years in a row, and has a decade of experience teaching apprentices. Chad understands firsthand the difference a great teacher can make. He overcame his own early difficulties as a student with the encouragement of an empathetic educator, and he shows that same patience with every young person who walks into his lab, including English language learners and students with individualized education programs.

His results speak for themselves. In 2025, his program's all-girls welding team captured the overall state championship, and in 2026, a Central Campus student won the Missouri Welding Institute national competition against top trade schools from across the country. Through partnerships with John Deere Des Moines Works and Plumbers and Steam fitters Local 33, his students are gaining direct pathways into rewarding careers.

On September 29, Chad was surprised with the news that he had been selected as one of just 25 skilled trades teachers nationwide, out of more than 550 applicants from 49 states, to receive the 2026 Harbor Freight Tools for Schools Prize for Teaching Excellence. He is one of two Iowa teachers honored this year. The full $75,000 prize will go toward strengthening the Central Campus skilled trades program and expanding opportunities for young Iowans.

Mr. Speaker, educators like Chad Donahue are helping build the next generation of American craftsmanship. His dedication to his students, commitment to excellence. And passion for the skilled trades embodies the very best of Iowa. I congratulate Chad on this well-deserved national recognition and thank him for the lasting impact he continues to make on our students, workforce, and community.

CELEBRATING THE HONORABLE BETSY LAMBETH

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished service of the Honorable Betsy Figer Lambeth, whose dedication to justice and the people of Williamson County has left a lasting impact on Central Texas.

A fifth-generation Texan, Judge Lambeth earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Texas at Austin and her law degree from Texas Tech University School of Law. After beginning her legal career in Midland, she moved to Williamson County in 1987, where she built a respected practice in civil, family, juvenile, and child welfare law before opening her own firm in 1997.

In 2012, Judge Lambeth made history as the first woman elected district judge in Williamson County. Since taking the bench in 2013, she has served with fairness, integrity, and compassion. Her fellow judges elected her Local Administrative Judge of the Williamson County District Courts in 2015, recognizing her exceptional leadership.

Her dedication to public service extends beyond the bench through her longstanding involvement with organizations that strengthen the Williamson County community. She has served for many years on the Board of Directors of R.O.C.K. Ride On Center for Kids, an organization that enriches the lives of children and adults with disabilities through equine-assisted services. She has also supported local schools, civic organizations, and numerous community initiatives, demonstrating her enduring commitment to serving others both inside and outside the courtroom.

Mr. Speaker, Judge Betsy Lambeth's career reflects a steadfast commitment to justice, leadership, and public service. It is my honor to recognize her outstanding accomplishments and thank her for her years of faithful service to the people of Central Texas.

HONORING DOUG McCONNELL

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Doug McConnell for his advocacy for parks, open space, and environmental causes. Jack London Park Partners is honoring Doug McConnell's legacy at their annual Gala, which raises funds to provide education, preservation, conservation, recreation, and community access.

Doug McConnell devoted his career to inspiring appreciation for the natural, cultural, and historic resources of California and the American West. Through award-winning television programs, he introduced millions of viewers to parks, trails, public lands, small communities, and environmental stewardship efforts.

Doug was a television journalist, producer, and host specializing in environmental and community storytelling. He served as the host and senior editor of the local program Bay Area Backroads on KRON-TV, one of the longest running regional television programs in the United States. He was also the creator, producer, and host of OpenRoad with Doug McConnell. In addition to his work on television programs, Doug was the co-founder and Managing Partner of Convergence Media Productions, a San Francisco Baykeeper Advisory Board member, an Alaska Conservation Foundation board member and a founder of the Alaska Public Forum.

Doug McConnell's work fostered public awareness, conservation advocacy, outdoor recreation, and civic engagement throughout Northern California and beyond. His contributions to environmental education and public service were recognized through numerous honors, including multiple Emmy Awards, the Harold Gilliam Award for environmental reporting, designation as an Honorary Ranger by California State Parks and the National Park Service, volunteer of the Year by the San Francisco Bay Trail Project, and Humanitarian of the Year by the Marin Humane Society.

Mr. Speaker, we thank Doug McConnell for his legacy of exceptional service to our local parks, environment, and community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

REMEMBERING XAVIEN HARRISON

HON. DONALD G. DAVIS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Nashville Town Councilman and Pastor Xavien Harrison, who passed away on August 11, 2026. He was 53 years old. I join the Nash County community in mourning his passing and in honoring a life devoted to service, faith, and community.

Xavien was a devoted public servant, pastor, and advocate for young people who believed deeply in the power of community. A graduate of Shaw University, he brought a wide range of experience to his ministry and his public service, including backgrounds in law enforcement and middle school education. As a youth pastor, he invested in the next generation, helping young people see their full potential. He served as a board member for the Down East Partnership for Children in Rocky Mount, helping ensure children have the opportunities they need to learn and succeed. He also volunteered as an All Pro Dads facilitator and supported the Nash Central Middle School Parent Teacher Organization.

He brought that same spirit of service to the Nashville Town Council, where he was first elected in 2023, and to his role as pastor at Philadelphia Missionary Baptist Church. Xavien worked to build partnerships and authentic relationships that made his community stronger. Colleagues and friends remember him for his honesty, encouragement, and genuine commitment to building meaningful relationships.

His compassion and commitment to Nashville left a lasting mark on eastern North Carolina. Xavien's legacy lives on in the young people he mentored, the neighbors he served, and the community he worked tirelessly to strengthen.

Mr. Speaker, we pray for Jacquetta, his family, the Philadelphia Missionary Baptist Church, and the people of Nashville. We stand with them during this difficult time. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and legacy of Xavien Harrison.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF KATHY DEER

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 21 years of service that Kathy Deer has given to the City of Pearl. Serving as the Executive Director of the Pearl Chamber of Commerce, she has shown diligence in creating a business-friendly environment in Pearl, overseen new business ribbon cuttings, celebrated local first responders, and supported the City of Pearl in countless other ways.

At the end of 2026, Kathy will retire from the Pearl Chamber of Commerce. Kathy has given Pearl so much of her time and leadership as she has worked to build a vibrant business community. Kathy's dedication will positively impact the City of Pearl and the surrounding