONORING EMILY GRAETER'S SERVICE TO AMERICA**

**HON. MIKE CAREY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Mr. CAREY. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor Emily Graeter, a daughter of Columbus, an Ohio State Buckeye, and a devoted public servant, who is departing my office to return to our beloved home of Ohio.

Throughout her time on Capitol Hill, Emily has been a model public servant. She spent her time here learning, working hard, and becoming a leader, most recently as Deputy Chief of Staff and Legislative Director in my office. If you talk to Emily for more than a few seconds, her brilliance and intense enthusiasm demonstrate why she is so effective.

From impromptu strategy sessions to all-night markups in the Ways and Means Committee, Emily has been at my side with an answer to every policy question and sound guidance on what to do next.

Her passion for service and wealth of knowledge make her an invaluable asset to me, the House of Representatives, and our great Republic.

I thank Emily for years of tireless work and passion for our communities in Ohio and across America. She is an irreplaceable member of our team, and she will be dearly missed.

**CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY GOLDEN JUBILEE OF THE CURRENT RUSSELLVILLE HOSPITAL**

**HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I wish to honor and celebrate the 50th Anniversary Golden Jubilee of the current Russellville Hospital facility in Russellville, Alabama. Since its founding in 1957, Russellville Hospital has been a central pillar in delivering health care to the people of Franklin County and the surrounding communities.

The present hospital building, completed in 1975, embodied a forward-looking vision for modern medical facilities in our area. In 1996, Russellville Hospital became part of the North Alabama Medical Center network—expanding its capabilities, resources, and the scope of care it offers to patients.

Over the years, Russellville Hospital has grown in breadth and depth of services. Its commitment to patient care has led to the ad-

dition of pain management, general surgery, orthopedics, plastic surgery, and a Sleep Center, alongside critical services such as a 24/7 Emergency Room, Medical-Surgical floor, Intensive Care Unit, Radiology, and Therapy departments. These expansions reflect both evolving medical needs and the hospital's steadfast focus on excellence in care.

In conjunction with this golden jubilee, I want to acknowledge the outstanding leadership that guides Russellville Hospital today. Under the stewardship of: Chris Ware, Chief Executive Officer; Danny Crowe, Chief Operating Officer; Kathy Martin, Chief Financial Officer; Alis Welborn, Director of Nursing; Audrey Daniels, Director of Marketing—these executives have worked diligently to advance the hospital's mission, support its staff, and ensure the highest standards of patient care. Their leadership is integral to Russellville Hospital's continued success and its reputation as a trusted healthcare provider.

Indeed, their efforts, together with those of the broader medical staff and supporting personnel, have not gone unnoticed. In 2024, Russellville Hospital was honored with Becker's "Cleanest Hospital" award, and in 2025 it was named "Best Hospital in Franklin County." These recognitions are a testament to the dedication, diligence, and professionalism of everyone serving there.

As Russellville Hospital marks 50 years in this facility, it stands as a living example of resilience, growth, and compassionate service. I join with the people of Franklin County, the State of Alabama, and all those served by this institution in congratulating Russellville Hospital. May its next half-century be filled with continued innovation, healing, and unwavering care for its community.

**HONORING ROBERT "BOB" PARKER SOLOMON**

**HON. VICTORIA SPARTZ**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Mrs. SPARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Robert "Bob" Parker Solomon, who passed away on November 26, 2024, at his home in Carmel, Indiana, at the age of 65. Born on December 22, 1958, in Albany, New York, to the late Congressman Gerald B.H. Solomon and Freda Parker Solomon, Bob excelled academically and athletically at Glens Falls High School, becoming a standout football player and Hall of Fame wrestler.

A lifelong sports enthusiast, Bob loved skiing, windsurfing, sailing, and cheering for his beloved Pittsburgh Steelers. He earned an Electrical Engineering degree from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and an MBA from Western New England University. Bob began his career at Northeast Utilities in Springfield, Massachusetts, where he worked for 14 years, before joining friends on a virtual reality video game project. He later moved to Indiana, starting a 23-year career at Hoosier Energy, rising to Compliance Manager of NERC and Power Markets.

Sailing was Bob's greatest passion. As a longtime member and Commodore of the Indianapolis Sailing Club, he competed in open-water races, including 29 consecutive FIGAWI

races from Hyannis to Nantucket—winning the event and earning the inaugural Howard K. Penn Spirit Award. He also tackled the grueling 636-mile Newport Bermuda Race.

Deeply patriotic, Bob dedicated himself to supporting veterans. Through the Holidays for Heroes program, he hosted wounded veterans on his boats, proudly flying the American flag during races. He cofounded Operation Set Sail, helping veterans cope with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Each year, Bob also spearheaded the September 11 boat parade on Geist to honor our heroes and remind us of the ultimate price of freedom. My daughters and I were honored to join him—sailing alongside Bob in that meaningful tradition and enjoying his many fun sailing stories.

As we approach the first anniversary of his passing, we remember Bob's infectious smile, generous spirit, unwavering support for veterans, and zest for life. He left an indelible mark on everyone he met, and his legacy will continue to inspire all who had the privilege of knowing him.

**HONORING THE 2025 BRAINTREE AMERICAN LITTLE LEAGUE TEAM**

**HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable achievements of the Braintree American Little League team from Massachusetts, who proudly represented New England at the 2025 Little League Baseball World Series in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

Their journey was nothing short of historic. As the first Braintree team in 72 years to win the Massachusetts State Championship, and the first to ever capture the New England Regional title, the Braintree Americans entered the World Series with an undefeated 3–0 regional record. In their opening game on August 14th, they faced South Carolina and fell 13–0. Yet, despite that tough loss, they remained undeterred, continuing to show the resilience and spirit that had gotten them this far.

On August 16th, they made history by earning their first-ever World Series victory, defeating Richmond, Texas (Lamar LL) 7–3 in thrilling fashion. Caden McCarthy's two-run triple, a wild pitch score, and a clutch two-run hit by Sam Trotta sealed the win and etched their names in history books.

The following day, on August 17th, they battled Bonney Lake, Washington, but were narrowly defeated 3–2, bringing an end to their valiant run. Although their tournament ended with a loss, Braintree American captured the hearts of their entire community. The players, coaches, and families of this extraordinary team have our deepest admiration for their resilience, teamwork, and the pride with which they represented their town. Through their efforts, they have not only made history but have united the Braintree community and shown the true meaning of sportsmanship.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending heartfelt congratulations to the 2025 Braintree American Little League World Series Team, their coaches, and their families. They have inspired a new generation of athletes and have put Braintree on the map as a community of champions.

We offer our warmest applause to the incredible players of Braintree American—Frankie Fasoli III, Ryan Fennell, Jack Cushing, Charlie Doolin, Trevor Inglis, Henry Kuka, Cam Naumann, Caden McCarthy, Owen Kippenhan, Logan Needle, Sam Trotta, and Colman Gouthro—as well as Manager Frank Fasoli and Coaches PJ Kippenhan and Shaun Needle. Their hard work, dedication, and sportsmanship have made them all true icons of their community. Congratulations.

**HONORING 150 YEARS OF FAMILY OWNERSHIP AT CORBISHLEY'S MEN'S CLOTHING STORE**

**HON. LISA C. McCLAIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Mrs. MCCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Corbishley's Men's Clothing Store, a cornerstone of downtown Bad Axe, Michigan, as it celebrates an extraordinary milestone: 150 years of continuous family ownership—a distinction achieved by only a rare few businesses in the United States.

Founded in 1876 by Charles Corbishley I, a former seaman turned mercantile clerk who found his passion in retail, Corbishley's began in Sandusky, Michigan. In 1928, the family expanded to Bad Axe, where the store weathered the Great Depression and continues to operate today—a living symbol of resilience, tradition, and community dedication.

Now led by Charles "Charlie" Corbishley IV, the store has remained in the Corbishley family for five generations, making it one of the longest-running, family-owned retail establishments in the nation. Charlie began working in the store at age 10 and has devoted nearly 60 years to the business. His remarkable ability to size customers by sight and his deep knowledge of menswear reflect a lifetime of craftsmanship and care.

