

and as an Educator. Since 1985 he has been actively involved with Knights of Columbus, Fourth Degree, and is a past Trustee. He lives the Catholic Christian life of servitude. I am proud of Tom's lifelong contributions to our community, and I wish him continued success for many years to come.

It is an honor to bestow Tom with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to the people of North Texas.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2024*

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, on July 9, 2024, I was unable to cast my vote on: H.R. 7637—Refrigerator Freedom Act. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 341.

RECOGNIZING MR. FRANK KIM'S SERVICE TO ORANGE COUNTY AS THE ORANGE COUNTY CEO

### HON. MICHELLE STEEL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2024*

Mrs. STEEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Frank Kim's service to Orange County, California, as the Orange County Chief Executive Officer.

Mr. Frank Kim has served Orange County for 29 years, including the last nine years as the Chief Executive Officer for Orange County. During his tenure, he worked with the Board of Supervisors, City Councils, and public and private stakeholders to develop leading edge mental health care services and create a new model of care for the homeless. He managed Orange County's successful emergence from bankruptcy, the completion of major public infrastructure projects, including 100-year flood protection for the Santa Ana River, and major improvements to John Wayne Airport, a new Civic Center, and state-of-the-art animal shelter. These represent just a small portion of his accomplishments. It was an honor to work closely with Frank during my two-terms as an Orange County Supervisor, particularly in my two years as Chairwoman of the Board in 2017 and 2020. His support and level-headed management during the COVID-19 pandemic were invaluable to me and to the people of Orange County.

Mr. Kim should be commended for all his hard work throughout his career and his dedication to improving the lives of Orange County residents.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Mr. Frank Kim for his service.

RECOGNIZING PAULINE PEARSON'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

### HON. TROY E. NEHLS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2024*

Mr. NEHLS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th birthday of my constituent

Pauline Pearson of Richmond, Texas. Being a pioneer resident of the Pecan Grove area for 28 years, it is my honor to wish her a Happy Birthday on this momentous milestone.

She was born a twin sister in Rosebud, North Dakota, and has lived a life worthy of many memories. Having grown up working on a family farm and studying in a one room prairie schoolhouse in North Dakota, her story is truly one of the great American frontier.

She was the proud wife to her husband, Robert, and a dear mother to her daughter, Sharon. They traveled across the country for work in California, and eventually moved to the Great State of Texas in 1996. She has brought joy and happiness to everyone who has crossed paths with, and her life story is a testament to her strength, wisdom, and resilience.

I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Ms. Pearson on behalf of the people of the great state of Texas. Happy 100th Birthday to Pauline. May God continue to bless her and her family with abundant health, unending happiness, and boundless love.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT ANN HARRIS

### HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2024*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Ann Harris of Frisco, Texas, and present her with the Congressional Patriot Award. Ann has dedicated herself to serving and uplifting our community.

Ann was born in Reading, Pennsylvania in 1952. She attended the University of Miami, graduating Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Education in 1974 and went on to earn a Master of Education in 1976. Relocation to Houston, Texas allowed Ann to obtain a job teaching physical education in Middle School. After 3 years, she transferred to Spring Branch ISD to become the Head Women's Varsity Basketball Coach. During this time, she met the Houston Rockets' Coach, Del Harris, whom she married in 1987. They moved several times, including to Milwaukee and LA, before returning to Texas, ultimately settling in Frisco in 2000.

Since then, Ann has been actively involved with numerous community organizations in North Texas. She served as the Development Chair for the Frisco expansion of City House and cofounded both The Frisco Giving Tree and StepUP Frisco. She was selected as one of the Top Ten Women in Collin County, received the Spirit of Frisco Award from the Frisco Chamber of Commerce, and was named Person of the Year in 2022 by Frisco Style Magazine. Ann is strong in her faith, attending Gateway Church in Frisco, recognizing her greatest pride as her husband, their 5 children and grandchildren and that all have become believers in Christ.

I'm confident Ann will continue to make a positive impact in our community through her passion and commitment to bringing awareness to and supporting those in financial crises and homelessness for many years to come.

It is an honor to bestow Ann with the Patriot Award for her exceptional service to the people of North Texas.

CELEBRATING NEGRO ELECTION DAY

### HON. SETH MOULTON

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2024*

Mr. MOULTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in celebration of Negro Election Day, otherwise known as Black Picnic Holiday, which is celebrated on the third Saturday of July.

