

community and local veterans. Currently, he serves as the Vice President of the National Mounted Warfare Foundation which is building a world-class military museum in the heart of Texas to honor the history of the units and soldiers who have served at Fort Cavazos and to share their untold stories. His efforts don't stop there as LTC Crouch is a part of the National Eagle Scout Association, The Association of Quartermasters, The American Legion, and among other local groups.

I proudly join LTC Robert Crouch's family, friends, and colleagues in acknowledging his selfless service. His fearless support and devotion to others make him a deserving recipient of a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

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HONORING GRAVES COUNTY  
COURTHOUSE

**HON. JAMES COMER**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 11, 2023*

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Graves County of the First District of Kentucky for the groundbreaking of their new courthouse.

The former Graves County courthouse was tragically destroyed by the tornado that hit western Kentucky on December 10, 2021. I commend them as they continue to rebuild while preserving a sense of history and tradition. Their perseverance and bravery are second to none.

Graves County has a rich history and unwavering commitment to its future development. With loyal, hardworking locals and a town full of character, Graves County is a prime example of the values that our state and country stand for. I am honored to represent them in Congress.

I join with the community of Graves County in celebrating the rebuilding of their cherished courthouse. May it continue to be the centerpiece of Mayfield, bringing new traditions and a sense of pride.

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MRS. BETTY ALFORD

**HON. SCOTT PERRY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 11, 2023*

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I'm honored and humbled to recognize Mrs. Betty Alford on the auspicious occasion of her 100th Birthday on January 12, 2024.

Mrs. Alford grew up in Wormleysburg, Pennsylvania, growing up through some of the most triumphant and trying times of our Nation. In 1957, she married her husband, William, with whom she shared 43 wonderful years until his passing in 2001. Betty and William have three children—Brent, Brian, and Kathleen—two wonderful daughters-in-law, four grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Throughout her life, Betty has been known for her generosity and kindness. She volunteered at Health South physical therapy clinic, and the Helen Kraus Animal Foundation well into her 90s—and is the epitome of the phrase

"age is just a number." She's also worked at Nationwide Insurance, Blue Cross Blue Shield, and served countless students at the cafeteria of Hillside Elementary School.

Betty's selfless activity, huge heart, outstanding work ethic, and tireless service to others mark her as the shining example of community service and truly making a difference in the lives of others in myriad ways.

Mr. Speaker, I'm privileged to recognize Mrs. Betty Alford on the blessed occasion of her 100th Birthday. She is the standard by which we all should be judged, and on behalf of the 10th Congressional District, I wish her continued God's blessings.

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PAYING REMEMBRANCE TO FCC  
VICTORVILLE OFFICER NICHOLAS WHITEHALL

**HON. JAY OBERNOLTE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 11, 2023*

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commemorate the passing of Nicholas Whitehall, a lifelong resident of San Bernardino County and proud law enforcement officer, husband, father, and grandfather. A friend to all, Officer Whitehall was an honored member of his community and a loving member of his family. Heather and I are praying for the Whitehall family as they navigate this difficult loss.

An Inland Empire native, Officer Whitehall was born in Fontana, California on January 24, 1970, to John Henry Whitehall and Nita Joyce Latham. He attended Victor Valley College (VVC), where he earned an Associates Degree in Administration of Justice. Upon graduating from VVC, he began a long and successful career protecting our prisons, including seven years at the Desert View Prison. Critically, Officer Whitehall played a vital role in assisting in opening several institutions at FCC Victorville. He served FCC Victorville admirably for over 23 years, including work as a Lock Shop and Armory Specialist before his untimely passing.

Officer Whitehall was much more than a law enforcement officer: he was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. He raised four children, James, Matthew, Katherine, and Ashley and was rewarded with fourteen grandchildren—a testament to his role as a loving father and devoted husband. He cared deeply for his family and did his utmost to ensure that his wife and children enjoyed a loving and secure home. Hardworking, kind people like Officer Whitehall are critical to the future of our community, state, and country.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Officer Whitehall and recognizing him and his family for their contributions to San Bernardino County.

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SALUTING THE SERVICE OF SERGEANT FIRST CLASS MATTHEW KEY, U.S. ARMY, RETIRED

**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 11, 2023*

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and appreciation that I present

Sergeant First Class Matthew Key, U.S. Army, Retired, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. SFC Key continues to be an unwavering example of commitment to the well-being of others and the betterment of his community.