But Corbishley's is more than a business—it is a living museum of retail and local history. From its Depression-era artifacts to original fixtures and the ever-present touch of the Corbishley family, the store stands as a cultural landmark as much as a commercial one.

In 2001, the Michigan Retailers Association honored Corbishley's as a Michigan Centennial Retailer, recognizing over 100 years of family operation. Today, it remains a rare and enduring symbol of American small-town entrepreneurship and the power of family legacy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 150th anniversary of family ownership at Corbishley's, applauding the Corbishley family's devotion across five generations, and honoring the values they represent: hard work, local service, and the enduring strength of family in American business.

May their legacy continue to inspire generations to come.

**RECOGNIZING TECHNICAL SERGEANT MARTHA SOCORRO YBARRA, USAF, RETIRED, WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION**

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to present retired USAF Technical Sergeant Martha Socorro Ybarra of Waco, Texas, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Her 20-year service to our country followed by her heavily involved community service is a template for American Exceptionalism.

TSgt. Ybarra enlisted in the Air Force in May 1986, through the delayed enlistment program and began active duty on September 15, 1986, from the Syracuse, NY Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS). She completed basic training at Lackland Air Force Base (AFB), followed by medical technician training at Sheppard AFB, and on-the-job training at Wilford Hall Medical Center. Her performance earned her early promotion and selection as a laboratory journeyman, leadership school graduate, and eventually, instructor at the School of Health Care Sciences. In 1989, she transferred to Sheppard AFB as a lab instructor and married fellow Airman, TSgt. Robert Rene Ybarra, in 1990.

In 1990, both were reassigned to Myrtle Beach AFB, South Carolina, where she continued lab work and had her first child. After the base closed in 1992, she transferred to Davis-Monthan AFB in Tucson, Arizona. There, she served in leadership roles, completed a Community College Air Force (CCAF) degree, and enhanced pathology specimen operations. Following the birth of her second and third child, she moved to Cannon AFB, New Mexico in January 1996, where she managed the Drug Urinalysis Program for six to seven years. Her leadership ensured a zero percent untestable rate, and she trained numerous program managers. She earned another promotion to TSgt. during this time.

In 2004, she had a Permanent Change of Station (PCS) to Goodfellow AFB in San Angelo, Texas, where she worked as a Laboratory Craftsman until her retirement in 2006. Throughout her service, she earned a second CCAF degree, was active in chapel ministries, and volunteered extensively in the base and local community, including youth programs and church education.

Following her military retirement, TSgt. Ybarra continued her service to veterans as a National Service Officer for the Military Order of the Purple Heart. By 2007, she had a solo office at the Waco VA campus, where she assisted veterans, spouses, and dependents with their VA claims and hearings for 13 years. She also joined the American Legion Post 121 and actively supported their events. In late 2007, she became involved with the McLennan County Veterans Association and continues to serve as secretary, helping organize major community events such as Vet's Fest and Veterans Day parades.

After resigning from the Purple Heart organization in August 2019, TSgt. Ybarra began working at the Department of Veterans Affairs in Waco as a claims assistant. In January 2020, she joined the Public Contact Team,

and by November, she was selected as a Military Sexual Trauma Outreach Coordinator and alternate Women Veterans Coordinator. A year later, she became the primary Outreach Coordinator, continuing her mission to educate and support veterans and their families in securing the benefits they have earned.

I proudly command retired USAF Technical Sergeant Martha Socorro Ybarra, of Waco, Texas to her friends, family, and colleagues, and salute her service to the Air Force, her country and community of Waco by awarding her with a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

**CONGRATULATING CHIEF ROGER NEW ON HIS RETIREMENT**

**HON. ANGIE CRAIG**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Eagan Police Chief Roger New on his retirement after thirty-one years with the police force. From a young age, Chief New knew he wanted to be in law enforcement. After graduating with a social science degree from Concordia College he joined the Eagan Police Department as a Community Service Officer in 1994. Over the next two decades, he took on several roles with the department including as a DARE officer, School Resource Officer, detective, sergeant and lieutenant. New also earned a master's degree in public administration from Metro State University and graduated from the FBI National Academy.

In 2016, New became a Deputy Chief before being named Eagan Chief of Police in 2018. As Chief, New prioritized building strong community partnerships, implemented innovative practices and invested in officer mental health and well-being.

I am proud to have worked with Chief New and the Eagan Police Department on trying to secure funding for the Valley Acres Range. I'll always remember touring and shooting rounds at the facility myself.

I am grateful for Chief New's public service. He has created a lasting impact in Eagan and across the state of Minnesota. He isn't just our Chief, but a dear friend. I will continue to seek his input and guidance on law enforcement and mental health policies. I wish Chief New the best in retirement.

**RECOGNIZING MAJOR GENERAL LAURA CLELLAN**

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Major General Laura Clellan of Broomfield, Colorado, on the occasion of her retirement following 36 years of service to the United States Army and the Colorado National Guard.

Major General Clellan began her military career in 1989, when she was commissioned as a Military Police Officer. Over the next three decades, she would shape readiness and emergency response both at home and

abroad through five major operational deployments, including missions in Honduras, Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Storm, Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom, Joint Task Force Panama, and the Hungarian Stabilization Force. As a senior commander in the Colorado National Guard, Major General Clellan led during some of the most challenging times in our state's history. Whether responding to natural disasters, public health crises, or civil unrest, she ensured that the Guard remained a trusted force for stability and service in our Colorado communities.

Major General Clellan's remarkable career has had a lasting impact and has inspired generations of service members, particularly women pursuing leadership roles in uniform. Her service reflects the very best of our military.

In recognition of her outstanding contributions, Major General Clellan has been awarded the Legion of Merit with Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with two Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Parachutist Badge.

On behalf of the people of Colorado and the United States Congress, I extend profound gratitude to Major General Laura Clellan for her remarkable service.

**HONORING DR. GLENN COCKERHAM**

**HON. SCOTT H. PETERS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Glenn Cockerham, a distinguished physician, veteran, educator, and leader in ophthalmology who has devoted his career to serving our nation's Veterans. Throughout his decades of service, Dr. Cockerham has led national efforts to improve eye care for Veterans, advanced ophthalmic policy across federal health systems, mentored future physician leaders, and exemplified integrity and professionalism in every role. After many years of service to our nation, he retired in June from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

After earning his medical degree, Dr. Cockerham completed his ophthalmology residency at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., followed by a fellowship in Cornea and Refractive Surgery at Harvard Medical School's Mass Eye and Ear Infirmary.

He obtained the rank of colonel while serving in the U.S. Air Force (USAF), and his military assignments included Senior Flight Surgeon with the 7th Special Operations Squadron, Chief of Flight Medicine, and Chief Consultant for Surgery at the U.S. Air Force Surgeon General Office.

Dr. Cockerham served as the National Program Executive Director for Ophthalmology Services and was responsible for the implementation of policies impacting eye care services throughout the Veterans Health Administration. His previous national leadership roles include Acting Deputy Director at the Department of Defense/Veterans Affairs (DoD/VA) Vision Center of Excellence and Acting Chief Consultant for VA Specialty Care Services. He is also a Clinical Associate Professor in both the Departments of Ophthalmology and Pa-

thology at Stanford University School of Medicine.

In 2009, Dr. Cockerham was honored with the Olin Teague Award for War-related Research Most Beneficial to Veterans, which he received alongside Dr. Gregory Goodrich. The award recognized their exceptional research on traumatic brain injury (TBI) and its impact on vision in Veterans. Their work focused on identifying and addressing vision problems associated with blast-related TBI, including the development of innovative screening tools and therapies. Dr. Cockerham's contributions led to the identification of critical TBI-related vision disorders and the generation of data that informed U.S. Department of Defense prevention efforts.

Dr. Cockerham is also a widely published academic, with peer-reviewed work appearing in *JAMA*, *Ophthalmology*, *Journal of Cataract and Refractive Surgery*, *Military Medicine*, the *New England Journal of Medicine*, and others. His research has informed clinical practices and contributed to national conversations on eye health.

