

Throughout his career, Lieutenant Richmond exemplified what it means to be a public servant. His courage, resilience, and professionalism set a standard for others to follow. The impact of his service will be felt for many years to come, as the countless lives he touched—whether as a soldier or as a police officer—will continue to carry the lessons he imparted through his actions and leadership.

Lieutenant Richmond is also an exemplary father and husband. Throughout his career, he worked hard to ensure that his family was taken care of, and that they had all of the opportunities.

I am honored to represent Lieutenant Richmond 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.

COMMEMORATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S PIPELINE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA).

On June 10, 1999, a pipeline leak caused a massive explosion in my district in Bellingham, Washington. The rupture released more than a quarter million gallons of gasoline into Whatcom Creek. The gasoline ignited, sending a fireball racing down the creek that killed two 10-year-old boys and an 18-year-old young man. The two boys, Stephen Tsiourvas and Wade King, were playing in a creek near their homes on an idyllic summer day, and the young man, Liam Wood, had just graduated from high school and was fly-fishing for trout.

The American people, including my constituents in response to the tragic Bellingham incident, justifiably raised safety concerns that there was not enough federal oversight of pipelines and hazardous materials. In response, Congress created PHMSA within the Department of Transportation in 2004 to do just that, as part of the Norman Y. Mineta Research and Special Programs Improvement Act, which was signed into law on November 30, 2004.

Twenty years after the 2004 creation of this new modal administration specifically focused on pipeline and hazardous materials transportation safety, PHMSA continues its work. This includes overseeing \$1 billion in pipeline safety grants as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law so communities can repair or replace aging, leak-prone natural gas pipeline infrastructure while creating jobs, reducing methane emissions and keeping communities safe.

Last December, the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee passed a bipartisan pipeline safety reauthorization bill to ensure PHMSA and state pipeline safety inspectors have the resources they need. This legislation increases transparency and accountability from pipeline operators and supports emerging

technology in pipelines, including for carbon dioxide and hydrogen.

I am grateful for PHMSA's two decades of work and the agency's ongoing commitment to protecting people and the environment by advancing the safe transportation of energy and other hazardous materials that are essential to daily life.

In the 119th Congress, I look forward to a bipartisan effort to reauthorize the work of PHMSA's Office of Pipeline Safety, as we have for the past two decades. More work remains, including ensuring first responders have the training they need to address accidents and incidents where hazardous materials are released whether that is by pipeline, rail, or any other mode of transportation. Safety is a need in every community in every Congressional District and in my role in the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I will continue to work to reach common ground to enhance safety for all Americans. I thank PHMSA for its ongoing work to do the same.

HONORING JORGE CORTEZ

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Jorge Cortez, who passed away on November 11, 2024, at the age of 81. Known for his signature red apron, white guayabera and white hat, Jorge was not just an icon of San Antonio's culinary world but also a visionary artist and a champion of the city's vibrant cultura. A proud son of my hometown of San Antonio, Mr. Cortez leaves behind his seven children—Pete, Deborah, Christina, Paloma, Cariño, Alexandra, and Sol Jorge, twelve grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

In 1941, Mr. Cortez's parents, Pedro and Cruz, purchased a small three-table café that would become an iconic and beloved community institution. Mi Tierra Café was more than a place to dine—it became a haven for comunidad, filled with música, murals, and the aromas of their authentic comida. After their father passed away in 1984, Mr. Cortez and his siblings committed themselves to preserving and expanding his legacy, creating a thriving business rooted in honoring and promoting their Latino culture. Under their leadership, La Familia Cortez grew to include five beloved restaurants, employing more than 600 San Antonians. Mr. Cortez's creative spark was also behind the invention of sizzling fajitas, a dish that has become synonymous with Tex-Mex cuisine.

Mr. Cortez was more than a restaurateur; he was an artist and a visionary leader who believed in using art and culture to uplift the community. His artistry extended beyond the murals of Mi Tierra to shape the cultural fabric of downtown San Antonio. Mr. Cortez played a key role in the establishment of Zona Cultural, a 44-block historic district designated by the City of San Antonio and the State of Texas that celebrates the diversity, creativity, and commerce of San Antonio. His vision for Zona Cultural transformed it into a hub of heritage and innovation, ensuring that future generations could experience and cherish the richness of the city's history.

La Familia Cortez is the definition of the American dream, and the Cortez family continues to shape San Antonio for the better. Mr. Cortez was a lively and much-admired member of our community, and he will be greatly missed.