With twenty-one years of military service, SFC Key served his country in numerous operations including significant combat experience during the Gulf War. He received an astounding military education including Primary Leadership Development, NCO Advanced Course, and NCO Basic Course. Military leadership recognized his hard work and talents, bestowing several commendations ranging from the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and others.

After SFC Key retired from the military, he continued wanting to make positive impacts on his community. After doing stellar work as intern in my congressional office, SFC Key was promoted to permanent staff as a Constituent Liaison. District office staff have as challenging a job there is in public service. They often deal with constituents who are at their wits' end and have lost faith in the government that is supposed to serve them. SFC Key's combination of empathy and expertise has helped countless Central Texans navigate the often-challenging world of government agencies and services. His extraordinary efforts, commitment to excellence, and skillful work has enabled my office to serve Central Texans at the high level they deserve.

I proudly join SFC Key's friends, family, and colleagues in saluting his selfless service to the Army and Texas. He's been a trusted advisor, superb public servant, and vital part of Team Carter whose work has made a real and lasting difference in the lives of his fellow citizens.

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HONORING THE SERVICE OF MAY  
LAFRANCE BENDER

**HON. MICHAEL GUEST**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 11, 2023*

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of May LaFrance Bender. May was born in Newton, Mississippi, in 1970. She attended high school in Hickory, Mississippi, and graduated in 1988. May worked several jobs around the community after graduation. In 1995, May married Zoaton Bender, and they have now been married for 29 years. Together they have two children: Zaheim and Zamarion.

The same year she married Zoaton, May began working at the Newton County Tax Collector's office, learning how the office worked, and serving the people of Newton County. In 2011, May decided to run for the office of Tax Collector and won, and she served Newton County for three consecutive terms. Each day in the office was a new day to learn something and strive to make Newton County a better place for everyone who came into the Tax Collector's office.

I am thankful for the 29 years of service May Bender has given to the citizens of Newton County and wish her all the best in her future pursuits.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY OF BISHOP LESTER LOVE AND PASTOR FRAN LOVE OF THE CITY OF LOVE

### HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate 25 years of faithful, phenomenal leadership from an outstanding New Orleans Co-Pastor couple, Bishop Lester Love and Pastor Fran Love.

Bishop Lester Love is the Lead Pastor of the City of Love. He possesses unique leadership skills, and yet, widely recognized for his ability to organize a team of people, energize them to accomplish any challenges that are set before them, and provide them with strategies for implementation. Bishop Love was born in New Orleans, Louisiana on April 1, 1965, and currently serves as the Executive Secretary of the Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship International. He received his license to preach in 1989, and was ordained on May 1, 1992 under the administration of Bishop of the Paul S. Morton, Sr.

On December 22, 1997, then interim Pastor Love of Greater Antioch presented his first message. One year later in April of 1998, both the Co-Pastor couple were installed as Pastors. In July 2005, he was consecrated to the highest position in the church, the office of a Bishop. He began his leadership as the Lead Pastor of the Greater Antioch Full Gospel Baptist Church in 1993.

Bishop Love, always seeking to make the Word of God as clear and relevant as possible, was asked constantly about the meaning of the word "Antioch". The Bible states that Antioch was the first place that the followers of Jesus were called Christians because of the love that they showed to one another and to the community at large (Acts 11:26). Thus, in 2009, the name Greater Antioch Full Gospel Baptist Church was changed to The City of Love. Pastor Fran was elevated to the office of Prophet in August 2022. Currently, the membership has exceeded 2,000 active members.

Bishop Love has published several books including Synergy, Catching the Mantle and The Art of Armor Bearing: God's Blueprint for Effective Servanthood, which quickly became the "how to" book for leadership and excellence in service for churches and corporations. His latest book "Whatever It Takes" encourages us to maximize our potential.

His many talents also include singing. He was the featured soloist on the CD "Where Love Abides," which won the Big Easy Award (New Orleans' version of the Grammys) for Best Gospel Artist. He has also garnered national attention for his YouTube "Love Songs" clip, which has millions of views.

Bishop Love has served as the host of the Essence Music Festival Gospel Tribute for several years and daily radio host on WBOK for "The Lester Love Show." He's been crowned "The Voice of Hope" by many and this title is fitting of Lester Love—Senior Pastor of The City of Love in New Orleans, Louisiana. Lester Love's messages of hope, positive thinking and empowerment are sustaining

and motivating both young and old across the country. His motto "Living the Good Life" encourages us to 'Think Bigger, Dream Bigger, Live Better.'

