

Wayne and his wife Susan live in Marin County. They are the proud parents of daughter Lauren who lives in New York.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to rise with me to recognize Wayne Freedman for his lifelong passion for storytelling and his ability to transfer that passion to his viewers. He is an outstanding journalist who has thrived throughout decades of changes in the journalism profession.

While we will miss his booming voice and captivating presence on our TV screens and smart phones, we wish him well in his well-deserved retirement.

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RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF ROBERT LANCE “BOBBY” CRABTREE

**HON. TRENT KELLY**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 14, 2021*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and service of Major Bobby Crabtree who passed away on Thursday, August 26 at North Mississippi Medical Center. He served with the Mississippi Army National Guard within the HHC, 115th Armored Brigade in Tupelo.

Bobby was born in Louisiana to William and Aleta Best Crabtree. He was raised in Houma and graduated from H.L. Bourgeois High School. He studied Business Administration at Nicholls State University in Louisiana and began his career at Sears. In 2002 he was transferred to Tupelo, where he retired and began his career as a truck driver.

Bobby served for twenty-three years in the Mississippi Army National Guard and retired as a Major. He was deployed to Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was an active member of the Orchard Church in Tupelo. He was a lifelong LSU football fan, but gladly cheered for Mississippi State, where his sons attended. In his free time he played bass guitar and fished.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife, Pamela Smith Crabtree; sons Wesley, Matthew, and Lance; his mother, Aleta; and brother, Billy.

I am grateful for Major Crabtree's many years of service to the state of Mississippi and I join his family, friends, and loved ones in grieving his loss.

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IN RECOGNITION OF CHIEF RONALD HADDAD AND THE DEARBORN POLICE DEPARTMENT

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 14, 2021*

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chief Ronald Haddad of the Dearborn Police Department who was recently chosen to be featured in the National Law Enforcement Museum's new exhibit: Post-9/11: The Evolution of American Law Enforcement. His honorable years of service to our community is worthy of commendation.

Two decades after the terrorist attacks on our nation that shook the world, we remember

the lives lost on that terrible day. Dearborn, Michigan is home to the largest Arab American and Muslim populations in the United States and faced unique challenges in the days and months following the horrendous attacks by extremists. Muslim-owned businesses and mosques faced threats, Islamophobia, and hatred—but the Dearborn police ensured their safety and routinely checked in on our neighbors.

For their courageous actions in the face of hate, Chief Haddad and the Dearborn Police Department are featured in an exhibit on post-9/11 policing at the National Law Enforcement Museum in Washington, D.C. Though Chief Haddad was working in Detroit on September 11th, he took it upon himself to work with area police departments to build relationships with the Arab American community and to do what was needed to protect them amidst rising hatred.

Chief Haddad became Dearborn's first Arab American police chief in 2008, as well as the first Arab American police chief in Michigan. He serves on several state and national advisory boards, including on the Law Enforcement Immigration Reform Commission.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Chief Ronald Haddad for his invaluable service to the Dearborn Police Department and for his lasting impact on our community following the events of September 11, 2001. Chief Haddad and the Dearborn Police Department are hardworking, everyday heroes that we are fortunate to have here in Michigan.

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IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE OF JAMES “HONDO” GEURTS

**HON. MIKE GALLAGHER**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 14, 2021*

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize James “Hondo” Geurts. After retiring from the Air Force as a colonel, Hondo served in the Senior Executive Service as United States Special Operations Command's Acquisition Executive as well as Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition. He is formally retiring again after continuing his faithful service by performing the duties of the Under Secretary of the Navy. He is not only an advocate for the hardworking men and women of Northeast Wisconsin, but also a dedicated patriot in service to his Nation.

During his more than 30 years of service, Hondo served for 22 years in uniform as acquisition program manager with engineering and in program management leadership positions in numerous weapon systems. As a defense civilian, Hondo served in all levels of defense-related acquisition leadership including Acquisition Executive, Program Executive Officer, and Program Manager of a variety of Major Defense Acquisition Programs to include ballistic missiles, surveillance platforms, tactical fighter aircraft, advanced avionics systems, stealth cruise missiles, training systems, and manned and unmanned special operations aircraft.

After retiring from the Air Force, Hondo served an additional 8 years as Acquisition Executive for USSOCOM and Assistant Sec-

retary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition until Feb. 2021 when he was designated as performing the duties of the Under Secretary of the Navy.

Amidst his commitment as a service member, acquisitions leader, and performing the duties of Under Secretary of the Navy, his greatest contribution to both national security and to the people of Northeast Wisconsin has been his incredible work on the frigate program. Thanks to his uncommon skill and unparalleled dedication, the world is a safer place. I am incredibly thankful for his selfless and dedicated service.

Madam Speaker, I urge all members of this body to join me in applauding James “Hondo” Geurts for his patriotism and inspiring service to a grateful Nation.

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REMEMBERING RONN MEREDITH

**HON. TIM RYAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 14, 2021*

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my longtime friend, Ronn Meredith. I want to extend my deepest sympathies to his wife Marni, his children Cole, Ava and Reese, and the rest of his family. We know how heartbroken they are, and we all share in their grief of losing such a wonderful human being at such a young age. He truly loved Marni and their children with his entire being and his eyes twinkled whenever he spoke about them. I know he will continue to love his family night and day and his love will never fade away.

