

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE OF CESAR J. SOLDA

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a dedicated patriot, Cesar J. Solda, of Chester Springs, Pennsylvania.

Born in France during a time of war, Mr. Solda's life began with great challenge. He was later adopted by an American soldier, a moment that gave him the gift of a second chance and a brighter future. Leaving his family behind, he came to New York and embraced a new life filled with opportunity.

Mr. Solda answered the call to serve our Nation in the United States Army, representing America with honor during the Korean War. Upon his return in 1962, he began a new chapter in Long Island, New York, where he built a family, embraced fatherhood, and shared a life of love with his beloved wife. A proud family man, he often returned to France to reconnect with loved ones, bringing with him his wife, adopted father, and three sons, ensuring that family bonds remained strong across oceans.

In 1985, Mr. Solda and his family moved to Chester Springs, where he grew deep roots in the community. There, he built lasting friendships, expanded his family, and lived life to its fullest. A farmer at heart, he held a profound respect for the land, the soil, and all living things. His life was a testament to resilience, gratitude, and love. As his family and friends now reflect, Mr. Solda climbed every rung of life's ladder—one that reached into the heavens.

In recognition of his service, devotion to family, and the example he set for others, I have requested that the flag of the United States be flown over our Nation's Capitol in his honor. His life was filled with courage, family, and faith, and his memory will live on in the hearts of all who knew him.

CONGRATULATING LANCASTER CITY POLICE CHIEF RICHARD MENDEZ ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize and congratulate Chief Richard Mendez on his retirement as Chief of the Lancaster City Bureau of Police Chief, and I thank him for his 25 years of dedicated service to the Lancaster community.

A native of the City of Lancaster and a graduate of McCaskey High School, Chief Mendez joined his hometown police department in 2000. Over the course of his distinguished career, he served as a patrol officer,

K-9 officer, member of the Selective Enforcement Unit, member of the Lancaster County Special Emergency Response Team, and platoon leader. Demonstrating an unparalleled work ethic, he rose through the ranks, and in 2021, was appointed Captain of Patrol, the largest division of the Lancaster City Bureau of Police.

In July 2022, Chief Mendez was sworn in as Chief of Police, becoming the first Hispanic police chief in the bureau's history. During his tenure, the bureau achieved accreditation from the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association and implemented significant improvements to its recruitment process. Chief Mendez helped to advance community-focused initiatives such as the Police Social Worker Program, the Office of Community Engagement, and expanded bike patrols, all of which strengthened trust and collaboration between law enforcement and residents.

Chief Mendez has devoted the past 25 years to keeping Lancaster safe. I am extremely grateful for the positive impact he has had on the community. I wish him the best in his well-earned retirement.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WRECK OF THE S.S. EDMUND FITZGERALD

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50th anniversary of the wreck of the S.S. *Edmund Fitzgerald* on November 10, 1975, and the 29 crewmates who tragically lost their lives off the shores of Lake Superior.

Nicknamed "The Pride of the American Side," the *Edmund Fitzgerald* was the largest ship on North America's Great Lakes when it was launched on June 7, 1958. For 17 years, the ship carried taconite from mines in Minnesota to Michigan, Ohio, and various other Great Lakes ports. The ship earned a reputation as a workhorse—becoming the first ship to carry one million tons of ore through the Soo Locks in a year—and set the record for single-trip tonnage, carrying more than twenty-seven thousand tons of ore in one voyage. Despite all these accolades, the ship is most remembered for what happened on that fateful November night.

The *Edmund Fitzgerald* embarked on its final mission on the afternoon of November 9, 1975, carrying a fall cargo from Superior, Wisconsin, towards Zug Island in Detroit alongside the S.S. *Arthur M. Anderson*. On November 10th, the ships were caught in a hurricane-like storm, facing 25-to-30-foot waves and wind speeds of nearly 100 miles per hour. With the *Edmund Fitzgerald* struggling to navigate the storm, the captains of both ships agreed to seek refuge in Whitefish Bay, off the coast of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Shortly after 7:10 p.m., just 17 miles from Whitefish

Bay, the *Edmund Fitzgerald* sank to the bottom of Lake Superior. The ship remains there today, more than 500 feet below the surface of the Great Lakes.

Mr. Speaker, as we commemorate this somber anniversary, let us remember the courage, dedication, and sacrifice of the *Edmund Fitzgerald's* crew. Their story endures as a lasting reminder of the strength and spirit of those who live and work on the Great Lakes, and of the deep connection between our people and these powerful waters.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF MEENA VYAS, MD

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the remarkable career of Dr. Meena Vyas, whose dedication to mental health care and public service has profoundly impacted the people of Denton County, Texas, and beyond. This year marks 30 years of her extraordinary service with Denton County MHMR, where she has exemplified excellence, compassion, and leadership. Beginning her tenure as a psychiatrist in 1996, Dr. Vyas went on to serve as Medical Director from 2011 to 2023 and now as Chief Medical Officer, providing visionary leadership and compassionate care to countless individuals and families.

Throughout her distinguished career, Dr. Vyas has devoted herself to improving mental health care and strengthening community-based services. She has served on numerous professional committees, including the American Psychiatric Association, the Texas Society of Psychiatric Physicians (TSPP) Public Mental Health Committee, and the Medical Services Consortium of the Texas Council of Community Centers, where she held positions as both Chair and Vice Chair. Her leadership in these roles has helped shape statewide policy and advance the quality and accessibility of behavioral health services for Texans.

Dr. Vyas's contributions have been recognized through several prestigious honors, including the Dr. Spencer Bayles Outstanding TSPP Member Award, the Fellow distinction from the American Psychiatric Association, and the Women of the Year Award for Excellence in Health from the Multi-Ethnic Education and Economic Development Center. Beyond her professional achievements, she has been an active advocate for community well-being, contributing her expertise to initiatives such as the Zero Suicide Task Force, Death Review, and Safety and Quality Management Committees, as well as grant reviews for SAMHSA, CCBHC, and AOT programs.

Dr. Meena Vyas's commitment to her patients, her profession, and her community represents the very best of public service. For three decades, she has embodied compassion, leadership, and innovation in mental

• 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.

health care, leaving an enduring legacy at Denton County MHMR and across the state of Texas. It is an honor to celebrate her 30 years of dedicated service and her profound contributions to the advancement of mental health.

THANKING DEREK HARLEY FOR
HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. BRYAN STEIL

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I kindly ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Derek N. Harley for his 25 years of service in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Derek began his career on Capitol Hill as a Legislative Assistant with Representative Walley Herger of California, later serving as his Legislative Director and then his Chief of Staff. Following Congressman Herger's retirement, Derek served as Chief of Staff to Representative Brad Wenstrup of Ohio. As Chief, Derek was known for prioritizing first-in-class constituent services, a focus he has maintained throughout his career in the House.

