

that spanned nearly a decade culminated with service as the Senior Narcotics Agent for the Jones County Sheriff's Department in Laurel, Mississippi.

COL Bartran entered the service on September 17, 1988, as a Private assigned to Service Battery, 3rd/83rd Field Artillery in the United States Army Reserves in Laurel, Mississippi. In August of 1991 he transferred to the 2/112th Armored Brigade in the Texas National Guard with duty in Fort Worth, Texas. In 1993, COL Bartran transferred back to the Great State of Mississippi and became a member of the National Guard. Assigned to the 184th Transportation Brigade, shortly followed by movement into the 112 Military Police Battalion, COL Bartran pursued his dream of becoming a Military Police Officer. On January 26, 1995, he graduated from Federal Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia, and was commissioned into the Mississippi Army National Guard as a Second Lieutenant in the Military Police Corps.

In February of 1995, COL Bartran attended Military Police Officer Basic Course and was assigned to the 113th Military Police Company. For the next 8 years, COL Bartran would serve in multiple Military Police Officer positions to include Platoon Leader, Detachment Commander, and Company Commander of the 114th Military Police Company where he would deploy twice back-to-back in that capacity. The culminating event as a Military Police Officer for COL Bartran was in August of 2018 when he was selected as the Battalion Commander for the 112th Military Police Battalion in Canton, Mississippi, and served honorably in that position until February of 2021.

Upon his return from the second deployment, COL Bartran would take on a series of Staff Positions serving as a Maintenance Officer, Personnel Officer, Training Officer, Operations Officer, Plans Officer, Executive Officer, and then a Deputy Commander before being appointed as the Deputy Inspector General for the Mississippi National Guard. The majority of the aforementioned positions were performed in a full-time status after being hired into the Active Guard and Reserve System in April of 2004. COL Bartran has served at every echelon in the state from the platoon level all the way up to the State Headquarters Primary/Special Staff and a Brigade Command Equivalent.

COL Bartran's Awards include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with 1 Silver Oak Leaf Cluster and one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Commendation Medal with 1 Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Achievement Medal with 2 Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal with 1 Silver Oak Leaf Cluster and 1 Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, National Defense Service Medal with 1 Bronze Star, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with 2 Bronze Stars, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal with Numeral 2, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with Silver Hourglass Device and M Device and Numeral 5, Non Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon with Numeral 4, Army Reserve Component Overseas Training Ribbon with Numeral 2, North Atlantic Treaty Organization Medal, North Atlantic Treaty Organization Medal (International Security and Assistance Forces), Joint Meri-

torious Unit Award with 1 Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Superior Unit Award, Mississippi Magnolia Cross, Mississippi Magnolia Medal with 1 Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, Mississippi Commendation Medal, Mississippi War Medal with 1 Bronze Star, Mississippi Emergency Service Medal with 3 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, Mississippi Counterdrug Service Medal, Mississippi Service School Medal, Mississippi Longevity Medal with 1 Silver Oak Leaf Cluster, German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge, Inspector General's Badge, and the coveted Air Assault Badge. Additionally, to COL Bartran's credit are five deployments over the course of his 35-year career, taking him overseas to Germany, Cuba, and multiple tours in Afghanistan.

I am thankful for Colonel Bartran's exceptional service to our country and the state of Mississippi, and I wish him all the best in his retirement.

CONGRATULATING THE TIA MARIA FOUNDATION'S 1ST ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP GALA

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to offer my heartfelt congratulations to The Tia Maria Foundation on the momentous occasion of its First Annual Scholarship Gala. Tonight is a special moment—not only because it marks a significant milestone for the foundation but because it celebrates the presentation of its inaugural scholarship to a well-deserving student. This organization has been built on the outstanding legacy Maria M. Luis left behind after a remarkable life that began in Terceira, Portugal, over 100 years ago. Maria endured countless hardships that began at the beginning of her life when she lost her mother during childbirth, causing her to step into the role of caregiver to her eight younger brothers and sisters. She valiantly took on this job and ensured that her siblings received the care and love that every child deserves. Maria didn't get a chance to pursue higher education due to her responsibilities tending to her family and other obstacles from her health, but this did not stop her from chasing a better life for herself and family. She migrated to the United States in 1970 and ensured that her children and grandchildren could have an excellent education. Now, The Tia Maria Foundation, under the leadership of Chairman Gavin Szilvasi, is continuing Maria's mission by empowering the youth of Elizabeth, New Jersey. By awarding scholarships, this foundation is making a tangible difference in the lives of students, ensuring they have the resources they need to pursue the higher education that Maria so greatly valued. Your foundation is not just awarding scholarships, but it is also about making a way for students to reach their highest academic potential and achieve their greatest dreams. This mission is something we can all be proud of, and I want to take a moment to thank them for the difference they are making in so many lives. Congratulations on a great year. I understand that the journey to this point has not been easy, and I commend their resilience and dedication. I hope they have a great time tonight and take tonight

to celebrate the real difference their work in the community has had. God Bless The Tia Maria Foundation and God Bless our United States of America.

