

service to children and teenagers in Vineland. Their mission is to empower disadvantaged youth to reach their full potential as successful, kind, and respectful adults and the Vineland chapter serves nearly 260 young people through its various programs. They are committed to providing a world class experience that ensures every child who walks through their doors can achieve success. With their mentorship, they expect every member to graduate from high school with a solid plan, good character, exceptional citizenship, and a commitment to a healthy lifestyle. The Boys & Girls Club recognizes that helping kids succeed requires more than just a single approach. It takes compassionate mentors, a safe environment, and quality programs that encourage youth to excel academically and lead productive lives, ensuring that every child has a bright and promising future. For two decades, the Vineland Boys and Girls Club has gone above and beyond to guarantee that all kids have a fantastic future, and I thank them for their efforts. God bless the Vineland Boys and Girls Club, and God Bless our United States of America.

HONORING MAYOR JIM ADAMS

HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the remarkable career and significant contributions of Mayor Jim Adams, who will be retiring as Crystal's Mayor after an extraordinary 25 years of service to the City of Crystal. I wish to thank Mayor Jim Adams for his enduring legacy of service and his lasting contributions to the city he serves.

Starting in 1999, Mayor Adams worked as a firefighter from the West Metro Fire-Rescue District, serving and protecting his neighbors in that role for 15 years. In 2012, he ran for Mayor and won the support of his constituents by putting the needs of all Crystal's residents first. His leadership was defined by four shared goals: having strong, safe neighborhoods, having a thriving business community, having sound financial policies, and being welcoming and inclusive.

Over the past 12 years, Mayor Adams has made great strides for the city, with a focus on good stewardship of the city's infrastructure. He has helped lead the efforts to improve key city parks, including Becker Park, Bassett Creek Park, and the Crystal Aquatics Center—enhancing recreational opportunities and quality of life for Crystal's residents. Mayor Adams helped build a new Police Department and the Public Works Facility while investing in street maintenance, implementing effective long-term planning to enhance Crystal's community assets. Throughout his tenure, Mayor Adams has prioritized an ambitious plan to make Crystal debt-free by 2033. Under his leadership, the city has made significant progress in reducing its debt while making long-term plans for maintenance and investments of city infrastructure.

Mayor Adams also played a pivotal role in keeping Crystal vibrant and affordable for residents. He collaborated directly with small businesses to help make their lives easier, helping to drive Crystal's retail vacancy rate below 5

percent. He advanced regulatory reform and zoning changes to spur new housing developments, leading to 330 more units of housing across the city.

For the past 12 years, Mayor Jim Adams has been deeply committed to improving the lives of his constituents. Residents of Crystal will benefit from his hard work for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mayor Jim Adams for his exceptional service and to wish him well on whatever his future holds.

RECOGNIZING THE 110TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MCLEAN CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 110th Anniversary of the McLean Citizens Association (MCA). The MCA provides a forum where residents of the greater McLean area can address local issues and advocate for solutions that serve the interests and values of the community.

The McLean Citizens Association was founded in 1914 as the McLean School and Civic League, driven by the needs of a local school. When Franklin Sherman Elementary School, which consolidated oneroom schools in the area, opened that year, it lacked basic supplies. The League rallied to raise money to furnish a school auditorium, buy library books, help pave local roads, and further aid the community. This community effort led to a tradition that is continued to this day: McLean Day.

Eight years later, the citizens of McLean were faced with another challenge, and the group's civic leaders helped launch the McLean Volunteer Fire Department and negotiated with Alexandria Power Co. to bring electricity to McLean. The power company brought a line from Falls Church and created a distribution center around a decade later. The station has since undergone upgrades and is still serving the people of McLean.

In 1953, the League was reincorporated as the McLean Citizens Association. In the years since they have been instrumental in shaping the McLean community that we know today. The MCA helped launch the McLean Community Center, steered county funds to create McLean Central Park, and they helped advocate for the creation of a park that became Scotts Run Nature Preserve.

In addition to their work shaping the physical community of McLean, the MCA has worked to instill a commitment to service in the residents of McLean. The MCA created a committee in 1970 to preserve trees that later turned into the nonprofit McLean Trees Foundation in 2004, and they formed the nonprofit McLean Community Foundation in 1978 to provide philanthropic grants for community projects. The McLean Community Foundation gave its first grant in 1981 to the McLean Volunteer Fire Department and has given more than \$2 million in grants to nonprofits in McLean over the past 43 years.