Decades before the Declaration of Independence and Constitution, enslaved and free peoples participated in the colonies' first democratic voting system, holding elections of a king or governor to advocate for their community's needs.

First recorded in 1741 in Salem, Massachusetts, the tradition grew to include Africans from across New England and eventually became known as the Black Picnic. Over the centuries, the event shifted to include track and field events, jazz dances, choir performances, and more. The honoring of Negro Election Day reflects the resilience of New Englanders of African descent. To enshrine its significance, the Massachusetts State Legislature passed S. 2703 on February 17, 2022, establishing the third Saturday in July as a state holiday.

In the words of Massachusetts State Senator Joan B. Lovely from Salem, "We must continue to commemorate the meaningful milestones African Americans have contributed to Massachusetts and our Nation today and in all the days going forward." It is with those words that I ask you to please join me in honoring the history and celebration of Negro Election Day.

RECOGNIZING CLIFFORD STRICKLAND

### HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2024*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Technician Fifth Grade Clifford Strickland of Fowler, Colorado, a fallen World War II soldier considered missing in action until December of 2023.

Clifford was a U.S. Army Technician out of Charlie Company, 803rd Engineers Battalion. He was stationed in the Philippines where he was constructing vital landing strips for U.S. forces when the military of Japan attacked the islands. Clifford and his fellow soldiers bravely defended the island for several months before he was captured in April of 1942, forced into the agonizing Bataan Death March, and taken to Cabanatuan Prison Camp where he died months later. After he was buried, it took 81 years to identify Clifford's remains.

In service of his country, Clifford made the ultimate sacrifice and we are eternally grateful for his courage in the line of duty. On June 29, 2024, Clifford will finally return home where he will be buried surrounded by family and loved ones in Florence, Colorado.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to recognize Clifford's service and sacrifice. We are thankful to have him home after all these years.

CELEBRATING COLMA'S 100TH  
ANNIVERSARY**HON. KEVIN MULLIN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2024*

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Town of Colma and join in celebrating the 100-year anniversary of the town's incorporation, and its unique history and significance to my district.

Nestled in the north of San Mateo County, California, Colma is the smallest incorporated community by living population in the county that has a remarkable story to tell. As a San Mateo County native, I'm very familiar with Colma and its fame as a necropolis. Referred to as the "City of Souls," Colma has approximately 1,500 residents but over 1.5 million graves, brandishing the motto "It's great to be alive in Colma." In the early 1900's, San Francisco was growing and developing at a rapid pace, and areas and space for burials became scarce. The San Francisco Board of Supervisors prohibited new burials within city limits, prompting cemeteries to relocate to the more spacious and convenient surroundings of Colma.

Today, Colma boasts 17 cemeteries altogether, including a pet cemetery. This astonishing number of remains includes notable figures such as Levi Strauss, the founder of the namesake blue jean company, Wyatt Earp, the infamous lawman of the Wild West, Joe DiMaggio and Willie McCovey, legendary baseball players, William Randolph Hearst, newspaper tycoon, Bill Graham, famed music promoter, and California political leaders like Governor Edmund "Pat" Brown. Their resting places, along with many others, attract visitors from near and far, making Colma a place of reflection and pilgrimage. Colma's cemeteries are not just places of mourning; they are also spaces of beauty and history. The grounds and historic monuments serve as a living museum, presenting the stories of countless individuals and preserving the history of the region. These cemeteries also significantly contribute to the local economy. Colma's unique position as a necropolis means that cemetery related industries like flower shops and monument businesses have sprung up across town. By supporting local employment and commerce, the town and its residents have utilized their unique circumstances to foster strength and sustainability within their community.

Colma's significance extends beyond its role as a final resting place. Long before incorporation, Ohlone natives settled in the area and the Spanish used the land for farming and ranching. During the Gold Rush, the area that is now Colma was crucial for its agricultural products, dairies, and ranches to feed the greater San Francisco Bay Area and the large influx of people. As the greater San Francisco Bay Area grew, so did Colma, incorporating as Lawndale in 1924. The name changed in 1941 due to a conflict with a post office of the same name in Southern California.