After a short time off the Hill, Derek returned to the House as the Republican Staff Director of the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress. In this position, he saw an opportunity to strengthen Congress's Article I obligations and create positive and lasting institutional change. The Select Committee had what Derek called "squeaky wheel authority" to call attention to longstanding problems and challenges for the House, and he used that authority to relentlessly pursue solutions. His insistence on working with House partners and colleagues across-the-aisle to forge change and strengthen this institution for the better will benefit generations of Members and staff to come. We can all learn a lot from his example.

At the start of the 118th Congress, the Committee on House Administration turned to Derek to Lead the newly constituted Subcommittee on Modernization. Quite frankly, there was no one better suited for this position than Derek. His institutional expertise, his proven leadership skills, and his unwavering dedication to the House and the people it serves made him the obvious—and only—choice to serve as the Subcommittee's inaugural Staff Director. Under the leadership of Subcommittee Chairwoman STEPHANIE BICE of Oklahoma, Derek worked to create new, and much-needed, collaborative workspaces for staff across the House Office Buildings, improve ADA access to the House and the Capitol, streamline the transfer of constituent casework to incoming members of Congress, provide House committees with access to industry-standard e-Discovery software, institute positive change at the Congressional Research Service, and provide more opportunities for Members to engage with their constituents. These are just a few examples of the many contributions Derek has made to this institution.

At the start of the 119th Congress, Derek joined Speaker MIKE JOHNSON's team as Director of House Operations, where he's worked hand-in-glove with my team on House Administration to meet critical campus needs, formalize longstanding policies for House of-

fices, and think strategically about the House's future physical space needs. Derek has always remained open to ideas and solutions and is committed to finding the best path forward for the institution in service to its Members, staff, and the taxpayer.

I am fortunate to have worked with Derek and know he will be missed by many House Members and staff. Derek has been a consummate steward of the institution and a willing partner to everyone who wants the House to work well for the American people. He has already had a lasting and positive impact on the institution and, through his example, has inspired others to continue this work.

On behalf of my colleagues and staff on the Committee on House Administration, I wish Derek Harley all the best as he begins his new role as the Chief Executive Officer of the Congressional Institute. I thank him for his service to the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING REVEREND BRITISH
CONLEY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend British Conley.

Reverend British Conley, a native of Lambert, Mississippi, was born to the late Robert Gross, Sr. and the late Gertrude Conley. He is a distinguished United States Navy veteran who served honorably on active duty from 1998 to 2002, followed by four additional years in the United States Navy Reserve from 2002 to 2006. His military service instilled in him the values of duty, integrity, and perseverance—principles that have guided his lifelong commitment to service. Following his time in the Navy, he continued to serve his state and community as a Correctional Officer at the Mississippi State Penitentiary, where he worked diligently for four years to uphold safety and order.

A 1997 graduate of Madison Shannon Palmer High School—formerly Quitman County High School—Reverend Conley demonstrated resilience and determination early in life. His perseverance was recognized when he received the Against All Odds Award and a Scholarship from Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. He went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in Public Administration from Mississippi Valley State University in Itta Bena, Mississippi. His passion for education and leadership led him to the University of Mississippi, where he achieved multiple advanced degrees: a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis in Special Education, an Educational Specialist Degree in Curriculum and Instruction, and a Specialist Degree in K–12 Educational Leadership.

Beyond his academic and professional accomplishments, Reverend Conley is a servant-leader in both education and faith. He continues to impact lives as an educational leader and as Pastor of Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church in Belen, Mississippi. His ministry and career embody his belief in building stronger communities through faith, education, and service.

He has been blessed in life and love, married to his high school sweetheart, Mrs. Terry Lashell Geter-Conley, for 17 years. Mrs. Conley is an accomplished entrepreneur and owner of Sweetie's Home Event and Décor. Together, they find joy and renewal through their shared passion for camping, traveling, and nurturing their garden.

From Lambert, Mississippi, to the U.S. Navy, to the classroom, and to the pulpit, Reverend Conley's life reflects resilience, faith, and the transformative power of service, leadership, and love.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Reverend British Conley for his dedication and service to the State of Mississippi and the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING MR. KONRAD
KROSZNER'S 16 YEARS WITH THE
PENNSYLVANIA BIOTECHNOLOGY
CENTER AND BARUCH S.
BLUMBERG INSTITUTE

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary individual from my district, Mr. Konrad Kroszner, the Director of Operations and Director of Systems and Engineering at the Pennsylvania Biotechnology Center and Baruch S. Blumberg Institute. Today, I proudly commend him on his well-earned retirement, following 16 years of dedicated work to furthering education and research in our community.

As the Director of Operations and Director of Systems and Engineering, Mr. Kroszner has been a driving force behind maintenance and improvement for the Pennsylvania Biotechnology Center and Baruch S. Blumberg Institute. In his pursuit of ensuring the safe operations of the campus, he led two expansions during his tenure that improved infrastructure for the biotech research teams, bringing old lab spaces up to code to ensure that the latest safety and technical requirements were being met.

Through Mr. Kroszner's tireless efforts, the researchers of my district are better able to apply their technical knowledge through their research in a safe and secure manner. He took personal pride in his work, spearheading the smallest aspects of both the construction and system-engineering aspects down to the minute details.

Konrad's work has not gone unnoticed. His expansion efforts and day-to-day care for the facilities have led the Pennsylvania Biotechnology Center to become a world-class biotechnology center, aiding institutions such as the Hepatitis B Foundation and Baruch S. Blumberg Institute in their mission of curing disease such as Hepatitis B and Liver Cancer.

Mr. Kroszner began his career at the United States Naval Academy, where he graduated in 1977 with a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering. He spent the next 10 years of his career as an engineer with the Naval Air Warfare Center in Trenton where he supported naval aviation fuel related issues, managed military specifications for fuel contamination detection devices and components, and provided emergency support for U.S. Navy fleet operations.

Beyond these contributions, he has left behind him a legacy of technical knowledge, care, and dedication to his work. Mr. Kroszner's work will continue to be a force for good in not only the Pennsylvania Biotechnology Center, but our Nation through the world class facilities he helped to improve that will continue to empower researchers long after his retirement.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Konrad Kroszner on his retirement and thank him for 16 years of dedicated work to the Pennsylvania Biotechnology Center and Baruch S. Blumberg Institute. His leadership and dedication are sure to leave a lasting mark on the community.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT GARY SINGLETON

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Mr. Gary Singleton of Bowie County, Texas, and to present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Gary has dedicated his life to faithfully serving his community and country.

Born in Texarkana, Texas, Gary attended school in the Texarkana and Liberty-Eylau districts before pursuing higher education at Texarkana College, Texas A&M Commerce, and Texas A&M—Texarkana, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Business with a minor in computer science. In 1990, he married the love of his life, Lisa Singleton, with whom he has shared many pets, memories, and accomplishments.