Although Bishop Love's leadership abilities have been recognized across the globe, in addition God has sent him on a mission to fulfill his calling to teach and train the people of God on how to effectively serve the men and women of God.

Prophet Fran Love serves as the Co-lead pastor with her husband, Bishop Lester Love, at The City of Love in New Orleans, Louisiana. As a devoted wife and dedicated mother, Prophet Fran is listed among the most influential and socially engaged women of our time. Bishop Love and his wife Fran are the proud parents of three girls, Joy, Faith, and Angel Love.

From pulpits to street pavements, Prophet Fran's commitment to providing relief to the social issues affecting all mankind birthed the ministry of Daughters of Life and Love (DOLL) and nonprofit Love 365 where she leads an effort that cares for those suffering from a lack of food and homelessness.

Prophet Fran's kinetic faithfulness for a victorious living is deeply rooted in biblical principles. The totality of her essence firmly stands on her confession from James 1:4: "I am perfect, I am complete, wanting and lacking nothing." Boldly leading revolutionary ministries, this award-winning humanitarian, spiritual leader, scholar, and actress is devoted to influencing people into higher levels of unity, forgiveness, fulfillment, and purpose.

After meeting in college, Lester and Fran Love were an immediate "can't miss" couple. Thirty-one years and three daughters later, this couple is still flowing together. Bishop Lester and Pastor Fran Love lead The City of Love Church, a loving, vibrant experience with its heart entrenched in New Orleans, LA. The Loves are touted by local and national organizations and media for their philanthropic community work. Through the church, they lead LOVE365, a community outreach organization that has fed upwards of 2,000 homeless and hungry people at the Salvation Army, Duncan Plaza and the Hollygrove Community per week. Bishop Love and Prophet Fran have been a part of the Essence Festival Celebration for several years.

Prophet Fran also leads a women's empowerment group, "Fridays with Fran". Together they were inspired to create The I AM Prayer Journey, designed to lead people into a simple, yet deeper relationship with God. The Greater New Orleans Community is blessed to have them as spiritual leaders to so many. I am proud to call them friends for over 25 years. What a blessing to have spiritual friends, a Bishop and prayer warrior throughout my political career. I am forever grateful for their friendship, love, and guidance as I serve the Constituents of LA02. I congratulate them on 25 years of spiritual leadership, and may they see many more years serving individuals across the country.

RECOGNIZING KATHY BABB'S OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE

### HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding community service of a constituent from my district, Kathy Babb. Kathy will be retiring after more than 50 dedicated years of public service to the residents of Haycock Township as a Township Supervisor.

Kathy Babb's service to Haycock Township dates back to the 1970s in which she tirelessly worked to maintain the natural beauty of the township. As a result of her efforts, today Haycock Township boasts over 6,000 preserved acres and is home to Bucks County Park, Lake Towhee, and State Park, and Lake Nockamixon. Consistently throughout her years in public service, Kathy was nominated by her fellow board members to lead the Board as Chair given her natural leadership skills.

She also served as President of the Bucks County Association of Township Officials and eagerly contributed to the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Officials. Her dedication to local government will always be appreciated by the community and her legacy of public service will live on for future generations.

SALUTING THE SERVICE OF CAPTAIN HOWARD MCKINNEY, U.S. ARMY, RETIRED

### HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Captain Howard McKinney, U.S. Army, Retired, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His excellent service to both the Army and our nation is a shining example of citizenship and commitment to duty.

During his service, CPT McKinney served in Georgia, Louisiana, and Vietnam where, as a Captain Infantry Platoon Leader, he led soldiers directly into combat during several enemy engagements. His accomplishments did not go unnoticed with his many awards including a Silver Star, Purple Heart, and an Army Commendation Medal.

CPT McKinney returned to Texas after his dedicated years of service. With the extensive experience he acquired with his work with automated tax systems, he started his own business, McKinney E-Systems & Associates, Inc. in Austin. Since retirement from the U.S. Army, he has devoted his time, talents, and resources to family, church, community, and veteran organizations.

I join CPT Howard McKinney's family, friends, and colleagues in acknowledging his selflessness. His fearless support and devotion to service before himself makes him a worthy recipient of a Congressional Veteran Commendation.