

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

first formal tour at Ellsworth Air Force Base, Dr. Smith served across the country in an impressive myriad of capacities, ranging anywhere from Instructor Navigator, to Branch Chief, to Regimental Air Liaison Officer. With approximately 3,000 flight hours and numerous accolades, including being a part of the 15th Air Force Crew of the Year, Dr. Smith consistently distinguished himself from his fellow airmen no matter which role he was serving in. His exemplary leadership led him to be selected as Deputy Director of the 412th Test Management Group and eventually the Edwards Inspector General.

During his transition to civilian service, Dr. Smith continued to be an outstanding leader at Edwards Air Force Base. As Director of the 412th Test Wing at Plant 42 he has led a multi-functional team that supports over 16,000 contract and government personnel; and worked with top defense contractors that produce and test B-2, U-2, RQ-4, F-22, and F-35. These important programs are not only the economic backbone of the Antelope Valley—they are also critical to ensuring our Nation's security and ability to deter and win a war. Additionally, he supported NASA's Armstrong Flight Research Center's planetary and earth science missions and serves the state of California as our Title-31 Air Support Command Commander.

Dr. Smith's life is a testament to dedication, passion, and leadership. As he enters retirement, his work will undoubtedly leave Edwards Air Force Base and Plant 42 well equipped to continue their mission in the coming years and his legacy will inspire future generations of pilots.

On behalf of a grateful community, I extend our heart felt appreciation to Dr. David Smith for his outstanding service, and wish him happiness and prosperity in retirement. We thank him for his exceptional commitment to our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUSIE LEE

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2024

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, my vote was not recorded on Tuesday, July 9. Had it been recorded, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 340.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT BUDDY PELLERIN

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commemorate the life of Coach George "Buddy" Pellerin of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Coach Pellerin peacefully passed away on July 4, 2016.

Coach Pellerin was born on January 9, 1939, in Pittsfield. He attended St. Joseph's High School, where he played baseball and achieved All Berkshire Baseball Player status.

In 1962, Coach Pellerin graduated from North Adams State College. During his senior year, Coach Pellerin served as a player-coach, which led him to launch a legendary coaching career spanning over five decades. He successfully led several high school baseball, softball, and football teams to numerous state championships and was known for his confidence, professionalism, and charismatic leadership style. For his outstanding work and contributions to the city, Coach Pellerin was inducted into the Massachusetts Coach Hall of Fame, the UNICO Baseball Hall of Fame, and the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts Hall of Fame. The Buddy Pellerin Field at Clapp Park has also been designated in his honor.

After he retired from the Pittsfield School Department in 2000, Coach Pellerin volunteered as a Little League coach and for the Babe Ruth All Stars team. He also led summer baseball camps at the local Boy's and Girls Club for fifteen years and founded the Rip City Training Center in Pittsfield. Rip City grants scholarships for students to train at the center and excel in their academic and professional careers. In addition to his famed coaching career, Coach Pellerin was most proud of being a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. I'm proud to recognize Coach Pellerin for making a positive impact on our community and inspiring countless students and athletes to succeed.

It is an honor to bestow Coach Pellerin with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to the people of Pittsfield. He will be dearly missed by his friends, family, and all who knew him.

CONGRATULATING THE BOB ROSS AUTO GROUP ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2024

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the Bob Ross Auto Group, located in my congressional district in Centerville, Ohio, as they celebrate a half-century of service to its customers and the Greater Dayton community.

The Bob Ross Auto Group, which consists of three franchises, Buick, GMC and Mercedes-Benz, commemorated its 50th anniversary on February 22, 2024. Over the past five decades, this family-owned dealership has become a pillar of the community and earned the trust of thousands of customers for their automotive and service needs.

The dealership contributes to a variety of charitable causes and community events, and to the Nation as a whole, through its support of the American Cancer Society's efforts to raise awareness and find a cure for breast cancer.

Robert P. Ross, Sr. started his successful entrepreneurial journey in Richmond, Indiana in February 1974. He became the first African American Buick dealer in the state of Indiana, where he continued to work and serve his community until he moved his business to Centerville, Ohio in 1982.

It took no time for his business to become a symbol of change in the Dayton community, as it was here where Bob Ross became the

first African American Buick Dealer in the state of Ohio and the first African American Mercedes-Benz dealer in the United States.

Bob Ross would continue to be a trailblazer for civil rights in the automobile industry. He would help establish the National Association of Minority Automobile Dealers, as well as supporting numerous charities.

After Bob's death in 1997, his wife Norma J. Ross, assumed the presidency of the company, and his daughter Jenell Ross became vice-president and principal dealer at the age of 27. These two remarkable women would become the first female African Americans to be at the helm of an automobile dealership.

They would continue to grow the business together, earning numerous accolades, including recognition as one of the "Top 100 Companies in Dayton." In 2011, Black Enterprise Magazine named the Bob Ross Auto Group "Automobile Dealer of the Year."

When Norma passed away from breast cancer in 2010, Jenell took over the business as its president. In memory of her mother, Jenell established the Norma J. Ross Memorial Foundation, which has raised thousands of dollars for breast cancer research. The foundation hosts a number of events, proudly branded as "Pink Ribbon Driven," to raise awareness about breast cancer prevention.

Jenell Ross is the only second-generation African American female automobile dealer in the United States, and she is the first-ever African American Chair of the American International Automobile Dealers Association.

Mr. Speaker, I have known Jenell Ross and her family for 30 years. I have seen firsthand how she has sustained and grown Bob Ross Auto Group into a thriving small business that her father would be proud of.

The Ross family's commitment to the traditional values of hard work, quality products, and customer service represents the very best of the American entrepreneurial spirit, and serves as a model for all small businesses.

I congratulate Jenell Ross, her family, and her employees on this great milestone in their company's history. I wish them many more years of continued success and leadership in the community.

CELEBRATING PASTOR DWAYNE R. GILLISON, SR.

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 2024

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Pastor Dwayne R. Gillison, Sr., as he receives the Community Leadership Award from the Mary B. Talbert Civic and Cultural Club, Inc. Pastor Gillison's devotion to his faith and public service will be recognized at the 116th Empire State Federation of Women's Clubs Convention.

Pastor Gillison is a proud graduate of the State University of New York Brockport, the Bible College of Rochester, and the Houghton Christian Academy. In 2022, Pastor Gillison was elevated to Pastor of Mount Olive Baptist Church in Buffalo. In his ministry, Pastor Gillison has led the construction of the Mount Olive Senior Manor, an affordable housing community for seniors on the East Side of Buffalo. Working with People Inc., the complex will provide 65 accessible housing units to seniors in need.