

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

HON. MARK ALFORD

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2025

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 250th anniversary of the United States Marine Corps, an institution championing courage, discipline, and devotion to duty. For two and a half centuries, Marines have stood on the front lines of freedom, defending our Nation's ideals at home and abroad with unwavering honor.

Since its founding on November 10, 1775, at Tun Tavern in Philadelphia, the Marine Corps has embodied the highest standards of service and sacrifice. From the halls of Montezuma to the shores of Tripoli, Marines have answered the call of duty with unwavering courage and honor. Through centuries of conflict and change, they have earned their reputation as one of the world's most disciplined and lethal fighting forces, steadfast in their mission to defend our freedom.

In Missouri's 4th Congressional District, we are proud to be home to two outstanding detachments of the Marine Corps League: the Sgt. Darel S. Cole Marine Corps League Detachment in Richland and the Warsaw Leathernecks Marine Corps League Detachment in Warsaw. These detachments continue to exemplify the Marine spirit long after active service: honoring fallen comrades while supporting veterans, their families, and our local communities.

As we commemorate this remarkable milestone, we recognize not only the 250 years of service and sacrifice by the United States Marine Corps but also the enduring legacy carried forward by the brave men and women who wear, or have worn, the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor. Their commitment to God, Country, and Corps remains a model of selfless devotion that inspires us all.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Missouri's 4th District, I extend my deepest gratitude to every Marine, past, present, and future, for their extraordinary service to our great Nation. May we continue to honor their courage and uphold the values they so bravely defend. Semper Fidelis.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF GADSDEN STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2025

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of Gadsden State Community College. Gadsden State is currently under the leadership of President Alan Smith.

One of the initial founding institutions of Gadsden State is the Alabama School of Trades. It was established in 1925 as the first state-operated trade school in Alabama and the entire southern United States.

Classes began on September 16, 1925, with 42 students enrolled in the inaugural class. Four courses were available: printing, electricity, bricklaying and cabinetmaking. All students lived in the newly constructed dormitory equipped with modern conveniences such as steam heat and plumbing that featured hot and cold running water. Students helped government workmen lay bricks to build the school's first permanent two-story buildings.

The Alabama School of Trades continued to thrive as a training center for the area's technical industry with increasing student enrollment and course offerings. In 1942, courses were converted to War Training. At the close of World War II, new courses were added to help veterans re-enter the workforce such as: Radio, TV, Auto Mechanics, Machine Shop, Refrigeration, Drafting, Photography, Upholstery, Auto Body, Barbering, General Farm Dairy, Poultry and Heavy Equipment.

In 1973, the school's name was changed to the Alabama Technical College and began offering associate in applied technology degrees. In 1985, the Alabama Technical College merged with Gadsden State Community College and is now known as the East Broad Campus. It is home to many of Gadsden State's workforce development programs such as Precision Machining, Mechanical Design, Industrial Automation, Welding, Electrical, Electronic Technology, Salon/Spa, Court Reporting, Truck Driving, Skid Steer Training, Certified Nursing Assistant, Phlebotomy and Civil Engineering.

As a result of mergers and expansion of services, Gadsden State is now a sprawling Community College with five campuses including East Broad, Wallace Drive, Valley Street (HBCU), Ayers and Cherokee. Gadsden State serves Etowah, Calhoun, Cleburne, Cherokee and St. Clair counties in northeast Alabama. There are 70 programs of study offered to over 5,000 students.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in wishing Gadsden State Community College a happy 100th anniversary.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF TAMARA STEINER

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2025

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tamara Steiner for her invaluable service to our community throughout her journalistic career.

For over 20 years, Tamara has worked to keep our community connected and informed. Tamara and Bob Steiner started The Pioneer in 2003, providing local news to Clayton, Con-

cord, and Pleasant Hill residents at no cost. The Pioneer covered key community events, including Clayton Business and Community Association (CBCA) festivals, De La Salle football, and local politics. Under Tamara's leadership, The Pioneer provided critical news to local residents throughout challenging and uncertain times, such as the 2008 financial crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic, and local emergencies like landslides and fires. The Pioneer also sponsored several annual local events including CBCA festivals, the Hay Day "Woof-oween" dog costume contest, and more. As local newspapers became more scarce, The Pioneer continued to thrive and worked to foster a strong and vibrant community in Clayton and beyond.

Beyond their work with The Pioneer, Tamara and Bob have continually demonstrated their steadfast commitment to our community. They started Clayton Clean Ups, served on CBCA's board, marched in local parades, and more. Additionally, Tamara served as Executive Director of the Pacific Business Center and as a board member for the Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce, underscoring her commitment to local development. She also taught Business English and Communications at the community college level, helping to prepare the next generation of journalists and business professionals. Throughout her life, Tamara has worked tirelessly to serve our community with enthusiasm and care.

Please join me in thanking Tamara Steiner for her decades of remarkable dedication to local journalism and in recognizing her incredible impact in Contra Costa County.

CELEBRATING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF QUITMAN, TEXAS

HON. LANCE GOODEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2025

Mr. GOODEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the First Baptist Church of Quitman's 175th anniversary. Organized on November 16, 1850, the First Baptist Church of Quitman, commonly known as FBCQ, is the oldest church in Wood County. It was established just nine months after the Texas Legislature voted to create Wood County in February of that same year, and it was the home church of James Stephen Hogg, the first native-born governor of Texas.

