

A native of Albany, New York, Chief Master Sergeant Powers enlisted in the Air Force in December 2000. He has served for 23 years in the Active-Duty Air Force and now the New York Air National Guard in a broad range of assignments, including six deployments to Iraq, Oman, Afghanistan, and Antarctica in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Deep Freeze, and Operation New Dawn. Most recently, he served as a military personnel liaison for the National Guard Bureau Office of Legislative Liaison and Senior Enlisted Advisor, working diligently to improve the quality of life for our National Guard Soldiers and Airmen and to enhance the relationship between the National Guard and offices like mine. In November 2023, he took on a new role as the Senior Enlisted Leader to the National Guard Bureau Manpower and Personnel Directorate.

Chief Master Sergeant Powers' responsibilities as legislative liaison have had an impact on the National Guard Bureau and the work of all congressional offices. He demonstrated expertise in developing technical solutions, which modernized how the National Guard Bureau Office of Legislative Liaison engages with Members of Congress. His attention to detail and responsiveness strengthened the relationship between congressional offices and the National Guard immeasurably. He formulated a congressional engagement plan and prepared National Guard leadership for over 60 meetings and hearings, informed Members on the National Guard Bureau's legislative priorities, and answered hundreds of congressional inquiries, which provided critical information related to the annual National Defense Authorization Act.

Chief Master Sergeant Powers' efforts were also pivotal to improve quality of life for his fellow National Guard members, including the development of new guidelines for maternity and paternity leave. He embodies the qualities that one can expect from Non-Commissioned Officers.

I am grateful to Chief Master Sergeant Powers for his service in support of my office and others in the furtherance of National Guard missions. I would also like to express my appreciation to his supportive husband, Jamie Richards. I wish this National Guard family all the best in their next chapter of service to our Nation.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
MR. MARTY LENTZ

HON. BARRY MOORE

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the hard work and legacy of Mr. Marty Lentz. His devoted service of 30 years as a county engineer has made a difference in the life of many Alabamians.

Mr. Lentz has served many of those years in my home of Coffee County, where I was born and raised and still live today. The citizens of Coffee County, including myself, are grateful for Mr. Lentz, as he has spent 28 of his 30 years of service enhancing our county.

Mr. Lentz has many accomplishments as a county engineer that have helped the community, including being an integral part in the im-

plementation of the County's Rebuild Alabama program. Because of his hard work, roads in Coffee County were repaved to offer better transportation for drivers. These roads would not have been resurfaced without Mr. Lentz' help. Mr. Lentz has also served as a faithful volunteer of the Wiregrass Men of Valor ministry.

I would like to congratulate Mr. Marty Lentz on his well-deserved retirement and thank him for his public service.

HONORING THE LIFE OF
ROSALYNN ALBA COBARRUBIAS

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Ms. SÁNCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Ms. Rosalynn Alba Cobarrubias.

A City of Walnut native who worked tirelessly to become a media entrepreneur and music promoter, Rosalynn's first music industry position was as a radio DJ at KSAK-FM 90.1, the campus radio station of Mt. San Antonio College.

Rosalynn played a key role in developing the MySpace Music platform, serving as its marketing head and leading artist relations and driving connections between artists and their fans. Her work ethic was enhanced by her creativity and innovation. Rosalynn produced legendary live events, collaborating with iconic artists like Rihanna, Bruno Mars, Miguel, and John Legend.

She was also known for using her talent and resources to spread a wealth of knowledge—not just to upcoming artists, but to her community at large. Rosalynn was a strong advocate for Filipino American artists, helping them find success in the music industry. She also supported Filipino American heritage nights at Dodgers games.

A long-time advocate for youth empowerment even beyond Southern California, Rosalynn helped build basketball courts across the Philippines. Rosalynn's passion for music and dedication to her Filipino heritage and community should be celebrated.

Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, please join me in honoring the life of Rosalynn Alba Cobarrubias. May God bless her and ease her family's pain as they mourn for their loss.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF DORIS
GRAHAM OF CANTON, TEXAS

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Mrs. Doris "Ellen" Graham of Canton, Texas, who peacefully passed away on December 12, 2023 with her family by her side.

Mrs. Graham was raised in the Dallas area and graduated from Spruce High School in 1969. During high school, she met the love of her life, Mr. Timothy "Tim" Aron Graham, whom she married in 1970. Together, they

had four children. For most of her career, Mrs. Graham worked for Texas Health and Human Services until she retired in 2015.

