

his entertainment business full-time, he married Susan in 1996 who happily became his business partner and eventually agreed to join him on stage;

Whereas Rick and Susan Wilcox, despite the glamour of performing around the world, determined to bring their business home to Wisconsin, and with extraordinary encouragement from their families, purchased and renovated a neglected, unoccupied 550-seat theater in Wisconsin Dells, transforming it into an economic, employment and enchantment engine for the region;

Whereas The Rick Wilcox Magic Theater became the first-of-its-kind when it opened on May 17, 1999: a theater dedicated to the art of magic, entirely owned, operated, and headlined by its namesake,

Whereas Since 1999, as owners and performers, Rick and Susan Wilcox have managed every aspect of their small business: producing and starring in thousands of shows for Midwestern families, hiring hundreds of staff members, maintaining the theater and property, and delighting tens of thousands with their unique on-stage chemistry, and mix of family-friendly comedy and illusion;

Whereas Rick and Susan Wilcox, by unanimous vote of their peers, won the magic community's most prestigious award, the 2024 Milbourne Christopher Illusionist Award, placing these two Wisconsin natives among the pantheon of magic's most-celebrated illusionists, including such past winners as David Copperfield, Doug Henning, Harry Blackstone, Lance Burton, and Siegfried and Roy;

Whereas The Rick Wilcox Magic Theater is nationally recognized as "Wisconsin's Best" on the Reader's Digest list of "The 50 Best Family Travel Destinations in Each State," is the No. 1 rated activity in Wisconsin Dells by TripAdvisor, and continues to be a central part of the tourism industry in Wisconsin, and

Whereas The Rick Wilcox Magic Theater celebrated a remarkable milestone on May 17, 2024: 25 amazing years in business, and will continue to be a central part of the tourism industry in Wisconsin Dells; and

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved That I, Mark Pocan, U.S. Congressman for Wisconsin's Second District, do hereby express my sincere appreciation to the Rick Wilcox Magic Theater and Rick and Susan Wilcox for their incredible 25 years of bringing magic, comedy, and joy to families in Wisconsin.

#### CELEBRATING LOS ANGELES BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB'S 80TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2024*

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor the Los Angeles Boys and Girls Club for their 80 years of providing essential services to some of the most vulnerable residents in California's 34th Congressional District.

Founded in 1944, the Los Angeles Boys and Girls Club has nurtured and empowered generations of youth and families, providing them with essential resources and opportunities for growth.

Over the years, the Los Angeles Boys and Girls Club has evolved, adapted, and ex-

panded to meet the changing needs of the Northeast Los Angeles community.

Some of the essential services provided by the Los Angeles Boys and Girls Club include developmental programming for children, academic support, sports, psycho-educational groups, leadership development, pre-employment preparation, art and dance, and gang prevention and intervention.

These programs have resulted in improved math proficiency, improved reading test scores, a lifelong interest in regular exercise leading to an improved health-conscious habits that prioritize health, and proper nutrition for the youth of Northeast Los Angeles.

Additionally, the Los Angeles Boys and Girls Club provides services to support the entire family unit through case management, weekly food distribution, positive community events, and emergency and crisis response services.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating this milestone for the Los Angeles Boys and Girls Club, and I look forward to seeing all that they do in the next 80 years and beyond.

#### HONORING HARRODSBURG, KENTUCKY

#### HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2024*

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the citizens of Harrodsburg, Kentucky as they celebrate the 250th anniversary of their founding.

James Harrod and a team of men were sent by Lord Dunmore to Kentucky to survey land promised by the British crown to soldiers who served in the French and Indian War. Harrod was the first to map out a town on June 16, 1774, making Harrod's Town (later Harrodsburg) the first permanent British settlement west of the Alleghenies and the first city in Kentucky. By 1776, they had established a county court, a county militia, and named James Harrod as a delegate to the Virginia Assembly. A blockhouse was established at Fort Harrod for the protection of settlers. After the Revolutionary War ended, the town grew rapidly and the original log cabins were replaced with brick structures.

Many men from Harrodsburg fought in the war of 1812. After the war, agriculture and education were very important. Bacon College, Greenville Institute for Young Ladies, and the Harrodsburg Female Academy all opened between 1839 and 1847. Shaker Village at Pleasant Hill was founded in 1805 and became very prosperous. The local economy was based on livestock, hemp, wheat, corn, and valuable racehorses. By the middle of the 1800's, Harrodsburg had been home to three Kentucky governors and one U.S. Ambassador as well as a nationally known resort, Graham Springs.

Like many areas in border states, Harrodsburg was divided by the Civil War and experienced much loss and destruction. Citizens picked up and treated wounded soldiers from both Union and Confederate forces following the nearby Battle of Perryville. After the war, the city rebuilt and prospered once again. The 20th century brought the Dix River Dam, constructed in the 1920's to provide electricity,

and the reservoir, Lake Herrington, became a tourist attraction. A reproduction of Old Fort Harrod was constructed as well as a monument to George Rogers Clark which was dedicated by Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1934. Shaker Village was restored and became another tourist attraction. There has always been a strong military presence in Harrodsburg and World War II was no exception. Company D of the 192nd Tank Battalion was stationed in the Philippines in 1941 and included 66 from Harrodsburg. Forced to surrender to the Japanese, more than 7,000 American soldiers died from the brutal Bataan Death March, including 29 Harrodsburg men.