At its founding, the Baptist congregation met in public buildings, homes, and in the open air before finding a permanent location on the first floor of the Quitman Masonic Lodge. The church resided in multiple buildings in the early 20th Century. Tremendous growth in the late 1940's led to the construction of FBCQ's fourth and current sanctuary, located on Lane Street, where the congregation still gathers to worship today. I am deeply grateful to the First

● 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.

Baptist Church of Quitman for its long and storied history of service to the Greater Quitman area. I congratulate them on this incredible milestone.

**CONGRATULATING FIRE CHIEF
GINA SWEAT ON HER RETIREMENT**

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2025

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the outstanding public service performed by Memphis' first female Fire Chief, Gina Sweat, who retired last month after more than 33 years with the department. Ms. Sweat joined the Memphis Fire Department in May of 1992, one of two women in her recruiting class of 84, after receiving a bachelor of business administration in 1988 from Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, Tennessee, where she played collegiate basketball. After joining the department, she continued her education by receiving a bachelor's of professional studies in fire administration in 2000 and a master's of professional studies in strategic leadership in 2013 from the University of Memphis. She rose through the ranks as a driver, lieutenant, battalion chief and division chief, deputy chief of logistics and deputy director until she was appointed Fire Chief by former Mayor Jim Strickland on January 1, 2016. In interviews through the years Chief Sweat said she learned to "over-prepare" for each new assignment. As chief, she undertook initiatives to improve the Insurance Services Office, made multi-million dollar renovations of the 911 Communications Center, the Office of Emergency Management building and built three new state-of-the-art fire stations and a new fire administration building. Chief Sweat's tenure also saw the department expand into responding to medical emergencies. It also included the Covid epidemic period when the fire department was the lead local agency conducting vaccinations. In my contacts with Chief Sweat, she was always pleasant. She was easy to communicate with and she certainly had a professional demeanor, which inspired my belief that the Fire Department was in good hands. Sweat had "the most appropriate name for the job" joked a local columnist, and her tenure as chief led to significant advances. I wish her well in retirement.

**HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
COMMISSIONER GEORGE COPADIS**

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2025

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the retirement of George Copadis, the Commissioner of New Hampshire Employment Security (NHES). George's longstanding career in public service encourages us all to serve as strong advocates for our local communities and state. George will be retiring after decades as a public servant.

As the NHES Commissioner and Chair of the Board of Commissioners on the Manchester Housing and Redevelopment Author-

ity, George consistently demonstrated his commitment to his colleagues and his community. George's steady leadership guided the agency through the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring Granite Staters received efficient and reliable services. Also serving as the President of the Board of Directors at St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral, George's generous and cooperative spirit knows no bounds.

A lifelong resident of Manchester, George represents the very best of our community. George's compassion and kindness provided immense support to individuals experiencing challenging situations. His dedication to his work had a significantly positive impact on countless Granite Staters who benefitted from George's knowledge and support. But perhaps most of all, George will be remembered for the delicious baklava that he brought to special meetings.

On behalf of the constituents of New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I commend George for his dedication to Granite Staters. My well wishes are with George and his family as he enjoys retirement.

**HONORING LT. COLONEL DEIDRE
D. SMITH**

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2025

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Lt. Col. Deidre D. Smith, Director of Public Affairs for the Mississippi National Guard. In this role, she provides critical counsel to the Adjutant General and senior leaders on command information, community outreach, and media engagement, ensuring the Guard remains connected to the citizens of Mississippi.

A Hattiesburg native, Lt. Col. Smith has served across the United States, Europe, and overseas in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Throughout her distinguished career, she has taken on leadership roles in Human Resources, Public Affairs, Information Operations, and Equal Opportunity, demonstrating versatility and excellence in every assignment.

Within the Mississippi Army National Guard, she has held several key positions, including State Director of Public Affairs, Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, and Director of Outreach Services. Her dedicated service has earned her numerous awards, including the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and the Mississippi Magnolia Cross, reflecting her professionalism and commitment to duty.

Lt. Col. Smith is a graduate of Marion Military Institute, Southeastern Louisiana University, and the University of Oklahoma. She has also completed advanced military education through the Command and General Staff College, the Defense Information School, and the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute. In addition to her military achievements, she was selected for Leadership Mississippi in 2018 and named among the Mississippi TOP 50 in 2022.

She resides in Brandon with her husband, Maj. James Kevin Polk of the 172nd Airlift Wing, and their daughters, Pfc. Harley Smith and Pvt. Lyndi Polk, both newly enlisted mem-

bers of the Mississippi Army National Guard, continuing their family's proud tradition of service.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE SERVICE
ACADEMIES DISTRICT OF CO-
LUMBIA EQUALITY ACT**

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2025

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Service Academies District of Columbia Equality Act, which would give the District of Columbia the same number of appointments and nominations to the U.S. service academies as states. Currently, each member of the House and each senator is allocated five appointments to each service academy—the U.S. Military Academy, the U.S. Naval Academy and the U.S. Air Force Academy—and each member of the House and each senator is allowed 15 nominations for each appointment. Therefore, since D.C. has no senators, D.C. is deprived of 10 appointments and, assuming all appointments are vacant, 150 nominations to each service academy. Senator TIM Kaine has introduced the companion bill.

