

Gatorland Global, is a testament to this daily mission. In fact, Gatorland has rescued hundreds of alligators over the years who were injured and at risk of not surviving, as well as those who were becoming a nuisance due to people illegally feeding them.

Just in the last year, the park rescued an American Alligator that was found missing her entire top jaw. This alligator, now named Jawlene, is thriving in her new home in "Alligator Paradise" at Gatorland and has since become a viral sensation and she is much beloved by the local community. In addition, the park welcomed the birth of Mystic, an extremely rare white leucistic alligator, along with her natural-color brother, Mayhem.

The park continues to rescue alligators and educate people on the importance of alligators and crocodiles to our ecosystems, to respect their power and beauty, and how to safely live with them in Florida and in communities around the world.

RECOGNIZING MR. WILMER LOY
ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 16, 2024

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and extend my heartfelt wishes to a dedicated veteran, farmer, and volunteer firefighter on his 100th birthday. Mr. Wilmer Loy, a lifelong resident of Crawford County, turns 100 on August 26, 2024.

Wilmer lived and worked in Crawford County until he was drafted in 1944 to fight in Europe as part of the U.S. Army. He initially trained in Georgia, but he was transferred to Belgium in 1945 where he trained on the 8-inch Howitzer. He participated in combat against Nazi Germany in the Black Forest, the Siegfried Line and the Rhine River. After the end of the war in Europe, Wilmer was transferred to the Pacific Theater where he served until the end of the war. Wilmer was sent home and honorably discharged from the Army after the Japanese surrendered in 1945. He was awarded the Good Conduct Medal; European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with one Bronze Star; and the World War II Victory Medal.

After his discharge from the Army, Wilmer worked at Chatfield Hardware for more than ten years. He went on to work the next forty years at Leonhart Gas and Oil in Tiro. He drove delivery trucks, semi tankers, and heavy equipment for the company while working on his farm outside New Washington, Ohio. Wilmer also served as a volunteer firefighter for the Chatfield Volunteer Fire Department for more than 60 years and was a member of the Tiro Volunteer Fire Department for more than 10 years. For the last seven decades, he has served in several positions with the American Legion Post 405 in New Washington and as a member of the Loyal Order of Moose Lodge 669 in Bucyrus.

Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to the life and service of Mr. Wilmer Roy. On behalf of the people of the Fifth Congressional District of Ohio, I recognize the devotion and compassion that Wilmer has for his community and our Nation. I wish him all the best on his 100th birthday.

HONORING TOM "SUNTAN"
SULLIVAN

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 16, 2024

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the extraordinary career of Tom "SunTan" Sullivan, from his service to our Nation to his hard work at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore at Northeastern University.

Tom has been called the "backbone" of the operations at the Barnes & Noble—as a warehouse manager he assured smooth facilitation of operations and inventory, holding a vital role which contributed greatly to the University throughout his tenure.

Tom served his country honorably as well, aboard the Navy's USS *Brownson* DD 868 from 1970 to 1975. Tom demonstrated great humility, honor, and determination in that role.

August 3rd is now known as "National SunTan Day," honoring a man who is beloved, admired and respected by all.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the extraordinary career of Tom "SunTan" Sullivan and I wish him the very best in his future endeavors.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT
OF FERNANDO RUELAS

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 16, 2024

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fernando Ruelas and congratulate him on a remarkable 25-year career at the Coachella Valley Water District. As he prepares to retire, it is my honor to recognize Fernando's dedication to his work and thank him for his service to the entire Coachella Valley community.

A proud Mexican American, Fernando graduated from Indio High School in 1990. It was during these formative years that Fernando worked as a palm tree worker and dishwasher, where he developed his admirable work ethic.

In 1995, Fernando began working as a service worker for the Indio Water Authority. Through his hard work and dedication, along with the encouragement from his community, he sought out to further his career by acquiring six certifications to ensure a better future for himself and his family.

He began working for the Coachella Valley Water District in 1999. It was here that he climbed the ladder from meter repair trainee to Domestic Operations Manager. His leadership ensured our desert community received sufficient and treated water for residents and agricultural sites.

Fernando's journey of perseverance led him to a fulfilling chapter at the Coachella Valley Water District, where he founded and managed IRC Backflow, a thriving water backflow business. He balanced serving his community during the week and being an entrepreneur on the weekends, all while raising his three children—Fernando III, Silvia, and Maria—with his wife Giselle.

