

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

work on behalf of every constituent in Minnesota's Third Congressional District. In August, Zehra departed my office for a new opportunity to attend Columbia University Graduate School of Arts and Science for Political Science, and I could not be more proud or grateful for her service.

As a Minnesota District Three native, Zehra grew up in the district she so proudly served. After graduating from The Blake School, she attended and graduated from the University of Minnesota earning her Bachelor of Arts degree in political science. Her public service spans time working in State Legislative Offices and at the federal level. Zehra has strong ties to her cultural identity and community. She has a passion for global women's issues, even serving as a delegate to the 68th UN Commission on The Status of Women.

Zehra's colleagues have had the honor of watching her evolve from a shy intern to a confident, capable Staff Assistant during her time in the office. Equally adept with pop culture critiques and international affairs analysis, Zehra has made our office both smarter and more relevant. Her deep roots in MN-03 allow her to both connect with constituents and offer the best local restaurant recommendations.

The people of Minnesota's Third Congressional District were lucky to have her dedication and leadership, and she is dearly missed. However, we look forward to watching her succeed in graduate school and beyond.

HONORING CAPTAIN ERIK E.  
ANDERSON

**HON. PETE STAUBER**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 4, 2024*

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 50th birthday of Captain Erik E. Anderson.

Captain Anderson was born on December 1, 1974. Raised in Lafayette, Louisiana, Captain Anderson graduated from the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute through the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps in 1997 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering. He first served aboard USS *Hopper* (DDG 70) from 1998 to 1999, completing the ship's maiden deployment, a dry-docking availability, and surface warfare officer qualification.

After serving on the USS *Hopper*, he completed the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program's nuclear pipeline training and reported to his second division officer tour on USS *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71) from 2001 to 2003. He completed the ship's "Iron Man" Cruise in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and became a Nuclear Engineer Officer.

Captain Anderson was selected for shore duty at Naval Reactors' Headquarters in Washington, DC, where he worked from 2003 to 2006 on advanced technology Insertion projects for CVN 68 Class ships' propulsion plant, preliminary designs for USS *Gerald R Ford* (CVN 78), and test programs for west coast CVNs and ex-Enterprise (CVN 65).

During this time, he attended graduate school at The Catholic University of America, earning a Master of Engineering Degree in Engineering Management.

From late 2006 to 2011, Captain Anderson served as the Assistant Program Manager for

ex-Enterprise in the Naval Reactors' Program Office for Surface Ships. During this time, he led the planning and execution of the ship's last major dry-docking availability, allowing the ship to complete two more deployments prior to her removal service. He also led early planning and budgeting efforts for the one-of-a-kind defueling and inactivation of ex-Enterprise.

Captain Anderson then transferred to the Nuclear Technology Division as the Director of Radiological Controls from 2011 to 2014. He was responsible for the radiation protection of all sailors, workers, the public, and the environment from the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program's radioactivity on all ships, prototypes, shipyards, bases, DOE laboratories, and the Naval Reactors Facility. He also assisted with the Naval Reactors' support of the U.S. Navy's Operation Tomodachi in response to the nuclear accidents at Fukushima.

From late 2014 to mid-2023, Captain Anderson assumed duties as the Program Manager for the Naval Reactors Facility in Idaho, where he led the Naval Reactors' efforts to publish the draft and final Environmental Impact Statements for the recapitalization of spent fuel handling in Idaho, a three billion dollar major construction project. He has also led the Naval Reactors Facility fleet support mission in Idaho to process, examine, and package naval spent nuclear fuel in accordance with stringent Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program requirements, fleet schedules, and commitments to the State of Idaho.

In July 2023, Captain Anderson transferred to the Acting Deputy Director for Governmental Affairs. In February 2024, he was selected as the Director for Governmental Affairs, where he oversees multiple aspects of the Naval Reactors' Congressional Affairs efforts.

Captain Anderson's decorations include two Meritorious Service Medals and other individual and unit awards. His wife, Ania, and son, Aksel, consider him the head and the heart of their family.

On December 1, 2024, Captain Anderson celebrated his 50th birthday. I thank Captain Anderson for his service and congratulate him for reaching this important milestone. I hope this next chapter is filled with as much adventure as the last.

RECOGNIZING STARK COUNTY  
COMMISSIONER JANET WEIR  
CREIGHTON

**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 Commissioner Janet Weir Creighton for her service as a Stark County Commissioner, 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 40 years in public service, she

has proven to be a true advocate and leader. She led by example through her perseverance, compassion, and dedication in her role in the community and those she served.

As a woman in a position of influence, and sometimes the first woman in her various roles throughout her career, she has undoubtedly inspired the coming generation of young women to stand strong for what they believe in and strive for positions of leadership.

For her outstanding devotion, she has earned the respect and esteem of many, and in the wake of her departure, I know her numerous contributions will not be forgotten. I am confident that her fine character and decisive leadership will be sorely missed.

As she goes on to continue serving our community in new ways, I wish her all the best in her future endeavors. Again, on behalf of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, I would like to thank Commissioner Janet Weir Creighton for her commitment to the people of Stark County and to Northeast Ohio.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COM-  
MENDATION FOR CHARLES E.  
RICHMOND II

**HON. PAT FALLON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 4, 2024*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Charles E. Richmond II of Rockwall, Texas, and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Lieutenant Richmond honorably served in the United States Army for over twenty years, both in an Active Duty role and as a reservist.

Lieutenant Richmond began his distinguished career in the United States Army, where he served with honor and distinction. During his time serving our country, he demonstrated exceptional leadership, strategic thinking, and a deep commitment to the values that define the Army—loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage. Over the course of his military service, Lieutenant Richmond participated in numerous assignments, missions, and operations, always prioritizing the safety and well-being of his fellow soldiers and the nation he swore to defend. His ability to lead with integrity, his tactical acumen, and his ability to adapt to the challenges of military service earned him the admiration of peers and superiors alike.

After his service in the Army, Lieutenant Richmond transitioned seamlessly into a new chapter of service as a police officer. For more than twenty years, he served in this demanding and high-pressure role with the same dedication to protecting and serving his community. As a law enforcement officer, Lieutenant Richmond stood as a pillar of strength, always striving to maintain order, promote safety, and foster positive relationships between law enforcement and the public. His presence on the force was marked by a steadfast commitment to justice, an unwavering respect for human dignity, and a tireless work ethic. Whether responding to critical incidents or mentoring younger officers, Lieutenant Richmond demonstrated the qualities of a leader and a servant, working tirelessly to ensure that the community remained safe and secure.