HONORING RAMSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONER VICTORIA REINHARDT

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2024

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the distinguished career of Ramsey County Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt on her retirement after 28 years of public service on the Ramsey County Board. Since her election in 1996, residents of District 7 in Maplewood, North Saint Paul and White Bear Lake have been well-served by her leadership. Currently, she also leads the board for the third time as Chair.

During her 28 years of distinguished leadership, Commissioner Reinhardt has made lasting impacts in areas including transportation, housing, public safety, fiscal responsibility, environmental stewardship, and more. In 1999, she testified before a congressional committee on how local units of government can work together more effectively. In 2000, she was presented with the Bruce F. Vento Distinguished Service Award by the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless. In 2012 she was named County Commissioner of the year by the Association of Minnesota Counties. Under her leadership as longtime chair of the budget committee, Ramsey County has earned the top bond rating for 21 consecutive years.

Commissioner Reinhardt's long-standing advocacy for environmental sustainability that originally led her to run for a seat on the county board against a 22-year incumbent. Previously, she was a founding board member and chairperson of the Recycling Association of Minnesota and chairperson of the White Bear Lake Recycling Advisory Committee. She is currently a member of the Association of Minnesota Counties' Environment and Natural Resources Committee, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Local Government Advisory Committee, Vice Chair of the Environment, Energy and Land Use Committee for the National Association of Counties, and Vice-Chair of the Ramsey/Washington Recycling and Energy Board. She is recognized across the country as a leader in environmental stewardship and a champion for sustainable practices throughout Minnesota's east metro communities.

Commissioner Reinhardt holds a Bachelor of Arts and a Masters of Business Administration from Metropolitan State University in Saint Paul. She received a Doctorate in Public Administration from Hamline University, where her dissertation informed her county work by focusing on calculating the cost savings of juvenile crime prevention.

It has been an honor to have Commissioner Reinhardt serve as my commissioner. I have deep respect for Victoria's work and dedication to public service and am grateful to call her a friend. As she retires, I wish her well, along with her husband JP and her entire family.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in this well-deserved tribute to Commissioner Victoria

Reinhardt on the occasion of her retirement after nearly three decades of distinguished public service on the Ramsey County Board.

**CELEBRATING BELL COUNTY
SHERIFF EDDY LANGE**

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor Sheriff Eddy Lange and congratulate him on an outstanding career spanning decades of dedicated community service. Sheriff Lange's passion for keeping the citizens of Central Texas safe is clearly demonstrated by a lifetime of unwavering commitment.

Sheriff Lange's political career began in 1992 when he was elected as the first Republican Justice of the Peace in his county. After serving in this role for 12 years, Sheriff Lange was elected to the County Commissioner's office. Soon after, he was elected Bell County Sheriff, a position he held for another 12 years. He will retire with an impressive record of 14–0 contested elections.

Throughout his tenure, Sheriff Lange implemented several initiatives to enhance public safety. This includes the installation of new technology, such as in-car video systems and body cams, and the creation of the Mental Health Unit of the Sheriff's Department, which assists in mental evaluations, provides guidance and resources, and works to provide daily support within the jail system. He also adeptly managed the rapid growth of the inmate population, which doubled during his tenure.

Sheriff Lange founded several high-impact programs that have left a lasting impression on Bell County. He established the School Resource Officer Program, which has since grown from one to seven officers across three different school districts. This program was designed to facilitate quick responses to emergencies on school campuses and to foster positive relations between officers and the community. Along with his wife, Amy, Sheriff Lange created the Crossroads Program, a rehabilitation initiative to teach life skills to inmates and pave the way for their success. Finally, Sheriff Lange is the founder of the Bell County Sheriff's Foundation, which supports families who have lost loved ones in the line of duty. As well as providing scholarships to Bell County Peace Officers, the Foundation raises funds in the hopes of constructing a memorial to honor those who have given their lives in service to Bell County.

Please join me in commending Sheriff Lange's lifelong commitment to keeping our neighborhoods safe. His legacy of achievement and service represents the very best of Central Texas.