Mrs. Graham was a wife, mother, and friend to many. In her free time, she enjoyed reading and crocheting. However, her most treasured pastime was spending time with her family, especially the grandchildren, whom she loved dearly. Mrs. Graham truly made the world a brighter place with her presence, and it is heartbreaking to see our community experience her tragic passing.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our Nation's Capitol in recognition of Mrs. Graham's life and contributions to North Texas. She will be dearly missed by her friends, family, and all who knew her.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH WEDDING
ANNIVERSARY OF PETE AND
BOOTS MORRISON

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 50th wedding anniversary of Donald and Henrietta Morrison, also known as "Pete and Boots" to their friends and family.

Pete and Boots met in 1968 when their elementary schools both fed into Walter Wellborn High School in the 7th grade. Their love story began the next year, at age 14, when they started dating. Since then, these high school sweethearts have become an example of true love and commitment.

The couple was married on December 21, 1973, at Sunny Eve Baptist Church in Oxford, Alabama. As if it were a symbol from God of the love they were celebrating, there was a beautiful snowfall that day, a weather event rarely experienced in Alabama. Unfortunately, the unexpected snow made it impossible to ascend to their honeymoon on Cheaha Mountain.

Pete and Boots began their family in 1975 with the birth of their daughter Kari (Will) and just three short years later their second daughter Tanya (T.J.). Beginning in 2004, the couple assumed their most precious titles of "Pop" and "Bebe" to their five grandchildren: Sam, Claire, Maisie, Hazel and Rosie. Pete is the son of the late Ralph and Doris Morrison of Anniston, Alabama, and graduated from Walter Wellborn High School in 1973. He immediately began working for "Mr. Mac" learning the skills and trade that would allow him to later launch and build his own successful HVAC business, Morrison Sheet Metal.

Boots is the daughter of the late Clarence and Frances Somers of Abel, Alabama, and graduated from Walter Wellborn High School in 1973. Boots obtained her dental hygiene license from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, finishing her practicum nine months pregnant with Kari and worked as a hygienist for almost 30 years after which she happily retired to fulfill her roles as grandmother and co-owner of Morrison Sheet Metal.

Pete and Boots have created a world of love, laughter, and joy around them instilling in their girls the love of family, commitment to their partners, and a devotion to their community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Pete and Boots Morrison and their 50 years of marriage.

RECOGNIZING IOWA DIVISION OF
BANKING SUPERINTENDENT
JEFF PLAGGE

HON. ZACHARY NUNN

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Jeff Plagge, who will be retiring as Iowa Division of Banking Superintendent at the end of this year, for his outstanding work and service to his state.

Superintendent Plagge was appointed to his position in 2019 by Governor Kim Reynolds. Among numerous achievements, Superintendent Plagge was instrumental in modernizing Iowa's banking code and working to level the playing field for community banks.

As a member of the House Financial Services Committee, I have personally had the privilege of getting to know and partnering with Jeff to fight for Iowa businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in commending Superintendent Plagge for his extraordinary leadership and thoughtful approach to the Iowa Division of Banking. I wish him and his family nothing but the best as he begins his next chapter.

CONDEMNING ANTISEMITISM ON
UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES, H. RES.
927

HON. VAL T. HOYLE

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, last week I voted No on H. Res. 927, a resolution that purports to condemn antisemitism on college campuses. Several of my Jewish colleagues voted against this resolution as well.

I strongly agree that Congress must condemn all forms of antisemitism, including on college campuses. Since Hamas's horrific October 7th attacks on Israel, the U.S. House of Representatives has voted in favor of several resolutions condemning antisemitism on college campuses and throughout the world, multiple of which I've supported and cosponsored. However, this latest resolution, H. Res. 927, is yet another disingenuous resolution that weaponizes the real scourge of antisemitism, uses Jewish people as pawns to play partisan political games, and represents another attack in the extreme right-wing's war on higher education. For this reason, I could not support the resolution.

Among other items, H. Res. 927 calls on specific college presidents to resign, referencing a made-for-TV congressional hearing orchestrated by congressional Republicans last week. I believe it is inappropriate for Congress to inject itself into leadership and personnel decisions at colleges and universities. Doing so creates a slippery slope of Congress meddling in local decisions that the federal government should not be involved in.

H. Res. 927 also appears to be another attempt to police and silence the free speech of

Americans on college campuses. Again, while some demonstrators on college campuses have disturbingly engaged in antisemitic actions that should rightfully be condemned. H. Res. 927 is too broad.

