

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

had the equipment they needed to do their jobs safely and effectively.

Petty Officer Petre's distinguished career in the military, firefighting, and his subsequent service exemplifies a lifetime of devotion to protecting and aiding others. His dedication, integrity, and selflessness serve as an inspiration to his family, community, and fellow veterans. We honor and thank Petty Officer Third Class Russ Petre for his invaluable contributions to his country and his community.

I am honored to represent Petty Officer Third Class Russell Petre 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 OUTSTANDING DISTRICT EIGHT CONSTITUENT MRS. MARY MCCOY

##### HON. MORGAN LUTTRELL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 4, 2024*

Mr. LUTTRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and congratulate an outstanding District Eight constituent, Mrs. Mary McCoy, on her two most recent extraordinary honors. The first being her introduction into the Radio Hall of Fame, and also for her statue unveiling in the Conroe, Texas Founders' Plaza.

These achievements not only celebrate her unparalleled career, but also reflect the profound impact she has had on the Conroe community and beyond. Mrs. McCoy's voice has been a constant companion to generations of listeners. Through the airwaves, she has not only entertained but also uplifted people from all walks of life.

The recognition of her career is well deserved, a testament to her talent, hard work, and influence in the world of radio. Mrs. McCoy has set a standard of excellence that will inspire the future generations of broadcasting.

The bronze bust presented in the Founders' Plaza will stand as a symbol of her legacy not just in Radio, but to our community and culture. It reminds us all of the power of perseverance, passion, and the ability to blaze our own trails.

These are well-earned accolades for the great work Mrs. McCoy has done through the years that will leave a mark in our history. I am honored to have the privilege of witnessing Mrs. McCoy's legacy and I am proud to have her as an incredible constituent of Texas-08.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO SHIRLEY CHISHOLM

SPEECH OF

##### HON. AYANNA PRESSLEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2024*

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my forever shero, Shirley Chisholm.

Long before I joined this chamber, I had a soul-tie to Shirley.

My mother used to read me the words of Shirley Chisholm instead of fairy tales at bed-

time, and I often remember her words: If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring your own folding chair.

We often define iconic trailblazers to a single moment in history, but Shirley's contributions go beyond just one speech or achievement.

A visionary and a doer, Shirley Chisholm was a forceful champion and helped advance policies that support our most marginalized communities.

Mr. Speaker let the record reflect that Shirley Chisholm was a legislator in her own right.

Without her, we may not have an effective SNAP program or a multi-racial, intergenerational coalition fighting to codify the ERA.

She paved the way for every Black woman in this legislative body—myself included.

As the first Black woman to represent the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in the House of Representatives, I was honored during my first two terms to occupy the physical office she once held as the first Black woman elected to Congress ever.

Shirley was disruptive. She was brave. Shirley dared to be herself, and Shirley dared to dream.

So it's befitting she was also the first Black woman to make a presidential run, paving the way for our Vice President KAMALA HARRIS to do the same.

She was unbought and unbossed, and she is a reminder to Black girls everywhere that we belong in the halls of power.

Today, we honor one of the founders of the Congressional black Caucus by leading, legislating and taking up space—just like she taught us.

Happy 100th birthday to the Congresswoman, and may she rest in peace and power.

#### RECOGNIZING JUDGE SCOTT GWIN

##### 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 Scott Gwin 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 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.

#### CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR ROBERT WALKER

##### HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 4, 2024*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Senior Airman Robert Walker and award him with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Senior Airman Walker is a dedicated patriot from Paris, Texas, who served our Nation with distinction for an extraordinary 50 years in the United States Air Force, including 17 years of active duty and 33 years in the reserves. Through both his extensive military career and ongoing service to his community, Senior Airman Walker embodies President John F. Kennedy's call to "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country."

During his active-duty service Senior Airman Walker played a critical role in supporting Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm. As a logistics and operations expert, he meticulously managed orders for essential parts needed by base agencies, ensuring mission readiness and safety. In addition, he coordinated flight plans for aircraft on base, ensuring operational efficiency and the secure movement of critical assets. His unwavering commitment to these demanding responsibilities was instrumental in supporting our armed forces and maintaining our country's defense.

Senior Airman Walker's dedication did not end with his retirement from active duty. Despite being rendered 100 percent disabled as a result of his service, he has tirelessly contributed to his community, particularly in his work with special needs and disabled children. His selfless commitment to helping others and his resilience in the face of personal hardship demonstrate his character and his dedication to a lifetime of service.

Today, we commend Senior Airman Robert Walker for his outstanding dedication to his country and community. His service and sacrifices stand as a testament to the highest values of our Nation, and we are forever grateful for his legacy of bravery, kindness, and service.

I am honored to represent Senior Airman Robert Walker 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 STAFF ASSISTANT AND LEGISLATIVE CORRESPONDENT, ZEHRA KHAN, FOR HER EXCELLENT WORK ON BEHALF OF MINNESOTA'S THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

##### HON. DEAN PHILLIPS

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 4, 2024*

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my former Staff Assistant and Legislative Correspondent, Zehra Khan, for her