

Yes, finding Ms. Smith's replacement will prove daunting. She, however, leaves behind the most treasured legacy of all—that of investing in people, including the veterans for whom she cares so deeply and the individuals seeking to help them. Consequently, I have no doubt Craighead County is left in good hands based on the leadership example Ms. Smith set.

My office formally congratulates Ms. Vermalene Smith on her retirement, and we wish her many happy years ahead reflective of the stellar service she provided veterans in Northeast Arkansas.

#### HONORING THE SERRANO FAMILY

##### HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 16, 2019*

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Serrano Family, who have been recognized as honorees at this year's Harvest of Hope Dinner by Catholic Charities in Merced, California. Their strong faith and commitment to serving others have distinguished them as stellar members of their church community that are very deserving of this recognition.

David Serrano was born to Florencio and Anita Serrano on August 13, 1941. The family lived in Chowchilla, California before moving across the highway to Le Grand in the late 50's when the family purchased their farm. Raised in a family with a strong Catholic faith, David joined the Newman Club while attending Fresno State, where he met his future wife, RoseAnn Burkhardt, who had also grown up in a strong Catholic household and was an integral member of their parish, Our Lady of Lourdes (OLL).

The commitment to faith exhibited by David and RoseAnn guided them as they raised their family and instilled this faith in each of their children: Christine, Danielle, Matthew, and Michael. Their family remained active in the OLL parish throughout their childhood and volunteered for various ministries in the church. David and RoseAnn became mentors for many and over the years, were asked to be Godparents for multiple children and adults.

David and RoseAnn's unwavering commitment to their religion undoubtedly contributed to the strong character present in each of their children, all of whom continue to remain active in the Catholic faith. Each of their children has remained committed to passing their faith traditions along to the next generation while continuing to serve others.

Their daughters Christine and Danielle, in addition to their son Michael, his wife Erika and daughter Catalina, are all active members of OLL. Christine and Danielle continue to pass along their family's faith traditions as Godparents to Catalina. Their son Matthew and his wife Kimberly are active in Sacred Heart Schools, where their children Isabella and William attend. Though RoseAnn passed suddenly on June 25, 2017, her exceptional family continues to carry on her legacy she built.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring an exceptional family that has been guided by their strong Catholic and distinguished service to their community. I wish the Serrano family and Catholic Charities

of Merced the best as they are recognized as honorees at the 2019 Harvest of Hope Dinner.

#### RECOGNIZING THE CLEAR LAKE AME CHURCH FOR ITS CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

##### HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 16, 2019*

Mr. BABBIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Clear Lake African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME) for nearly three decades of Christian ministry in the Clear Lake area of Houston, Texas, and the dedication of their new church home. The church is growing, both in membership and spiritual richness, and has embraced its mission statement, "Kingdom Building, One Soul at a Time."

The first meeting to organize an AME church in the Clear Lake City area began with prayer and praise on August 18, 1992, in the home of Reverend Brenda Payne and her family. Bro. Jerry Payne led the praise service, Presiding Elder X.L. Williams of the South Houston District read the scripture, and Rev. Payne offered prayer. There were nine adults and five children present at the very first worship service.

In October 1992, at the Texas Annual Conference held at Shiloh AME Church in Galveston, Texas, Bishop John R. Bryant formally gave Rev. Brenda Payne an appointment to begin a mission church in the Clear Lake area. On November 29, 1992, Clear Lake AME held its first 11 AM worship service at the Piper's Meadow Community Center in Webster, Texas. Bible study continued initially in the home of the pastor until it was moved to the Piper's Meadow Community Center in July 1993. Clear Lake added Sunday Church School at Piper's Meadow on January 9, 1994.

On March 3, 1995, Clear Lake AME glorified God for the first time in a new "home" located on El Camino Real road. The Nehemiah Ministry, under the direction of Wilbert Williams, built an altar and carpeted the pulpit area, helping to transform the former office space into a church sanctuary. On April 16, 1996, Clear Lake AME Church purchased 3.5 acres near the NASA Johnson Space Center and the University of Houston—Clear Lake. This land is believed to be the first church property purchased by African Americans in the historic Clear Lake area.

In October 1999, Clear Lake AME Church joined with Primm Chapel AME Church, LaMarque, Reedy Chapel AME Church, Galveston, and St. James AME Church, Dickinson to form the "Mainland 4." The four churches, though small in numerical size, hosted the Texas Annual Conference.

At the 134th Session of the Texas Annual Conference in October 2000, Bishop McKinley Young appointed Rev. Arthur Ferguson Pastor of Clear Lake AME Church. Rev. Arthur Ferguson preached the gospel of peace, love, and reconciliation, preparing the church to grow and become a beacon in the Clear Lake community.