After graduating, Gary began his professional career at the Lone Star Army Ammunition Plant, where he served for 26 years, advancing from IT Programmer to Senior Systems Analyst and ultimately Manager of IT Operations. He later worked for Alcoa Inc. as Site Conversion and Development Lead, overseeing software conversions, and for Cooper Tire and Rubber Company as a Systems Analyst. Gary applied his expertise in healthcare technology at the Collom & Carney Clinic in Texarkana and Willis Knighton Health System in Shreveport, Louisiana, before returning to Collom & Carney Clinic, where he is currently employed.

Beyond his professional career, Gary has demonstrated exceptional dedication to civic and political engagement. Beginning in the 1980's, he served as Precinct Chair, later Vice Chairman, and ultimately Chairman of the Bowie County Republican Party. He served for over 15 years as a Board Member and Vice President of the Bowie County Republicans PAC and held leadership roles with the National Management Association—LSAAP Chapter. Among his proudest achievements, Gary was honored as a Presidential Elector from Texas' 1st Congressional District in 2024, casting his vote for Donald J. Trump in the Texas House of Representatives Chamber in Austin.

Gary Singleton's lifelong commitment to his community, his profession, and his Nation truly exemplifies what it means to be a patriot. It is an honor to recognize his exceptional con-

tributions and to present him with the Congressional Patriot Award in appreciation of his steadfast service to the people of Bowie County and the United States of America.

HONORING COLONEL WILLIAM W. BUTLER AS VIRGINIA'S 4TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT'S 2025 VETERAN OF THE YEAR

HON. JENNIFER L. McCLELLAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel William Woodard Butler, an extraordinary Virginian and the 2025 Veteran of the Year for Virginia's 4th Congressional District. Colonel Butler is an outstanding choice for this honor, having devoted his entire military career to saving and improving the lives of our service members and advancing research in surgery, tropical medicine, hyperbaric medicine, and aerospace medicine.

Colonel Butler has logged over 980 flight hours, including more than 65 hours in combat, and completed two overseas deployments, one to Okinawa and another to Qatar. He concluded his distinguished military career as a Professor of Aerospace Medicine at the United States Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine, earning the Air Force's special experience identifier of Clinical/Academic Grandmaster in both Hyperbaric and Aerospace Medicine.

Internationally recognized for his groundbreaking work in altitude-induced decompression sickness and aeromedical evacuation, Colonel Butler's research has directly improved the safety and survivability of critically ill and injured service members during transport. His contributions have had a lasting, positive impact on the Department of Defense and have almost certainly reduced the overall transport morbidity for tens of thousands of casualties.

Colonel Butler's exemplary service has earned him national and international recognition. In 2019, he was inducted into the National Air and Space Museum's Wall of Honor. In 2022, he received the Aerospace Medical Association's prestigious John Ernsting Award, and in 2024, he was honored with the Chesterfield Education Foundation's BRAVO Award.

Following more than 30 years of combined active duty and reserve service, Colonel Butler continued his dedication to the mission as an Aerospace Medicine Consultant to the Air Force for an additional decade. He has authored over 150 publications, including 29 peer-reviewed articles, 39 peer-reviewed abstracts, and 23 proceedings, technical reports, and textbook chapters, culminating in a definitive 200-page monograph on the safe aeromedical evacuation of critically ill and injured casualties.

Beyond his remarkable professional achievements, Colonel Butler has remained deeply involved in his community. He serves as a Trustee for the John Randolph Foundation, a member of the Hopewell City Planning Commission, and an active congregant at the Family of God Church in Chesterfield. He also helped establish a permanently endowed scholarship for students in Chesterfield, Hope-

well, and Prince George pursuing medical careers and is an engaged member of the William and Mary Alumni Book Club in Richmond.

Mr. Speaker, Colonel Butler's legacy of service, both in uniform and in his community, embodies the best of Virginia's 4th Congressional District. His lifelong commitment to science, service, and community betterment stands as an inspiration to us all. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Colonel Butler on being named the 2025 Veteran of the Year and in thanking him for his decades of exemplary service to our Nation.

RECOGNIZING VALERIE PREHODA ON HER INDUCTION INTO THE MICHIGAN TECH PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL OF ALUMNAE

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Valerie Prehoda for being inducted into the Michigan Tech Presidential Council of Alumnae. This well-deserved honor reflects her steadfast dedication to her fellow Servicemembers, the communities throughout the Upper Peninsula, and our Nation.

Ms. Prehoda graduated from Michigan Tech in 1983 with a Bachelor of Science in Social Sciences, concentrating on archaeology. To help pay her way through school, she worked at the university's copper mine while remaining engaged in many extracurricular activities. She was a member of the soccer, gymnastics, and women's hockey teams while also participating in MTU Aquanauts and assisting in SCUBA instruction.

Following her graduation in 1983, Ms. Prehoda was accepted into the United States Marine Corps as an officer. After 10 years of active duty, she was transferred to the reserves, where she served as museum director and Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act coordinator for the Cocopah tribe in Arizona. In 2001, Ms. Prehoda was redeployed following the invasion of Iraq. There she completed two combat tours, surviving a missile attack in northern Kuwait in March 2003, and retired at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in 2016 after 30 years of civil and military service.

Throughout her distinguished career, Ms. Prehoda received a plethora of awards and commendations, including, but not limited to, a Joint Service Achievement Medal, a Navy Unit Commendation with a bronze star, a Meritorious Unit Commendation, a Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and a Presidential Unit Citation for OIF combat support. Upon retiring, Ms. Prehoda continues to serve her country through memberships in various Veteran organizations such as the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Marine Corps League, and many more.

Mr. Speaker, let us all join in recognizing Valerie Prehoda for receiving the prestigious honor of being inducted into the Michigan Tech Presidential Council of Alumnae. I thank her for her enduring commitment to Veterans, her community, and our great country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL A. RULLI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. RULLI. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 286; YEA on Roll Call No. 287; and NAY on Roll Call No. 288.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT LISA SINGLETON

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Mrs. Lisa Singleton of Bowie County, Texas, and to present her with the Congressional Patriot Award. Lisa has dedicated her life to faithfully serving her community and country.

Born in Hope, Arkansas, Lisa attended Hope High School, graduating in 1986, and later completed office vocational courses at Texarkana College. In 1990, Lisa married the love of her life, Gary Singleton, with whom she has shared many pets, memories, and successes.

Lisa's professional journey has been as diverse as it has been impactful. She has worked as a receiving clerk for Walmart, a local rental car agent, and in jewelry sales. Yet her greatest professional passion has been in the healthcare industry. She has served her community as a postpartum department unit clerk, an emergency department unit clerk, and as office manager and receptionist for Dr. Petty's Podiatry.

Beyond her professional career, Lisa's dedication to civic engagement has been extraordinary. She has been a volunteer with the Bowie County Republican Party for 35 years, currently serving as Precinct Chair and Volunteer Coordinator, inspiring and organizing others to participate in the democratic process. Her community outreach extends beyond the Party through her work in voter registration and voter engagement at local events and festivals.

