

and Comptroller. In this role, he maintained a close relationship with my office and assisted other Members and staff in understanding the Army's policies, requirements, and actions.

Kahlil's accolades include the designation of "Demonstrated Senior Logistician" from the Society of Logistics Engineers, FY 2019 Office of the Secretary of Defense Enlisted Member of the Year and is a member of the U.S. Army Forces Command Sergeant Audie Murphy Club. With six combat deployments across Iraq and Afghanistan and receiving numerous awards and commendations, including a Purple Heart, MSG Warner has dedicated his life to serving our nation.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I extend my heartfelt thanks to Master Sergeant Kahlil Warner for his 22 years of distinguished service. It is a privilege and an honor to recognize his selfless service to our Nation. I wish him, his wife Anna, and their five boys all the best in the years to come as he embarks on a well-earned retirement.

#### CELEBRATING THE MORRIS COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE ON THEIR 200TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 4, 2024*

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and congratulate the Morris County Prosecutor's Office on its 200th anniversary. I am extremely grateful to be able to celebrate this incredible milestone with the Prosecutor's Office and the Morris County community. As an office of integrity, the Morris County Prosecutor's Office stands on the principles of justice, fairness, and a commitment to attentive response to the public. This truly selfless office is dedicated to ensuring the safety of those in Morris County. By cooperating with law enforcement, the members of the office work to reduce crime and protect the families of Morris County. As we reflect on the past 200 years of the Morris County Prosecutor's Office, it is clear they have exceeded the expectations of their community, and I know they will continue to do so for the next 200 years. I am honored to represent such an amazing community in the 7th Congressional District, and I look forward to what the future holds.

#### HONORING 50 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE BY CITY COUNCILMAN CHARLIE MIRANDA

**HON. KATHY CASTOR**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 4, 2024*

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and contributions of Tampa City Councilman Charlie Miranda who is a fierce leader and public servant. We celebrate the 50th anniversary of Charlie being elected to Tampa City Council. Few public servants have served the City of Tampa with such steadfast and personal devotion. As he continues his ninth term. I congratulate and

thank Charlie for the incredible impact he has had on our Tampa Bay Community.

Charlie is a quintessential Tampeño-born and raised in Ybor City, the son of a Cuban father and a mother born in Ybor City to Spanish parents. He grew up speaking both Spanish and English in public housing, surrounded by a community of working-class families. Back in the day, Ybor City was a cigar capital of the world. People in Charlie's Ponce De Leon Court neighborhood spent their evenings playing dominoes, catching up with neighbors on front porches and talking baseball. This community shaped Charlie's devotion to Tampa. Seeing the way people in Ybor took care of each other inspired his work on behalf of Tampa neighbors, such as proposing three healthcare clinics for 10,000 city workers, their dependents, and retirees to provide low-cost treatment alternatives.

Charlie attended Thomas Jefferson High School and graduated in 1959. After high school, he began working, usually multiple jobs at a time. At one of those jobs, he met Shirley—his true partner in all he has accomplished and the love of his life. At age 21, Charlie married Shirley. Shirley was a true public servant herself who I was blessed to work with as she tirelessly gave back to her neighbors. I miss Shirley every day.

As they did all things, they raised their three children together: Yvette, Danette and Frank. Before the advent of computers, Charlie supported his family by calculating payouts at Tampa's Jai-Alai fronton. In addition to serving as a City Councilman, Charlie still holds a job he has worked since 1988, serving as a steward for the State of Florida Horse Racing at Tampa Bay Downs.

When Charlie first ran for City Council in 1974, his campaign slogan was: "Who cares? Miranda Cares." Currently, in his ninth term of serving on the City Council, Charlie Miranda has not stopped caring about the people of Tampa. Charlie is a levelheaded, practical leader with a focus on the issues that impact people's quality of life, like public safety, mass transportation and affordable housing. His work on water issues has been invaluable to City residents and businesses, and to every mayor during his service. His institutional knowledge and commitment to improving the city's basic infrastructure have been critical to Tampa's growth and the quality of life for all of us. The Tampa Bay Times said, "Miranda is the council member residents turn to when they have a problem. He is open, accessible and accountable, a strong advocate for open government and a voice for the little guy."

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my neighbors across the Tampa Bay area and the citizens of Florida, I am proud to honor Charlie Miranda for his service to the City of Tampa. Hardworking and selfless public servants like Charlie make Tampa the welcoming and generous place it is today. Our community is better for Charlie's immense contributions.