After World War II, Colma saw an increase in new housing subdivisions driven by returning veterans and continued adapting to changing needs and diversifying its economy. Colma is home to the famous "Serramonte Auto Row" of car dealerships, both foreign and domestic, right in the heart of the town and the

town is a retail brick and mortar shopping destination. The Colma BART station opened in 1996 and was the first expansion of the mass transit system deeper into San Mateo County beyond the original plans. Modern success combined with a long, storied history has created a tight-knit community. This deep sense of community and a stable, dedicated elected leadership continues to shape the town. The residents are both resilient and vibrant, with a strong sense of local culture and identity. Colma has embraced the town's unique role, wearing it as a badge of honor for its heritage and history.

I am proud Colma is part of the Congressional District that I represent. The town stands as a testament to the power of adaptation and a reminder of the storied history of San Mateo County. Colma honors the past while also fostering a unique blend of old-world, small-town charm, and modern municipal government. As I reflect on the journey of the Town of Colma, I am reminded of the profound impact that history has on shaping our communities and our identity as Americans. On this day, let us celebrate Colma for its resilient spirit, and its unique place in the heart of San Mateo County.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PA-  
TRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT THOMAS  
DILLON**HON. PAT FALLON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2024*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Thomas Dillon of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Thomas has dedicated himself to faithfully serving his community.

Thomas was born in Pittsfield and attended Pittsfield High School. He graduated from Boston College in 1967 with a bachelor's degree in mathematics and received his master's degree in teaching from Cambridge College. After graduation, Thomas worked in the Philippines for three years as part of the Peace Corps, where he taught math and science. When he returned home, he began teaching mathematics at his alma mater, Pittsfield High School. Thomas also served as an advisor for several classes and the Student Council while also helping to organize the annual graduation ceremony.

After teaching for 34 years, Thomas retired and began working part-time as the work-based learning coordinator at Pittsfield High. He began working as a counselor and advocate for Project Reconnect to help disadvantaged youth access education, housing, and rehabilitation programs. Additionally, Thomas served as a director and chairperson for Credit Union of the Berkshires for many years. He is a devoted man of faith and attends St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Pittsfield. In his free time, Thomas is passionate about traveling and has visited many countries around the world. I'm proud to call Thomas a good friend and mentor. He has made numerous positive impacts on our community, and I wish him the best for many years to come.

It is an honor to bestow Thomas with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to the people of Pittsfield.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS  
OF DON SANFORD**HON. MARK POCAN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2024*

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following Proclamation:

Whereas; Don Sanford has spent his entire life near and influenced by bodies of water in both New York and right here in Dane County, Wisconsin, and

Whereas; Don moved to Madison in 1976 to work for Wisconsin Public Television and immediately found himself drawn to the beauty and recreational opportunities afforded by the chain of lakes, and

Whereas; Don is a licensed U.S. Coast Guard captain, a member of the Four Lakes Ice Yacht Club, past commodore of the Mendota Yacht Club, commodore of the International Nite Ice Yacht Class Association, and a boat captain for Belly Lou Cruises, and

Whereas; Don has a year-round passion for the lakes by racing sailboats in the summer and iceboats in the winter in addition to spending time sharing his knowledge with others while conducting tours of the lakes, and

Whereas; Don is the author of *On Fourth Lake: A Social History of Lake Mendota* which is the culmination of a lifetime of experiences, story collecting, research, and passion for Lake Mendota which details the history, lore, and anecdotes of the chain's largest lakes, and

Whereas; Don and his wife, Barb, have raised two fine sons who have each earned the rank of Eagle Scout, graduated from college, and have become successful working professionals, and

Whereas; Don serves as an inspiration to his fellow citizens through his selfless contributions to our community as an author, historian, tour guide, and Scout leader.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, Mark Pocan, U.S. Congressman for Wisconsin's Second District, do hereby express my appreciation to Don Sanford for his work to preserve the natural beauty and history of Dane County's most important natural resource—its lakes—and further wish Don Sanford a happy and healthy 75th birthday.

CELEBRATING DR. DAVID G.  
SMITH'S CAREER OF SERVICE**HON. MIKE GARCIA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 10, 2024*

Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the retirement of an American patriot who has proudly served our great Nation for more than 40 years. After a storied career in uniform and a distinguished civilian career at CA-27's Plant 42, Dr. Smith has earned some well-deserved time with friends and family.

Prior to directing the 412th Test Wing Operating Location at Plant 42, Dr. Smith began his career when he entered the U.S. Air Force. He graduated with top honors from the first Navigator Offensive Avionics Systems class at Castle Air Force Base. Following his