Since 1992, Lisa has proudly served as an Election Clerk and Election Judge with the Bowie County Election Administration Office. Among her most notable accomplishments, she has served as Treasurer (two terms), Vice President (one term), and President (two terms) of the Bowie County Republican Women, a chapter affiliated with the Texas Federation of Republican Women (TFRW). Outside of her service, Lisa is also close to completing a personal goal—visiting all fifty states, with only two remaining.

Lisa Singleton's lifelong commitment to her community, her profession, and her Nation truly exemplifies what it means to be a patriot. It is an honor to recognize her exceptional contributions and to present her with the Congressional Patriot Award in appreciation of her steadfast service to the people of Bowie County and the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF T1 ENERGY'S OPERATIONS IN WILMER, TEXAS

HON. JAKE ELLZEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the one-year anniversary of T1 Energy's operations in Wilmer, Texas. On November 1, 2024, production began at its state-of-the-art facility. In just twelve short months, the company has already created more than 1,200 good-paying Texas jobs, including 200 held by proud residents of Texas' 6th Congressional District.

By all accounts, the Wilmer facility is exceeding expectations, surpassing production goals and selling out its entire 2025 inventory. This success story is more than numbers; it is an American story. T1 is reshoring the solar supply chain, reducing dependence on Southeast Asia, and making the United States stronger.

Recently, T1 signed a partnership with Corning, a historic American company, to supply solar wafers, linking the innovation of Michigan and Texas in a powerful new supply chain that will support upwards of 6,000 jobs. T1 delivers domestic energy and energy dominance.

This investment in American energy will strengthen our national security, bolster our economic competitiveness, and power the future, including the technologies of tomorrow like artificial intelligence and data centers. I congratulate T1 Energy on this milestone and look forward to their continued growth and contribution to our Nation's energy security.

RECOGNIZING DONALD MAKI ON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE UPPER PENINSULA LABOR HALL OF FAME

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Donald Maki for being inducted into the Upper Peninsula Labor Hall of Fame. This prestigious honor reflects Mr. Maki's remarkable impact and contributions to worker dignity and workplace fairness.

Throughout his life Mr. Maki has embodied integrity, diligence, and a steadfast commitment to fairness. Growing up on his family farm, he worked diligently for hours on end to ensure the success of his family's business. It was those early mornings and hours spent bailing hay that he said contributed to the strong work ethic he carries with him today.

After graduating from Hancock Public Schools in 1975, Mr. Maki earned an associate's degree in criminal justice from Suomi College, followed by a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Northern Michigan University. While at NMU he worked multiple jobs as a student building supervisor, apartment manager, and at Public Service Garage to help finance his studies. Upon graduating from NMU in 1979, he began a dedicated career as a full-time police officer with the Norway City Police Department. He was elected chapter

chair of Norway City Employees, a chapter of Local Union No. 1176, a testament to his deep-rooted commitment to workplace fairness and worker dignity.

Following his service in law enforcement, Mr. Maki began working with AFSCME, where he mentored countless workers, negotiated contracts, and strengthened the voice of public employees. At the turn of the 21st century, he continued his service working as a Federal Mediator and Conciliation Services Commissioner. He helped labor and management find common ground through respect, communication, and collaboration. His mediation and training efforts supported fair labor relations, preserved vital jobs, and fostered long-term economic stability across the Great Lakes region.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Donald Maki for being inducted into the Upper Peninsula Labor Hall of Fame. I thank him for his dedication, compassion, and selflessness on behalf of Michigan's 1st Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT DENNIS LEWIS

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Mr. Dennis Lewis of Texarkana, Texas, and to present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Dennis has dedicated his life to faithfully serving his community and country.

Born in Texarkana, Texas, Dennis attended Maud High School, graduating in 1970, before pursuing higher education at United Electronics Institute, Texarkana College, the University of North Carolina, and Army Management Staff College, Army Logistics Management College, where he completed the Leadership Management Program and Logistics Management program. In 1971, he married his high school sweetheart, the love of his life, Paula Graham Lewis, with whom he has shared 54 years of marriage, three kids, six grandchildren, and five great grandchildren.

After graduating, Dennis began his professional career with the Department of Army at Red River Army Depot in 1972, where he would serve for 39 years until his retirement in 2011. He applied his expertise in electronics by working on cobra helicopter systems and subsequently advanced from technician to senior management.

Beyond his professional career, Dennis has demonstrated exceptional dedication to civic and political engagement. He gave back to his hometown of Maud by serving as a school board member and city councilman. He served for 20 years as Chairman of the Selective Service Local Board, as a member of the Military Services Nomination Board for Senator CRUZ, as a Director for the Texarkana Chamber of Commerce, and currently as Chair of the Red River Credit Union Supervisory Committee.

In 1986, Dennis was awarded the Outstanding Community Service Award by the Army and later received the Department of the Army Meritorious Civilian Service Award.

While Dennis has been recognized with numerous distinguished service and leadership awards, he considers his greatest accomplishments to be his three sons growing into dedicated fathers and his enduring marriage to Paula.

Dennis Lewis' lifelong commitment to his community, his profession, and his Nation truly exemplifies what it means to be a patriot. It is an honor to recognize his exceptional contributions and to present him with the Congressional Patriot Award in appreciation of his steadfast service to the people of Texarkana his family, and the United States of America.

CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF
DAISY EVELYN STEADMAN

HON. HALEY M. STEVENS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Liam Steadman and Malia Zaidi on the birth of their new baby daughter, Daisy Evelyn Steadman, who was born on September 28, 2025. She has been born to wonderful parents—Liam has dedicated his career to public service, and Malia is a skilled painter and author. I have no doubt that Daisy will be raised in a home filled with laughter and love and look forward to watching her grow into a beautiful young woman.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply honored to celebrate this new bundle of joy in Liam and Malia's life. Please join me in wishing them well on this newest chapter of their journey together.

RECOGNIZING OFFICER DAVID
HERNANDEZ, JR. OF THE
WESLACO POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Officer David Hernandez, Jr. of the Weslaco Police Department in Weslaco, Texas, for his exceptional service and dedication to our community.

Officer Hernandez has long demonstrated not only professionalism, but strong instincts and sound judgement—qualities that were crucial on November 2, 2025.

On that day, Officer Hernandez responded to a routine disturbance call at a local cafe. During the transport, the patient suddenly became aphasic with eye deviation. Relying on his quick thinking and training, Officer Hernandez made the decision to transport the patient to the Knapp Medical Center Emergency Department.

Because of his swift action, the medical team was able to activate a stroke alert upon arrival. The patient was soon diagnosed with a vessel occlusion and was experiencing a life-threatening stroke. Thanks to Officer Hernandez's decisive response, the patient was quickly transferred for higher-level care and given the best chance of survival.