Dr. Cockerham has played a key role in shaping the future of ophthalmology and advancing care for Veterans. His expertise has influenced health policy, clinical standards, and medical education, and he continues to impact both federal healthcare systems and academic medicine. He was and remains a strong advocate for patient safety, clinical excellence, and the needs of Veterans at the highest levels of government. It is an honor to formally recognize his remarkable service and enduring contributions to our nation and to the field of ophthalmology.

**RECOGNIZING A MAGNANIMOUS MEDIA MOGUL: MR. BYRON ALLEN**

**HON. KWEISI MFUME**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an accomplished media mogul, Mr. Byron Allen, who has embodied the ideals of persistence, innovation, and integrity throughout his life and career.

Born in Detroit, Michigan, Byron Allen's interest in the entertainment industry began at a young age when he was first taken to the NBC Studios in Burbank by his mother, publicist Carolyn Folks, who was—and still is—Byron's biggest supporter. At the tender age of just fourteen years old, he was already pitching jokes to show biz titans Jay Leno and David Letterman.

By 1979, at just eighteen years old, Allen had become the youngest comedian ever to appear on *The Tonight Show*. Following this historic and meteoric ascent in the comedy scene, Byron Allen became a host-correspondent on NBC's reality TV show *Real People* and secured a leading role in the 1988 film *Case Closed*. After both projects wrapped, Allen hosted *The Byron Allen Show*, a talk show that ran from 1989 to 1992.

Allen toured as a stand-up comic up until 1993, when he launched his production firm, CF Entertainment, which originally focused on low-cost TV programming. The company underwent a name change in 2003, re-emerging as Entertainment Studios, as Allen's extraor-

dinary business acumen and strategic moves were beginning to differentiate his business as a premier player in the entertainment industry.

Entertainment Studios, once a small-scale television programming company in Los Angeles, is now a division of the larger Allen Media Group, and it has evolved into one of the largest cable network portfolios in the broadcasting industry, featuring ten, 24-hour HD television networks. The company has produced and distributed Emmy Award-winning shows while handling advertising for dozens of television programs. Its growth has continued through major acquisitions: In 2016, Allen Media Group acquired The Grio, a digital media leader creating compelling content for African American audiences. In 2018, Allen Media Group acquired the universally recognized Weather Channel, one of the crown jewels of cable television.

Still, Byron Allen's influence extends far beyond his business triumphs, and he has always worked to give back to his community. The Allen Media Group is the first African American owned media studio producing and distributing wide-release motion pictures and content for all platforms. In pursuit of racial equity in advertising dollars and channel carriage, he has successfully led lawsuits that secured settlements with the major corporations McDonalds and Comcast. Allen is also a noted philanthropist, helping to raise tens of millions of dollars for charitable causes.

Over the years, Allen has established himself as a prominent Black entertainment mogul who holds the principle of equity in extremely high regard. He recognizes the disadvantages that underrepresented communities face, and he has vigorously advocated for diversity and inclusion at all levels of his career.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Byron Allen in the hope of encapsulating a man who has left a lasting mark on entertainment without ever straying from his moral undertaking of corporate social responsibility. Byron Allen is a role model for us all and has led a trailblazing life dedicated to excellence and the molding of a better, more equitable future.

**RECOGNIZING RICHARD REAGAN HORN WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION**

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to present Richard Reagan Horn, of Huntsville, Texas, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His servant's life reflects the hard work and dedication that exemplifies the best of our Nation's values.

Richard entered active duty at Camp Pendleton, California in May of 1966 at twenty-one years of age. He served with honor and heroism during the Vietnam War, serving in the Mortar Battery, 3rd Battalion 13th and 5th Divisions of the Marine Corps. His service instilled a resilience and commitment to mission and purpose he has carried all throughout his life.

Richard served 3 years in foreign service to our Nation in combat earning the following: Vietnam Service Medal with 3 Stars, Vietnam Campaign Medal, National Defense Medal,

Good Conduct Medal 1st Award, Rifle Sharpshooter Badge, Combat Action Ribbon, Good Conduct Award 2nd Award and the Presidential Unit Citation. Richard completed Artillery Chart Operations and Computer Course in 1966.

After his service in Vietnam in the Marines, Richard worked in a surveying crew for the Texas Department of Transportation in the early days of construction of Interstate 45 in 1970. He then moved on and entered an extensive career with Texas Instruments in their Facility Maintenance Division earning the following trade licenses before retiring in 2009: Master Plumber in 1981 and Journeyman's Electrician in 1995. Apart from work, he became a Master Mason in the Milam Lodge No. 2 in Nacogdoches, TX in 1972 and continues as an active Mason in the Huntsville Forest Lodge No. 19 as a Tiler. He is a self-taught Farrier working with Horses and Livestock and has devoted countless hours working with FFA students as a Board of Director with the Waller County Fair Association. He is also a Life Member of the world-famous Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo since 1975, serving on the Calf Scramble and Livestock Committees.

After moving to Huntsville in 2011, Richard and his wife Linda, have been supporting the FFA and 4-H youth of Walker County through the annual county fair auctions and fundraisers in conjunction with his service to the HEARTS Veterans Museum of Texas when and where as needed. It is this level of continuous hard work, service and devotion to his community and its youth that I proudly commend Richard Reagan Horn of Huntsville, Texas to his friends, family, community and country awarding him the 2025 Congressional Veteran Commendation.

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**HONORING THE LIFE OF SISTER FLORENCE STEICHEN, CSJ**

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Sister (Mary Roman) Florence Steichen, a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Carondelet (CSJ), and her lifelong advocacy for peace, justice, and compassion. Born in South Minneapolis, Minnesota near Lake Harriet in 1928, the third child of five children, Sister Florence Steichen grew up in a family deeply rooted in social justice. Her parents instilled in her a strong belief in what she later described as “the two feet of justice”: direct service and action for systemic change.

Florence graduated from the Academy of the Holy Angels in Richfield, MN, and earned a Bachelor of Science in Food, Nutrition, Chemistry, and Biology from Saint Catherine University, in Saint Paul, MN in 1950. She pursued her calling in faith and justice, by entering the novitiate on September 8, 1950, and professing her final vows on August 15, 1958. She further deepened her theological understanding with a Master of Arts in Theology from the University of Notre Dame in 1966. She had a long teaching career in several Province high schools including the Academy of the Holy Angels in Richfield, MN; Saint

Mary's Academy in Graceville, MN; Saint Mary's High School in Waverly, MN; Saint James Academy in Grand Forks, ND; St. Margaret's Academy, Minneapolis, MN; and St. Mary's Junior College in Minneapolis, MN. Florence also served her CSJ Community as General Councilor in Saint Louis, MO from 1978 to 1982.

In 1987, Florence moved to Bethlehem, Palestine where she worked at Bethlehem University and became an outspoken advocate for Palestinian rights, supporting a One-State solution with equal rights for both Palestinians and Israelis. Upon returning to Minnesota from Bethlehem almost six years later, Florence worked for the Dispute Resolution Center in Saint Paul, MN and the Citizens Council in Minneapolis, MN. After retiring, she volunteered at Saint Catherine University in Saint Paul, MN, which was her alma mater. In 2017, Florence fully retired and moved into Carondelet Village located in Saint Paul, MN near the campus of Saint Catherine University, where she remained a strong and active voice of peace and compassion until her recent passing at the age of 97.

Sister Florence Steichen was very special to me and to the constituents of Minnesota's Fourth Congressional District. Over the years, I enjoyed many visits with Florence at St. Catherine University, my alma mater and the Carondelet Village. Florence exemplified “the two feet of justice” by dedicating her life to direct service and action for systemic change. Her passionate and unrelenting advocacy for peace and justice, along with her deep faith and respect for humanity, will live on through all those she taught, mentored and inspired.

It was an honor and a privilege to call Florence a friend. She will remain an inspiration to me and her legacy will continue to inspire many for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the remarkable life and the dedicated work of Sister (Mary Roman) Florence Steichen, CSJ.