This bill would provide equality for D.C. residents who choose to serve their country by applying to a service academy. It is remarkable that D.C. residents volunteer to fight and die for a country that denies them statehood, voting representation in Congress and full home rule. D.C. servicemembers have helped secure voting rights for people around the world, yet have always been denied those same rights when they returned home. D.C. residents, who pay the same federal taxes as residents of states, deserve the same opportunity as residents of states to attend our prestigious service academies.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

**RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
OF CITY COUNCILWOMAN ANITA
BEDWELL**

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2025

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the retirement of Anita Bedwell, a City Councilwoman for Rainbow City, Alabama.

Anita was born in Rainbow City to Eugene and Loretta Wimpee on August 27, 1961, along with her sisters, Lisa Abernathy and Susie Carr. She graduated from Southside High School in 1979, attended Gadsden State Community College, and graduated from the University of Alabama at Birmingham with a degree in Dental Hygiene.

After working as a dental hygienist for 15 years, Anita joined her family's construction business and eventually started her own business, Rainbow Pipe and Metal.

Councilwoman Bedwell has tirelessly served on the Rainbow City Council for 17 years. She was first elected in 2008 and has served four terms. As a member of the City Council, she

has been an integral part of growing Rainbow City into the fastest-growing city in Etowah County. Rainbow City would not be the thriving community it is today without her leadership. Anita has served on the Utilities Board since 2013 and served as the chairwoman in 2019.

Anita married Jeff Bedwell on October 22, 1983. They have one son, Andrew (Chance), and two grandsons, Britton and Cotton Bedwell. A devout Christian, she has been a member of Riddles Bend Baptist Church since 1981 and has served as a children's Sunday School teacher. In her free time, Anita enjoys volunteering for Renew our Rivers and Rainbow City Clean Up Day, as well as traveling, boating, cattle farming, and spending as much time as possible with friends and family.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Councilwoman Anita Bedwell, and thanking her for her service to Rainbow City, Alabama. Congratulations to Anita.

CELEBRATING VICTORIA COLLEGE'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL CLOUD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2025

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Victoria College, one of the oldest community colleges in Texas, as it celebrates its 100th year anniversary.

For generations, Victoria College has served families across the Golden Crescent region, and each year, thousands of students enter its doors for education and training. In 1925, Victoria College had a humble beginning in a small classroom on the third floor of a high school with just over 50 students. 100 years later, the campus now spans more than 60 acres and enrolls over 6,000 students each year.

The growth and success of Victoria College has been invaluable to the regional and economic development of the Coastal Bend region, and the seven counties it serves (Victoria, DeWitt, Calhoun, Jackson, Refugio, Gonzales and Lavaca). Students can earn degrees or certificates in a number of different programs, including Business & Technology, Industrial Trades, Public Service, and much more. As an institution, Victoria College has been integral in deepening relationships between businesses, government officials, and the regional workforce for decades.

Its enduring success is a testament to its identity as an established community partner. Beyond its comprehensive program offerings and its dedicated staff, Victoria College contributes to local cultural and heritage growth. The Museum of the Coastal Bend, located on campus, showcases the rich history of the coastal region. The Leo J. Center for the Performing Arts is owned and operated by the College, and the state-of-the-art Emerging Technology Complex is used for professional development, conferences, and local events.

On this 100th Anniversary, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Victoria College and its long-standing history as an example of the importance of civic institutions for the preservation of our future generations.

REMEMBERING MR. DAVID "DAVE" FOWLER

HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2025

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Mr. David "Dave" Fowler, who dedicated much of his life to serving the people of North Carolina. Dave was raised in Greenville and after his graduation from Western Carolina University, stayed in Jackson County to work in the local community.

Dave started his career as an educator in Jackson County in the public school system, where his efforts inspired the next generation of learners. His desire to serve the public good took him to work for the Jackson County Government. He also assumed numerous volunteer roles including acting as the Chair of the County Board of Elections and Chairman of the Jackson County Republican Party.

After Dave and his wife, Wanda, resettled in Eastern North Carolina, and in his role as a servant leader, he represented his community as a dedicated member of the Noon Rotary Club. Given his dedication and civic minded competence, he was appointed to the Coastal Regional Solid Waste Authority and the Carteret County Board of Equalization and Review. Given his desire to also lead in the political arena, he was later elected as Chairman of the Carteret County Republican Party. His election as a Carteret County Commissioner further paved the way for his later roles as Town Commissioner and, ultimately, Mayor of Cape Carteret. Dave's commitment and service to his communities is remembered for his selfless desire to better his community and serve all his constituents. His service has led many Eastern North Carolinians to live a better life with a brighter future.

Mr. Speaker please join me in remembering Mr. David "Dave" Fowler's life and legacy.

RECOGNIZING THE BRAVERY AND HEROISM OF OKOLONA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

HON. MORGAN McGARVEY

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2025

Mr. McGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the Okolona Fire Protection District for their bravery and heroism in response to the tragic crash of UPS Airlines Flight 2976 in Louisville, Kentucky.