RECOGNIZING JUDGE PATRICIA DELANEY

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 Patricia Delaney for her service on the 5th District Court of Appeals, 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 Northeast Ohio.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR JEFFREY WILEY

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Major Jeffrey Wiley and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. In honor of Major Jay Wiley's dedicated 20-year career in the United States Army, we extend our deepest gratitude for his exemplary service. Hailing from Rockwall, Texas, Major Wiley's commitment to duty and country reflects an unwavering dedication to safeguarding our Nation and advancing military operations both at home and abroad.

Throughout his distinguished career, Major Wiley served as a Signals Officer, Detachment Commander, and Operations Officer. His roles required significant expertise and responsibility, overseeing multi-national and joint-service intelligence activities and ensuring seamless coordination across multiple defense sectors. His leadership was vital to the success of intelligence operations, bringing together personnel from various branches and nations, and enabling information sharing at critical moments in support of national security. His knowledge and strategic vision in air defense systems also enhanced our military's operational effectiveness and strengthened our national defense posture.

In 1991, Major Wiley deployed to Kuwait, where he contributed to the coalition efforts

during Operation Desert Storm, exemplifying courage and commitment in service to his country. His work as part of the coalition underscored his ability to work effectively in high-pressure, international environments, providing crucial signals intelligence and operations expertise in one of the most significant conflicts of our time.

Major Jay Wiley's legacy of service and leadership in the United States Army is a testament to his dedication, skill, and loyalty. His contributions have made a lasting impact on our Nation's security and on the lives of those with whom he served. We honor his sacrifices and accomplishments and express our heartfelt thanks for his years of dedicated service to our country.

I am honored to represent Major Wiley 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.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, on December 3, 2024, I was not recorded on Roll Call No. 479. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 479.

HONORING DEPUTY SHERIFF JAHMAR ROBINSON

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 Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office (PBSO) Deputy Sheriff Jahmar Robinson, a diligent public servant, to congratulate him on being named the Field Operations Awardee at the 7th Annual Attorney General Awards for Distinguished Service in Policing. During his time with PBSO, Deputy Robinson has become a trusted presence and role model in the community.

Deputy Robinson's knowledge of the County and its residents has prevented potential violent crimes before they happen and has allowed him to respond effectively when incidents arise. He serves our local residents through community-oriented practices in policing, while combating crime and decreasing recidivism.

Deputy Robinson serves as a positive role model for at-risk youth, and his work goes above and beyond crime prevention and response. From facilitating outreach to local schools to connecting local residents to childcare resources and domestic violence crisis resources, his dedication to enhancing safety and fostering civilian relationships has lasting impacts on building a safer and more connected community.

Jahmar's dedication to public safety and his service to the people of Palm Beach County is truly admirable. I am proud to celebrate him today and wish him continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KATIE PORTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present to cast my vote on Roll Call No. 479 on December 3, 2024. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

RECOGNIZING JUDGE JIM JAMES

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 Jim James for his service on the Stark County Court of Common Pleas, 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.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR MARK RUSSELL

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Staff Sergeant Mark Russell of Sherman, Texas, and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Staff Sergeant Russell honorably served in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam war.

Staff Sergeant Russell trained in Radiology, Radiation Technology, and medical physics. During his time serving in the U.S. Air Force, he was given the responsibility to open and establish a Radiation Oncology treatment center to qualify the Wright-Patterson AFB as a comprehensive cancer treatment center. Additionally, he received the National Defense Service Medal, the AFM 900-3, and a Sharp Shooter Badge for his service in the U.S. Air Force.

Staff Sergeant Russell is a graduate of the Hobe Sound Bible College in Florida, where he received a bachelor's degree in educational administration in 1970. He began working at the Wright-Patterson AFB Medical Center's Radiation Oncology facility that same year while completing postgraduate studies. Staff Sergeant Russell later received his Master of

Science in Radiological Physics from Ohio State University and a Master of Health Administration from Washington University. Throughout his extensive career, he has published numerous studies on the topic of oncology and worked diligently to bring us one step closer to defeating cancer. From 2007 to 2012, Staff Sergeant Russell served as the Director for Physics and Technology Services at the Moffitt Cancer Center in Florida.

I am honored to represent Staff Sergeant Russell in Texas' 4th Congressional district. It is a pleasure to award him the Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to our Nation and to the people of North Texas.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, December 5, 2024 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

DECEMBER 10

10 a.m.
Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine mass deportations.

SD-G50

2 p.m.
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Coast Guard.

SD-342

DECEMBER 11

10 a.m.
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine consumer protection, focusing on protecting workers' money and fighting for the dignity of work.

SD-538

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Subcommittee on Communications, Media, and Broadband
To hold hearings to examine communications networks safety and security.

SR-253