

Legal Advocate at The Aurora Center for Advocacy and Education. She went on to work in the Minnesota State Legislature, where she worked in both the House and Senate. With Minnesota House Majority Leader Ryan Winkler, she assisted in passing various legislation including Immigrant Drivers Licenses for All, legalizing adult use cannabis, and grant funding for the Veterans Resilience Project. While in the Minnesota State Senate, she successfully passed the Hmong Special Guerilla Units Memorial Day. Before coming to my office, Hnu worked as the Director of Policy and Advocacy at a local nonprofit for the Coalition of Asian American Leaders.

Hnu is an inquisitive and joyful spirit. She is immensely reliable, wicked smart, and easy to have a long chat or a good laugh with. She has worked hard on behalf of the constituents in Minnesota's Third Congressional District. During her time in my office, as part of the Casework and Advocacy Team, she has helped the team return over \$45 million dollars from the Federal Government to Minnesotans and the local economy.

Hnu has a strong work ethic and a steady approach to ensuring we provide the best service to Minnesota's Third Congressional District. Hnu excels in communicating with constituents; she delivers important information with clarity and kindness, even when that information may not be what constituents want to hear. She is a strong advocate who works diligently to ensure everyone she serves, receives the support they need.

The people of Minnesota's Third Congressional District were lucky to have her dedication and leadership, and she will be dearly missed. I wish Hnu all the best in her future endeavors and thank her for her faithful service to this Nation—and much more to come.

#### CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR JAMES BELL

#### HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 4, 2024*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Captain James Bell and award him with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. In recognition of Captain James Bell's distinguished service to the United States and his unwavering commitment to duty, this commendation celebrates the extraordinary contributions he has made to our Nation, both in uniform and as a dedicated civilian leader.

Captain Bell's military career began with his valiant service as an Armored Platoon Leader and Forward Support to the Company Commander of the 23rd Infantry Division. Serving during the Vietnam War, Captain Bell spent nearly a year managing Division and Brigade supply operations, a role that required logistical expertise, resilience, and the utmost dedication. Following his service in Vietnam, he was stationed in Berlin, Germany, where he contributed significantly to Quick Response Readiness—a critical aspect of maintaining operational stability during the Cold War era.

Upon transitioning from active duty, Captain Bell continued his commitment to his country as a member of the Texas National Guard, where he helped safeguard the state and community. His dedication to public service

extended beyond the military, as he served as an advisor to the Work Release Program in Texas prisons, working tirelessly to help individuals rebuild their lives. Captain Bell's dedication was further recognized at the national level when President George W. Bush appointed him to serve on the Red River Authority, where he provided essential leadership and guidance over an impressive 18 years. His three terms on the Authority reflect his deep commitment to responsible resource management and public service.

Captain Bell's commitment to his fellow veterans and his community is equally commendable. He remains active in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, and his church, embodying the spirit of camaraderie, faith, and service that define America's finest. With profound respect and gratitude, we commend Captain Jim Bell for his remarkable service, his steadfast loyalty to his country, and his ongoing commitment to his community. His legacy of honor, resilience, and public service stands as an inspiration to all.

Today, we honor Captain James Bell for his sacrifice, his skill, and his steadfast dedication to the ideals of freedom and duty. His legacy of service and excellence is an inspiration, and his contributions to our Nation will always be remembered with gratitude.

#### RECOGNIZING SHERIFF GEORGE MAIER

#### HON. EMILIA STRONG SYKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 4, 2024*

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Sheriff George Maier for his service as the Stark County Sheriff, and my sincere gratitude for all that he has done for the people of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, the "Birthplace of Champions." I have appreciated his partnership as we worked together to expand opportunity and deliver results for our shared constituents.

His drive to lead is commendable, and I have no doubt that he has bettered countless lives as a result of his steadfast service. Throughout his time in office, he proved to be a true public servant and leader. He led by example through his perseverance, compassion, and dedication to his role in the community.

As he goes on to continue serving our community in new ways, I wish him all the best in his future endeavors. On behalf of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, I thank him for his commitment to the people of Stark County and Northeast Ohio.

