

has been an integral part of growing Rainbow City into the fastest-growing city in Etowah County. Rainbow City would not be the thriving community it is today without her leadership. Anita has served on the Utilities Board since 2013 and served as the chairwoman in 2019.

Anita married Jeff Bedwell on October 22, 1983. They have one son, Andrew (Chance), and two grandsons, Britton and Cotton Bedwell. A devout Christian, she has been a member of Riddles Bend Baptist Church since 1981 and has served as a children's Sunday School teacher. In her free time, Anita enjoys volunteering for Renew our Rivers and Rainbow City Clean Up Day, as well as traveling, boating, cattle farming, and spending as much time as possible with friends and family.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Councilwoman Anita Bedwell, and thanking her for her service to Rainbow City, Alabama. Congratulations to Anita.

CELEBRATING VICTORIA  
COLLEGE'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. MICHAEL CLOUD**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 7, 2025*

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Victoria College, one of the oldest community colleges in Texas, as it celebrates its 100th year anniversary.

For generations, Victoria College has served families across the Golden Crescent region, and each year, thousands of students enter its doors for education and training. In 1925, Victoria College had a humble beginning in a small classroom on the third floor of a high school with just over 50 students. 100 years later, the campus now spans more than 60 acres and enrolls over 6,000 students each year.

The growth and success of Victoria College has been invaluable to the regional and economic development of the Coastal Bend region, and the seven counties it serves (Victoria, DeWitt, Calhoun, Jackson, Refugio, Gonzales and Lavaca). Students can earn degrees or certificates in a number of different programs, including Business & Technology, Industrial Trades, Public Service, and much more. As an institution, Victoria College has been integral in deepening relationships between businesses, government officials, and the regional workforce for decades.

Its enduring success is a testament to its identity as an established community partner. Beyond its comprehensive program offerings and its dedicated staff, Victoria College contributes to local cultural and heritage growth. The Museum of the Coastal Bend, located on campus, showcases the rich history of the coastal region. The Leo J. Center for the Performing Arts is owned and operated by the College, and the state-of-the-art Emerging Technology Complex is used for professional development, conferences, and local events.

On this 100th Anniversary, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Victoria College and its long-standing history as an example of the importance of civic institutions for the preservation of our future generations.

REMEMBERING MR. DAVID "DAVE"  
FOWLER

**HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 7, 2025*

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Mr. David "Dave" Fowler, who dedicated much of his life to serving the people of North Carolina. Dave was raised in Greenville and after his graduation from Western Carolina University, stayed in Jackson County to work in the local community.

Dave started his career as an educator in Jackson County in the public school system, where his efforts inspired the next generation of learners. His desire to serve the public good took him to work for the Jackson County Government. He also assumed numerous volunteer roles including acting as the Chair of the County Board of Elections and Chairman of the Jackson County Republican Party.

After Dave and his wife, Wanda, resettled in Eastern North Carolina, and in his role as a servant leader, he represented his community as a dedicated member of the Noon Rotary Club. Given his dedication and civic minded competence, he was appointed to the Coastal Regional Solid Waste Authority and the Carteret County Board of Equalization and Review. Given his desire to also lead in the political arena, he was later elected as Chairman of the Carteret County Republican Party. His election as a Carteret County Commissioner further paved the way for his later roles as Town Commissioner and, ultimately, Mayor of Cape Carteret. Dave's commitment and service to his communities is remembered for his selfless desire to better his community and serve all his constituents. His service has led many Eastern North Carolinians to live a better life with a brighter future.

Mr. Speaker please join me in remembering Mr. David "Dave" Fowler's life and legacy.

RECOGNIZING THE BRAVERY AND  
HEROISM OF OKOLONA FIRE  
PROTECTION DISTRICT

**HON. MORGAN MCGARVEY**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 7, 2025*

Mr. MCGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the Okolona Fire Protection District for their bravery and heroism in response to the tragic crash of UPS Airlines Flight 2976 in Louisville, Kentucky.

On Tuesday, November 4th, a cargo jet bound for Hawaii crashed moments after take-off. Unable to gain altitude, the jet went down just beyond the airfield, erupting into flames as hundreds of thousands of pounds of jet fuel ignited. The resulting fire engulfed an area the size of nine football fields, and the thick, black plume of smoke could be seen from anywhere in the city. I have lived in Louisville my whole life and could never have imagined seeing something like this. For a moment, Louisville looked apocalyptic—it was heartbreaking.