Mr. Speaker, Officer Hernandez exemplifies the courage and commitment to public service

that define South Texas law enforcement. I am proud to represent him in Congress and recognize the exceptional judgement he displayed on November 2, 2025, as well as his continued service to the people of Weslaco and the Rio Grande Valley.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PA-
TRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT STEVE
LEDWELL

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Mr. Steve Ledwell of Texarkana, Texas, and to present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Steve has dedicated his life to faithfully serving his community and country.

Born and raised in Texarkana, Steve has spent his life building up others and strengthening his community. From a very young age, he has always been the first to lend a hand to anyone in need—and often to those who never even had to ask. Steve has also built a loving, faith-filled family with his wife, their three children, and grandchildren.

Professionally, Steve has had a long and dedicated career at Ledwell & Son Enterprises. Through his work, he has extended his generosity to the entire community—refurbishing and providing trucks for countless local nonprofits and schools. Steve has supported nearly every sports team in town, contributed to Watersprings Ranch, and served as the go-to man behind the scenes whenever help was needed. He even advocated directly with the Army Corps of Engineers to advocate improvements to local flood control and levee systems.

Steve counts among his greatest blessings, his wonderful parents, devoted family, his incredible community, and the opportunity to make a positive difference in so many lives.

Steve Ledwell's lifelong commitment to his community, his profession, and his Nation truly exemplifies what it means to be a patriot. It is an honor to recognize his exceptional contributions and to present him with the Congressional Patriot Award in appreciation of his steadfast service to the people of Texarkana and the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING THOMAS HOGAN ON
HIS INDUCTION INTO THE UPPER
PENINSULA LABOR HALL OF
FAME

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Thomas Hogan for being inducted into the Upper Peninsula Labor Hall of Fame. A proud U.S. Marine Corps Veteran and Purple Heart recipient, Mr. Hogan brought the same courage, perseverance, and sense of duty he demonstrated in Vietnam to his lifelong commitment to Michigan's working men and women.

Following his service with the United States Marine Corps, Mr. Hogan began his career as

an apprentice with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, ascending through the ranks from journeyman to Business Manager of Local 1070. Over the course of 25 years, he negotiated contracts that improved wages, strengthened workplace safety, and upheld the dignity of electrical workers across Michigan's Upper Peninsula. His dedication towards empowering Michigan's electricians helped strengthen apprenticeship programs, protect pensions, and solidify equal pay for equal work.

Mr. Hogan played an integral role in the creation of IBEW Local 906, which united electrical workers across fourteen counties and laid a stronger, more equitable foundation for future generations of electricians. His steadfast commitment to ensuring the fair treatment of electricians across the U.P. helped eliminate wage disparities, expand training opportunities, and improve cooperation between labor and management with the U.P. Construction Council.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Thomas Hogan for his induction into the Upper Peninsula Labor Hall of Fame and thank him for his decades of dedicated service to his fellow electricians, to the Upper Peninsula, and to our Nation.

HONORING GLENDOLA RUNIS

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a very special person, Glendola Runis, of Lexington, Kentucky. She celebrates her 104th birthday on November 20, 2025.

Mrs. Runis was born in Flemingsburg, Kentucky. Mrs. Runis became a nurse and served in the United States Navy. She was stationed at Mare Island Naval Hospital in California and was on active duty from June 13, 1945 until May 14, 1946. One of the many wounded service members that she helped was John Runis, who lost his lower arm during combat. They married in California and moved back to Wisconsin, John's home state.

Mr. and Mrs. Runis had three daughters, Lisa, Linda, and Gloria, and a son, John, Jr. Their son died when he was sixteen. The family moved to Green Valley, Arizona in 1978. Mr. Runis passed away in 1992 and she moved back home to Kentucky to be near family.

Mrs. Runis is to be commended for serving our Nation during World War II. It took great courage and patriotism to leave Kentucky, travel across the country, and treat wounded service members. She and all the men and women who served truly are the "Greatest Generation" as they protected our freedoms that we hold so dear as Americans. We cannot thank them enough for their service and their sacrifice.

It is my honor to recognize, before the House of Representatives, the patriotic service of Glendola Runis during her military career. It is also my honor to wish her a Happy 104th Birthday.

HONORING ANDRE JACKSON WITH
A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN
COMMENDATION

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant Andre Jackson of Rockwall, Texas, and to honor him with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Sergeant Jackson honorably served in the United States Army from 2000 to 2007, dedicating nearly a decade of service for the defense to our Nation with distinction, leadership, and selfless service.

During Sergeant Jackson's seven years of service, he served as an Information Systems Operator, Analyst, and Maintainer. In this role, he oversaw and managed networks and help desks for all information technology functions for over two-thousand users. Sergeant Jackson was deployed to Iraq for both Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, where he demonstrated outstanding character, organization, and communication in performing his duties at the highest level.

For his exemplary service, Sergeant Jackson received numerous awards, including the Army Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Army Service Ribbon, and Overseas Service Ribbon, among many others recognizing his exceptional performance and commitment to excellence.

Following his retirement from the Army, Sergeant Jackson has continued his legacy of leadership and service in his community. In 2012, he became involved with Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, which led to his participation with Heroes on the Water, Disabled American Veterans, the American Legion, and Veterans of Foreign Wars. He currently serves as the Interim Post Commander and District Chaplain for Rockwall Veterans of Foreign Wars. Sergeant Jackson also serves as the President of Operation Frontline Warriors Foundation, which works to address food insecurity among active-duty service members, veterans, and first responders. He also founded the Rockwall County VET Together Facebook group, which promotes fellowship and camaraderie with local veterans, while also connecting them with local resources.

I am deeply honored to recognize Sergeant Jackson for his courage, pioneering leadership, and lifelong dedication to serving his country and community. He represents the very best of Texas' 4th Congressional District and of the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING
LINDA LEWIS

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Linda Lewis of Jasper,

Alabama, wife of Ray Lewis and longtime President of the Chamber of Commerce of Walker County, for her decades of service, leadership, and steadfast commitment to the people and businesses of Walker County.

A proud graduate of Walker High School, Class of 1974, Mrs. Lewis has dedicated much of her life to making Walker County a better place to live, work, and raise a family. Since assuming the role of Chamber President in 1996, she has been instrumental in leading Walker County through transformative growth and economic development. Under her leadership, retail across the county has flourished, from the revitalization of downtown Jasper to the expansion of Interstate 22.

Mrs. Lewis has guided the Chamber in launching critical programs focused on leadership development, community engagement, and technical advancement. She has strengthened partnerships with regional and national bass fishing organizations, boosting tourism and supporting business recruitment. Through her efforts, nationally recognized brands in lodging, dining, and retail have chosen to invest in Walker County, creating hundreds of new jobs and expanding opportunities for families throughout the region.

Most recently, the Walker County Chamber of Commerce unveiled plans for a major new development near Walker Baptist Medical Center in Jasper, a project made possible by Mrs. Lewis's determination to continue advancing the county's economic future.

Mrs. Lewis's contributions to our communities cannot be overstated. Her vision, commitment, and unwavering work ethic have left a lasting impact on Walker County and will continue to shape its success for generations to come.