Today, the MCA continues to study issues and advocate for positions, send representa-

tives to task forces, host candidate debates, forums, and town halls, and collaborates with elected officials and staff at all levels of government to accomplish its goals.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the McLean Citizens Association's incredible milestone. Their advocacy and their commitment to community and volunteerism helps make McLean one of the best places to live, work, and raise a family. I thank them for everything they have done for the McLean community over the past 110 years.

HONORING JUDGE RICHARD MEYER

HON. MICHAEL CLOUD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Judge Richard Meyer of Calhoun County, who passed away on November 18, 2024, at the age of 74. A man of integrity, Judge Meyer's impact on his family, community, and South Texas is a testament to a life well-lived.

Judge Meyer was a proud third-generation Calhoun County resident. His early years were spent exploring the natural beauty of Lavaca Bay alongside his father, instilling in him a deep appreciation for the land and its people. A dedicated farmer and rancher, Judge Meyer was widely recognized for his success, earning accolades from the Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce in 1988 and being named Calhoun County's Man of the Year in 2015.

Yet it was his sense of duty and desire to serve his neighbors that led him to public office. In January 2019, Judge Meyer began his tenure as County Judge, bringing the same tenacity and work ethic to governance that had defined his earlier endeavors. As a champion for economic development, he worked tirelessly to ensure that Calhoun County remained a vibrant and prosperous community. His passion for building connections and supporting growth reflected his commitment to serving others.

Despite his many accomplishments, Judge Meyer's greatest joy was his family. He was a devoted husband to Jackie, his wife of 49 years, a loving father to their two children, Ty and Leslie, and a proud grandfather to nine grandchildren. His family was the heart of his life, and his love for them was evident to all who knew him.

Judge Meyer was a man of compassion, generosity, and faith. His legacy will live on in the countless lives he touched and the enduring contributions he made to his community. As we remember him, let us be inspired by his dedication, humility, and unwavering service to others.

May God bless the Meyer family and bring them comfort during this time.

HONORING MR. JUSTIN COLE

HON. VINCE FONG

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with Representative VALADAO, to honor Mr.

Justin Cole of Delano, California for being named 2024 Kern County Cattleman of the Year.

Mr. Justin Sol Cole was born on February 21, 1970, into a family with a rich heritage in Kern County. Mr. Cole's family was one of the early pioneer families who settled in the area roughly 139 years ago—four generations before Mr. Cole. He was raised alongside his sister Stephanie and three brothers A. Sterling III, Bud, and his late brother Christopher. Today, Mr. Cole continues to raise cattle and advance his family's proud legacy within our community.

With his family heritage in mind, Mr. Cole has gained a close connection to the land of Kern, especially the community of Delano. Mr. Cole is also a skilled cattleman, raising cattle by starting work on his family's cattle business at an early age. This dedication followed him to school as Mr. Cole became immersed in cattle competitions at Delano High School, earning the Angus Steer title at the Cow Palace competition alongside other competitive events and becoming a proud member of the Future Farmers of America. Mr. Cole also took part in a 4-H program, where he raised cattle for several years.

In 1996, Mr. Cole married Diane (Rodriguez) Cole at Saint Mary's Catholic Church in Delano, and the couple now has three daughters—Shelby, Kelly, and Sierra. Diane's father-in-law, Jose Rodriguez, introduced Mr. Cole to the world of trucking through his first trucking job, where Mr. Cole helped Jose transport wine grapes to local wineries. This led Mr. Cole to launch his own livestock transportation business, which he still operates today. Such a background, blending entrepreneurship and family, is a pillar of Kern County's strength and pride, and will only continue to be advanced through cattlemen like Mr. Cole.

While Mr. Cole cherishes his livestock transportation and ranching business, above all else, he treasures his family and those in the ranching community. For decades, neighbors and friends of Mr. Cole, who rightly honor him with this award, witnessed the selflessness and duty of care he holds for his rangeland, animal welfare, helping his friends and neighbors who might need a hand.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Mr. Justin Cole for being named 2024 Kern County Cattleman of the Year, and thank him for his contributions to the Kern County community and cattle industry.

COMMENDING DAVID ZIMMERMAN
ON 27 YEARS OF SERVICE TO
TAZEWELL COUNTY

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize David Zimmerman for his decades of service to the Central Illinois community. Zimmerman served on the Tazewell County Board for 27 years and was the chairman of the board for the last 16 years.