On Tuesday, November 4th, a cargo jet bound for Hawaii crashed moments after take-off. Unable to gain altitude, the jet went down just beyond the airfield, erupting into flames as hundreds of thousands of pounds of jet fuel ignited. The resulting fire engulfed an area the size of nine football fields, and the thick, black plume of smoke could be seen from anywhere in the city. I have lived in Louisville my whole life and could never have imagined seeing something like this. For a moment, Louisville looked apocalyptic—it was heartbreaking.

But in these trying times, we saw the best of our community. Within minutes, Okolona firefighters were there, the first on site, confronting a scene of unimaginable destruction

with discipline and resolve. In this moment, they showed that heroism is not found in comfort—it is revealed in crisis. They chose duty over fear. Their rapid, coordinated response contained the flames, protected nearby homes, and stopped the disaster from spreading. Their courage in horrific circumstances saved lives and protected hundreds of families from losing their homes to the inferno.

Louisville is safer because of the men and women of Okolona Fire and the more than twenty departments who came from across the city and the Commonwealth to assist. Their bravery and selflessness reflect their deep love for this community and stand as a testament to what it means to serve. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring these brave first responders for their extraordinary service and sacrifice.

HONORING THE LIFE AND PUBLIC SERVICE OF DAMASCUS TOWN COUNCILMAN JACK McCRADY, JR.

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2025

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and longtime service of a dedicated public official, Jack McCrady, Jr., who passed away on Thursday, October 2, 2025.

Councilman McCrady called Damascus, Virginia, home for much of his life. His love for his community and its progress inspired him to seek elected office.

Over the years, Mr. McCrady was a worthy representative of the Damascus community. His experience in local government continually won him praise and recognition from his fellow peers and the voters of Damascus.

As a result of building trust and experience with the local community, Mr. McCrady served as Mayor of Damascus for 20 years. In addition, he served on the Washington County Board of Supervisors. Most recently, Damascus elected Mr. McCrady to the Damascus Town Council.

Moreover, Mr. McCrady served on various boards during his life. One such body was the very first Appalachian Trail Days committee, which is responsible for organizing the very popular festival that attracts thousands of people to Damascus every year. When I visit the annual festival, I see the true fun and spirit of the festival and how much it means to the local community.

Mr. McCrady's influence on his community was noticed by many. In a public announcement, Damascus described Councilman McCrady's loss as a presence that will be missed. It surely will be.

Councilman McCrady is survived by his loving wife of 52 years, Connie; son, Kris and wife Danielle; daughter, Valerie; sister, Patty and husband Harvey Clark; brother, Charlie McCrady; and sister-in-law, Shelby Blevins. He was preceded in death by his father, Jack Richard McCrady, Sr.; his mother, Dorothy Virginia Berry; and stepfather, C.C. Cowan.

Through his various roles in public office, Mr. McCrady provided strong and experienced leadership that benefitted his Southwest Virginia community. I am proud to recognize and honor a local public servant whose impact

helped his peers, neighbors and the Damas-
cus community.

**HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF MIKE DOYLE**

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2025

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Mike Doyle. Throughout his life, Mike demonstrated his unwavering devotion to service and empowering his community. Mike was born in Mahanoy City, Pennsylvania and left his hometown at the age of 17 to join the United States Air Force. He was promoted to Sergeant and was posted to Erding Air Base in Bavaria, Germany, where he served as Chaplain's Assistant, providing aid to U.S. airmen, German citizens, and displaced individuals. He was then reassigned to Parks Air Base in Pleasanton, California where, after stopping for directions at Elliott's Bar in downtown Danville, he stumbled upon his future hometown. From there, Mike fell in love with the Town of Danville and began raising his family there in 1955.

Mike dedicated his life to serving his community and improving quality of life for Danville residents. He was first elected to the Town Council in 1991, served as Mayor for five terms, and devoted over 25 years of service to the Town. Throughout his tenure, he played a crucial role in guiding the town as it grew while helping to maintain Danville's small-town charm. He was admired for his commitment to fiscal responsibility and support for Danville's businesses, faith communities, and schools. Additionally, he represented Danville for more than 20 years on the Board of Directors of the League of California Cities.

Sadly, Mike passed away on October 19, 2025 at the age of 96. He will be remembered for his outstanding leadership, honesty, and for the indelible mark that he has left on our community. Please join us in honoring Mike Doyle for his invaluable contributions to the Town of Danville and beyond.

**RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
OF MAYOR GARY FULLER**

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2025

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Gary Fuller, Mayor of the City of Opelika, Alabama.

Mayor Fuller has tirelessly served the City of Opelika for over 20 years. He served on the City Council from 2000 to 2004 and was first elected Mayor August 24, 2004.

As Mayor, he established Opelika as the first gig city in Alabama. He helped establish a first-class Pre-K program and helped with plans to renovate Opelika High School. He led the charge for a new sports complex, library, fire department, police building and municipal court facility.

He was instrumental in the development of the Tiger Town shopping district and revitaliza-

tion of Opelika's downtown. Because of the influx of citizens, over 2,500 new single-family homes have been built. He created the Commission on Crime & Violence in 2018 to help decrease crime.

