

Happy Birthday, Ms. Lillie.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
MAUREEN KINDEL

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 4, 2024

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of Maureen Kindel, who passed away on September 26, 2024 at the age of 86.

Maureen was a longtime civic leader who mentored and advised dozens of elected and appointed officials in Los Angeles and was a special contributor to the political, educational, and business life of our city. As an adviser to Mayor Tom Bradley, she was appointed as the first woman in the history of the city to serve as President of the Los Angeles Board of Public Works. In that role, she initiated the city's first program to increase the participation of minority and women-owned businesses in public contracting. Maureen was a leader in business: she co-founded two prominent public affairs and lobbying firms, and was a founding director of the Los Angeles Business Federation, the Los Angeles Business Council, and the Pacific Council on Foreign Relations.

Maureen served as a member of the Organizing Committee for the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles, and founded the LA84 Foundation alongside Rafer Johnson, Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Gil Vasquez, and Peter Ueberroth. She also helped organize the hugely successful Los Angeles Summer Arts Festival preceding the games.

In addition, Maureen contributed her personal and professional passion to public education. She helped design, organize, and lead three major education summits in Los Angeles, integrating participation by business and civic leaders, educators, and public officials in examining the status and acute needs of the public education system. For her years of service, Maureen received many honors and awards, including the Los Angeles League of Women Voters Founder's Award. Among her proudest achievements was working with President Nelson Mandela when he was released from prison and after he was elected President of South Africa.

Maureen is survived by sons Tom and Gerry Flintoft, daughters-in-law Ingrid and Jannette, and grandchildren Chelsea, Stefan, Collin, Caroline, and Aidan.

Mr. Speaker, I hope everyone will join me in mourning the loss of Maureen Kindel and celebrating her dedication to a life of service.

HONORING THE 85TH BIRTHDAY OF
FORMER REP. JOHN LAFALCE

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 4, 2024

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor former Rep. John J. LaFalce on his 85th birthday.

Born on October 6, 1939, in Buffalo, New York, John LaFalce has served, throughout his entire life and career, as a public servant to

the American people. He undoubtedly gave his very best to representing the needs of every American, and Western New York will never forget the care, attention, and dedication that Rep. LaFalce provided for our community.

Rep. LaFalce began his career of service in Vietnam, where he committed himself to fighting to protect American values and democracy. After rising to the rank of Captain in the United States Army, LaFalce returned home to Western New York. Continuing his journey and commitment to service, John LaFalce decided to run for the New York State Senate and later for the New York State Assembly. While in the Legislature, LaFalce worked tirelessly for his constituents.

After a successful few years in New York State politics, at the age of 35, LaFalce ran to represent the people of New York's 36th congressional district. Serving in Congress for almost three decades, Congressman LaFalce achieved an incredible list of legislative and personal accomplishments. LaFalce worked hard to provide Western New York with quality representation, whether through his advocacy for residents in his district affected by the Love Canal disaster, or through Renewal Community legislation that greatly benefitted Buffalo, Rochester, and Niagara Falls.

While achieving so much for Western New Yorkers, LaFalce also pushed forward legislation that has had a monumental impact on all Americans. Specifically, during his time on the Committee on Small Business and the then-Committee on Banking, Finance, and Urban Affairs, Rep. LaFalce crafted consequential legislation, including the Financial Services Modernization Act and the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, which both revolutionized the United States' banking and financial sector.

Today, we honor John J. LaFalce on his 85th birthday. We also celebrate his ongoing commitment to serving Western New York, and his inextinguishable desire for seeking to better his community. I, and many Western New Yorkers thank him tremendously for his service to our region, and to our country.

HONORING TAMMIE HOLLAND

HON. CORI BUSH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 4, 2024

Ms. BUSH. Mr. Speaker, I, along with the people of St. Louis, rise today to honor and commemorate the exceptional life and legacy of Ms. Tammie Holland, a beloved on-air media personality and a voice for the community. Ms. Holland used her platform to connect with and inspire her listeners, engage with community issues and promote positive change. Her voice served as a guiding light to the St. Louis region for over three decades and will remain forever imprinted on our hearts.

Tammie Holland, a St. Louis native, broke barriers for Black women throughout her work at "Majic 108" KMJM, KDHX radio, Channel 5 KSDK-TV and Channel 46 WRBU-TV. We can all remember her as our morning motivator on the Breakfast Crew with co-host Tony Scott. She continued to break barriers becoming the leading voice on FOX 106.9 FM's first all-Black female radio show.