RECOGNIZING WES RHODES

HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2024

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Wes Rhodes of Euless, who is

retiring after 38 years of service to North Texas. After graduating from Arlington High School, Wes received his associate's degree in Fire Protection Technology from Tarrant County College in Fort Worth. He began his career with the Haltom City Fire Department and spent 25 years as a Firefighter and EMT before quickly moving up the ranks to Fire Chief. In 2011, Wes accepted the position of Fire Chief for the City of Euless. During his time with the Euless Fire Department, Wes focused on community involvement, regional training, empowering the ranks, and maintaining open lines of communication with his team.

Wes' commitment to North Texas has been acknowledged through numerous accolades, including the Outstanding Leadership Award from Tarrant County Fire Service Training Center, Distinguished Alumni Award from Tarrant County Fire Service Training Center, Texas Association of Fire Educators' Instructor of the Year, and Fire Officer of the Year in 1996, 1998, and 1999 from Haltom City Fire/Rescue. His contributions extend beyond fire service, being named the 2024 Hurst-Euless-Bedford Rotarian of the Year for his work as president of the Hurst-Euless-Bedford Rotary Club.

Wes holds an array of certifications and licenses, including Certified Public Manager through Texas State University, Fire Service Chief Executive Officer through Texas A&M University, EMT, Master Firefighter, Master Fire Inspector, Fire Officer IV, HazMat Technician, Fire Investigator, Fire Instructor, Certified Head of Department, Fire Safety Officer, Swift Water Technician, and graduate of the Texas Fire Chiefs Academy. In 2021, he was promoted to Assistant City Manager of Euless. Wes and his wife Mary have been married for 34 years and are proud parents of two grown children, one of whom has followed in his father's footsteps as a Driver and Engineer with Grapevine Fire Department.

I thank Mr. Rhodes, for his unwavering dedication to protecting and serving our community. I congratulate him on his well-deserved retirement.

**HONORING FLORENCE DUNLEVY'S
105TH BIRTHDAY**

HON. ANGIE CRAIG

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2024

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Florence Dunlevy, a constituent from West St. Paul, who will be celebrating her 105th birthday on December 21st.

Florence was born in Armour, South Dakota, in 1919 into a farm family, and raised a farming family of her own with her husband John. Throughout her life, Florence has been a loving mother at home and avid volunteer at church and in her community. These days, she has many hobbies to stay busy, including knitting blankets, hats, mittens, and tablecloths, many of which she has given away to U.S. servicemembers.

Her advice for a good life? Be happy, smile, enjoy your friends and family, and always try to live your best life.

We can all take inspiration from Florence's long life of humility and service. Happy birthday to Florence.

**HONORING BILLY AND JACKIE
GLINES**

HON. RANDY K. WEBER, SR.

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2024

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a remarkable couple who have been pillars of our community in Friendswood, Texas. The Glines Family, as some of the earliest residents of our beloved town, have left an indelible mark on the fabric of our society.

Billy and Jackie Glines share a love story that reads like a fairytale. They met in 1957, and it wasn't long before sparks flew. Their first date in July of that year set the stage for a lifelong romance. By late October, Billy was called to serve our great country. Knowing he had found his soulmate, Billy was determined to marry Jackie before someone else did, for he knew he would "never find another girl like her."

On Christmas leave from basic training, Billy and Jackie had a quaint ceremony on December 23, 1957. Their love was tested early on, as Billy soon departed for Germany to serve as an Advanced Weapons Support Commander.

Their bond only grew stronger over the miles and years. In November 1960, they welcomed their first child, Kimberly, followed by Britt in April 1964. Kimberly and her husband, Stan, have two children, while Britt and his wife, Shannon, have three. The Glines family legacy continues to thrive through these wonderful families.

Billy's career journey led him to establish the Mustang Auto Shop with his brother-in-law, a business that remains in operation today, serving the Friendswood community. Jackie, after initially working at a weight loss facility, found her calling as a secretary at Accident Insurance Company from 1958 to 1960. She paused her career to raise her children, then dedicated 30 years as a beloved school secretary at her son's elementary school.

Last Christmas, Billy and Jackie celebrated 67 years of enduring love and commitment. Their contributions to Friendswood are immeasurable, and their story is an inspiration to us all.

I first learned about this remarkable story through an excellent article authored by Ashley Forrest and published by Angela Knight in Friends of Friendswood Magazine July 2024 Edition. Their work in capturing and preserving the legacy of local families like the Glines deserves heartfelt appreciation.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent folks like Billy and Jackie Glines, whose lives are a testament to the values we hold dear—love, dedication, and service. Their story is a shining example of the American spirit, and their enduring marriage is a beacon of hope and stability in our community.

Here's to Billy and Jackie Glines, for their steadfast love, their service to our country, and their unwavering commitment to our community. May they continue to share many more happy years together.