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**HONORING THE REMARKABLE LIFE AND LEGACY OF SISTER JEAN**

**HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Sister Jean Dolores Schmidt, known to many simply as “Sister Jean,” the beloved chaplain of the Loyola University Chicago men’s basketball team. Sister Jean was more than an icon of Loyola; she was its beating heart.

While she first captured national attention during the 2018 NCAA March Madness Tournament, her impact extended far beyond the basketball court and long before the headlines. For decades, Sister Jean inspired generations of students, athletes, and educators through her faith, wisdom, and joyful spirit.

Born and raised in San Francisco, California, during the hardships of the Great Depression, Sister Jean learned the values of perseverance and compassion early in life. The eldest of three children, she developed a lifelong love of sports and community. After graduating from high school, she answered her calling to religious life, entering the Sisters

of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in March 1938, fulfilling a dream she had since childhood.

Sister Jean began her career as an educator, shaping the minds and hearts of young people across the country. She taught elementary school at St. Vincent in Chicago and St. Charles Borromeo in North Hollywood, California, and later served as both an elementary and music teacher at St. Bernard in Los Angeles, where she also became principal.

She went on to serve as associate academic dean and an instructor in the education department at Mundelein College in Chicago, before beginning her 34-year ministry at Loyola University Chicago. There she held numerous administrative roles. Although she had planned to retire at the age of seventy-five after more than fifty years of teaching, she was asked to take on one more task: to help Loyola's men's and women's basketball players with their studies. That simple request became a defining chapter in her life. As team chaplain, Sister Jean brought faith, encouragement, and humor to every practice and game, earning the affection of players, coaches, and fans across the Nation.

It is rare for someone like Sister Jean to come into our lives, but when they do, we are all better for it. Her life was extraordinary not only for her accomplishments, but also for the way she inspired others to recognize the extraordinary within themselves. As she often said, “Being yourself is extraordinary, because each of us is a unique individual.”

Mr. Speaker, Sister Jean's century-long life was a testament to joy, service, and faith. She reminded us that purpose is not found in fame or fortune but in love for others and belief in the potential of every person. Like so many whose lives she touched, I will always be grateful for her example.

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**HONORING E CENTER**

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor E Center, an esteemed organization in our community. Their more than 50 years of dedicated service to our Northern California region and unwavering commitment to fighting poverty and building healthy communities demonstrate why they deserve recognition today.

Founded in 1973 and headquartered in Yuba City, E Center is a nonprofit agency serving eight Northern California counties: Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Lake, Sutter, Tehama, Yolo, and Yuba. For over five decades, the organization has strengthened the well-being and resilience of our communities' families, agricultural workers, seniors, and justice-involved individuals by providing essential services in education, nutrition, healthcare, housing, and environmental awareness.

E Center has rightfully earned recognition for its leadership in early childhood education and family support. Through partnerships with federal and state agencies, the organization administers a range of programs that serve as lifelines for families across our region, including Head Start, Early Head Start, Migrant and

Seasonal Head Start, Migrant Early Head Start, CalAIM Enhanced Care Management, CalAIM Community Support and Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). E Center's Head Start programs provide early childhood education, health, nutrition, and parental involvement services at no cost to participating families. Each year, E Center serves more than 1,100 families, with over 1,300 children enrolled across 83 local classrooms. In 2024, its WIC program celebrated its 50th anniversary, serving an average of 2,200 participants per month in Lake County with nutrition education and breastfeeding support. The organization also offers state-funded general childcare programs for working families, helping parents balance work and family responsibilities while ensuring their children thrive.

E Center's impact extends beyond education through its collaborative and community-centered approach. The organization fosters partnerships with local governments, schools, community organizations, and employers to expand access to health, education, and employment opportunities. In 2024, E Center expanded its Bird Center in Oroville and opened a new facility on Queens Avenue in Yuba City to better serve families across our region. Its CalAIM program, launched the same year, connects individuals and families experiencing homelessness to safe and stable housing resources, reflecting the organization's dedication to advancing equity, stability, and opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, E Center has honorably served our Northern California communities for more than five decades. The grand opening of E Center's new corporate office marks a milestone in the organization's growth and continued commitment to service, innovation, and partnership. It is fitting and proper to honor E Center here today for its enduring work to strengthen families and build healthier, more resilient communities.

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**HONORING DR. SESHADRI RAJU**

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**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to recognize Dr. Seshadri Raju and his wife, Dr. Sybil Raju, as they honor his mentor, Dr. James Hardy. The Rajus donated one million dollars, endowing the Hardy-Raju Chair of Transplant Surgery at the University of Maryland Medical Center (UMMC).

Dr. Raju has made considerable contributions in the areas of transplant immunology, organ preservation, and small bowel transplantation.

Dr. Raju performed the first clinically successful double-lung transplant in America and the first successful heart transplant in Mississippi. Notably, Dr. Raju performed a successful double-lung transplant on my predecessor and mentor, the late Congressman Floyd Spence. Congressman Spence incredibly lived an additional 13 years thanks to Dr. Raju and then was able to serve his country as Chairman of the House Committee on Armed Services.

The work of Dr. Raju is possible because of his mentor, Dr. Hardy who welcomed him into

his warm car for a 9,000-mile journey to UMMC where he worked as research fellow. Dr. Hardy would soon become his long-time benefactor, steering Dr. Raju into a successful career of his own.

Both doctors have had an immense impact on the practice of medicine and have paved the road in the field of transplant surgery.

The funds that the Rajus donated will support clinical transplant services, serve as a recruitment tool to attract world-class faculty, drive innovation, and more.

The Hardy-Raju Chair of Transplant Surgery at UMMC will serve as a reminder of the dedicated work that both individuals have given to the community.

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**RECOGNIZING SERGEANT FIRST CLASS ALYN MICHAEL MACLEOD, USA, RETIRED, WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION**

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**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor retired USA Sergeant First Class Alyn Michael Macleod, of Pflugerville, Texas, by presenting him with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His persistent efforts in fostering beliefs of sacrifice and respect reflect his value as a leader during service and in retirement.

SFC Macleod devoted 27 years serving in the United States Army, serving in several key leadership roles including Operations Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge (NCOIC), Platoon Sergeant, First Sergeant, Army Instructor, and Public Affairs NCOIC. He served in multiple units, including the 138th Signal Battalion (Indiana National Guard), Delta Company 44th Signal Battalion, 50th Military History Detachment, Army Space Command, 91st Training Division, 5th armored Brigade, 99th Regional Support Command, and the 222nd Broadcast Operations Detachment.

SFC Macleod deployed in support of Operation Desert Storm, Operation Private Comfort, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Sandy in New Jersey. A highly trained professional, he completed advanced courses in leadership, public affairs, multimedia production, space and missile operations, communications, and emergency medical care. His extensive professional training included the Substance Abuse Program Prevention Course, Digital Multimedia Course, Instructor Training Course, Public Affairs Course, Combat Lifesaver Course, NBC Defense Course, Joint Tactical Ground Station Course, Space/Missile Warning Course, Multichannel Satellite Communication Course, PATRIOT System Maintainer Course, and Human Resources Course.

During his many years of service, his exceptional achievements had earned him several decorations, including the Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal (4th award), Army Achievement Medal (6th award), Army Good Conduct Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Korea Defense Service Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait), Southwest Asia Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Army

Superior Unit Award, German Weapons Proficiency Badge—Bronze Schutzenschnur, and the Indiana National Guard Commendation Medal. SFC Macleod's legacy is one of leadership, commitments to excellence, and unwavering service to his Soldiers, his fellow veterans, and his country.

In addition to his distinguished military career, he earned a Bachelor's in Business Administration in Program Management and is currently pursuing a Master of Business Administration. He currently serves as Adjutant for the Disabled American Veterans Chapter No. 4, as well as the Adjutant for the American Legion Kerlin-Lyerly Post 154. Recently, he played a key role in establishing the Pflugerville Veteran Task Force, a group committed to working with critical community organizations with the goal of uniting and supporting the veteran community of Pflugerville.

It is with great honor and respect that I present retired USA Sergeant First Class Alyn Michael Macleod with a Congressional Veteran Commendation from the 17th Congressional District of Texas. His exemplary service to our Nation and continued contributions to his community stand as an inspiration to us all.