Throughout her life, Tammie always centered love for her community. Her career re-

flected her unwavering commitment to her audience. She gave back in countless ways, always showed up, and used her voice to help whenever she could. Her warmth and authenticity and sweetness brought comfort to many.

On behalf of Missouri's First District, our prayers are with her beautiful daughter, Meadow, her family, her friends, and all who loved her. Tammie Holland has built a remarkable legacy, and she will continue to inspire future generations.

HONORING THE LIFE OF THE REV-
EREND DR. CHARLES EDWARD
KIRBY, SR.

HON. MORGAN MCGARVEY

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 4, 2024

Mr. MCGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the remarkable life of Reverend Dr. Charles Edward Kirby, Sr., a true servant of our community and an extraordinary and iconic Louisvillian.

Reverend Kirby was born in 1928 in Trigg County, Kentucky, "a real country place," and for nearly a century, he lived a life dedicated to serving his Lord and the people of Kentucky. After coming to Louisville and with the support of just a handful of dedicated followers, Reverend Kirby answered a divine call and established the work of his life, the Southern Star Missionary Baptist Church, in the 1950s. Under his leadership, the church quickly grew to 34 members and secured its first permanent building, but Reverend Kirby knew he wanted to expand his reach, and he made Southern Star the first church to broadcast live services on WLOU Radio.

Reverend Kirby was called to a still higher mission, and he became one of Louisville's great civil rights leaders. He joined 10,000 Kentuckians, alongside Martin Luther King Jr., in a 1964 demonstration in Frankfort advocating for equal public accommodations for Black Americans, and Southern Star Missionary Baptist Church served as a vital meeting place for civil rights groups in Louisville throughout the civil rights movement. Reverend Kirby spoke out against injustice wherever he saw it, and he held a number of demonstrations against investments in Apartheid South Africa and used his voice and his influence to attend open housing marches in Louisville where he, side by side with other community leaders, marched into white neighborhoods for multiple nights in 1967. Eventually, the Kentucky Fair Housing Act was passed.

In 1972, his deep commitment to service led him to establish the Martin Luther King Free Food Store, a pioneering food distribution program run from his church. He was recognized by Louisville and Jefferson County for feeding thousands of people citywide, and he even received an Outstanding Community Service Award. Years later, Reverend Kirby became president of the Kentucky Southern Christian Leadership Conference, from which he received the Chapter of the Year Award and a Leadership Award.

Reverend Kirby's influence extended beyond his church and civil rights work. He began recording gospel music in 1961 and produced records well into the 1980s. His gospel classic "Lord Come On," was recorded

live right at Southern Star, and his album "God is Real" made its way onto digital streaming platforms in the 2000s.

Reverend Kirby was born to sharecroppers who worked for just a dollar a day. He was born in a state and country that did not consider him fully, equally human. He did not let that stop him from changing Louisville and the Commonwealth of Kentucky. A believer in the promise of a life in paradise after this imperfect life on Earth, Reverend Kirby sang from the pulpit, "come on, and let's go to that land where I am bound." Go on, Reverend Kirby, to your eternal rest.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life and legacy of Reverend Dr. Charles Edward Kirby Sr. His leadership, compassion, and service will continue to inspire, and his memory will live on in the hearts of those who were touched by his work, his voice, and his unwavering commitment to justice.

HONORING JIMMY TORRES-VÉLEZ
AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN
CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR HIS-
PANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 4, 2024

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Jimmy Torres is the executive director of APM/Iniciativa, Florida, that advocates for the improvements and advances of the Puerto Rican and Latino communities in our communities in Orlando, Kissimmee, and other geographical areas that are part of District Nine.

With the support and collaboration of many, Iniciativa has built opportunities for students, teachers, working people, and new residents of our greater Orlando/Kissimmee community.

As part of his employment responsibilities, Jimmy coordinated the 1199 SEIU Retirees political program in Florida in support of the thousands of healthcare workers represented by the union in the state.

He holds a master's from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and has been a professor at the University of Puerto Rico.

Jimmy has been a community activist for the last 40 years and has worked in many Puerto Rican and Latino communities throughout the United States.

As part of his work, he has created communication and educational spaces on radio, TV, and social media, and has published opinion columns in newspapers.

Jimmy has experience in political-legislative work, adult education, and the development of mobilization projects, and he is a founder of the Boricua Vota Movement.

Currently, he is the vice president of the National Puerto Rican Agenda and chair of the Civic Engagement and Action Communities that strategize ways of mobilizing and representing 5.9 million Boricuas in the United States.