But in these trying times, we saw the best of our community. Within minutes, Okolona firefighters were there, the first on site, confronting a scene of unimaginable destruction

with discipline and resolve. In this moment, they showed that heroism is not found in comfort—it is revealed in crisis. They chose duty over fear. Their rapid, coordinated response contained the flames, protected nearby homes, and stopped the disaster from spreading. Their courage in horrific circumstances saved lives and protected hundreds of families from losing their homes to the inferno.

Louisville is safer because of the men and women of Okolona Fire and the more than twenty departments who came from across the city and the Commonwealth to assist. Their bravery and selflessness reflect their deep love for this community and stand as a testament to what it means to serve. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring these brave first responders for their extraordinary service and sacrifice.

HONORING THE LIFE AND PUBLIC  
SERVICE OF DAMASCUS TOWN  
COUNCILMAN JACK MCCRADY,  
JR.

**HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 7, 2025*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and longtime service of a dedicated public official, Jack McCrady, Jr., who passed away on Thursday, October 2, 2025.

Councilman McCrady called Damascus, Virginia, home for much of his life. His love for his community and its progress inspired him to seek elected office.

Over the years, Mr. McCrady was a worthy representative of the Damascus community. His experience in local government continually won him praise and recognition from his fellow peers and the voters of Damascus.

As a result of building trust and experience with the local community, Mr. McCrady served as Mayor of Damascus for 20 years. In addition, he served on the Washington County Board of Supervisors. Most recently, Damascus elected Mr. McCrady to the Damascus Town Council.

Moreover, Mr. McCrady served on various boards during his life. One such body was the very first Appalachian Trail Days committee, which is responsible for organizing the very popular festival that attracts thousands of people to Damascus every year. When I visit the annual festival, I see the true fun and spirit of the festival and how much it means to the local community.

Mr. McCrady's influence on his community was noticed by many. In a public announcement, Damascus described Councilman McCrady's loss as a presence that will be missed. It surely will be.

Councilman McCrady is survived by his loving wife of 52 years, Connie; son, Kris and wife Danielle; daughter, Valerie; sister, Patty and husband Harvey Clark; brother, Charlie McCrady; and sister-in-law, Shelby Blevins. He was preceded in death by his father, Jack Richard McCrady, Sr; his mother, Dorothy Virginia Berry; and stepfather, C.C. Cowan.

Through his various roles in public office, Mr. McCrady provided strong and experienced leadership that benefitted his Southwest Virginia community. I am proud to recognize and honor a local public servant whose impact

helped his peers, neighbors and the Damascus community.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE  
OF MIKE DOYLE

**HON. MARK DESAULNIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 7, 2025*

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Mike Doyle. Throughout his life, Mike demonstrated his unwavering devotion to service and empowering his community. Mike was born in Mahanoy City, Pennsylvania and left his hometown at the age of 17 to join the United States Air Force. He was promoted to Sergeant and was posted to Erding Air Base in Bavaria, Germany, where he served as Chaplain's Assistant, providing aid to U.S. airmen, German citizens, and displaced individuals. He was then reassigned to Parks Air Base in Pleasanton, California where, after stopping for directions at Elliott's Bar in downtown Danville, he stumbled upon his future hometown. From there, Mike fell in love with the Town of Danville and began raising his family there in 1955.

Mike dedicated his life to serving his community and improving quality of life for Danville residents. He was first elected to the Town Council in 1991, served as Mayor for five terms, and devoted over 25 years of service to the Town. Throughout his tenure, he played a crucial role in guiding the town as it grew while helping to maintain Danville's small-town charm. He was admired for his commitment to fiscal responsibility and support for Danville's businesses, faith communities, and schools. Additionally, he represented Danville for more than 20 years on the Board of Directors of the League of California Cities.

Sadly, Mike passed away on October 19, 2025 at the age of 96. He will be remembered for his outstanding leadership, honesty, and for the indelible mark that he has left on our community. Please join us in honoring Mike Doyle for his invaluable contributions to the Town of Danville and beyond.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT  
OF MAYOR GARY FULLER

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 7, 2025*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Gary Fuller, Mayor of the City of Opelika, Alabama.

Mayor Fuller has tirelessly served the City of Opelika for over 20 years. He served on the City Council from 2000 to 2004 and was first elected Mayor August 24, 2004.

As Mayor, he established Opelika as the first gig city in Alabama. He helped establish a first-class Pre-K program and helped with plans to renovate Opelika High School. He led the charge for a new sports complex, library, fire department, police building and municipal court facility.

He was instrumental in the development of the Tiger Town shopping district and revitaliza-

tion of Opelika's downtown. Because of the influx of citizens, over 2,500 new single-family homes have been built. He created the Commission on Crime & Violence in 2018 to help decrease crime.