#### HONORING DR. JOSEPH SPEICHER

**HON. LOIS FRANKEL**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 4, 2024*

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Joseph Speicher,

a mental health professional and Chief Executive Officer of South County Mental Health Center. Dr. Speicher earned the rank of corporal when he served in the United States Army. He served as a marine engineer working on supply boats originating from Cam Ranh Bay and continued through the waters of South Vietnam during the 1968 Tet Offensive, one of the largest military campaigns of the Vietnam War.

Dr. Speicher earned an undergraduate degree in Sociology and a master's in social work. He obtained a Doctoral degree in Public Administration from Nova Southeastern University. Dr. Speicher has been with the South County Mental Health Center (SCMHC) for 48 years, working as an Intake Evaluator, Case Manager, Team Leader, and Vietnam Veteran Outreach Therapist. He has served as Chief Executive Officer for 29 years with exceptional leadership.

As CEO, Dr. Speicher has ensured that adults and children of Palm Beach County have access to quality behavioral health and substance abuse care. He oversees a wide range of health care professionals, and SCMHC's outpatient programs serve over 600,000 residents in Palm Beach County. Dr. Speicher also serves our community as a member of the Board of Directors for the Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network.

I admire Dr. Speicher's dedication to health care and his service to the people of South Florida. I am proud to recognize him today and celebrate his contributions to our community.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF JUDGE NANCY LEO

**HON. TOM McCLINTOCK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 4, 2024*

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and service of The Honorable Nancy Leo, who passed away on July 29, 2024, at the age of 64.

Judge Leo was born and raised in California, where she attended El Camino Real High School. After graduation, Judge Leo attended California State University, Northridge, where she earned a bachelor's degree in marketing in 1981. Afterwards, her love of the law led her to Santa Barbara College of Law to earn her Juris Doctorate before passing the California Bar in 1990.

Judge Leo began her distinguished legal career at the Stanislaus County District Attorney's office. In 1996, she was elected to the Stanislaus County Municipal Court and two years later, she was elevated to the Stanislaus Superior Court, where she primarily presided over criminal cases. Despite the challenging nature of these cases, Judge Leo was known for her thoughtful, kind, and deliberate approach, treating everyone in her courtroom with the utmost respect. Her commitment to justice in Stanislaus County earned her the respect of her colleagues on the bench, court staff, and community justice partners.

Judge Leo's passions extended beyond the courtroom, as she was also an avid music lover, particularly enjoying The Beatles, Frank Sinatra, and Dean Martin. Additionally, she loved baking her famous Christmas cookies

for her friends and family. Throughout her life, Judge Leo developed a love for Hawaii, which she considered a second home. She travelled frequently to visit the island of Oahu, where she married her husband, Douglas Leo.

Judge Leo is survived by her husband, step-daughters, and beloved grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Judge Nancy Leo spent her life honorably serving the community in her judicial capacity for over 27 years. It is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor her memory.

#### HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF SERGEANT MAJOR ANTHONY SWANN

**HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 4, 2024*

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Retired U.S. Marine Corps Sergeant Major Anthony Swann for his leadership and countless contributions over the 14 years that he served as the Peer Services Director at the Virginia Department of Veterans Services.

Sgt. Maj. Swann's career began with 27 years of dedicated military service. Throughout his time in the U.S. Marine Corps, he demonstrated his commitment to duty while gaining valuable leadership skills and the respect of his peers. Following his time in the Marines, Sgt. Maj. Swann transitioned to the Virginia Department of Veterans Services. At DVS, he worked to develop peer support services and has continued to serve his fellow Veterans and their families as Peer Services Director. His vision and leadership in addressing the diverse needs of our Commonwealth's Veterans—particularly as it relates to mental health, housing, and reintegration into civilian life—have served as a blueprint that will continue to provide guidance for years to come.

I want to especially thank Sgt. Maj. Swann for his advocacy and work on behalf of Veterans contending with post-traumatic stress disorder. His dedication to service is matched only by his compassion for those he serves—making him a trusted leader and advocate for Virginia's Veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in honoring Sgt. Maj. Anthony Swann. His commitment to public service and dedication to our country has been immeasurable. I would like to congratulate him on an exceptional career and wish him the best on his well-earned retirement.

#### HONORING ALEX SAMUEL CLOUD

**HON. LAUREN BOEBERT**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 4, 2024*

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Speaker, last month, Colorado lost Alex Samuel Cloud, a member of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe who passed on August 13, 2024, at the age of 58 survived by two daughters, Somer and Jada Cloud. Alex departed this earthly life too early, yet he left a legacy of service to his Tribe and his community.