Mr. Speaker, in celebrating Fernando Ruelas, we celebrate the unwavering spirit of

a true role model. He has set an example for young people aspiring for a brighter future within our community as entrepreneur, public servant, and father. His dedication and impact have paved a legacy that will continue to motivate and uplift for years to come.

On behalf of California's 25th District, I extend my gratitude to Fernando and his family for his service as we join in congratulating him on his retirement.

HONORING SAMMY SULLIVAN WHO
LED THE U.S. WOMEN'S RUGBY
TEAM TO A BRONZE MEDAL FIN-
ISH AT THE 2024 PARIS OLYM-
PICS

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 16, 2024

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Fayetteville native Sammy Sullivan on leading the U.S. Women's Rugby team to a bronze medal finish at the 2024 Paris Olympics.

Sammy was introduced to rugby at West Point and eventually fell in love with the sport following in her father's footsteps and earning her a Prusmack Award, recognizing her all-time try scoring leader and the top collegiate 7s athlete in the Nation. She dominated on the pitch and soon gained the attention of USA Women's 7s Head Coach Emilie Bydwell, who asked her to join the team. Sammy accepted, and has spent the last two years competing, and training with the USA Rugby team, earning the captain role. All the team's hard work paid off and was on full display during their fantastic Olympic performance this year. As a former UNCC Rugby player myself, I can confidently say that was some of the best rugby I've ever watched.

Sammy Sullivan is not only captain of the U.S. Women's Rugby team, but also serves as a Captain in the United States Army. The two Captainships have led many fans to lovingly refer to her as "Captain America." Here in North Carolina, we could not be more proud of her service to our country both on the pitch, and in uniform.

Sammy comes from a family of public servants. Her father was a Special Forces Operator, her brother is a member of the Army Infantry, and her mother is a teacher. I would like to thank Sammy and her amazing family for their steadfast commitment to our great Nation.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in recognizing Sammy Sullivan and the U.S. Women's Rugby Team on winning a bronze medal at this year's Olympics.

RECOGNIZING HOWARD SEID AS
UP VETERAN OF THE YEAR

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 16, 2024

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor Mr. Howard Seid as U.P. Veteran of the Year. An Air Force Academy graduate, Mr. Seid served in a multitude of roles

since 1981. His career's impressive capstone came in 2007 when he served as the Vice Commander of the 433rd Airlift Wing at Lackland AFB.

Since retiring from the USAF, Howard has worked tirelessly for other veterans and his community, continuing to exemplify all of the values that are ingrained in our brave men and women in uniform—those of humility, courage, and service above self.

Since 2016, Howard has been the Western U.P. representative for the Veteran's Community Action Team (VCAT), working on many issues and barriers that our veterans face every day. As the Vice-Chairman of the VCAT Steering Committee, Howard and his commendable team were notably able to donate over \$400,000 in food cards to veterans across the U.P.

Howard additionally gives back to his community through the Ontonagon County Veteran's Association, serving as the Commander of Rockland Legion Post 92 and coordinating county-wide veterans' outreach events. As Commander of Post 92, he has almost doubled the membership in seven years.

Every year, Howard plans, organizes, and hosts a Veteran's Day dinner party for almost one hundred veterans and spouses in Rockland, thanking them for their service. He also acts as the speaker for the event each year and personally delivers meals to all veterans that cannot attend.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Michigan's Upper Peninsula and entire First District, I would like to acknowledge Mr. Howard Seid for his humble and dedicated service to his community and our Nation. I can think of no one more deserving of recognition as the U.P. Veteran of the Year, and I wish Mr. Seid the best in all of his future endeavors.

HONORING WALLY AMOS

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 16, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of Wallace "Wally" Amos, who sadly passed away at 88 years old.

Wally, creator of the Famous Amos cookie empire, left this world much sweeter than he found it. The Famous Amos cookie shop opened in Los Angeles in 1975 and was the world's first cookie shop.

Before creating his cookie business, Mr. Amos served in the U.S. Air Force while stationed in Honolulu, Hawaii. Wally often traveled between Hawaii and California, fulfilling his duties to the U.S. Air Force and his passion for baking cookies.

Mr. Amos is survived by his wife Carol, and his children, Sarah, Michael, Gregory, and Shawn. Wally's hard work and entrepreneurial spirit are testaments to his great character, and he will surely be missed by his family, friends, and his Famous Amos community.