H. Res. 927 also fails to condemn antisemitic acts from those on the far right, including white nationalists who have increasingly promoted antisemitic conspiracy theories and have threatened the lives and livelihoods of Jewish Americans. The lead sponsor of H. Res. 927 has also publicly engaged in antisemitic tropes in the past, including the disgusting "great replacement theory." This resolution appears to be an attempt to cover up extremist right-wing Republicans' flirtation with antisemitic ideology, as well as their support for antisemitic public figures.

Let me be clear: I unequivocally condemn all forms of antisemitism, and I am appalled by the significant rise in antisemitism we've seen on college campuses in recent weeks. Many Jewish college students and faculty do not feel safe on campus, and many Jewish Americans feel unsafe in public. This is absolutely unacceptable. The university presidents who participated in last week's congressional hearing gave insufficient and appalling answers relating to campus speech calling for the genocide of Jewish people. I'm glad that they've since apologized for their statements, and I encourage other colleges not to make the same mistake these presidents did.

However, if the House Republican majority were serious about tackling antisemitism, they would support President Biden's National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism, would quit trying to defund the Office of Civil Rights for Title VI enforcement which protects Jewish students and would increase funding for the High-Risk Nonprofit Grant Program to secure Jewish institutions as a start.

That's why I've cosponsored H. Res. 927, introduced by Representatives NADLER, RASKIN, and GOLDMAN. H. Res. 927 thoughtfully and powerfully condemns the rise of antisemitism in the United States—including on college campuses—and calls on Congress to support the above substantive actions to tackle antisemitism, which congressional Republicans have so far refused to do. I call on my congressional Republican colleagues to put politics aside and work in a bipartisan way to substantively tackle antisemitism.

HONORING THE CAREER OF
GERALD 'JERRY' GRABAREK

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a long-standing public servant to the Town of Preston, Connecticut and pillar of our state's sizable rural population, Mr. Gerald 'Jerry' Grabarek of Preston, Connecticut. Jerry has recently marked his 50th year of community service to the Town of Preston and also just celebrated the 100 anniversary his multi-generational family farm, appropriately named, Preston Farms. Most recently, he has won reelection unopposed to the Board of Selectman, and was sworn in on the 5th of December. Preston and the region are lucky to have such a talented, stalwart advocate.

Jerry's long history of service begins in the early 1970's when he and his wife, Deb, took a more active role in managing the farm. During this time, they shared responsibility with the farm's original founders, Andrew and Anastasia Grabarek. Jerry used this time to pursue a degree in Biology, Botany, and Zoology from Connecticut College in New London, graduating in 1981. This experience proved beneficial immediately when he and Deb took over Preston Farms upon the death of Andrew in 1984. Jerry's tenure at the farm has been defined by his eagerness to engage with his neighbors, often giving fieldtrips and hay-rides to Preston's elementary school students. Countless generations remember the visit to Jerry's farms with fond memories of tractor rides and cups of ice-cream.

Ever a steward of his community, one of the earliest times Jerry opened his farm and maze to local students was in the wake of the 11th of September terror attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon. Many children of Eastern Connecticut's servicemen and women had to contend with their parents being suddenly mobilized without explanation or words of good-bye. In response, Jerry coordinated field trips to Preston Farms free of charge to give those children a much-needed respite in the month immediately following the attacks. This episode truly epitomizes the selfless, bottom-up service approach which has defined Jerry's life.

In 1978, Jerry began his municipal service in earnest through his being voted on to Preston's Democratic Town Committee. Little did he know at the time that this action would take him on a winding journey of advocacy. By 1982, Jerry served on the Planning and Zoning commission wherein he eventually became chair. Jerry's tenure in town politics oversaw a significant shift in the dynamic of southeast Connecticut living. In 1983, the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe received federal recognition and reservation rights which soon saw the development of the Foxwoods Resort Casino, causing a large increase in the number of visitors to the region. This increase in tourism necessitated enhanced infrastructure to accommodate the additional traffic. Under his chairmanship of the Planning and Zoning Commission, Jerry helped ensure development was executed in a balanced manner to avoid undue burden on area residents while still accommodating the increased travel.

Jerry's advocacy for Preston only increased in 1995 when he successfully ran for the Board of Selectmen, ending his first term in 2009. In his early years on the Board, he continued to advocate for the needs of residents when weighing responses to the increased traffic caused by tribal economic development. In 2020, Jerry rejoined the Board and continues his service today.

Mr. Speaker, I have known Jerry personally for over 30 years and consider myself immensely fortunate to call him a friend. Representing hardworking, good hearted constituents like Jerry Grabarek is an inspiration to me to stay focused on helping people which is his trademark. Amazingly Jerry continues to serve even as he surpasses 50 years of hard work for Preston and the southeast region. I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking Jerry for his decades of dutiful stewardship.