A graduate of Southern Union State Community College, Fuller was President and CEO of Fuller Broadcasting Company, Inc. from 1985 until 1998. His six stations (WKKR, WMXA, WZMG, WTLM, WCJM and WPLV) received numerous awards for community service and local news coverage. In 1988, WZMG and WKKR became the first stations in Alabama to earn the National Association of Broadcasters Crystal Award for community service. He was also Managing General Partner for Fuller Properties, LTD and former host of the Lee County Report.

He's served as past President of The United Way of Lee County, Opelika Rotary Club and The Opelika Chamber of Commerce. He has served as past director of Opelika Dixie Youth Baseball, Opelika Main Street, Opelika Utilities Board, Opelika Arts Association, Lee County Salvation Army, Achievement Center Easter Seals, Chattahoochee Council Boy Scouts of America, Chattahoochee Historical Commission and Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Lee County.

Mayor Fuller has served the Alabama Municipal Electric Authority (Chairman), Alabama League of Municipalities (Past President), Alabama Monument Protection (Vice Chair), Auburn-Opelika Tourism Bureau, Lee-Russell Council of Governments, Opelika Planning Commission, Auburn University Regional Airport, Master Mason and member of Twin City Lodge No. 76, Emeritus Certified Municipal Official by League of Municipalities, National League of Cities Christian Public Officials Caucus, Julius E. Talton Endowed Program Support Fund and University of Alabama College of Communication and Information Sciences.

He received the Rotary International Paul Harris Fellow, Opelika Exchange Club Book of Golden Deeds Award, Opelika Chamber of Commerce, "Small Businessperson of the Year" and Chancellor's Award Outstanding Alumni—Southern Union State Community College. He is married to his wife, Laura, and has two children. The Fullers are active members of First Methodist of Opelika.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing my friend, Mayor Fuller, and thanking him for his service to the City of Opelika. Congratulations to Mayor Fuller.

**RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
OF BRIAN ESTES**

HON. DOUG LaMALFA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2025

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a friend, CAL FIRE Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit Chief Brian Estes. Brian has been a solid partner in public safety and fire protection for many years, and I am grateful that we became friends along the way. Always a man of deep integrity, I know I could trust his judgement and clarity in any issue before us. He will be missed by myself and my office. Despite being a Los Angeles Dodgers fan, we have much in common and I wish him the

very best in his retirement. I do hope our paths cross, and I look forward to seeing what his incredible artistic talent creates in this next chapter of his life.

Chief Estes earned a bachelor's degree from California State University, Chico, in Information and Communications Studies with a minor in Fine Art. In 1991 he would make a pivotal career shift graduating at the top of his class from the Butte Fire Academy, beginning his lifelong commitment to public safety. His first assignment in San Diego County at a bustling fire station along the international border would further his enthusiasm for public safety.

Chief Estes would join a CAL FIRE Helicopter crew in Tuolumne County in 1995. This assignment would ignite a passion for fire aviation, where he would coordinate with California National Guard's Blackhawk and Chinook Squadrons. He would then be promoted and assigned to the Amador-El Dorado Unit. In 2000, he advanced to the rank of Captain and then Battalion Chief in 2005 overseeing the Unit's Training and EMS Bureau before transferring to the Headquarters Field Battalion Chief Position.

Chief Estes would continue to rise through the ranks serving as Assistant Chief of Operations, overseeing a Fire Crew Camp, Deputy Chief of Operations, and ultimately Unit Chief for the Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit and Fire Chief of Placer County Fire Department. In these roles, he led over 450 personnel in one of CAL FIRE's most complex units, managing operations, administration, and a \$100 million budget across 1.7 million acres of State Responsibility Area (SRA). During his career Chief Estes has prioritized professional development, serving on department committees and instructing the next generation of firefighters.

Chief Estes, as a key member of the 2006 branding committee, would transition the department from CDF to CAL FIRE, designing the department's patch logo, apparatus fleet identity, and aviation fleet livery. This rebranding efforts elevated CAL FIRE's public image and highlighted the professionalism of its more than 10,000 firefighters. For over 15 years Chief Estes has chaired the statewide uniform and standards committee, further reinforcing the department's professional standards.

Chief Estes' impact and leadership in public safety will be felt not just in California but far beyond. In 2023, he was deployed to Maui, Hawaii, for incident management for the devastating Lahaina fire. He would also travel to Germany, building partnerships with fire services in over 10 cities and speaking at a major Western European fire symposium.

On behalf of Northern California and our grateful rural communities that Chief Brian Estes has fought tirelessly to defend throughout his career, I thank him for his dedicated service and congratulate him on his well-earned retirement.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF WWII VETERAN GUY W. EASTEP

HON. LANCE GOODEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2025

Mr. GOODEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Guy W. Eastep's 100th birthday and his dedicated service to our Nation during World War II. Mr. Eastep was born on August 31, 1925, in Crandall, Texas. In November 1943, Mr. Eastep was drafted into the United States Army and was activated on December 13, 1943, as a Rifleman. Private Eastep was deployed to the European Theater as an Infantry Replacement and served with I Company, 137th Infantry Regiment, 35th Infantry Division.