On Saturday, November 18, 2006, at the Post Conference Planning Meeting of the Texas Annual Conference, Bishop Gregory G.M. Ingram, Presiding Prelate, appointed

Reverend Kevin L. Hodge to serve as Pastor of Clear Lake AME Church. Pastor Hodge and his new bride, First Lady LaShawn Hodge, came with a vision to take the congregation "to the next level" of spiritual growth, church construction, and church expansion. On Sunday, July 1, 2007, Clear Lake AME moved the congregation to its current location on Sea Lark Road.

On Sunday, February 17, 2013, Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie moved Pastor and Sister Hodge to a ministry at Shiloh AME Church in Galveston, Texas. On Saturday, March 8, 2013, Reverend Derrick Cyprian was appointed Pastor of Clear Lake AME Church. Rev. Cyprian, his wife Chalita, and their two sons, Derrick and Jared, came with excitement and a desire to help the community reach their committed goals: to grow spiritually, increase God's kingdom, and build a home sanctuary to house Clear Lake AME Church ministries.

The Clear Lake African Methodist Episcopal Church is committed to fulfilling the Great Commission through worship, fellowship, youth programs, outreach initiatives, and Christian education. The Lord has used this church as an amazing witness, and we are privileged to have such a place of worship in the 36th Congressional District of Texas.

#### CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF JOHN RUDD AT THE CAYUGA MEDICAL CENTER

##### HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 16, 2019*

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the service of John Rudd to the Cayuga Medical Center and congratulate him on his retirement.

For the last six years, John Rudd has served as the President and CEO of Cayuga Medical Center. Upon its creation in 2014, John was also named President and CEO of Cayuga Health System. Before that, John served as the Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at Cayuga Medical Center for seventeen years. His dedicated service and wealth of experience has ensured the highest of quality service, that Cayuga Medical Center is known for, to people in the Finger Lakes Region.

Under John's leadership, Cayuga Medical Center has grown and experienced a major expansion of their services. He oversaw the opening of the Cayuga Wellness Center as well as the opening of the hospital's first cath lab. John is responsible for forging partnerships and collaboration with organizations such as Mayo Laboratories, University of Rochester Medical Center, and Roswell Park. He was also instrumental in the efforts to join Cayuga Medical Center and Schuyler Hospital as Cayuga Health System, producing a successful system with both hospitals performing well.

John's dedication to the well-being of his community extends far beyond his place of work, as he has served on numerous community boards. He has worked with organizations such as Franziska Racker Centers, OAR, United Way Tompkins County, Tompkins County Area Development, Central New York

Area Health Education Center, Challenge Industries, Kendall at Ithaca, Reconstruction Home Inc., and Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce.

As John moves forward with the next chapter of his life, we applaud his tireless efforts to improve healthcare in our communities and we wish him all the best in his retirement.

Given the above, I ask that this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations and join me to celebrate John Rudd and his extraordinary career.

CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AI ROOT COMPANY

**HON. ANTHONY GONZALEZ**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 16, 2019*

Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Root Candles of Medina, Ohio on their 150th anniversary. Founded in 1869, this family owned, and operated company has consistently produced the highest quality candles our country has to offer. Now in its fifth generation, the Root family continues to uphold the same values that their founder, Amos Ives Root, first instilled: honesty, integrity, and diligent craftsmanship.

Today, Root Candles continues to be a leader of industry; combining the latest technology in manufacturing with five generations of mastered craftsmanship to create unmatched fragrances and sophisticated color palettes. With their rich history, tradition of excellence, and commitment to customer satisfaction, the next 150 years are sure to be just as successful as the last.

I am pleased to have this opportunity to share the history of Root Candles with the House and want to join in congratulating them and their fine employees as they prepare to celebrate 150 years of service to the people and communities of Northeast Ohio.

IN HONOR OF AMERICAN LEGION  
POST 12

**HON. ANDY BARR**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 16, 2019*

Mr. BARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the American Legion “Jesse M. Dykes” Post 12 in Richmond, Kentucky. Post 12 is celebrating its 100th anniversary on August 17, 2019. The Post is celebrating this important anniversary by dedicating a memorial to veterans.

Post 12 has a long and important history in the Richmond community. After the American Legion was organized, a group of veterans in Richmond decided to apply for a post charter in August of 1919. They were the 12th Post chartered in Kentucky. Lt. Harry D. Rice led efforts to secure the charter for Post 12 and was later named the first Post Commander.

The Post's name, Jesse M. Dykes, is in honor of the first Madison County soldier killed in action in WWI. Dykes was killed in battle in the Argonne Forest on October 4, 1918. He was buried in France and later reinterred in the Richmond Cemetery.