He was born to Elliot Cloud and Phoebe Kent on March 29, 1966, and grew to be a respected mentor to the youth and a dedicated leader to all. He provided a strong pillar of spiritual support for his family and was known never to turn anyone down when asked for prayers. He learned this from his beloved grandfather Bonny Kent, who was a roper and cattleman, served on the Southern Ute Tribal Council, and was a role model and father figure for Alex. With his grandfather's example, Alex developed dedication to preserving his Ute identity and culture, and he excelled in his knowledge of tribal history and governance.

Alex was known as an avid softball and basketball player. His passion for sports was evident in his 15 years of service in leadership roles, including that of coach, for the Southern Ute Tribe's Recreation Department. There, he exemplified the importance of hard work and encouraged countless young people to excel in academics and athletics.

As was his destiny, Alex's leadership for the youth developed into a leadership position for all his people upon election to Tribal Council. Alex served nine years on the Southern Ute Tribal Council, including three years as Vice Chairman, representing a Tribe known as a leader among Indian Country. Alex Cloud lived with passion and passed with honor. His legacy serves as an inspiration to all, a testament to the power of love, service, and a deep connection to one's heritage. His family and community miss him greatly but are now blessed by his prayers from heaven—*Punikyavaat sama'ara* (see you sometime, translated by Dr. Stacey Oberly) Alex egap.

#### RECOGNIZING EARNEST WAYNE BARRON 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 Earnest Wayne Barron, of Huntsville, Texas, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His servant life reflects the hard work and dedication that exemplify the best of our East Texas values.

Earnest Barron entered active duty at Corpus Christi, Texas, in April of 1966 at twenty years of age. Earnest served with honor during the Vietnam War, setting the stage for a life of hard work and service to his family, country, and veteran brothers. Earnest served for four years overseas in the Vietnam War, first as a combat medic in country and then on board the USS *Repose*, which was used as an offshore hospital to treat those with the worst injuries, including soldiers and civilians. He was a dependable, trustworthy, and resourceful Corpsman, all hallmarks of what the Navy needed for this duty. With a compassionate heart, Earnest learned to be a skilled first responder in a combat environment. He saw the worst of the worst but kept his wits while serving to assist some of the best medical professionals in getting our soldiers well.

Earnest completed Basic Military Requirements to be a Hospital Corpsman, trained for Petty Officer 2nd and 3rd Class, was professionally recommended for Hospital Corpsman

3rd Class, completed the Military Leadership Class for E-4/5 status, ECC for Hospital Corpsman, and Navy Hospital 'A' School. Petty Officer Barron was rewarded many times and recognized by earning the National Defense Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with one Bronze Star, and the Vietnam Campaign Medal.

After serving in Vietnam, Earnest married Donna, and in his professional career, he has worked for Armco Steel, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, the University of Texas Medical Branch, and for Carnes Funeral Home through his business, First Call Mortuary Transport, which transported bodies across Texas and the rest of the Nation, upholding the last wishes and requests of families of the deceased with great care.

In retirement, Earnest is a member of VFW Post 5871, serves as a trustee at his church, and still serves as a valued volunteer at the H.E.A.R.T.S. Veterans Museum. There, he still maintains the title of 'most favored' tour guide, doing his best to go above and beyond in helping visitors understand what it was truly like to serve. The children especially love his tours as he dresses them up in helmets, vests, and unique wooden 'weapon' replicas he had made for a more authentic experience. Earnest is also the museum photographer and videographer and has spent many years capturing the stories of veterans that visit the museum. As Earnest gives precious time at the museum, he and Donna make time to give back to their community with needs outside of the museum through their church and community. Earnest has been known to go above and beyond for his neighbors in need, delivering groceries and necessities when he finds out they have none.

It is with this level of care for his fellow man that I proudly commend Earnest Wayne Barron of Huntsville, Texas, to his friends, family, and colleagues, and salute his service to the Navy and Walker County by awarding him the 2024 Congressional Veteran Commendation.

#### HONORING THE MEMORY OF MR. JOE STIRES

**HON. GABE VASQUEZ**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 4, 2024*

Mr. VASQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Joe Stires and to celebrate his legacy of service.

Joe Stires began his lifetime of service to our community when he joined the United States Air Force, immediately after finishing high school. He served our community honorably in the Air Force for nearly a decade. It was during this time that he met his life partner, Matilde.

After leaving the military, Joe took on challenge after challenge. After working as an insurance agent in Chaparral, Stires eventually opened his own grocery store. This store became a huge success, leading him to open many more stores. Throughout his career, Joe never lost his heart for service and giving back to his community. In his spare time, he became a licensed EMT and eventually a paramedic. He used these certifications to serve as a firefighter for the Chaparral Volunteer Fire Department for nearly 25 years. His exposure to loud sirens during this period led to