During his combat deployment to the European Theater, Private Eastep received multiple service decorations, including the European Theater Campaign Ribbon with two Bronze Stars, Combat Infantry Badge, and a Purple Heart, which he was awarded for wounds received in September 1944. Later, in March 1946, Mr. Eastep was honorably discharged from military service at the rank of Technician 4th Grade. It is my honor to recognize his valiant service and long life. I congratulate him on this amazing milestone.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HOUSE OF HEROES

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2025

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the 25th Anniversary of the House of Heroes, a remarkable organization founded by Rev. Wayne Anthony in 1999, in Columbus, Georgia. The organization celebrated this occasion with an event that was held on November 6, 2025, at 6 p.m. at the Columbus Country Club in Columbus, Georgia.

For the past quarter-century, House of Heroes has been dedicated to honoring the service and sacrifice of our military and public safety veterans by providing essential home repairs and support services to them and their families. Through its tireless efforts, the organization has restored dignity and safety in the homes of over a thousand deserving veterans across our Nation.

Rev. Wayne Anthony had a vision—a vision to ensure that those who have bravely served our country are not forgotten, and that they receive the assistance they so rightly deserve. This organization grew from a single humble initiative into a national movement, fueled by the commitment of volunteers, local chapters, and countless community partners who have rallied in support of these heroes.

As we celebrate this significant milestone, let us remember the countless lives that House of Heroes has changed for the better. From repairing leaky roofs to building wheelchair ramps, their work goes beyond mere physical improvements. They restore hope, instill a sense of pride, and affirm the sacrifices made by our veterans and their families. Cur-

rently, the organization has a presence in 18 states and has repaired over 2,400 homes in the last 25 years. These repairs were valued at more than 24 million dollars, but there can be no value placed on what our Veterans have meant to our country.

My Office has had a longstanding relationship with House of Heroes over the years. I have been honored to fly a flag over the United States Capitol in honor of those who have had repairs completed by this great organization.

It is my sincere hope that the spirit of service and compassion that embodies House of Heroes continues to inspire communities across our country for many years to come. I extend my deepest gratitude to Rev. Wayne Anthony, the dedicated staff, and volunteers of House of Heroes, for their unwavering commitment to supporting our heroes. Albert Pike once said that "What we do for ourselves dies with us, what we do for others, and the world remains and is immortal." What our Veterans sacrificed for us is immortal and what the House of Heroes has done across the country for them builds on that immortality.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the 765,000 people of Georgia's 2nd Congressional District in honoring the House of Heroes on its silver anniversary and congratulating them on upholding the values of our great country. Furthermore, we know that they will continue to inspire future generations to serve those who have served us.

WELCOMING THE POSITIVE OUTCOMES OF THE C5+1 SUMMIT AND U.S.-CENTRAL ASIA PARTNERSHIP

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2025

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome the positive outcomes of the C5+1 Summit, held in Washington, D.C., on November 6, 2025. This high-level meeting reaffirmed the United States' partnership with the nations of Central Asia—Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan—in promoting regional stability, economic growth, and sustainable development. It also led to valuable strides in our mutual partnership including the announcement of Kazakhstan's intent to join the Abraham accords and commitments to regional partners on critical mineral investment.

Over the years, the C5+1 format has evolved into an important platform for advancing dialogue, strengthening regional cooperation, and expanding opportunities for trade, investment, and connectivity. The recent summit in Washington underscored the mutual benefits of deeper cooperation between the United States and Central Asia from enhancing supply chain resilience and diversifying access to critical minerals, to fostering people-to-people exchanges and educational partnerships.

Looking ahead, we hope to build on this relationship by advancing our efforts to lift the outdated Jackson Vanik amendment, which has long been an irritant in the trade relationship between the United States and the Central Asian nations. Lifting this amendment

would underscore the U.S. commitment to the region, and provide the stability needed to foster mutual investment and growth. We also hope to build on the momentum of the summit with continued high-level engagements and visits between the U.S. and Central Asia.

Mr. Speaker, the outcomes of the C5+1 Summit reaffirm our shared vision of a stable, prosperous, and interconnected Central Asia, one that contributes to global security and economic opportunity. The United States stands ready to continue working hand-in-hand with our partners across the region to turn this vision into lasting results.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
SHIRLEY KROHN

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2025

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Shirley Krohn and congratulate her on earning the first ever California Senior Legislature "Legislator of the Decade" award.

Shirley's advocacy and dedicated policy work have improved the lives of countless seniors in our community. She served on the Contra Costa County Advisory Council on Aging, including serving twice as President, where she worked tirelessly to ensure the voices of Contra Costa's seniors were heard. Shirley also worked to combat elder financial abuse in her role as Chairman of the Board at Bechtel Credit Union, where her efforts led to landmark reporting laws which are now emulated across the country. She also served in the California Senior Legislature, working to improve quality of life for California's seniors. Shirley has been a life-long champion for the dignity, safety, and well-being of older Americans.

Shirley's leadership has shaped state policy on dementia care, end-of-life decision making, and protections for our vulnerable populations. I would also like to commend her for her mentorship of the next generation of advocates, cementing her legacy of service for years to come. Shirley's service is a true example of outstanding public leadership and advocacy.

Please join me in thanking Shirley Krohn for her decades of exemplary service on behalf of older adults throughout the State of California.

