

biggest cheerleader for his Jefferson County Blue Jays.

It has been my great privilege to nominate students from Jefferson R–VII who have achieved their dreams of attending U.S. Service academies. No one is prouder of their accomplishments than Superintendent Johnston.

As he retires from education, he begins a new chapter that his wife Joy says will include some travel and some time at his family farm. To paraphrase a line from his favorite movie, “Forrest Gump,” “retirement is like a box of chocolates—you never know what you’re gonna get.”

On behalf of the thousands of children and their families whose lives he touched, I am proud to congratulate retiring Jefferson R–VII Superintendent Clint Johnston of Festus, Missouri today before the United States House of Representatives.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CENTER FOR DOMESTIC PREPAREDNESS

#### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2023

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 25th Anniversary of the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP), which will be celebrated on June 7th.

On June 1, 1998, the Center opened its doors to America’s first responders in Calhoun County, Alabama. During the past 25 years, the staff of the CDP have provided essential all hazards training to first responders from all 50 states, every U.S. territory, and numerous tribal nations, enabling them to plan for, respond to and recover from natural and man-made disasters.

Its multifaceted campus includes the Nation’s only toxic agent training facility for civilian responders to gain the competence and confidence to respond to real world events involving chemical, biological, explosive, radiological, and other hazardous materials. It also includes the only hospital facility in the Nation dedicated solely to training healthcare professionals in disaster preparedness and response. In addition, it has served as a Joint Field Office for tornado response efforts in the state of Alabama and a personnel mobilization center for responders being forward deployed to presidentially declared disasters across the Nation.

Today, the CDP is under the umbrella of the Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency and further helps ensure a safe and resilient Nation by serving as the primary location for the training of FEMA’s incident workforce.

I am pleased to recognize the staff of the Center for Domestic Preparedness for reaching this important milestone and look forward to witnessing its continued service to the Nation. I am especially pleased to recognize Superintendent Tony Russell for his years of service to the CDP.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the CDP on this exciting milestone in its history.

#### HONORING UNT POLICE CHIEF ED REYNOLDS

#### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2023

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exemplary leadership and public service of Chief Ed Reynolds, as he retires as Police Chief of the University of North Texas (UNT) Police Department. Chief Reynolds has served as Police Chief since November 2015, and since joining the UNT Police Department in 1994 as an officer, he has accumulated almost three decades of faithful service to the 45,000 students, faculty and staff members on UNT’s Denton campus.

Chief Reynolds earned an associate degree in criminal justice from North Central Texas College and graduated cum laude with a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from UNT. He attended the UNT police academy and graduated as valedictorian. He holds a master peace officer, firearms, and instructor license issued by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement.

During his career at UNT, Chief Reynolds has served the department as a police officer, corporal, sergeant, lieutenant and deputy chief. In doing so, he has supervised every division within the department including operations, investigations, and administration.

He led the department’s successful effort to become nationally accredited in 2006 by The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies and the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators, a distinction that fewer than 7 percent of law enforcement agencies nationwide achieve. He received a UNT Presidential Award, the Bob Rogers Service and Community Engagement Award, in 2023, for outstanding service to the university and collaboration with the surrounding community. In 2018 he was also recognized nationally by Campus Safety Magazine as their Higher Education Director of the Year, honoring him for outstanding achievement and leadership in security, public safety and emergency management.

The UNT community is indebted to Chief Reynolds as he steps down from leading the 65 full-time employees and the department he has directed for almost 8 years. He has put the safety of others above his own and has honorably carried the burden of law enforcement leadership during one of the most challenging periods our country has witnessed. I am proud and grateful to have had someone with the character and servant heart of Chief Reynolds serving my alma mater, and I wish him and his family the best in retirement.

#### HONORING THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE AND LEGACY OF SELMA MAYOR GEORGE PATRICK EVANS

#### HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2023

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and legacy of a trailblazing public servant and educator, former Selma Mayor George Patrick Evans,

who passed away at the age of 78 on May 15, 2023.