On this day, November 18, 2025, Linda Lewis will be honored as the recipient of the 2025 Jamie Wallace Award, the highest recognition that a chamber of commerce executive in the State of Alabama can receive. In recognition of her dedicated service, I am proud to present Mrs. Lewis with a flag flown over the United States Capitol in her honor.

It is my privilege to congratulate Linda Lewis on this well-deserved award and to commend her for nearly three decades of exceptional leadership and devotion to Walker County. Her contributions demonstrate the very best of public service, and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring her legacy.

RECOGNIZING THE 102ND ANNIVERSARY
OF THE FOUNDING OF THE
REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 102nd anniversary of the founding of the Republic of Türkiye. On October 29, 1923, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk proclaimed the establishment of the Republic, ushering in a new era of modernization and progress for the Turkish people. Today, we honor more than a century of friendship, alliance, and cooperation between the United States and Türkiye.

The relationship between our two nations has been anchored in shared strategic inter-

ests and enduring partnership, particularly through our joint commitment to NATO. As allies, the United States and Türkiye have worked together to promote regional stability, strengthen transatlantic security, and advance the values of freedom and democracy. Our collaboration continues to play a vital role in addressing global challenges—from counterterrorism and defense cooperation to humanitarian efforts and energy security.

Our bilateral economic relationship is also significant and growing. Trade between the United States and Türkiye reached nearly \$33 billion in 2024, underscoring the strong commercial ties that benefit both nations. Here in Michigan, Turkish-American trade and investment have contributed to local growth and job creation—totaling approximately \$545 million in 2024 alone. From advanced manufacturing and automotive partnerships to agricultural exports, the economic link between Michigan and Türkiye continues to strengthen our state's role in the global economy.

Equally important are the contributions of Turkish Americans to our society. Turkish Americans enrich our communities through their entrepreneurial spirit, cultural traditions, academic and scientific achievements, and civic engagement. Their success reflects the shared values of opportunity and perseverance that define both our nations.

Mr. Speaker, as we mark this milestone in the history of the Republic of Türkiye, I extend my best wishes to Turkish Americans in Michigan and across the United States, and to the people of Türkiye. May the friendship between our nations continue to grow stronger in the years ahead, rooted in mutual respect, shared prosperity, and a steadfast commitment to peace and security.

HONORING ASHTEN WALDREP
WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VET-
ERAN COMMENDATION

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Petty Officer Third Class Ashten Waldrep of Whitewright, Texas, and to honor her with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Petty Officer Waldrep honorably served in the United States Navy from 2008 to 2015, demonstrating integrity, discipline, and dedication to duty as a Master at Arms.

During her military career, Petty Officer Waldrep was stationed at Naval Station Everett in Washington, where she played a vital role in maintaining security and readiness, ensuring the safety and effectiveness of her fellow sailors. Serving during the post-9/11 War on Terrorism, she contributed to the Navy's global mission to protect the Nation and combat terrorism both at home and abroad. For her honorable service, she received the Navy Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal—each recognizing her commitment and professionalism in service to our Nation.

Following her military career, Petty Officer Waldrep has continued her dedication to others through her work with the Military Veteran

Peer Network, where she provides peer support, suicide prevention, and community outreach for veterans in need. As a Mentor Coordinator for Veterans Court, she assists justice-involved veterans by offering guidance, accountability, and a second chance at success through rehabilitation and support.

In 2024, Petty Officer Waldrep graduated from the Texoma Regional Police Academy, where she received the Grayson College Veteran Award for her outstanding achievements. She went on to serve with the Grayson County Sheriff's Office and now provides security for Austin College. In addition to her service and career, she is a devoted mother of four, continuing to lead with strength and compassion.

I am deeply honored to recognize Petty Officer Third Class Ashten Waldrep for her courage, patriotism, and lifelong devotion to serving others. She exemplifies the very best of Texas' 4th Congressional District and of the United States of America.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR.
JAMES E. ALDREDGE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Dr. James E. Aldredge, a trailblazer, educator, and public servant whose lifelong commitment to improving the City of Fresno—particularly for residents in Southwest Fresno—has left an enduring mark on our community. Dr. Aldredge passed away peacefully on October 12, 2025, surrounded by his loved ones.

Born in Gilmer, Texas, and raised in Fresno from the age of four, Dr. Aldredge's story is one of perseverance, excellence, and service. A star athlete at Edison High School, he signed with the Pittsburgh Pirates at just seventeen years old, showcasing the talent and determination that would define his life. After a career-ending injury ended his professional baseball aspirations, Dr. Aldredge redirected his focus to education, an area he would champion for decades to come.

Dr. Aldredge earned degrees from Fresno City College and California State University, Fresno, before completing both a master's and Ph.D. in Organizational Development at the University of Southern California, with additional studies at Oxford University. His academic journey reflected his deep belief that education is the key opportunity, a principle he shared throughout his life with students and colleagues alike.

In 1985, Dr. Aldredge made history when he became Fresno's first Black City Manager, breaking barriers and paving the way for future generations of leaders. His steady leadership, integrity, and commitment to equity guided the city through times of transition and progress. After retiring from City Hall in 1989, he continued to serve the community as an educator at Fresno State, City College, the University of San Francisco, and Fresno Pacific University, mentoring countless students who would go on to serve their own communities with the same sense of purpose.

Beyond public service, Dr. Aldredge dedicated his time to numerous organizations, in-

cluding the boards of Saint Agnes Hospital, Kings View Behavioral Health, and CEN-CAL Business Finance Group. He also established a foundation that grew over one million dollars in assets to support students, athletes, and social services. Among his many honors, he received the B'nai B'rith Award for his lifelong commitment to justice and equality and was inducted into the State Center Community College District's Wall of Honor at the African American Historical and Cultural Museum.

Dr. Aldredge was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Daisy Rae, and his brother, John Aldredge. He is remembered by his family, friends, colleagues, and former students for his humor, wisdom, and unwavering belief in Fresno's potential. His legacy continues through the James E. Aldredge Foundation, which embodies his vision of empowering others through education and civic engagement.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing and celebrating the extraordinary life of Dr. James E. Aldredge. His story reminds us that true leadership is rooted in service, resilience, and commitment to uplifting the communities we call home.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for the vote series on November 17, 2025 due to a funeral for a family member.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 286; YEA on Roll Call No. 287; and NAY on Roll Call No. 288.

HONORING BILLY GENE TEAGUE
WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VET-
ERAN COMMENDATION

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Specialist Billy Gene Teague of Denison, Texas, and to honor him with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Specialist Teague honorably served his country across multiple branches, including the United States Marine Corps Reserve from 1981 to 1982, the Texas Army National Guard from 1982 to 1983, the United States Army from 1986 to 1987, and the Texas State Guard from 1988 to 1990 and again from 2015 to 2017.