HONORING FAMILYCORE ON ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DARIN LaHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2025

Mr. LaHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the 125th anniversary of FamilyCore. For more than a century, FamilyCore has served as a pillar of support for families in Central Illinois, and now provides counseling, foster care, adoption, youth outreach, and family preservation services to more than 17,000 clients each year.

Founded in 1900 in the Assembly Room of Peoria's City Hall, FamilyCore began as Associated Charities and Philanthropies with the

mission of coordinating charitable efforts and uplifting families in need. While its name and services have changed over the past 125 years, the mission of strengthening families for a stronger community has stayed constant.

FamilyCore's impact has been bolstered by innovative thinking with a focus on collaboration. From its early efforts to establish a juvenile court and public health initiatives to its current work in behavioral health and family well-being, FamilyCore's positive effect in Central Illinois continues to grow.

As we celebrate 125 years of FamilyCore's service, we honor its proud history and the generations of staff, volunteers, and community partners who have made a lasting difference in the lives of thousands. I am proud to recognize this extraordinary organization and ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating FamilyCore on 125 years of strengthening families and building a stronger Peoria.

RECOGNIZING BUCKS COUNTRY GARDENS PRESIDENT TOM HEBEL'S RETIREMENT AFTER 40+ YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2025

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable constituent from my district, Mr. Tom Hebel, proprietor of Bucks Country Gardens in Doylestown, Pennsylvania—a business that has, for more than six decades, helped beautify homes and enrich communities throughout Bucks County and beyond.

Founded in 1961 as Royer Nurseries, the family run business has become a cornerstone of the local community, known for its commitment to excellence, creativity, and service. Mr. Hebel joined the company in 1981 as a young landscape designer, quickly finding a mentor and partner in owner Mr. Dick Royer who shared his vision for inspiring outdoor living. After a decade of collaboration, Mr. Hebel assumed ownership, guiding the business through decades of growth and transformation while remaining true to its founding principles.

Under Mr. Hebel's leadership, Bucks Country Gardens has thrived as both a retail garden center and a landscape design firm. The garden center offers an impressive array of plants, trees, and flowers as well as fine outdoor furniture from trusted brands such as Castelle, Hanamint, Telescope, and Jensen Outdoor. The boutique complements these offerings with unique gifts, jewelry, and home decor that reflect the artistry and taste of the region. From modest terraces to expansive poolside retreats and vegetable gardens, Bucks Country Gardens has helped countless homeowners turn their dreams into reality—always balancing creativity, functionality, and responsibility.

Mr. Hebel, a proud graduate of Penn State University's Landscape Architecture program, has long emphasized that landscaping is both a financial and a lifestyle investment. Through his guidance, the company has earned a reputation not only for its design expertise but also for its enduring client relationships through many generations.

Now, as Bucks Country Gardens enters a new chapter, Mr. Hebel looks with pride to his

sons, Gregory and Ryan Hebel, who together represent the next generation of leadership. Gregory, who oversees the company's design-build operations, and Ryan, who manages the retail garden center, share their father's passion for connecting people to the outdoors. With their dedication and vision, the future of Bucks Country Gardens shines brightly.

Mr. Hebel's decades of work have brought joy, inspiration, and beauty to the people of Bucks County. His story reflects the very best of American entrepreneurship—family, creativity, and community spirit—and stands as a testament to the enduring value of small businesses in our Nation's fabric.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Tom Hebel and the entire Bucks Country Gardens team for their remarkable contributions to the community, their commitment to excellence, and their role in nurturing both the community and the people they serve.

RECOGNIZING DR. KENNETH G. "KEN" BODIFORD FOR HIS EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE TO JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY AND THE FIELD OF MUSIC EDUCATION

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2025

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor Dr. Ken Bodiford. Dr. Bodiford served as Director of Bands at my alma mater, Jacksonville State University. During his 32-year tenure, he transformed the Marching Southerners into one of the most respected and accomplished collegiate marching programs in the Nation.

Under Dr. Bodiford's leadership, the Marching Southerners expanded from approximately 140 members to more than 500, becoming one of the largest collegiate marching ensembles in the country. His vision and commitment to excellence elevated the Southerners to national and international acclaim, representing Jax State and the State of Alabama on some of the world's most prestigious stages.

Throughout his tenure, Dr. Bodiford led the Southerners in performances at the 80th Anniversary of D-Day in 2024, the World Peace Parade in 2019, the Bands of America Grand National Championships in 2019 and 2002, the 75th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor in 2016, the London New Year's Day Parade in 2012 and the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in 1995.

Dr. Bodiford served as Director of the Spirit of JSU Drum and Bugle Corps from 2001 to 2007, guiding the ensemble to multiple Top 12 finishes at the Drum Corps International World Championships. He also served as Director of the United States Army All-American Marching Band from 2016 to 2017, leading some of the nation's most talented young musicians in performances of the highest caliber.

His contributions to music education have been recognized nationally through his election to Phi Beta Mu, the International Bandmasters Fraternity, which honors exceptional leadership and lifelong dedication to the advancement of band music. Beyond his professional achievements, his greatest legacy lies

in the generations of students, educators and performers he has mentored.