A native of Selma, Mayor Evans was a proud product of the Selma City School System. He began his higher education at St. Mary’s College in Dodge City, KS, earning his Bachelor of Arts in speech and physical therapy in 1962. Shortly after graduation he returned to Selma, where his passion for education led him to teach at Tipton High School in Dallas County. He continued his education while teaching, receiving a Master of Education in Educational Administration from Livingston State University and an Educational Specialist Certification in Educational Administration from Troy State University.

Dedicating over 40 years to the Dallas County School System, Mayor Evans held many roles, including Principal, Assistant Principal, Coach, and Right to Read Coordinator. Transitioning from the classroom into upper management, he served as the Dallas County Board of Education Federal Program Coordinator for 9 years and served as Superintendent for 5 years. Mayor Evans’ impactful career as an educator led him to break barriers as the first African American Superintendent of Dallas County public schools and Chief Academic Officer of the Alabama State Department of Education.

Bringing the same passion and tenacity into his career in electoral politics, Mayor Evans blazed trails in the Selma City Council, becoming its first African American City Council President. In his words, “good things kept happening at that time,” making history as the second African American Mayor in the City of Selma’s 192-year history. As Mayor for two terms, he showed his skill as a public servant leading the Queen City through the recession of 2008, a 12-percent municipal salary cut, and boldly addressing the lingering impact of segregation within Selma’s communities. His foresight propelled Selma forward, implementing the City’s optic fiber network and “butterfly park” to allow tourists an unobstructed view of the Alabama River and the historic Edmund Pettus Bridge.

As a trusted leader in the Selma community, Mayor Evans served on the board of numerous organizations, including a member of the Executive Committee of the Alabama League of Municipalities, Chairman of the Alabama Department of Archives and History Board of Trustees, Wells-Fargo, then Wachovia Bank Board of Directors and AMFund Board of Directors. A man of faith he worshiped at the Reformed Presbyterian Church in Selma, and served as an Elder and Clerk of Session. His additional civic affiliations include the Selma Exchange Club, Twelve High Club, Chesterfield Club, and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated.

Mayor Evans was known for his love of basketball and received numerous awards for his contribution to expanding the sport in Alabama. From 1979 to 2010, he served as the men’s basketball official and officiating coordinator for the Southwestern Athletic Conference, leading him to an induction into the Alabama High School Sports Hall of Fame. He served on the AHSAA Bryant-Jordan Student Athletic Program Scholarship Committee and the Alabama High School Sports Hall of Fame Selection Committee.

Mayor Evans is survived by his beloved wife, fellow educator, and nurse Jeannie Evans; sons, Patrick, Duane, and Byron; and

grandchildren, Erin, Pailee, Pilar, Eden, Paxson George, Patrick Jr., Kelly, and Tremaine.

On a personal note, as a native of Selma, I have known Mayor Evans all my life and even worked as the family babysitter during my youth. Mayor Evans has always been a man of great character and honor, whose love of God, family, and community has been his guiding principle. From being Dallas County's first Black school board superintendent to his 16 years of public service as President of the Selma City Council and then as Mayor, Evans led by example through his hard work, perseverance, grit, and kindness.

During his tenure as Mayor, he partnered with my office to bring vital federal resources home to Selma and Dallas County. From his demonstrated efforts to revitalize downtown Selma to his dedicated commitment to making our community stronger and safer, Mayor Evans fought hard to improve the lives of the people he served. His public service has left an indelible imprint on Selma, and he will be missed. Let us find comfort in knowing his incredible legacy will live on in the many people he touched. May he rest in peace and power.

On behalf of Alabama's 7th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the extraordinary life and legacy of an exceptional public servant, Selma's former Mayor, George Patrick Evans, for his decades of service to the City of Selma, Dallas County, and the entire State of Alabama.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF SERGEANT MAJOR JOHN A. THOMAS, THE DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES FOR CAMP SHELBY JOINT FORCES TRAINING CENTER

### HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 2023*

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Sergeant Major John A. Thomas. Sergeant Major Thomas began his career in 1985 after completing both his basic and individual trainings. Over a 38-year career, Sergeant Major Thomas has served this great Nation to ensure the safety of American citizens and to provide support for military personnel.