The American Legion provides a voice for veterans at the national level, builds future leaders through youth programs such as Boys State, supports young people in the community, provides camaraderie with fellow veterans and patriotic Americans, and much more. The present commander of Post 12 is Cecil Walker.

I thank Commander Walker and all past and present members of American Legion “Jesse M. Dykes” Post 12 for their service to our country. I am grateful for their work through American Legion to honor and serve their fellow veterans. It is my honor to recognize them on this 100th anniversary before the United States Congress.

IN CELEBRATION OF FRANK  
GARCIA'S BIRTHDAY

**HON. J. LUIS CORREA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 16, 2019*

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 75th birthday of Frank Garcia, my constituent, friend, and the founder and owner of La Casa Garcia.

Mr. Garcia and his wife, Sylvia Garcia, opened La Casa Garcia in 1973 and have since expanded to three locations in Orange County. La Casa Garcia and its authentic, delectable Mexican food has become a staple in our community over the past four decades. Beyond being a successful restaurateur, Mr. Garcia has also become a well-known philanthropist in Orange County as the founder of the We Give Thanks Foundation. Mr. Garcia's passion for giving back earned him the Points of Light Foundation Medal from former President Bill Clinton. In addition, his restaurant, La Casa Garcia, received the designation of “Small Business of the Year” from California State Senator Tom Umberg.

Mr. Garcia began his career in the restaurant industry at the young age of 13 as a dishwasher in a restaurant in Texas. He also worked in the fields picking cotton and onion with his father, Luis Majin Garcia. During his time as a dishwasher, Mr. Garcia worked hard to master cooking skills and was soon promoted to chef himself. It was through these formative experiences that Mr. Garcia learned the value of hard work, the power of food as a way of bonding, and the importance of connecting with the community. Mr. Garcia credits God for his success and expresses his gratitude through every meal that he serves.

Growing up, his mother, Elvira Garza Garcia, one of the founders of LULAC, instilled in him a strong sense of philanthropy. After the success of La Casa Garcia, Mr. Garcia followed his mother's philosophy of charity and founded We Give Thanks Inc., a nonprofit that has been hosting a Thanksgiving feast every year for the past 32 years. The annual We Give Thanks feast began as a small-scale event attended by a few thousand people in the parking lot of one of the La Casa Garcia restaurants. Since then, it has expanded to the lot of the Honda Center, where 1,500 volunteers serve around 17,000 people each year. It has become the largest Thanksgiving feast hosted in Orange County. Mr. Garcia's dedication to serving others also extends beyond Orange County; when Hurricane Harvey

hit Houston, Texas in 2017, Mr. Garcia participated in efforts to raise money for victims and personally flew out to Houston to provide hot meals for those in need and displaced by the hurricane.

In his 75 years of life, Mr. Garcia has become a beacon of light for the Orange County community. He is a constant and consistent supporter of numerous community events and has become known for his community service and volunteer work. His dedication for providing quality food and his passion for helping others brings warmth and comfort to the lives of Orange County locals every day. Mr. Garcia's story is a moving example of the power of hard work, dedication, and charity. For these reasons, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Garcia many more years of health, success, and prosperity and in thanking him for his invaluable contributions and presence in our community. Happy Birthday.

HONORING CHANCELLOR DOROTHY  
LELAND

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 16, 2019*

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Chancellor Dorothy Leland on her last day as Chancellor of the University of California, Merced. Chancellor Leland leaves a legacy of leadership and advocacy.

After earning her bachelors, masters, and PhD from Purdue University, Chancellor Leland began an impressive career in academia and became the President of Georgia College & State University in 2004. Though she had planned to retire in that job, she answered the call to serve as UC Merced's chancellor in 2011 because she was intrigued about leading a young university.

When Chancellor Leland arrived at UC Merced, the university lacked the resources and infrastructure present at more established schools and California's education budget was still severely impacted by the recession. Chancellor Leland rose to these unique challenges and envisioned the 2020 Project: one that brought together \$1.3 billion of state and private funding to significantly increase the size of campus and provide the necessary facilities to support the longterm growth of this premier 21st century research university.

Upon completion, the 2020 Project will add classroom space, student housing, student life facilities and more labs that will further the University of California's mission to improve and advance society through research. The changes will accommodate 10,000 students.

Chancellor Leland has been an outspoken advocate for underserved student populations during her tenure. UC Merced is a minority-majority campus—many students are the first in their family to attend college. Under her leadership, UC Merced has implemented programs and initiatives to support these students. Chancellor Leland has championed the campus's Dreamers and has even traveled to Washington, D.C. to advocate on their behalf.

As the leader of the UC's newest campus, Chancellor Leland has fostered relationships to ensure UC Merced's positive impact on the future of the San Joaquin Valley. Under her guidance, the university has increased its visibility in the Merced community with its Downtown Campus Center, which opened in early