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**HONORING THE DEDICATION OF THE CHARTERS OF FREEDOM SETTING IN MOORE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA**

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**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the newly dedicated Charters of Freedom setting in Carthage, North Carolina. This is the newest of over 70 settings spread across 17 different states and is sponsored by the nonprofit educational organization, Foundation Forward Inc.

Charters of Freedom settings are based on the rotunda of the National Archives and contain replicas of the founding documents of the United States. Each setting includes bronze replicas of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights, with newer displays adding key amendments regarding civil rights.

In showcasing the foundational documents of our country, these settings offer an important educational opportunity for visitors. In addition, a time capsule will be buried at the setting, set to be opened in 2087, on the 300th anniversary of the Constitution. As such, this Charters of Freedom setting will serve as a reminder of the most important milestones in the history of the United States for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the Charters of Freedom setting located in Carthage, North Carolina, and its mission to promote education, civics, and the preservation of American history.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF  
UNITED WAY OF LANCASTER  
COUNTY

**HON. LLOYD SMUCKER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate and recognize United Way of Lancaster County on their 100th anniversary.

United Way of Lancaster County, then called the Welfare Federation of Lancaster, was formed in the fall of 1925 with the goal of coordinating and maintaining social service agencies throughout the county. Over the decades, the organization has evolved to meet the changing needs of Lancaster County's residents.

United Way's original goal of coordinating social service agencies has grown and flourished over the past century. Beginning in 1959, United Way of Lancaster County has regularly conducted million-dollar fundraising campaigns to help the community. In 2007, they launched their Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, which offers free tax services to low to moderate-income working families. In 2011, they became a part of the Pennsylvania 211 collaborative, the statewide hotline for essential community services.

Today, United Way of Lancaster County assists the community—through funding nonprofits with millions of dollars in grants, partnering with over 100 social service organizations in the county, and mobilizing volunteers to meet critical needs. I am proud that Pennsylvania's 11th District embodies a spirit of generosity, and the United Way of Lancaster County stands as a shining example of that commitment.

Congratulations to the United Way of Lancaster County on 100 years of making a difference.

**RECOGNIZING MAYOR BUD  
STARKE**

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mayor William "Bud" Starker for his years of public service and dedication to the City of Wheat Ridge.

As a more than fifty year resident of Wheat Ridge, Mayor Starker has long been a pillar of the community. As both a city councilor and a mayor, Mayor Starker has guided the City with steady leadership, including navigating the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and championing efforts to expand housing affordability in Jefferson County and across the State of Colorado.

Beyond City Hall, Mayor Starker has promoted economic development throughout the Denver Metro Area through his work in the private sector. Through Starker Construction, he helped build more than 100 restaurants, including transforming an older property in his neighborhood into West 29th Restaurant and Bar—a beloved local gathering place that stands as a quintessential example of his commitment to revitalizing our community.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's 7th Congressional District, it is my honor to thank Mayor Bud Starker for his years of service and wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

**RECOGNIZING CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
OFFICER OF TRUMARK CREDIT  
UNION, MS. KELLY BOTTI**

**HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Ms. Kelly Botti, a respected leader, advocate, and CEO of Trumark Credit Union, whose birthday on November 3rd provides a fitting occasion to honor her outstanding service and dedication to our communities.

Based in the Greater Philadelphia region, Ms. Kelly Botti has built a distinguished career marked by integrity, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to financial empowerment. As CEO of Trumark Credit Union, she has championed innovative approaches to serve the underserved and underbanked, expanding access to fair, transparent, and affordable financial services for families and small businesses alike. Her leadership reflects the very best of what community driven institutions can achieve when guided by a mission of service over profit.

Kelly has also been a steadfast advocate for the credit union movement on both state and national levels. Her thoughtful engagement with policymakers like myself rooted in collaboration, expertise, and genuine care for people, has advanced the cause of financial inclusion in the First Congressional District of Pennsylvania and across the entire Commonwealth and beyond. Through her advocacy, countless individuals have gained new opportunities to achieve financial stability, education, and independence.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives, to help me extend my heartfelt congratulations to Ms. Kelly Botti for her achievements, her leadership, and her continuing efforts to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

**RECOGNIZING NOLA JANE  
SALDANA WITH A CONGRE-  
SSIONAL VETERAN COMMEN-  
DATION**

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to present Nola Jane Saldana of Waco, Texas, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Nola Saldana is a proud United States Navy veteran, who served nearly 10 years and continues to dedicate her life to supporting veterans and her community. A full-blooded Maidu Indian raised in poverty on a reservation in Susanville, California, she grew up with strong values of respect and kindness, taught by her mother.

Not long after graduating from Sherman Indian High School, a boarding school in River-

side, California, Nola joined the Navy in January 1988. She trained as a welder and served aboard the USS Acadia, and later the USS Dixon as a radiation worker, often as the only woman in her division. Her service took her across the world, including to the Persian Gulf and multiple international ports. She departed the Navy in 1997. During her service she earned the National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Sea Service Medal Deployment Ribbon three times, and the Good Conduct Medal two times.

Following her military career, she earned a bachelor's degree in social work with honors from Texas Tech University. She went on to serve in several public service roles in Waco, Texas, including at the Texas Youth Commission, Texas Behavioral Health Network, and Child Protective Services. Since 2007, she has worked at the Waco VA Medical Center as a Mental Health Caseworker for seriously mentally ill women Veterans.

Beyond her professional work, Nola leads numerous Veteran-focused programs as Commander of VFW Post 2148 and volunteers in the community. She supports troop care packages, family assistance, welcome-home events, Veteran services, youth scholarships, and JROTC programs. She is also a member of the Honor Guard and an adult volunteer with the Waco Young Marines.

Recently, she made history as the first Native American female Commander of VFW District 29, overseeing seven posts in Texas. Nola is also a proud mother of four successful children, all of whom have pursued higher education or military service. Nola Saldana exemplifies lifelong service, leadership, and dedication to others. It is with great honor and respect that I present Nola Jane Saldana with a Congressional Veteran Commendation from the 17th Congressional District of Texas.

**PAYING TRIBUTE TO A GREAT AU-  
THOR, DIRECTOR, AND BALTI-  
MOREAN: JOHN WATERS**

**HON. KWEISI MFUME**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the artistic brilliance of legendary filmmaker and beloved Baltimorean, John Waters, for his outstanding contributions to the film industry. Affectionately dubbed the "Pope of Trash" by William S. Burroughs, Mr. Waters is a renowned author, producer, and director who was honored in 2023 with a star on the iconic Hollywood Walk of Fame.

His unconventional interpretations of the world color his comical and flamboyant films, and he has dedicated his career to what he playfully refers to as "filth" for the big screen.

An all-time great Baltimorean, Mr. Waters has left an indelible mark on the entertainment industry. His love for storytelling was developed as a child, putting on puppet shows at children's birthday parties. Through his teen years, he mastered the skills needed to write side-splitting scripts, skills that he would put to the test for the rest of his lengthy career.

Waters' hometown in the greater Baltimore area would become a central character in many of his films. Baltimore served as both the backdrop and the inspiration for much of

Waters' early work. His iconic films, such as *Pink Flamingos*, *Desperate Living*, *Female Trouble* and *Polyester* reveal the unique personalities and plights he encountered during his formative years in and around Baltimore.

Waters achieved mainstream success in 1988, after directing *Hairspray*, a critically acclaimed musical set in racially segregated Baltimore in the 1960s, which explores themes of identity, activism, and biases of all kinds. Mr. Waters' films are renowned for their dedicated fan communities, rooted in his dedication to fostering diversity on the big screen and his history of encouraging individuality amongst fans and peers in the industry.

Beyond his filmmaking prowess, John Waters' influence extends to literature, art, and social commentary. A veritable gay ambassador himself, his artistic adaptations have provided a safe haven for his fans to embrace their creativity and self-expression while showing the world the brilliance contained within the LGBTQ community.

The ethos of Mr. Waters' career is a celebration of the counterculture, and a passionate rejection of the norms within the entertainment industry that restrain artistic peculiarity and originality.