Zimmerman graduated from Illinois State University with a degree in Political Science and began his service to the Tazewell County Board in 1997. Before becoming chairman,

Zimmerman held many responsibilities as a board member including Finance, HR, Insurance Review, and Land Use Chair. During his tenure on the Board, Zimmerman positively influenced the lives of his constituents by improving the well-being of Tazewell County.

Outside of his work on the Tazewell County Board, Zimmerman has served the people of Central Illinois through different public service roles. Examples include the Greater Peoria Economic Development Commission Executive Board, United Counties Council of Illinois Vice-President, Tazewell County and Peoria Salvation Army Board Member, and Berean Prison Ministry Board Member, among others. A strong leader within the Central Illinois community, Zimmerman was also recognized in the Peoria Magazine through their "40 Leaders Under 40" award.

David Zimmerman's decades long efforts have left a lasting impact on the Greater Peoria community and the state of Illinois. His commitment to our community is truly inspiring and I wish him the best in all future endeavors.

HONORING SPECIALIST JOSHUA
SMITH AS VETERAN OF THE
MONTH

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Specialist Joshua Smith, a distinguished veteran of the Michigan Army National Guard. Raised in Caro, Michigan, he graduated from Caro High School. Josh demonstrated his commitment to service by joining the Army National Guard in 2018. He underwent rigorous training, completing Basic Training at Fort Benning and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Leonard Wood, specializing as an 88M Motor Transport Operator. He was assigned to the 237th Brigade Support Battalion in Bay City.

Josh deployed to Syria from 2022 to 2023, where he served with honor and distinction. During his deployment, his duties included operating a 10k SkyTrak, loading C-130 aircraft, and recovering essential equipment and supplies from airdrops. His efforts were vital to the logistical support of his unit and other forces stationed in the region. In the challenging environment of an active combat zone, Josh excelled as a member of the fuel crew, ensuring that every generator on the base was fully fueled through dedicated shifts. His contributions were crucial to maintaining operational readiness and supporting his fellow service members.

Notably, Josh was present during a rocket attack on March 23, 2023, when 15 122mm rockets were fired from Iraq at Rumalyn Landing Zone in Syria. Thanks to his leadership and quick response, there were no injuries or damage to equipment during this hostile incident. Josh's actions during this time earned him the Combat Action Badge, a testament to his bravery and professionalism.

Additionally, Josh had the unique opportunity to train with special forces during his pre mobilization at Fort Bliss, further enhancing his skills and readiness.

Specialist Josh Smith exemplifies the dedication, resilience, and selflessness that we

honor in our armed forces. I commend him for his service and commitment to our Nation.

HONORING AL SALGADO

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Al Salgado, who for the last 32 years has served the Small Business Development Center (SBDC), helping to grow the Texas economy "One Business at a Time."

Established in 1979, America's Small Business Development Centers (ASBDC) have grown to include approximately 1,000 service centers and more than 5,000 professional business advisors who provide personalized and confidential assistance to small business owners. For twelve years, Mr. Salgado served on the ASBDC board, serving as board chair for two terms. Mr. Salgado also served on the Baldrige, TX-based ASBDC Accreditation Committee for 15 years. Through this work, Mr. Salgado continuously improved the national network and supported entrepreneurs across the country.

Before retirement, Mr. Salgado continued his commitment to helping small businesses reach their full potential as Executive Director of the Texas South-West SBDC Network at the University of Texas at San Antonio. For more than 20 years, the Texas South-West SBDC Network has provided business consulting at every stage of business development, helping small businesses increase capacity and reach their full potential. In 2023 alone, the Network's effort saved over 31,000 jobs and created some 10,400 jobs. Moreover, companies affiliated with the Network generated approximately \$635 million in new sales and \$72 million in tax revenue. Mr. Salgado's impact across the region during his tenure is immeasurable.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to express my gratitude to Al Salgado, a man who helped transform my city of San Antonio and state of Texas for the better.

RECOGNIZING MELINDA FLEMING
FOR HER LIFE OF SERVICE

HON. TOM McCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Mr. McCLINTOCK. I rise today to recognize Melinda Franca Fleming, a pillar of the Sonora community.

Melinda was born on the Hoopa Indian Reservation in Northern California and grew up in a small town called Waterford. In her early adult life, she worked to balance part-time jobs and family obligations with her college work, earning an associate degree from Columbia College and later graduating Summa Cum Laude from Stanislaus State. Melinda pursued a substitute teaching job prior to earning her teaching credential from the University of the Pacific.

As a full-time teacher, Melinda became quickly involved in her school community where she taught English, reading, journalism,