RECOGNIZING DETECTIVE WAN LEE

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Detective Wan Lee upon his retirement after more than 31 years of dedicated service in law enforcement, including more than 30 years serving the Grapevine community.

Detective Lee began his law enforcement career in 1995 with the Royse City Police Department before joining the Grapevine Police Department in 1996. Throughout his distinguished career with the Grapevine Police Department, Detective Lee served in Patrol and took on numerous specialized assignments. He served as a Field Training Officer, Firearms Instructor, and Defensive Tactics Instructor, helping train and mentor fellow officers. He also served on the SWAT Team and later joined the Motor Unit, where he became a certified Accident Reconstructionist.

In 2014, Detective Lee began serving as a Task Force Officer with the Drug Enforcement Administration. During his time with the DEA, he became a certified member of the agency's Special Response Team and served on its high-risk warrant team.

For more than three decades, Detective Lee has demonstrated professionalism, dedication, courage, and an unwavering commitment to protecting and serving others. His willingness to pursue specialized training, take on challenging assignments, and mentor fellow law enforcement professionals has left a lasting impact on the Grapevine Police Department and the communities he has served.

As Detective Wan Lee begins his well-earned retirement, I extend my sincere gratitude for his many years of service to our community and congratulate him on an exceptional career in law enforcement.

RECOGNIZING JAY BLOMMEL OF WREC

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Jay Blommel, an OPC Lineman with Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative (WREC), for his outstanding service as part of WREC's second mission supporting the Light Up Navajo Project. Through Light Up Navajo, skilled utility professionals volunteer their time and expertise to help bring electricity to Navajo families who have lived without power for generations. As a lineman, Mr. Blommel put his specialized skills to work performing the challenging, hands-on work necessary to help extend electrical service to families in need. For most Americans, reliable electricity is part of everyday life. For families who have gone without it, however, turning on the power can be transformational. Electricity provides light after dark, allows food and medicine to be safely refrigerated, and provides greater safety, comfort, and opportunity.

Mr. Blommel's willingness to leave his own community and use his professional skills in service to others embodies the cooperative spirit at its very best. His hard work helped advance a mission that is not simply about connecting electrical lines—it is about connecting families to greater opportunity and a better quality of life. I commend Mr. Jay Blommel for his professionalism, hard work, and commitment to serving others. His efforts reflect great credit upon WREC and our entire community.

HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF MYRA ANN LANDRESS JONES

HON. AARON BEAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Myra Ann Landress Jones, a beloved native of Fernandina Beach, Florida, who passed away on September 8, 2026, at the age of 86.

Born on June 6, 1940, to Raymond and Inez Landress, Myra was a proud member of the Fernandina Beach High School graduating class of 1958 and a lifelong pillar of our local community. Her faith and community spirit shone brightly through her active membership at Springhill Baptist Church and her passionate support as a University of Florida Gator Booster.

Myra dedicated decades of her life to public service, retiring from the Federal government after distinguished work as a legal assistant with the United States Attorney in New Hampshire, the Florida Veterans Administration, and the Federal Aviation Administration. Never one to slow down, she continued serving Nassau County by working for the School Board of Nassau County and Fernandina Beach Realty for two decades before her well-earned retirement in 2018 at the age of 78.

Above all else, Myra's heart belonged to her family. She was a devoted mother, aunt, grandmother, great-grandmother, and surrogate grandmother whose warmth, guidance, and love enriched multiple generations. She leaves behind a remarkable legacy in her sons, Benjamin and David; her daughter, Leslie; her extended family; and a growing lineage of grandchildren and great-grandchildren who will forever cherish her memory.

Mr. Speaker, Myra Ann Landress Jones lived a life defined by quiet dedication to her country, her community, and her loved ones. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring her memory and extending our deepest condolences to her family during this time.

RECOGNIZING GENENTECH

HON. KEVIN MULLIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Genentech, whose global headquarters is in my hometown of South San Francisco, on the occasion of its 50th anniversary and to honor its profound impact on the biotechnology industry, scientific innovation, and the lives of patients across the globe.

As the world's first biotechnology company, Genentech has been an industry pioneer since its founding in 1976. The company's 50-year history began with a single phone call between venture capitalist Robert A. Swanson and biochemist Dr. Herbert W. Boyer. Swanson had heard about Boyer's role in the invention of recombinant DNA technology, research which would soon prove living cells could be programmed to produce life-changing medicines. By the end of the three-hour conversation, the two had conceived a way to commercialize recombinant DNA technology, and Genentech was born. After months of experiments, the team of scientists at Genentech successfully synthesized somatostatin. Even though the experiment had no commercial consequences, it confirmed that recombinant DNA technology could be used to make human proteins and established an important precedent at the company of letting science lead business. Equipped with new knowledge, confidence, and funding, Genentech scientists went on to become the first team to synthesize human insulin, medicine that has changed millions of lives since.

In the decades that followed, Genentech continued to lead. Its scientists developed the first monoclonal antibody approved in the United States for the treatment of cancer, a therapy for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma that helped establish antibody-based treatment as a pillar of modern oncology. Genentech introduced the original HER2-targeted therapy for metastatic breast cancer. In doing so, it launched the first therapeutic antibody paired with a required companion diagnostic test, an innovation that helped realize the promise of precision medicine by ensuring the suitable medication met the correct patient. Furthermore, Genentech introduced the first B-cell depleting therapy approved for both relapsing and primary progressiVe forms of multiple sclerosis, offering hope to patients with a form of the disease that had long lacked approved treatment options. The company's legacy of firsts reflects Genentech's sustained, decades-long institutional commitment to solving problems that others may have judged too difficult, too risky, or too small a market to pursue.

Such commitment continues today at an extraordinary scale. Genentech invests $15 billion annually in research and development, representing one of the largest R&D budgets in the biotechnology industry. Its scientists contribute their experimentation and innovation in five therapeutic areas: Oncology-Hematology, Neurology, Ophthalmology, Immunology, and Cardiovascular, Renal and Metabolism. Genentech is a proud member of the scientific community and is committed to sharing its discoveries by encouraging its researchers to publish their findings.

Genentech medicines have received 43 FDA Breakthrough Therapy Designations, a distinction reserved for treatments that show substantial improvement over existing therapies for serious conditions. 46 Genentech medicines appear on the World Health Organization's Model List of Essential Medicines, the WHO's own register of the medicines judged most effective, safe, and necessary within a health system. The company has developed more than 40 FDA-approved medicines for serious and life-threatening diseases. Today, it sponsors 250 clinical trials in the United States with 66 investigational medicines currently in development, a pipeline that represents the next generation of potential treatments for patients still waiting for better options.