I send my deepest condolences to the Amos family and Wally's friends. Both the family and friends of Wally are in my thoughts and prayers.

TRIBUTE TO KEM ANDERSON

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 16, 2024

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a fellow South Carolinian and a remarkable public servant. Mrs. Kem Anderson has retired after 28 years of service at the Department of State and the United States Senate. The impact of her work continues to benefit our great country.

A native of Denmark, South Carolina, Mrs. Anderson has worked tirelessly to serve the people of her home state. Earlier in her career, she served as a special assistant to Senator Ernest "Fritz" Hollings (D-SC), where she specialized in immigration casework. She also served on the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation; the Subcommittee on the Consumer, chaired by former Vice President Albert Gore; and the Subcommittee on Communications, chaired by Senator Daniel K. Inouye, before joining the State Department in February 1994.

Her State Department career spanned the tenures of nine Secretaries of State. During this time, she worked on numerous high-profile issues, including helping organize the NATO Summit for its 50th anniversary in Washington in 1999. In 1997, she served on the planning committee to rename the State Department's library, the oldest federal government library, after statesman Ralph Bunche, and was recognized by then-Secretary Madeleine Albright for her contributions to these efforts. While serving in the State Department's Bureau of Consular Affairs, she was responsible for monitoring the work of task forces that were drawing down personnel at U.S. missions in East Africa and served as a control officer for the funerals of two Americans who were tragically killed in the 1998 bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya.

Mrs. Anderson was recently awarded a Meritorious Honor Award for her contribution to the success of the State Department's repatriation of over 100,000 Americans from 136 countries during the COVID-19 pandemic. On June 11, 2020, the United States Senate passed Senate Resolution 567, commending career professionals at the Department of State for their extensive efforts to repatriate U.S. citizens during the pandemic. Her efforts were instrumental in keeping Congress informed on those repatriation efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in commending Mrs. Kem Anderson's extraordinary career and congratulating her on her well-earned retirement. As Mrs. Anderson embarks on this next chapter of her life, I am confident that her years of service will continue to resonate in the halls of Congress, the State Department, and the lives of Americans for many years to come.

CONGRATULATING CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL CAPTAIN VINCENT PAGANO OF BAKERSFIELD ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. VINCE FONG

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 16, 2024

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor California Highway Patrol Captain Vincent Pagano of Bakersfield. Throughout his distinguished career, Captain Pagano has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to our community and our country.

Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Captain Pagano's public service began with his enrollment in the U.S. Navy in 1985. Following his graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1989, where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in physical sciences, Captain Pagano served as a U.S. Navy helicopter pilot, specializing in anti-submarine warfare and combat search and rescue operations. Captain Pagano served as a Force Protection and Security Office, ensuring security of key military installations, military personnel, and civilians.

Beginning in 1999, Kern County would soon benefit from his Navy learning when Captain Pagano joined the California Highway Patrol, assigned to the Altadena incline. Captain Pagano answered the call of protecting our communities—serving in Buttonwillow, Fresno, and the Grapevine. His leadership and professionalism earned him the respect and admiration of his colleagues and the communities he served, as he was promoted to Sergeant in 2012 and Lieutenant in 2017. From 2019 to 2022, he received his first area command, as Commander in the Fort Tejon Area. Finally, in January of 2022, Pagano was promoted to Captain and Commander of the Bakersfield division of the California Highway Patrol. In this role, he has continued to uphold the highest standards of law enforcement, ensuring the safety and security of the residents of Bakersfield and the millions who traverse California's highways.

Following Pagano's promotion, he immediately launched initiatives to prevent distracted driving deaths and DUIs, and generally encouraging drivers to act more courteously on California's famously busy highways.

California's Central Valley remains beautiful and prosperous, due to the heroism and dedication of people like Captain Pagano, who keep our neighborhoods safe. Captain Pagano's selfless service in both the U.S. Navy and the California Highway Patrol reflects the best of those who wear the uniform. His lifelong embodiment to safety, service, and security, the motto of California Highway Patrol, serves as an example for all who aspire to serve our country and communities with honor.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in expressing our deepest gratitude to Captain Vincent Pagano for his outstanding service to our country and his tireless dedication to public safety. On behalf of the 20th Congressional District of California, I would like to congratulate Captain Pagano for his heroic four-decade career protecting our families and communities and wish him the best in his rightly merited retirement.