#### HONORING CORPORAL ADRIAN MALDONADO, DEPUTY JAMES MACKEY, DEPUTY JASON COKER, DEPUTY TAMMY FOX, AND DEPUTY YANICK EXCEUS

#### HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 4, 2024*

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor five outstanding leaders in Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office

(PBSO): Corporal Adrian Maldonado, Deputy James Mackey, Deputy Jason Coker, Deputy Tammy Fox, and Deputy Yanick Exceus. I congratulate each of them on being named recipients of the Innovations in Community Policing Award at the 7th Annual Attorney General Awards for Distinguished Service in Policing.

During their time in Palm Beach County, they have demonstrated the core values and mission of the PBSO by developing innovative ways to use community policing to improve the lives of the people they serve. Specifically, Deputy Mackey and Corporal Maldonado established PBSO's first Homeless Intervention Team, connecting individuals experiencing homelessness with resources. Deputies Coker, Fox, and Exceus have organized food distribution programs for the hungry and helped feed elderly residents during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a direct result of their innovation, several other community policing units within and outside of the agency use these program models to bring similar change to their communities.

I am proud to celebrate them all today. Their dedication to public safety and service to the people of Palm Beach County is commendable. I wish them continued success.

#### CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COM- MENDATION FOR MATTHEW LOVACHEFF

#### HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 4, 2024*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Petty Officer Third Class Matthew Lovacheff and award him with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Petty Officer Third Class Matthew Lovacheff, of Rockwall, Texas, served the United States Navy with distinction and dedication for four years, embodying the Navy's core values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment. As a Gunners Mate and an Aviation Boatswain's Mate, Petty Officer Lovacheff was stationed on the USS *George Washington* in Norfolk, Virginia, where he undertook significant responsibilities that were integral to the ship's operational readiness. His primary role was in providing essential supplies and logistical support for a division of 200 personnel, ensuring the smooth and efficient operation of his team. In addition, he expertly maintained catapults and arresting gear within the Aircraft Launch and Recovery Division, enabling safe and reliable operations in the high-stakes environment of naval aviation.

Petty Officer Lovacheff's service extended beyond standard duties as he participated in United Nations Weapons Inspections leading up to the 2003 Iraq War, contributing to international security and diplomacy. Through his Navy experience, Petty Officer Lovacheff developed a profound sense of patriotism and an unwavering dedication to the ideals of service, sacrifice, and leadership.

One instance of his bravery and commitment is especially noteworthy: during a critical moment, Petty Officer Lovacheff acted decisively to prevent injury to a shipmate by attempting to stop a 400-pound piston from falling. In the process, he sustained an injury to

his finger but succeeded in protecting his fellow sailor. This selfless act highlights his courage and commitment to his team.

Since completing his naval service, Petty Officer Lovacheff has continued his legacy of service by establishing substance abuse counseling ministries in the United States and around the world. His work has positively impacted countless lives and communities, bringing hope and support to those in need. Additionally, he serves as a dedicated volunteer within his church in Dallas, Texas.

Petty Officer Matthew Lovacheff's exemplary service in the U.S. Navy, his commitment to his country, and his ongoing dedication to his community mark him as a true patriot and an honorable representative of the United States Navy. His actions reflect the highest standards of naval service, and his contributions, both in uniform and as a civilian, continue to inspire those around him.

I am honored to represent Petty Officer Third Class Matthew Lovacheff in Texas' 4th Congressional District. It is a privilege to award him the Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to our Nation and to the people of North Texas.

#### RECOGNIZING JUDGE JOHN WISE

### HON. EMILIA STRONG SYKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 4, 2024*

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Judge John Wise for his service on the 5th District Court of Appeals, and my sincere gratitude for all that he has done for the people of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, the "Birthplace of Champions." I have appreciated his partnership as we worked together to expand opportunity and deliver results for our shared constituents.

His drive to lead is commendable, and I have no doubt that he has bettered countless lives as a result of his steadfast service. Throughout his time in office, he has proved to be a true public servant and leader. He led by example through his perseverance, compassion, and dedication to his role in the community.

As he goes on to continue serving our community in new ways, I wish him all the best in his future endeavors. On behalf of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, I thank him for his commitment to the people of Northeast Ohio.