Throughout his military service, he held roles as a tracked vehicle repairman, armored vehicle landing bridge operator, military police supervisor, and later as a nurse and military police officer in the Texas State Guard, where he achieved the rank of First Lieutenant. His duty stations included Parris Island, Aberdeen, Fort Hood, Hunter Army Airfield, the Rio Grande Valley, Fort Walters, Dallas, and Camp Pendleton. For his exemplary service, Specialist Teague received numerous awards and honors, including the Army Service Ribbon, the Medal of Merit, the Adjutant Gen-

eral's Individual Award with two stars, the Commanding General's Individual Medal, the Humanitarian Service Ribbon, the NCO Professional Development Ribbon, the Cold War Medal, the Sons of the American Revolution Good Citizen Bronze Medal, and the Texas Medal of Merit.

Beyond his military service, Specialist Teague has remained deeply devoted to his fellow veterans and the Texoma community. He developed both the Terminally Ill Veteran Flag Program and the Texoma Heroes Project, dedicating more than 1,500 volunteer hours to recognizing hundreds of veterans. He also created a Trauma-Affected Veteran training curriculum for law enforcement and an ASVAB pretest program for students at Grayson College.

Specialist Teague currently serves as Chaplain for the American Legion Post No. 29 in Sherman, Texas, where he continues to assist veterans and their families. A proud husband, father of four, and grandfather of six, he lives by the values of God, family, and country. Despite being a 100 percent disabled veteran, he continues to dedicate his life to serving others and uplifting the veteran community across North Texas.

I am deeply honored to recognize Specialist Billy Teague for his courage, patriotism, and lifelong dedication to serving both his country and his community. He exemplifies the very best of Texas' 4th Congressional District and of the United States of America.

COMMEMORATING THE 245TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE FIRST AFRI-
CAN BAPTIST CHURCH OF RICH-
MOND, VIRGINIA

HON. JENNIFER L. MCCLELLAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 245th anniversary of the First African Baptist Church of Richmond, Virginia, one of the oldest continuously operating Black congregations in the United States and a cornerstone of faith, resilience, and community leadership in the Commonwealth and in Virginia's 4th Congressional District.

The church's roots run deep into Richmond's past. On July 1, 1841, members of three Baptist churches gathered at First Baptist Church to formally organize what was to become "The African Baptist Church of Richmond." That founding charter included stipulations that reflect the fraught realities of its time, including the oversight of religious instruction by a committee of white members of Richmond's Baptist churches.

Founded in 1780, during a time when the vast majority of African Americans in Virginia were enslaved, First African Baptist Church began as a congregation of free and enslaved worshippers who sought spiritual refuge and self-determination in the heart of Richmond. Despite extraordinary obstacles, the congregation persevered, grew, and became formally recognized as an independent church in 1841 under the leadership of Reverend Robert Ryland.

Throughout its remarkable history, First African Baptist Church has stood as a beacon of hope and activism in Richmond. It was a center for abolitionist organizing, education, and

later, for the Civil Rights Movement in Virginia, playing a vital role in advancing justice, equity, and opportunity for all.

I had the honor of joining the congregation for their 245th anniversary celebration and witnessing firsthand the deep faith, unity, and pride that continue to define this historic church. Under the dedicated leadership of Reverend Dr. Rodney D. Waller, First African Baptist Church remains a powerful force for good, empowering future generations through worship, education, and community outreach.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 245th anniversary of the First African Baptist Church of Richmond, Virginia, and in recognizing the profound contributions this historic congregation has made to our Commonwealth.

RECOGNIZING THE 80TH BIRTHDAY OF THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OTTAWA POST 3134

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the Veterans of Foreign Wars Ottawa Post 3134 for their 80 years of dedicated service to the Veteran community of the Iron River area.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), established in 1899, is an organization of United States Veterans who fought in wars on foreign land, water, or airspace. For over a century, the organization has steadfastly supported the needs of our Nation's disabled and impoverished Veterans, as well as widows of Veterans and the dependents of former Servicemembers.

This historic organization was born from the unification of several communities following the Spanish-American War. Small groups of Veterans returning from campaigns in Cuba and the Philippine Islands formed local communities composed of those who shared the dangers faced while in combat. Eventually, these small, localized societies found each other, culminating in the creation of the American Veterans of Foreign Service (the predecessor to the VFW) founded by James C. Putnam, a Veteran of the Spanish-American War.

On October 17, 1945, the petition charter was granted to form VFW Ottawa Post 3134 to support Veterans returning from World War II. Since then, they have provided a wide range of services, including assistance with VA benefits, community outreach, financial support for Veterans in need, and programs to honor the sacrifices of those who served. Today, Post 3134 continues to serve the needs of Veterans from its surrounding communities under the leadership of its Commander, Jesse Casari.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize VFW Ottawa Post 3134 for their 80 years of service to the Veteran community of the Iron River area. I thank them for their dedication, compassion, and selflessness on behalf of our Upper Peninsula Veterans.

REMEMBERING SERGEANT MICHAEL VERARDO

HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in remembrance of American Hero, Retired Army Sergeant Michael Verardo. After a heroic fifteen-year battle with catastrophic injuries from his deployment to Afghanistan, Sergeant Verardo tragically lost his life this past August. He will be laid to rest on November 19, 2025, in Arlington National Cemetery.

Sergeant Verardo enlisted in the Army in 2001, joining the distinguished 82nd Airborne Division as an infantryman and serving multiple tours between Iraq and Afghanistan. During his deployments, he received numerous well-deserved awards and decorations for his service, including two Purple Hearts for deeds in April 2010. He received the second award as the result of life altering injuries from an improvised explosive device detonation.

He underwent extensive speech, visual, physical, and occupational therapy to recover from his injuries. During his fight, he sought to help other veterans by selflessly dedicating time to their needs and struggles. Through the Wounded Warrior Project and countless other initiatives, he worked alongside his wife, Sarah, to make meaningful changes not just in individual lives but through legislation at the state and federal levels.

His wife, Sarah, continues his work as the CEO of the Independence Fund, where she supports service members, combat Veterans, their Caregivers, and families. Michael inspired many of the Independence Fund's programs, and his legacy will live on in all those they continue to help.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in remembering the life and legacy of American Hero, Sergeant Michael Verardo, who will continue to serve as a reminder of the sacrifices made to protect our Nation.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FALLS TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to rise in recognition of the distinct achievements and dedicated service of the Falls Township Police Department on the occasion of their 75th anniversary.

For three quarters of a century, the men and women of the Falls Township Police Department have served their community with distinction, dedication, professionalism, and valor. Established on January 2, 1950, under the leadership of Chief Franklin Kirby as a one-man operation in a rapidly growing township, the department's contributions to public safety in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, are immeasurable, and their legacy is one of commitment, adaptability, and steadfast protection of those who live, work, and travel through Falls Township.