John Waters' star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame is a testament to his commitment to pushing the boundaries of creativity—not only through his cinematic achievements, but also in life. He encapsulates what it means to be a Baltimorean, and our city couldn't ask for a better champion.

His career demonstrates how the unlikeliest of places can give birth to the most extraordinary stories.

Mr. Waters has forever changed the landscape of American cinema with his style, ingenuity, and wit. His films will continue to inspire the next generations of filmmakers while providing an example that shows that what some may describe as outrageous might just lead to a new artistic frontier.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize and salute Mr. John Samuel Waters, Jr., for his unyielding pursuit of humor and originality on the silver screen and for his undying love for the one-of-a-kind city that we both share, Baltimore.

#### CELEBRATING SPAIN'S NATIONAL DAY 2025

##### HON. CARLOS A. GIMENEZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Mr. GIMENEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the people of Spain and millions around the world in celebrating Spain's National Day, known as *Fiesta Nacional de España* (National Day of Spain).

As Co-Chair of the Friends of Spain Caucus, I am proud to honor the deep and enduring bonds between our two nations, bonds rooted in shared history, faith, and friendship.

From the earliest days of our Republic, Spain played a pivotal role in supporting American independence, providing vital aid and recognition to our Founding Fathers in their struggle for liberty. The names of St. Augustine, Pensacola, and San Marcos remind us that Florida's story is inseparable from the Spanish legacy that helped shape our Nation's earliest frontiers.

Spanish influence can be seen in our architecture, our language, our traditions, and the vibrant communities that call South Florida home. Every day, centuries-old ties continue to inspire cultural exchange, economic partnership, and mutual respect between our peoples.

On this National Day of Spain, we celebrate not only the remarkable history of the Spanish nation, but also the shared values of democracy, freedom, and friendship that unite Spain and the United States.

I look forward to strengthening our transatlantic partnership and ensuring that the friendship between our Nations continues to flourish for generations to come.

#### CONGRATULATING NICKLAUS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

##### HON. MARIA ELVIRA SALAZAR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Ms. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, Nicklaus Children's Hospital, formerly known as Miami Children's Hospital until 2015, was founded in 1950 and is South Florida's only free-standing pediatric hospital. Staffed by 850 physicians and more than 500 pediatric subspecialists, Nicklaus is home to the largest pediatric teaching program in the southeastern United States. It is renowned for excellence in all aspects of pediatric medicine, and according to U.S. News & World Report, many of Nicklaus's specialty programs ranking among the best in the Nation since 2008.

The tremendous impact Nicklaus has is not felt in District 27 alone. Nicklaus Children's Health System, the parent organization of Nicklaus Children's Hospital, maintains an extensive network of outpatient and urgent care centers in Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, and Martin Counties, serving families throughout Florida, the United States, and more than 100 countries.

Not only does Nicklaus maintain an extensive network but it also continues to ensure children and their families have access to the specialized care they need and deserve. Nicklaus offers more than 30 pediatric specialties and operates leading institutes focused on pediatric care, including the Helen and Jacob Shaham Cancer and Blood Disorders Institute, the Brain Institute, the Heart Institute, and the Orthopedic, Sports Medicine, and Spine Institute. And just last year, the Hospital opened the Kenneth C. Griffin Surgical Tower, one of the most innovative pediatric surgical facilities in the United States, ensuring that children and adolescents can receive expert surgical care without leaving Florida.

Additionally, Nicklaus has a top-of-the-line emergency transportation fleet. The Hospital's LifeFlight Critical Care Transport Program, which includes six ambulances, two helicopters, and fixed-wing jets equipped for pediatric and neonatal patients, saves nearly 4,000 infants and children annually across Florida, the Caribbean, and Central and South America.

From Miami to the Panhandle, from the Panhandle to Central and South America, from Central and South America to the Caribbean, Nicklaus is a world-class institution that

has provided care to so many for decades. On the occasion of its 75th anniversary, I want to congratulate Nicklaus Children's Hospital and commend its continued commitment to advancing pediatric health care for children and families in Miami, throughout the country, and across the world.

#### HONORING PAUL ECKSTEIN

##### HON. GREG STANTON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Paul Eckstein, a giant in Arizona law and a stalwart public servant, on the remarkable occasion of his 60th work anniversary at Perkins Coie LLP.

Paul worked on many consequential legal disputes in Arizona history that shaped the state's legal and civic landscape. He brought a rare combination of trial skill, appellate judgment, and moral clarity. Time and again, he shows Arizonans that the law can correct course and restore trust.

As lead counsel for the Arizona House of Representatives in the 1988 impeachment of Governor Evan Mechem, he tried the case with rigor and restraint—cross-examining the governor, arguing the evidence, and reminding Arizona that no one is above the law. The Senate's verdict confirmed the point, and renewed public faith that our Constitution has teeth when it must.

Early in Paul's career, he represented Navajo leader Tom Shirley in *Shirley v. Superior Court*, securing a decision that affirmed Native American citizens living on reservations are fully entitled to hold public office in Arizona. He defended voter-driven reform by helping ensure Clean Elections reached the ballot. He stood up for independent redistricting when it mattered most, supporting the reinstatement of the Independent Redistricting Commission's chair. And he defended Arizona's merit-based judgeship selection, fending off efforts to politicize the bench. Across these battles runs a common thread: Paul used the law to safeguard the people's voice and the independence of our courts.

What sets Paul apart is not only what he has done, but how he has done it. He takes the lawyer's oath seriously—so seriously that he chooses principle over convenience, even when it costs him. He demands candor. He proves, by example, that zealous advocacy and impeccable ethics go hand in hand.

Paul's extraordinary impact extends well beyond the courtroom. He taught constitutional law at Arizona State University, and his students now serve across our state. At his alma mater, Pomona College, he and his wife, Florence "Flo" Eckstein, endowed a scholarship for refugee and forcibly displaced students, opening doors for those whose lives were upended by conflict or catastrophe.

Paul served for decades on the board of Phoenix Children's Hospital, including as Board Chair. At Arizona State University, the Flo Eckstein Endowment supports students focused on children, youth, and families, and the Albert & Liese Eckstein Scholar-in-Residence brings leading voices in Jewish studies to our community each year. For more than three decades, the Ecksteins stewarded the Jewish

News of Greater Phoenix, preserving a vital forum for community life and donating archives that keep history alive. Their philanthropy is practical and personal: it meets people where they are and lifts them up.

Paul also lives his values through pro bono work. He stands with those without a voice and no means—most recently as part of a team recognized by the federal court for advancing a prisoner civil-rights case to trial. He has served with the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, lending Arizona's steady voice to the cause of equal justice.

Mr. Speaker, Arizona is a better place because of Paul Eckstein. He has defended our Constitution in court and in public life; he has protected fair elections and independent courts; he has fought for a free press and for equal justice; and he has invested his time, talent, and treasure to care for children, and educate the next generation.

On behalf of the people of Arizona, I congratulate Paul on 60 years of distinguished service at Perkins Coie. I thank him for his example of courage and integrity, and I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating a lawyer, teacher, and citizen whose life's work has strengthened our state.

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RECOGNIZING COLONEL JOHN BATTISTA AIROLA, USMC, RETIRED, WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

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**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to present retired USMC Colonel John Battista Airola, of Huntsville, Texas, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His servant's life reflects the hard work and dedication that exemplifies the best of our Nation's values.

Colonel Airola entered active duty at Quantico, Virginia in August of 1955 at twenty-one years of age and served with honor and heroism during the Vietnam War with the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Divisions of the Marine Corps. His service instilled not only a sense of pride in his four children but led them all to the call of duty serving as officers in multiple branches of our Nation's military.

Colonel Airola served 9 years in foreign service to our Nation with significant combat earning the following; Vietnam Service Medal with 2 Stars, Bronze Star Medal with combat V, National Defense Service Medal, Navy Unit Commendation, Combat Action Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with palm, Vietnam Campaign Medal with device, Navy Commendation Medal, Meritorious Unit Commendation, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, Pistol Expert (15th Award), Rifle Sharpshooter and Legion of Merit dated May 4, 1987.