#### HONORING WORLD TURKISH COFFEE DAY

### HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 4, 2024*

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize World Turkish Coffee Day, celebrated annually on December 5th, as a moment to honor a cherished tradition transcending borders, cultures, and generations. Turkish coffee, renowned for its rich flavor, unique preparation, and social significance, holds the prestigious designation of being listed on UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

This timeless beverage is more than just a drink—it is a cultural bridge that fosters connections and encourages conversations. The preparation and sharing of Turkish coffee symbolize hospitality, friendship, and the spirit of togetherness. For centuries, it has been an integral part of countless traditions, from engagement ceremonies to gatherings with loved ones.

Today, I also want to highlight the contributions of Turkish Americans, who have brought this rich cultural heritage to communities across the United States, including right here in Northern Virginia. Through their entrepreneurial spirit, Turkish Americans have introduced Turkish coffee to a global audience, opening businesses, fostering intercultural dialogue, and enriching the cultural tapestry of our Nation. Their contributions remind us of the strength we draw from diversity and the beauty of shared traditions.

As we celebrate World Turkish Coffee Day, let us acknowledge the legacy of Turkish coffee as a living symbol of heritage and humanity. May its spirit of unity and friendship continue to inspire us all.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the cultural significance of Turkish coffee and the invaluable contributions of Turkish Americans to our society.

#### RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF L.A. CARE CEO JOHN BAACKES

### HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 4, 2024*

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John Baackes and his nine years of steadfast service as the L.A. Care Health Plan Chief Executive Officer, the nation's largest publicly operated health plan serving over two million members in Los Angeles County.

John Baackes joined L.A. Care in 2015. Throughout his extensive tenure, Baackes helped spearhead and sustain a number of significant initiatives, including expanding from 4 to 14 community resource centers throughout Los Angeles County; launching a scholarship program for medical school students committed to practicing in underserved communities; and developing a school loan repayment program for physicians who establish their medical practice within disadvantaged communities. He also works with L.A. Care's Board of Governors to set the strategic vision while overseeing the day-to-day operations.

Additionally, Baackes currently serves as Chairman of the Board for Charles Drew University and sits on the boards of America's Health Insurance Plans, California Association of Health Plans, Local Health Plans of California, and Urban Voices Project.

At the end of this year, John Baackes is officially retiring. I hope that he gets to rest and enjoy time with his family. We are grateful for his service to our community.

For his outstanding accomplishments, it is my honor to recognize John Baackes. His years of civic service and commitment to the betterment of Los Angeles County is worthy of the highest commendation.

#### RECOGNIZING SUMMIT COUNTY COUNCILWOMAN GLORIA RODGERS

### HON. EMILIA STRONG SYKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 4, 2024*

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Councilwoman Gloria Rodgers for her service on Summit County Council, and my sincere gratitude for all that she has done for the people of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, the "Birthplace of Champions." I have appreciated her partnership as we worked together to expand opportunity and deliver results for our shared constituents.

Her drive to lead is commendable, and I have no doubt that she has bettered countless lives as a result of her steadfast service. Throughout her time in office, she proved to be a true public servant and leader. She led by example through her perseverance, compassion, and dedication to her role in the community.

As she goes on to continue serving our community in new ways, I wish her all the best in her future endeavors. On behalf of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, I thank her for her commitment to the people of Summit County and to Northeast Ohio.

#### CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR RUSSELL PETRE

### HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 4, 2024*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Petty Officer Third Class Russell Petre and award him with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Petty Officer Third Class Russell Petre, from Denison, Texas, is hereby honored for his dedicated service to the United States Navy and his lifelong commitment to the safety and service of others. As a parachute rigger during the Vietnam War, Petty Officer Petre took on the critical responsibility of ensuring the safety and survival of aircrew members. Through his meticulous inspection, testing, and packing of parachutes and survival equipment, he safeguarded countless lives. His commitment to excellence in this role, even under the challenges of a combat environment, upheld the highest standards of readiness and reliability for his crew members.

For his honorable service, Petty Officer Petre was awarded the National Defense Service Medal and the Vietnam Service Medal, acknowledgments of his dedication and sacrifice during a pivotal period in American history.

After his time in the Navy, Petty Officer Petre continued his legacy of service for 23 years as a firefighter, demonstrating bravery, skill, and unwavering commitment to public safety. His work with the fire department exemplified his deep sense of duty to protect his community. Following his firefighting career, he applied his knowledge and experience to deliver and demonstrate fire trucks, further supporting first responders and ensuring they