RECOGNIZING ANDREW MICHAEL
HUFFMAN WITH A CONGRES-
SIONAL VETERAN COMMENDA-
TION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 4, 2024

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to present Andrew Michael Huffman, of Centerville, Texas, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His servant's life reflects the hard work and dedication that exemplifies the best of our East Texas values.

Andrew Huffman entered active duty at Fort Snelling, Minnesota in June of 2006 at age nineteen. As Operation Enduring Freedom gained momentum, Air Force Security Force deployments to Afghanistan accelerated as the Taliban were driven from power and the Air Force moved in and secured bases in country. He served as protector and defender ensuring Air Force, joint and coalition forces were safe. The duty assignment was intensely dangerous as Andrew was once thrown from the top of an MRAP and out of a HUMVEE on two separate occasions in Afghanistan and later on assignment in Iraq. Andrew suffered two traumatic brain injuries, and his back was broken bringing him stateside for healing.

In 4 years of service, Senior Airman Huffman completed extensive training in law enforcement, criminal justice and combat tactics and was rewarded many times. Huffman earned the Army Achievement Medal, Meritorious Unit Award, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Air Force Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with one Service Star, Iraq Campaign Medal with one Service Star, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Air Force Overseas Ribbon Short, Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon with Gold Border with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Force Longevity Service, Air Force Training Ribbon and NATO Medal.

After war, Andrew struggled through alcohol and prescription drug addiction treatment programs but found success with the Retrieving Freedom program with his service dog, Wilson. Andrew helped grow a service dog non-profit, Bella's Buddies, while earning his college degree. In a new mission, Andrew began to speak at area schools, helped foster relationships with Cadets at Texas A&M, and regularly met with Veterans groups in the region and visited VA patients on a regular basis.

As Bella's Buddies grew, it developed connections to groups like Zac Brown's Camp Southern Ground, where Andrew served as a facilitator using dogs to guide veterans to better opportunities in life and living forward no matter what.

Andrew found personal love marrying Samantha over a year ago. Andrew now teaches and coaches at Buffalo Elementary while mentoring boys how to fix things around campus. He also coaches High School cross country and just joined the Centerville Volunteer Fire Department. Andrew still volunteers with Bella's Buddies as well as Rebuilding Warriors, a service dog group out of Madisonville.

Senior Airman Huffman has seen how fleeting life is on the battlefield, and in personal matters. Fortunately, for Andrew, he is figuring

out that a key to a successful life is by serving others and celebrating their victories.

I proudly commend Andrew Michael Huffman, of Centerville, Texas to his friends, family, and colleagues, and salute his service to the Air Force, his country and community of Centerville by awarding him the 2024 Congressional Veteran Commendation.

RECOGNIZING ABRAHAM
WILLIAMS

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 4, 2024

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dr. Abraham Williams. I am proud to join the Bowling Green community in celebrating his retirement as Executive Director of the Housing Authority of Bowling Green.

Dr. Williams began his career as Executive Director of the Housing Authority of Bowling Green in September of 1995. Since then, he has been an inspiration to the community working to make everyone around him better. Aside from overseeing 600 Units of public housing, 36 Section 202 units, and 20 elderly housing units, Dr. Williams served on the Kentucky Housing Board of Directors and numerous other local boards dedicated to community service. Dr. Williams' career was devoted to empowering people to be self-sufficient and creating six non-profits under the Housing Authority and seeing great success with eighty percent of the Reach Higher's program graduates achieving full-time employment. For his dedication, he and the Bowling Green Housing Authority have been the recipient of many honors including HUD's Housing Authority of the Year and NAHRO's National Award of Excellence. In 2022, he received an Honorary Doctorate of Public Service from Western Kentucky University.

A proud husband, father, and grandfather, Dr. Abraham Williams is looking forward to spending more time with his wife, Mildred, and his family. I thank him for his career of service and dedication to the people of Bowling Green.

CELEBRATING FLY CREEK CIDER
MILL & ORCHARD

HON. MARCUS J. MOLINARO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 4, 2024

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, today, I stand before you to recognize the remarkable community destination, Fly Creek Cider Mill & Orchard. A pillar of upstate New York and a landmark in the Cooperstown area, Fly Creek Cider Mill has been providing incredible, one-of-a-kind touring and tasting experiences since 1856.

Small family-owned businesses like this make upstate New York the heart of family traditions. The mill creates apple wines and hard ciders from 100 percent New York state grown apples, and visitors can experience the cider making process through the mill's most recent Learning Center. A testament to local cuisine, Mill Store Marketplace is the heart of