Throughout his distinguished military career, he completed Recruit Training in 1955, then moved on into Infantry Combat Training later that year. In 1956, he completed the ANGLICO Basic Course (ABC) followed by Officer Candidate School and subsequent Basic School in 1957. Carrying on with additional training, he completed Duties of a Motor Transport (MT) Officer and Embarkation Duties in 1958. By 1965, he completed additional

training that included Jr. Landing Force Plan Staff II and Nuclear Weapons Orientation. As the war in Vietnam heated up, he completed Amphibious Warfare training in 1968 and the Senior Officer Preventative Maintenance Course by 1972 and later the Instructors Orientation Course in 1975.

After his 32-year career in the Marine Corps, Colonel Airola transitioned his service over to the HEARTS Veterans Museum from its inception. His countless hours of volunteering, setting up museum displays, participating in parades, and educating the visitors and children is nothing short of amazing. Up until the summer of 2025, at the age of 91, John came in to volunteer every Saturday and even when he couldn't attend regularly, he still financially supported the mission of HEARTS.

Colonel Airola is an exceptional candidate for this Commendation. His leadership is paramount and has furthered the mission of HEARTS Museum over the years by starting the local Marine Corps Birthday Celebration each year, helped foster the early days of HEARTS and served on its board of directors for many years advocating for his fellow veterans in addition to his support for the local Marine Corps League, Toys for Tots and Semper Fi Fund. It is this advocacy and impact which lead him to be tapped to serve on the inaugural Congressional Veterans Commendation committee for East Texas.

Colonel Airola has made it his mission to continue to educate our visitors and the children about the pride in service to our country and our Nation's military history. The Colonel is history; the Colonel is an exceptional American Soldier. It is with this level of love of country and his beloved United States Marine Corps and all of its glory and strength that I proudly commend retired USMC Colonel John Battista Airola of Huntsville, Texas to his friends, family, and colleagues, and salute his service to the Marines, his country and Walker County by awarding him the 2025 Congressional Veteran Commendation.

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HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AURORA ACTIONAIRES

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**HON. BILL FOSTER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Aurora Actionaires, a remarkable milestone for an organization that has stood as a beacon of service, leadership, and community empowerment in Aurora, Illinois, for half a century.

Since its founding in 1975, when three friends, Donna Williams, Martha Hickling, and Caroline Johnson, met at Hoi Peng Restaurant in Aurora on New Year's Eve, 1974, and decided to form a social club, the Aurora Actionaires has consistently demonstrated what committed civic engagement can achieve. What began with a group of eighteen enthusiastic friends wanting a better community quickly evolved into a force for service and empowerment under their guiding motto: We Care . . . We Act . . . We Serve.

Over these five decades, the Aurora Actionaires have lived that motto through their tireless dedication to education, community

development, youth mentorship, and numerous charitable endeavors across the region. They have awarded more than \$200,000 in scholarships to high school seniors and provided assistance to college students in need. They have hosted workshops for parents and students on completing scholarship and financial aid applications and supported eighth-grade graduates attending the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy's SEAMS Summer Enrichment Program, helping young people pursue academic excellence and opportunity.

On their golden anniversary, we reflect on the many lives touched, the students who would not have pursued higher education without their support, families whose neighborhoods have been strengthened through their volunteerism, and civic institutions that have benefited from their leadership and investment. The Aurora Actionaires have built bridges across generations, across neighborhoods, and across divides and have always modeled the belief that progress is shared when we lift others.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have the Aurora Actionaires as part of Illinois' 11th Congressional District. They have demonstrated what it means to transform compassion into action and service into lasting impact, and I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating them on their golden anniversary and thank them for their unwavering dedication to building a stronger, more vibrant community for all.

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HONORING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF BLUE WATER HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

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**HON. LISA C. MCCLAIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Mrs. MCCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 35th Anniversary of Blue Water Habitat for Humanity, a remarkable organization serving the people of St. Clair and Sanilac Counties with integrity, dedication, and an unwavering commitment to strengthening our communities through the power of homeownership.

Founded on the belief that every individual deserves a safe, decent, and affordable place to live, Blue Water Habitat for Humanity has never given away homes—it has built opportunities. Through its "hand-up, not a handout" model, it has empowered hardworking families to achieve independence by requiring sweat equity, responsible financial preparation, and a sustainable mortgage. This principled approach has helped countless families put down roots and build brighter futures.

Blue Water Habitat is a community institution. It is locally funded, locally operated, and deeply invested in the well-being of the people it serves. While affiliated with Habitat for Humanity International and Habitat Michigan, every dollar donated stays right here, supporting neighbors and revitalizing neighborhoods across Port Huron, St. Clair, and Sanilac County.

Beyond new home construction, Blue Water Habitat provides critical home repair programs, ensuring seniors, veterans, and families facing hardship can maintain safe living conditions. Its ReStore, run largely by volunteers, diverts

usable materials from landfills, offers low-cost household goods, and directly funds housing initiatives, demonstrating innovation, stewardship, and community partnership.

For 35 years, volunteers, churches, businesses, and civic organizations have come together under one mission: to build stability, dignity, and hope. Blue Water Habitat for Humanity stands as a testament to what can be achieved when a community serves alongside one another in common purpose.

Mr. Speaker, on this milestone anniversary, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Blue Water Habitat for Humanity—its leadership, volunteers, donors, and partner families, for three and a half decades of faithful service. May their example continue to inspire service, personal responsibility, and the belief that stronger homes build stronger communities.

**HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF COLONEL RAYMOND L. HYLAND, JR.**

**HON. CHRISTOPHER R. DELUZIO**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Mr. DELUZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel Raymond L. Hyland, Jr., United States Air Force, a resident of Cranberry Township, PA, who is retiring after 36 years of faithful service to our Nation and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania following his commission from Air Force ROTC at Kent State University.

After graduating from Kent State in 1989, Colonel Hyland began his dedicated service to our nation. Colonel Hyland served the Air Force in a wide variety of roles over the next thirty-six years, both throughout the country and overseas.

His active-duty years include flying assignments at Vance Air Force Base in Oklahoma, Castle Air Force Base in California, Pittsburgh Air Force Base in New York, and Grand Forks Air Force Base in North Dakota. In 1999, Colonel Hyland transferred from active duty to the Pennsylvania Air National Guard where he served in various KC-135 Operations and Maintenance roles at the 171st Air Refueling Wing in Moon Township, Pennsylvania, culminating as the Wing's Commander.

Throughout his career, Colonel Hyland has demonstrated exceptional commitment to the country. He is a Command Pilot with more than 5,600 flight hours in various aircraft. His personal awards include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal (four awards), Air Medal, Aerial Achievement Medal (four awards), Air Force Commendation Medal (two awards), and the Air Force Achievement Medal.

I commend Colonel Hyland for his dedication to our country and the sacrifices he and his family have made. I thank him, his wife Kim, and their two children, Kathleen and Ryan, for their service and wish him blue skies as he concludes a distinguished career.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Colonel Ray Hyland as he retires from the U.S. Air Force.

**HONORING MR. PATRICK MORAN'S SERVICE**

**HON. TONY WIED**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Mr. WIED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exceptional community leader, veteran, and volunteer, Mr. Patrick Moran.

In recognition of Mr. Moran's selfless service and steadfast leadership, he is the recipient of the 2025 De Pere Community Silver Knight Award. Since 1968, the De Pere Community Silver Knight Award has been bestowed upon outstanding individuals nominated by De Pere service clubs, civic organizations or members of the community.

Mr. Moran's decades of service are truly remarkable. It is evident that Mr. Moran has dedicated his life to serving others and has undoubtedly played an instrumental role in the success of several organizations throughout Brown County and Northeast Wisconsin. From his time serving as a Cub Scout Leader and Soccer Coach in De Pere to his over 50 years with the De Pere VFW Post 2113, Mr. Moran's unwavering support and guidance deserves our highest admiration.