I first met Ronn in college as we were both members of the Delta tau Delta fraternity. To say Ronn was a big personality is an understatement. I can honestly say, in all my life, I never met anyone quite like Rondo. He was smart, had a great sense of humor, and unquestionably the best laugh in the business. His family and friends were always number 1, but his second love was Cleveland sports (which if you've followed sports for the last 50 years, wasn't always an easy task).

His energy was absolutely electric. He could express himself on such a wide array of subjects and was passionate about so many things, from golfing to the Grateful Dead. What's more is he could comfortably banter with CEO's on the links, as easily as he could jam out with a 75-year-old hippy at a live show. He could have fun with longtime friends or a new acquaintance; an old-timer or a little kid. They all loved him as he did them, because through him we could feel his lust for life. That's what made him unique. That is what made him special. But no matter who his company, these interchanges almost always ended with a lot of laughs and a room full of love. We all just wish we had one more Saturday night with him. One more chance to ramble on with Rondo.

It's hard to lose a guy like Ronn because he was always just so full of life. His cup was always full, and he made you feel like your cup was full too. He innately knew that the happiest people don't have the best of everything, they just make the best of everything. He drank from the fountain that was not made from the hands of men. He was special that way. He understood at a deep level that we

are all connected; that we are all tied to that song that the morning brings.

It's been difficult, to say the least, for those of us who loved him to come to grips with his passing. So many stories, so much fun. So many good times that we want to hold on to. But I believe God sometimes gives us people like Ronn, and takes them way to early, so that we remember more profoundly how they lived. So that we may take their best qualities and assimilate them into our lives. The real characteristic which I think we can take from Ronn, was that he just loved life in all its forms. His family, sports, work, music, and so much more. I can still see him dancing at concerts, bear hugging his people, and LOUDLY cheering on his favorite teams. Ronn loved it all and he did it with all of his heart.

Madam Speaker, it's our responsibility to take on Ronn's philosophy that we are all the eyes of the world. That we need to connect to that love Ronn embodied every day. We need to be excited about our lives and share our dreams with those around us. We need to love more, share more, care more. We need to ask ourselves, are we kind? We need to be that ripple even if the water is still.

So, we say fare thee well my brother, we love him more than words can say. Although he is not with us physically, he will forever be in our hearts. We here promise, his friends and family, that we will honor him and his amazing life, by being true to ourselves, compassionate to one another, and always, no matter what, enjoying the ride.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF TONY  
M. AUSTIN

**HON. TRENT KELLY**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 14, 2021*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Mr. Tony Austin who passed away on August 15. I join his family, friends, and loved ones in mourning his loss.

Tony was beloved by his community. He proudly served in the United States Army as

a Sergeant in the Korean war from 1950–1953. After returning he continued to serve his community as a Memphis police officer driving car #1 on Beale Street. He was affectionately known by his colleagues as Mr. Smiley.

In his free time, Mr. Austin enjoyed a round of golf, singing gospels, and playing the guitar. He was a father, grandfather, great-grandfather and a friend.

Mr. Austin was a fixture in his community and his legacy will be long remembered. I offer my most sincere condolences to all who had the opportunity to know and love him.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND  
SACRIFICE OF THE THORNTON  
FIRE DEPARTMENT

**HON. JASON CROW**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 14, 2021*

Mr. CROW. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service and sacrifice of the Thornton Fire Department in my district.

When COVID-19 vaccines became available, the city of Thornton jumped into action and tasked the Thornton Fire Department with administering vaccines to residents. Thornton Fire was uniquely qualified for this rollout as they had been providing mass COVID-19 testing during the pandemic.

As of this past June, Thornton Fire administered over 82,000 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. These efforts went above and beyond their call of duty and drew in Coloradans from all over the state.

In late-April, the Congressional Fire Services Institute awarded Thornton Fire their "Fire Service-Based EMS Award," a highly coveted award that recognizes the work of the department in testing and vaccinating our community members and implementing a monitoring program for COVID-symptomatic firefighters.

I thank Thornton Fire for their service, sacrifice, and unflinching commitment to all Coloradans.

CELEBRATING WASHINGTON FIRE  
COMPANY NO. 2

**HON. GREG PENCE**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 14, 2021*

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Washington Fire Company No. 2 of Madison, Indiana on its 175th anniversary.

Established on January 22, 1846, the firehouse is one of the last remaining Greek Revival firehouses in the United States. Washington Fire Company No. 2 is the oldest active firehouse in the Hoosier state.

I congratulate Washington Fire Company No. 2 and thank them for 175 years of service.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF MRS.  
FANNIE "CINDY" McCLAIN

**HON. TRENT KELLY**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 14, 2021*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Mrs. McClain who turns 100 years old on September 26, 2021. I congratulate her on a long and healthy life and decades of service to her community.

Mrs. McClain is a gifted seamstress. She is known for her ability to adapt any pattern and create something beautiful overnight. She was also an athlete with the Hernando Community Ladies Softball Team. She was a domestic worker and a seamstress at Minor France Dress Shop in Memphis before retiring.

Mrs. McClain was married to Mr. Cornelius Lloyd McClain and the mother of two sons, Alfred and Calvin. She is a lifelong member of Rising Sun Missionary Baptist Church in Hernando.

I am thrilled to wish Mrs. McClain a happy 100th birthday and offer my most sincere congratulations.