Today the city of Harrodsburg continues as a thriving community with robust agriculture, tourism, and industry. Dedicated leaders from founder James Harrod to today's Mayor Bob Williams have led the city of Harrodsburg. I am honored to lift up this great American community before the United States Congress and to congratulate them on their 250th anniversary.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. MARCUS J. MOLINARO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2024*

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I was absent because a meeting with constituents ran long. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 250.

#### SUPPORTING THE MEDAL OF HONOR FOR GUAM VETERANS

#### HON. JAMES C. MOYLAN

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 13, 2024*

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following letters in support of awarding the Medal of Honor to three Guam natives who served in the Vietnam War.

CALL TO ACTION: SUPPORT MEDAL OF HONOR FOR GUAM VETERANS

As veterans and residents of Guam, we have a unique opportunity to support three of our own who have displayed extraordinary valor in service to our nation. Delegate James Moylan has introduced amendments to the 2025 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) to authorize the President of the United States to award the Congressional Medal of Honor (MOH) to:

CSM Martin Manglona, U.S. Army Retired  
SGM Juan Ogo Blaz, U.S. Army Retired  
SPC4 Joseph Meno Perez, U.S. Army Retired (Medical)

These three veterans, all of whom served in the Vietnam War, have already been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (DSC), the U.S. Army's second highest honor. However, they have never been given a fair chance at being considered for the MOH, despite their actions mirroring those of other soldiers who have received this prestigious award.

#### WHY THIS MATTERS

No other veteran from Guam or the Marianas has ever been awarded the MOH.

SPC4 Perez absorbed the explosion of a hand grenade to save his battalion, an act of valor that has earned the MOH for others.

SGM Blaz and CSM Manglona exemplified bravery that saved the lives of those within their battalion.

These veterans endured many indignities due to their ethnic backgrounds yet persevered to serve with distinction.

#### HOW YOU CAN HELP

We urge all veterans and residents of Guam to sign this statement in support of Delegate Moylan's amendments to authorize the MOH for these three heroes. By standing together, we can ensure that their bravery and sacrifice are properly recognized, and that this injustice is finally corrected.

Please sign below. Together, we can make a difference and honor the legacy of these brave sons of the Marianas.

ANTHONY TALJERON.  
CORINA BALLESTA.  
GLENN MANGLONA.

Hon. MIKE ROGERS,  
*Chairman, House Armed Services Committee,*  
*Transmitted via Delegate James C. Moylan.*

Hafa Adai Chairman ROGERS: We write in hopes that as an important member of the U.S. House of Representatives, with full voting privileges, you will support the effort from Guam Del. Jim Moylan to award the Congressional Medal of Honor to three of America's bravest soldiers, at long last. The valor displayed by CSM Martin Manglona (U.S. Army Ret.), SGM Juan Ogo Blaz (U.S. Army Ret.), and SPC4 Joseph Meno Perez (U.S. Army Ret.) saved the lives of their fellow soldiers and should be honored with the highest distinction available to America's men and women in the armed forces.

Utilizing the National Defense Authorization Act to accomplish these awards is justified when considering all three of these men displayed their acts of heroism during the Vietnam War, a conflict that started to involve ground troops from the United States nearly 60 years ago. This legislative avenue is also prudent when considering the undeniable valor shown by these men—documented as recipients of the Distinguished Service Cross.

SGM Blaz charged into enemy fire over and over again to save men from another platoon, all while knowing American forces were outmanned and outgunned at an enemy base camp.

CSM Manglona fought day and night in a jungle conflict, rescuing and resupplying troops despite being injured himself.

SPC4 Perez, who passed away in 2006, seized a grenade and used his own body to shield his fellow soldiers from the blast, miraculously surviving the explosion.

We also believe it is important to share that these three men were part of the first generation of CHamoru people who were granted American citizenship through the enactment of the Organic Act of 1950. They repaid this historic act of Congress with fearlessness, fidelity, and faith—traits that have become the hallmark of the generations of Pacific Island veterans who followed them. We sincerely pray that, given all of this perspective from fellow lawmakers and civil servants, you agree these three soldiers deserve to be the first generation of Mariana Islanders who are recognized with the highest honor the United States bestows to its defenders of democracy.