Dr. Bodiford's career stands as a testament to the power of vision, passion and leadership in shaping both institutions and lives. His tireless dedication has brought great honor to Jax State, the Marching Southerners and the State of Alabama.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Jax State fans and family, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and celebrating the extraordinary career of Dr. Kenneth G. "Ken" Bodiford.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UF/IFAS GULF COAST RESEARCH AND EDUCATION CENTER

HON. SCOTT FRANKLIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2025

Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 100th anniversary of the University of Florida's IFAS Gulf Coast Research and Education Center, a cornerstone of Florida agriculture supporting our growers and research community for generations.

Founded in 1925 in Palmetto as the Tomato Disease Laboratory, the Center was created to combat a devastating fungal disease threatening Florida's tomato production. Over the decades, its mission expanded as Florida agriculture grew and diversified, adding work in breeding, plant health and soil and water research to strengthen crop quality and sustainable production. In 2005, the Center relocated to Wimauma to support broader research and collaboration benefiting producers across our state.

For a century, this Center has delivered practical, science-based solutions to strengthen Florida agriculture. Its research has improved crop quality, enhanced resilience against disease and pests, and supported the development of new crops that sustain local economies and help specialty producers thrive. It works hand in hand with producers and industry partners to support new opportunities, including work on caladiums, hops and berry production that expands Florida's agricultural footprint and helps specialty crops thrive in our region.

Now, a new chapter is taking shape. The UF/IFAS Center for Applied Artificial Intelligence in Agriculture is integrating automation, data and machine learning to help producers work more efficiently and address labor needs. With federal support championed in Congress, the Center is acquiring new equipment and technology to accelerate this work and strengthen hands-on research capacity at the site. This investment will bring cutting-edge innovation directly to the farm, improving productivity and competitiveness across the industry.

As we mark this milestone, we honor the scientists, staff and growers who make this progress possible. Their dedication supports rural communities and strengthens American food security. I congratulate the UF/IFAS Gulf Coast Research and Education Center on a century of extraordinary service and look forward to its continued leadership in the years ahead.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF SUNSHINE HAVEN, INC. FOR PROVIDING HOSPICE CARE

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2025

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 25th anniversary of Sunshine Haven, a local hospice care center in Olmito, Texas.

Throughout their 25 years, Sunshine Haven has shown true care and empathy for their patients. Their work highlights the best of South Texas—caring for the most vulnerable of our neighbors and community members. I am honored to represent such dedicated individuals who devote their time and compassion to caring for our senior citizens.

The end-of-life care Sunshine Haven provides brings peace of mind to patients and their families, knowing their loved ones are cared for with dignity, comfort, and respect.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful South Texas, I congratulate Sunshine Haven and all those who have contributed to its mission over the past two and a half decades. May they continue to serve and care for our communities for many years to come.

CELEBRATING THE 225TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SAVANNAH

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2025

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the First Baptist Church of

Savannah on their 225th Anniversary. Since 1800, this church has stood as a cornerstone of faith, service, and resilience in our community. From its beginnings on Franklin Square to the historic sanctuary on Chippewa Square, First Baptist Church has been a beacon of steadfast devotion and is recognized as the oldest surviving house of worship in Savannah. Through its leadership and dedicated members, this church has shaped not only life in Savannah but also Baptist life across Georgia and our Nation. It has nurtured faith, advanced education through its connection to Mercer University, and embraced a spirit of service. Between its open-door policy during the Civil War to its recent pipe organ concert series, First Baptist Church has continually worked to build community and welcome all into their congregation. We celebrate them for both a remarkable history and a vibrant legacy of hope for the future.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF CINDY GERSHEN

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2025

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Cindy Gershen on her 70th birthday. Cindy has worked tirelessly to bring healthy eating initiatives to life throughout the East Bay. She graduated from U.C. San Diego before opening Sunrise Bakery and Catering in Walnut Creek. Now called "Sunrise Bistro & Catering", the over 40 year old locally renown restaurant prides itself on nutrition and healthy cooking. Throughout her time as owner and chef of the Sunrise Bistro, Cindy has continuously revamped the menu to

align with the best nutrition standards. In 2009, Cindy created the nonprofit, "Wellness City Challenge", which seeks to improve community health and promote the importance of nutrition. She has impacted the lives of countless residents across the East Bay, encouraging them to follow her own journey to live healthier lives.

Additionally, Cindy has worked to promote wellness in schools and ensure that future generations can become educated culinary experts. For over ten years between 2011 to 2022, she taught students about food and nutrition at Mount Diablo High School in Concord, creating the Sustainable Hospitality Program. Her classes focused on topics such as food science, harvesting, and career readiness. Cindy's class was so successful that it inspired similar courses at several other high schools across the county. Additionally, she was recognized for her wellness advocacy efforts as California Assembly District 14's "Woman of the Year" in 2014.

Cindy is also an author who has collaborated with Dr. Robert Lustig at the University of California, San Francisco to publish cookbooks backed by scientific research. She currently works as a chef at East Bay Health, helping patients practice intentional, healthy eating. Cindy's work has been immensely impactful across our region and her service has left an indelible impact on our community.

Please join me in thanking Cindy Gershen for her outstanding work and in wishing her a very happy 70th birthday.