In addition to Mr. Moran's community service, his most important role has been a supportive husband to his wife Linda and father to three children, Phillip, Renee, and Nickolas. Throughout his children's upbringing, Pat was a leader that you could always count on—serving as a Cub Scout Leader, Lost Dauphin 4H leader, Soccer Coach, and member of the MBX Motorcycle Club and the West De Pere Snow Owls Snowmobile Club. I commend Mr. Moran's unwavering commitment to Northeast Wisconsin.

Mr. Moran's decades of guidance, support, and leadership in his community deserve the highest degree of recognition. I ask my colleagues to join me to congratulate Mr. Patrick Moran on receiving the 2025 De Pere Community Silver Knight Award. I am proud to represent such incredible men and women who call Northeast Wisconsin home.

**HONORING THE LIFE OF CARLOS ALBERTO LOPEZ RIVERA**

**HON. PABLO JOSÉ HERNÁNDEZ**

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Mr. HERNÁNDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory and legacy of a remarkable public servant, Carlos Alberto López Rivera, better known to his beloved community simply as "Carlitos."

Born on September 14, 1958, in Dorado, Carlitos grew up with the values of hard work, service, and loyalty instilled in him by his parents, Pedro López Maldonado and Ana Rivera. After graduating from José S. Alegria High School and earning a degree in Business Management from the University of Puerto Rico, he could have chosen many paths. But his heart was rooted in Dorado, and he devoted himself to serving the very place that had shaped him.

That calling led him to the mayor's office, where on August 3, 1987, he was sworn in as

the mayor of Dorado. What followed was nothing short of historic. For 38 years, through 10 consecutive elections, Carlitos was entrusted by his neighbors with the responsibility of guiding their community. He transformed Dorado into a thriving center of tourism and development while never losing sight of the needs of working families. He often described Dorado as the "paradise of Puerto Rico, where life is beautiful," and under his leadership, that vision became a reality.

But Carlitos was more than just an astute and skillful politician. He was a man of loyalty, wit, and heart. He had a gift for words, painting images and phrases that stuck in the memory of the people he served. He balanced economic progress with social justice, reminding all who knew him that growth should never leave anyone behind. And to those who knew him best, he will always be remembered for his loyalty. In the hardest and loneliest moments, Carlitos was there, steadfast and encouraging, urging us forward "at full speed and with even greater strength."

Carlitos made history as one of the longest-serving mayors in Puerto Rican history, second only to his contemporary in Manatí, Juan Aubín Cruz Manzano. Yet beyond the records and accomplishments, his true legacy will live on in the people of Dorado, who saw in him not only a mayor, but a neighbor, a motivator, and a guardian of their community's spirit.

Mr. Speaker, the life of Carlos Alberto 'Carlitos' López Rivera reminds us that true leadership is measured not only in years of service, but in the lives uplifted along the way. Our prayers are with his family, and I respectfully ask this body to rise in tribute to his life and service. As we reflect on his legacy, may we honor him by carrying his spirit forward, always pressing on "at full speed and with even greater strength."

The following text is a direct Spanish translation of the statement above:

Mr. Speaker, me levanto hoy para rendir homenaje a la memoria y el legado de un servidor público extraordinario, Carlos Alberto López Rivera, conocido por su querido pueblo como "Carlitos."

Nacido el 14 de septiembre de 1958 en Dorado, Carlitos creció con los valores de trabajo duro, servicio y lealtad inculcados por sus padres, Pedro López Maldonado y Ana Rivera. Tras graduarse de la Escuela Superior José S. Alegria y obtener un título en Administración de Empresas de la Universidad de Puerto Rico, pudo haber elegido muchos caminos. Pero su corazón estaba en Dorado, y dedicó su vida a servir al pueblo que lo había formado.

Ese llamado lo llevó a la alcaldía, donde el 3 de agosto de 1987 juró como alcalde de Dorado. Lo que siguió fue nada menos que histórico. Durante 38 años, a través de 10 elecciones consecutivas, Carlitos fue confiado por sus vecinos con la responsabilidad de guiar a su pueblo. Transformó a Dorado en un centro próspero de turismo y desarrollo, sin perder nunca de vista las necesidades de las familias trabajadoras. A menudo describe a Dorado como el "paraiso de Puerto Rico, donde la vida es bella," y bajo su liderazgo, esa visión se convirtió en realidad.

Pero Carlitos fue más que un político astuto y hábil. Fue un hombre de lealtad, ingenio y corazón. Tenía un don para las palabras, pintando imágenes y frases que permanecían en la memoria de la gente a la que servía. Supo equilibrar el progreso económico con la justicia social, recordando a todos los que lo conocieron que el

crecimiento no debe dejar a nadie atrás. Y para quienes lo conocieron de cerca, siempre será recordado por su lealtad. En los momentos más duros y solitarios, Carlitos estaba ahí, firme y alentador, impulsándonos siempre hacia adelante “a toda marcha y con más fuerza”.

Carlitos hizo historia como uno de los alcaldes con más años de servicio en Puerto Rico, superado solo por su contemporáneo en Manatí, Juan Aubín Cruz Manzano. Sin embargo, más allá de los récords y logros, su verdadero legado vivirá en la gente de Dorado, que vio en él no solo a un alcalde, sino a un vecino, un motivador y un guardián del espíritu de su pueblo.

Mr. Speaker, la vida de Carlos Alberto “Carlitos” López Rivera nos recuerda que el verdadero liderazgo no se mide solo en los años de servicio, sino en las vidas que se elevan en el camino. Nuestras oraciones están con su familia, y respetuosamente pido a la Cámara que se levante en tributo a su vida y servicio. Al reflexionar sobre su legado, honrémoslo llevando adelante su espíritu, siempre avanzando “a toda marcha y con más fuerza.”

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RECOGNIZING DELMAN LEON  
ORME WITH A CONGRESSIONAL  
VETERAN COMMENDATION

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**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 17, 2025*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Delman Leon Orme of Crockett, Texas, as a distinguished recipient

of the Congressional Veteran Commendation. His servant's life reflects the hard work and dedication that exemplifies the best of our Nation's values.

Delman answered the call to service when he enlisted in the United States Army in March 1989, right out of high school. He followed in his older brothers' footsteps, one serving as a Military Police Officer and the other as a Combat Engineer. He entered as a Delta 19, which meant riding motorcycles. He served in the Scout Platoon, 4th Battalion, 64th Armor during Operation Desert Storm displaying outstanding tactical and technical skills. His proficiency enabled the Scout Platoon to quickly in advance friendly forces so the enemy could be destroyed while displaying high morale and a cool demeanor. During his tenure, he served with courage and distinction, embodying the highest standards of military excellence. His bravery and leadership in combat were recognized through numerous awards, including the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the Southwest Asia Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Army Service Ribbon.

The Purple Heart is a solemn testament to his sacrifice in defense of our freedom, having been wounded in action while serving his country. The Bronze Star Medal further attests to his heroic or meritorious achievement in a combat zone, an enduring reflection of his courage under fire and commitment to mission and comrades alike. Delman doesn't consider himself a hero but credits the men that would not quit until he was safely off the battlefield. They provided protection and care and were

amazingly able to get a helicopter in after three attempts. This was all on the last day of the war and fortunately, because he got shot, the battalion behind was able to make an overwhelming counterattack, which led to total victory. Had he not been discharged, he would have made a career out of serving his country.

Following his honorable discharge in August 1991, Delman continued his life of service at home. In his community of Crockett, he has remained steadfast in supporting fellow veterans and contributing to civic life. He is well respected by both the community and his peers for his hard work and dedication. While he does not volunteer in specific structured organizations, whenever there is a need in his community, he is the first to not only volunteer, but to take initiative when he sees a community need. He spends many hours volunteering on the weekends maintaining cemeteries and managing the landscape downtown and has also spent many hours assisting with hurricane disaster relief. He enjoys helping others and can't say no when asked for help.

Delman's story reflects the unwavering spirit of America's veterans, men and women who not only fought for freedom abroad but who continue to strengthen the fabric of our Nation here at home.

It is my distinct privilege to recognize Delman Leon Orme for his exceptional service to the United States of America and his enduring contributions to the people of East Texas. His devotion to both country and community stands as a shining example of patriotism and selfless service.