Si Yu'os ma'ase (With thanks),  
TINA ROSE MUÑA, MA'ASE  
BARNES (D),  
*Vice Speaker, 37th*  
*Guam Legislature,*  
*Chairwoman, Com-*  
*mittee on Federal,*  
*Foreign & Regional*  
*Affairs.*

FRANK F. BLAS JR. (R),  
*Minority Leader, 37th*  
*Guam Legislature,*

*Vice Chair, Com-*  
*mittee on Federal,*  
*Foreign & Regional*  
*Affairs.*

JOE S. SAN, AGUSTIN (D),  
ROY A.B. QUINATA (D),  
WILLIAM A. PARKINSON (D),  
DWAYNE SAN NICOLAS (D),  
JESSE A. LUJÁN (R),  
CHRISTOPHER M. DUENAS  
(R),  
THOMAS J. FISHER (R),  
*Senators, 37th Guam*  
*Legislature.*

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. BOB GOOD

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2024

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 248, and NAY Roll Call No. 249.

### HONORING PRESIDENT GEORGE H.W. BUSH ON HIS 100TH BIRTH- DAY

SPEECH OF

### HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize multiple testaments to the character of President George H.W. Bush on what would have been his 100th birthday.

Texas A&M Today's article entitled, "Remembering the Character of George H.W. Bush" induces remarks from the 41st President's former Chief of Staff, Jean Becket, and the author of his biography, Jon Meacham. The article said:

"Anniversaries are about more than just the person being commemorated—they tell us about how we see ourselves at that moment, Pulitzer-Prize winning author and presidential historian Jon Meacham said Wednesday on what would have been President George H.W. Bush's 100th birthday.

"Speaking to a crowd gathered at the Annenberg Presidential Conference Center on the Texas A&M University campus, Meacham said there's not been a single moment in American history when the country has been more in need of what the 41st president represented than now. During Bush's remarks in 1990 commemorating the centennial of President Dwight D. Eisenhower, he quoted a motto etched onto a plaque that sat on Eisenhower's desk. 'Gently in manner, strong in deed.'

"It's hard to imagine a better description of Bush," Meacham said.

"Meacham spoke alongside Jean Becker, Bush's chief of staff for nearly 25 years, as part of a three-day centennial celebration hosted by the George & Barbara Bush Foundation. In addition to sharing some of their favorite memories about the president, the importance of character and the qualities that defined Bush were the focus of much of their discussion.

"Bush, known for his humility, likely 'would not approve' of the amount of attention being paid to him this week, Becker said. The former president's reluctance toward discussing himself and his legacy was

exemplified by an anecdote Becker shared about a visit Bush made to his presidential library and museum in College Station before it opened in 1997.

"Bush was invited to walk through the library one last time to point out any changes he wanted made before the opening. 'In the car on the drive back to Houston, he turned to me and said, 'Jean, I have a big problem with the museum,' she said. And he said, 'Jean, it's too much about me.'

"Meacham said Bush had a similar reaction after he read the former president a draft of his eulogy.

"The eyes were very attentive. He was listening to every possible bit, let's be clear,' Meacham said I got to the end, and he said, 'That's great—awful lot about me.'"

"Meacham, who wrote the 2015 biography "Destiny and Power: The American Odyssey of George Herbert Walker Bush," eulogized Bush at his funeral following his death in November 2018.

"Meacham said Bush's humility wasn't an affectation. But he also acknowledged the complications of a man who wanted to serve in a subtle and decent way, but 'also wanted to bend the arc of history in the direction he thought it should go.'

"If we overly canonize him, he loses the capacity to teach," Meacham said, adding that it's important to acknowledge that Bush was fallible.

"Bush represented a man who was driven by ambition, but who ultimately put service above self," Meacham said. He also warned against 'overly romanticizing a past in a way that prevents us from rising to the occasion.' When putting together his new book, 'The Call To Serve,' Meacham said he was thinking about what Bush's legacy means at this time.

"The easy answer is the climate," he said. "Here's this decent, gentlemanly figure who represented a long-ago order. All true. But it was 20 minutes ago—it's not impossible to recover if we summon the same reserves of character. Because character, as the Greeks taught us, is destiny."

"Becker, who is also promoting a new book, 'Character Matters,' said she's often pessimistically asked, 'Where's the next George Bush?' This outlook is a mistake, she said.

"The people who think there are no more George Bushes, yeah, there are," Becker said. "You just have to vote for them. You all control this. Quit voting for people who don't have character. . . . The people are out here, and they're willing to serve. We just have to follow his example of 'do what's right for the country.' Not what's right for you, not what's right for the party, but what's right for the country."

"Becker and Meacham's panel was attended by hundreds of members of the public, as well as members of the Bush family and alumni of his administration. Becker said the former president would have loved that the centennial celebration served as a reunion.

"He loved all these people. The party part of it he would love, and seeing everybody, but he definitely would complain to me and Jon, 'Quit talking about me, talk about other people,' Becker said.

"While Becker said Bush hated discussing 'the L word'—his legacy—the Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M 'is his legacy, and it was really important to him.'

"He would be so proud of the Bush School graduates, because they're doing exactly what he wanted them to do," she said. "They're everywhere—the State Department, particularly, the CIA, city managers. They're doing everything, and he would be very proud."