The Falls Township Police Department traces its origins to that humble beginning in

1950, when Chief Franklin Kirby patrolled alone in a vehicle without modern amenities like radios, computers, or air conditioning, safeguarding a small farming community surrounding historic Fallsington. From those early days, the department has grown alongside the township's transformation into a thriving suburb encompassing Levittown, Fairless Hills, and parts of Morrisville, meeting the evolving needs of a population that has swelled and diversified.

Over the decades, the department has expanded to a professional force of sworn personnel, operating continually with increasing capabilities. It has adapted to the demands of modern law enforcement, incorporating advanced training, technology, and community-oriented policing while maintaining operational readiness in an ever-changing environment. The officers of the Falls Township Police Department have skillfully navigated shifts in population, infrastructure, and societal challenges, providing decades of vigilant patrol, investigative excellence, and emergency response for the residents and visitors of this vital Pennsylvania community. Their continual adaptation to new tools, techniques, and threats is a true testament to the resiliency, professionalism, and reliability of the men and women of this department.

Their unwavering dedication to duty and willingness to innovate to meet the needs of a dynamic community is exemplified in their growth into a full-service agency, embracing advancements in equipment, tactics, and community partnerships. Today, under the leadership of Chief Nelson E. Whitney, II, the professionals of the Falls Township Police Department continue to uphold the highest standards, providing patrol, criminal investigation, crisis response, and outreach that directly support the safety and well-being of our neighborhoods.

Throughout its history, the Falls Township Police Department has embodied the core principles of law enforcement: integrity, service, and community trust. They have protected the community, responded in times of crisis, and stood ready to answer the call whenever needed. Their officers and support personnel have been, and continue to be, among the most skilled and committed in Bucks County.

As we mark this significant milestone, it is my distinct honor to celebrate those who have faithfully served in the Falls Township Police Department over the past seventy-five years. Their sacrifices, and those of their families, have ensured the peace and security of our community. It is with deep gratitude that we acknowledge their service and pay tribute to their courage and commitment.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Falls Township Police Department and in extending a heartfelt thank you to the men and women who have served, and continue to serve, in this distinguished agency. May the next seventy-five years of officers serve with the same valor, honor, integrity, and dedication to duty as the exemplary men and women of the Falls Township Police Department have so expertly demonstrated over the last three-quarter century of service.

HONORING KRISTEN HARRIS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Kristen Harris on her recent dual appointment as Executive Assistant to Vicksburg Police Department Chief Larry Burns and as the Department's Data and Compliance Specialist.

Ms. Harris is uniquely qualified for these positions. When the department received its National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) certification in 2020, she served as the sole NIBRS trainer for the State of Mississippi. In her new role, she will also leverage NIBRS data to pursue federal Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants, the leading source of criminal justice funding for state and local jurisdictions.

A 2008 graduate of Vicksburg High School, Ms. Harris earned her bachelor's degree in sociology from Tougaloo College, where she graduated as valedictorian. She went on to complete a master's degree in criminal justice from the University of Memphis. Her professional career includes service with the Department of Public Safety, where she first worked with the NIBRS system.

In 2021, Ms. Harris returned to her hometown of Vicksburg to help the city manage a \$3 million COVID relief grant. She later served as Chief of Staff for former Mayor George Flaggs, Jr., bringing her leadership and expertise to City government.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Kristen Harris for her commitment to public service, her professional excellence, and her continued contributions to the City of Vicksburg and the State of Mississippi.

HONORING CHRISTOPHER "CHRIS"
LYNCH WITH A CONGRESSIONAL
VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Command Sergeant Major Christopher "Chris" Joseph Lynch of Rockwall, Texas, and to honor him with a Congressional

Veteran Commendation. CSM Lynch honorably served in the United States Army for twenty-seven years.

During his distinguished military career, Command Sergeant Major Lynch served in a wide range of roles, from basic infantry duties to senior leadership as the Command Sergeant Major of battalion-sized formations. His service record reflects a steady progression of responsibility—from fire team leader and squad leader to platoon sergeant, company first sergeant, and, ultimately, battalion Command Sergeant Major. In addition to these leadership positions, CSM Lynch held numerous noncommissioned officer staff roles within combat formations. His extensive service took him across the globe, including assignments in Korea, Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Storm, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, and Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

CSM Lynch's outstanding service earned him numerous commendations, including the Legion of Merit, two Bronze Stars, five Meritorious Service Medals, three Army Commendation Medals, the Global War on Terrorism Medal, and the Presidential Unit Citation. These honors reflect his exceptional leadership and steadfast dedication to his country and fellow soldiers.

Since retiring from the Army, Chris has continued his service as the Director of Elections for Rockwall County, where he leads a team known for integrity and excellence. He also serves as Post Vice Commander of the Rockwall Terry Fisher American Legion Post, where he established a Veteran Relief Program supporting local veterans in need. Additionally, he helped create a Youth Leadership Symposium that introduces middle school students to fundamental leadership principles.

I am deeply honored to recognize Command Sergeant Major Christopher Joseph Lynch for his extraordinary courage, patriotism, and lifelong commitment to service. He exemplifies the very best of Texas' 4th Congressional District and of our great Nation.

RECOGNIZING MR. MICHAEL TARR
ON BEING NAMED MARQUETTE
COUNTY VETERAN OF THE YEAR

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Mr. Michael A. Tarr for being

named the 2025 Marquette County Veteran of the Year. This well-deserved honor reflects his steadfast dedication to his fellow Servicemembers, the communities throughout the Upper Peninsula, and our Nation.

Mr. Tarr faithfully served 26 years in the U.S. Army, earning numerous military decorations including, but not limited to, the Army Commendation Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, NATO Medal, Army Service Ribbon, and Overseas Service Ribbon. These honors stand as a testament to Mr. Tarr's unwavering dedication to his fellow Servicemembers and our great Nation.

After retiring from the U.S. Army, Mr. Tarr continued to serve his community, fellow Veterans, and country as a member of numerous Veteran organizations. Serving as a National Committee Member and Volunteer Director for Wish for Our Heroes (W4OH) since 2012, he has invested innumerable hours in helping Servicemembers and Veterans who are facing financial hardships. Playing a key role in fundraising for W4OH, he has been essential in raising over \$15 million and granting over 20,000 wishes across our country. Mr. Tarr also serves as Executive Director for Walk Among Heroes, leading operations to return WWII Veterans to battlefields they once fought on by coordinating all travel, lodging, and transportation. In addition to helping share the stories of WWII Veterans, he has had the distinct honor of leading battlefield walks for Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans.

Mr. Tarr has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to ensuring that the sacrifices of our Nation's heroes are not forgotten by future generations. In 2025, he launched the Walk Among Heroes Youth Ambassador Program where high school students walk the grounds of historic battlefields while learning from WWII Veterans.

Mr. Speaker, let us all join in recognizing Michael A. Tarr for receiving the prestigious honor of being named the 2025 Marquette County Veteran of the Year. I thank him for his enduring commitment to Veterans, his community, and our great country.