A graduate of Southern Union State Community College, Fuller was President and CEO of Fuller Broadcasting Company, Inc. from 1985 until 1998. His six stations (WKRR, WMXA, WZMG, WTLM, WCJM and WPLV) received numerous awards for community service and local news coverage. In 1988, WZMG and WKRR became the first stations in Alabama to earn the National Association of Broadcasters Crystal Award for community service. He was also Managing General Partner for Fuller Properties, LTD and former host of the Lee County Report.

He's served as past President of The United Way of Lee County, Opelika Rotary Club and The Opelika Chamber of Commerce. He has served as past director of Opelika Dixie Youth Baseball, Opelika Main Street, Opelika Utilities Board, Opelika Arts Association, Lee County Salvation Army, Achievement Center Easter Seals, Chattahoochee Council Boy Scouts of America, Chattahoochee Historical Commission and Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Lee County.

Mayor Fuller has served the Alabama Municipal Electric Authority (Chairman), Alabama League of Municipalities (Past President), Alabama Monument Protection (Vice Chair), Auburn-Opelika Tourism Bureau, Lee-Russell Council of Governments, Opelika Planning Commission, Auburn University Regional Airport, Master Mason and member of Twin City Lodge No. 76, Emeritus Certified Municipal Official by League of Municipalities, National League of Cities Christian Public Officials Caucus, Julius E. Talton Endowed Program Support Fund and University of Alabama College of Communication and Information Sciences.

He received the Rotary International Paul Harris Fellow, Opelika Exchange Club Book of Golden Deeds Award, Opelika Chamber of Commerce, "Small Businessperson of the Year" and Chancellor's Award Outstanding Alumni—Southern Union State Community College. He is married to his wife, Laura, and has two children. The Fullers are active members of First Methodist of Opelika.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing my friend, Mayor Fuller, and thanking him for his service to the City of Opelika. Congratulations to Mayor Fuller.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT  
OF BRIAN ESTES

**HON. DOUG LAMALFA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 7, 2025*

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a friend, CAL FIRE Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit Chief Brian Estes. Brian has been a solid partner in public safety and fire protection for many years, and I am grateful that we became friends along the way. Always a man of deep integrity, I know I could trust his judgement and clarity in any issue before us. He will be missed by myself and my office. Despite being a Los Angeles Dodgers fan, we have much in common and I wish him the

very best in his retirement. I do hope our paths cross, and I look forward to seeing what his incredible artistic talent creates in this next chapter of his life.

Chief Estes earned a bachelor's degree from California State University, Chico, in Information and Communications Studies with a minor in Fine Art. In 1991 he would make a pivotal career shift graduating at the top of his class from the Butte Fire Academy, beginning his lifelong commitment to public safety. His first assignment in San Diego County at a bustling fire station along the international border would further his enthusiasm for public safety.

Chief Estes would join a CAL FIRE Helicopter crew in Tuolumne County in 1995. This assignment would ignite a passion for fire aviation, where he would coordinate with California National Guard's Blackhawk and Chinook Squadrons. He would then be promoted and assigned to the Amador-El Dorado Unit. In 2000, he advanced to the rank of Captain and then Battalion Chief in 2005 overseeing the Unit's Training and EMS Bureau before transferring to the Headquarters Field Battalion Chief Position.

Chief Estes would continue to rise through the ranks serving as Assistant Chief of Operations, overseeing a Fire Crew Camp, Deputy Chief of Operations, and ultimately Unit Chief for the Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit and Fire Chief of Placer County Fire Department. In these roles, he led over 450 personnel in one of CAL FIRE's most complex units, managing operations, administration, and a \$100 million budget across 1.7 million acres of State Responsibility Area (SRA). During his career Chief Estes has prioritized professional development, serving on department committees and instructing the next generation of firefighters.

Chief Estes, as a key member of the 2006 branding committee, would transition the department from CDF to CAL FIRE, designing the department's patch logo, apparatus fleet identity, and aviation fleet livery. This rebranding efforts elevated CAL FIRE's public image and highlighted the professionalism of its more than 10,000 firefighters. For over 15 years Chief Estes has chaired the statewide uniform and standards committee, further reinforcing the department's professional standards.

Chief Estes' impact and leadership in public safety will be felt not just in California but far beyond. In 2023, he was deployed to Maui, Hawaii, for incident management for the devastating Lahaina fire. He would also travel to Germany, building partnerships with fire services in over 10 cities and speaking at a major Western European fire symposium.

On behalf of Northern California and our grateful rural communities that Chief Brian Estes has fought tirelessly to defend throughout his career, I thank him for his dedicated service and congratulate him on his well-earned retirement.