Sergeant Major Thomas's decorated career includes being deployed to Egypt in support of the Multi-national Forces and Observers, to Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom, to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, and his emergency rapid response participation in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Ida. Sergeant Major Thomas has received accolades for his service in overseas campaigns fighting terrorism and for his decisive actions in the line of duty.

On behalf of Mississippi's Third Congressional District and the United States House of Representatives, I thank Sergeant Major John A. Thomas for his service to our country.

HONORING FRANCIS XAVIER BELLOTTI OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, IN RECOGNITION OF HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY AND WITH GRATITUDE FOR HIS COMMITMENT TO PUBLIC SERVICE

### HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 2023*

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Francis Xavier Bellotti, in recognition of his 100th birthday and with the deepest appreciation for his courageous service to our Nation during World War II and his many contributions to Massachusetts' legal and political communities.

Born and raised in Boston, Massachusetts, Mr. Bellotti graduated from The English High School in 1942 before enlisting in the United States Navy's elite Scouts and Raiders—the Navy's first special warfare unit and a progenitor of today's Navy SEALs. Mr. Bellotti led his squad valiantly across multiple theaters in World War II and was decorated for his service in Europe and the Pacific.

Mr. Bellotti's earned his bachelor's degree from Tufts University in 1947 and graduated from Boston College Law School in 1952. He quickly became a prominent and respected attorney, practicing at every level of the state and federal judicial system.

Mr. Bellotti's career in public service began on January 3, 1963, when he became the 61st Lieutenant Governor for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. He then served three terms as Massachusetts' Attorney General, from 1975 to 1987, during which time he transformed the Office of the Attorney General, fostering a culture of transparency, professionalism, and nonpartisanship. In 1981, the National Association of Attorneys General unanimously voted Mr. Bellotti the most outstanding attorney general in the country.

After his departure from elective office, Mr. Bellotti returned to the law, where he has remained a steadfast advocate for justice and democracy.

In his personal life, Mr. Bellotti is a proud father of 12 children and more than twice as many grandchildren. His beloved wife, Margarita "Maggie" Bellotti, passed away on December 26, 2022. She is remembered as the "driving force" in Mr. Bellotti's life and a powerful victim advocate in her own right.

Mr. Speaker, Francis Xavier Bellotti's legacy is clearly one of service—to country, community, and principle. Over the years, Mr. Bellotti has received countless accolades for his good work. In 2011, Boston College Law School aptly named its public service loan repayment

assistance and forgiveness program in his honor. In 2012, the District Court of East Norfolk—where Mr. Bellotti first practiced—was renamed the Francis X. Bellotti Courthouse. And, in 2017, the United States Navy awarded Mr. Bellotti a trident badge plaque for his leadership as a member of the Scouts and Raiders.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct privilege to join Mr. Bellotti's family and friends in recognizing his 100th birthday and to thank him for his service on behalf of a grateful Nation.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 2023*

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, on May 22, 2023, I was unavoidably detained in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted Yes on Rollcall No. 228 (H.R. 1076) and YES on Rollcall No. 229 (H.R. 1156).

### HONORING JAIME CARRANZA

#### HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 2023*

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work and service of Jaime Carranza, a senior warehouseman for the Anaheim Union High School District who was recently recognized as one of nine California Classified Employee of the Year honorees.

For the past five years, Jaime has been an integral part of the Anaheim Union High School District. Students and faculty alike know that Jaime goes above and beyond to ensure that all students are supported in their education and in their lives. As senior warehouseman for Food Services, Jaime ensures that all of the Anaheim Union High Schools are able to provide kids with healthy meals, safe campuses and transportation, and a supportive infrastructure during difficulties and unexpected changes. Known for his friendliness, expertise, and willingness to assist others, Jaime is the first person his colleagues call when they need help.

For his work and dedication to our community, Jaime won the award for top classified employee in the Food and Nutrition Services category. He was selected for this honor from a state-wide pool of 151 nominees. He was distinguished by his exemplary work performance, involvement in his campus and the Anaheim community, and the support of his colleagues.

I thank Jaime for his service to Anaheim's students.