

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF WWII VETERAN GUY W. EASTEP

HON. LANCE GOODEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2025

Mr. GOODEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Guy W. Eastep's 100th birthday and his dedicated service to our Nation during World War II. Mr. Eastep was born on August 31, 1925, in Crandall, Texas. In November 1943, Mr. Eastep was drafted into the United States Army and was activated on December 13, 1943, as a Rifleman. Private Eastep was deployed to the European Theater as an Infantry Replacement and served with I Company, 137th Infantry Regiment, 35th Infantry Division.

During his combat deployment to the European Theater, Private Eastep received multiple service decorations, including the European Theater Campaign Ribbon with two Bronze Stars, Combat Infantry Badge, and a Purple Heart, which he was awarded for wounds received in September 1944. Later, in March 1946, Mr. Eastep was honorably discharged from military service at the rank of Technician 4th Grade. It is my honor to recognize his valiant service and long life. I congratulate him on this amazing milestone.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HOUSE OF HEROES

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2025

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the 25th Anniversary of the House of Heroes, a remarkable organization founded by Rev. Wayne Anthony in 1999, in Columbus, Georgia. The organization celebrated this occasion with an event that was held on November 6, 2025, at 6 p.m. at the Columbus Country Club in Columbus, Georgia.

For the past quarter-century, House of Heroes has been dedicated to honoring the service and sacrifice of our military and public safety veterans by providing essential home repairs and support services to them and their families. Through its tireless efforts, the organization has restored dignity and safety in the homes of over a thousand deserving veterans across our Nation.

Rev. Wayne Anthony had a vision—a vision to ensure that those who have bravely served our country are not forgotten, and that they receive the assistance they so rightly deserve. This organization grew from a single humble initiative into a national movement, fueled by the commitment of volunteers, local chapters, and countless community partners who have rallied in support of these heroes.

As we celebrate this significant milestone, let us remember the countless lives that House of Heroes has changed for the better. From repairing leaky roofs to building wheelchair ramps, their work goes beyond mere physical improvements. They restore hope, instill a sense of pride, and affirm the sacrifices made by our veterans and their families. Cur-

rently, the organization has a presence in 18 states and has repaired over 2,400 homes in the last 25 years. These repairs were valued at more than 24 million dollars, but there can be no value placed on what our Veterans have meant to our country.

My Office has had a longstanding relationship with House of Heroes over the years. I have been honored to fly a flag over the United States Capitol in honor of those who have had repairs completed by this great organization.

It is my sincere hope that the spirit of service and compassion that embodies House of Heroes continues to inspire communities across our country for many years to come. I extend my deepest gratitude to Rev. Wayne Anthony, the dedicated staff, and volunteers of House of Heroes, for their unwavering commitment to supporting our heroes. Albert Pike once said that "What we do for ourselves dies with us, what we do for others, and the world remains and is immortal." What our Veterans sacrificed for us is immortal and what the House of Heroes has done across the country for them builds on that immortality.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the 765,000 people of Georgia's 2nd Congressional District in honoring the House of Heroes on its silver anniversary and congratulating them on upholding the values of our great country. Furthermore, we know that they will continue to inspire future generations to serve those who have served us.

WELCOMING THE POSITIVE OUTCOMES OF THE C5+1 SUMMIT AND U.S.-CENTRAL ASIA PARTNERSHIP

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2025

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome the positive outcomes of the C5+1 Summit, held in Washington, D.C., on November 6, 2025. This high-level meeting reaffirmed the United States' partnership with the nations of Central Asia—Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan—in promoting regional stability, economic growth, and sustainable development. It also led to valuable strides in our mutual partnership including the announcement of Kazakhstan's intent to join the Abraham accords and commitments to regional partners on critical mineral investment.

Over the years, the C5+1 format has evolved into an important platform for advancing dialogue, strengthening regional cooperation, and expanding opportunities for trade, investment, and connectivity. The recent summit in Washington underscored the mutual benefits of deeper cooperation between the United States and Central Asia from enhancing supply chain resilience and diversifying access to critical minerals, to fostering people-to-people exchanges and educational partnerships.

Looking ahead, we hope to build on this relationship by advancing our efforts to lift the outdated Jackson Vanik amendment, which has long been an irritant in the trade relationship between the United States and the Central Asian nations. Lifting this amendment

would underscore the U.S. commitment to the region, and provide the stability needed to foster mutual investment and growth. We also hope to build on the momentum of the summit with continued high-level engagements and visits between the U.S. and Central Asia.

Mr. Speaker, the outcomes of the C5+1 Summit reaffirm our shared vision of a stable, prosperous, and interconnected Central Asia, one that contributes to global security and economic opportunity. The United States stands ready to continue working hand-in-hand with our partners across the region to turn this vision into lasting results.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF SHIRLEY KROHN

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2025

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Shirley Krohn and congratulate her on earning the first ever California Senior Legislature "Legislator of the Decade" award.

Shirley's advocacy and dedicated policy work have improved the lives of countless seniors in our community. She served on the Contra Costa County Advisory Council on Aging, including serving twice as President, where she worked tirelessly to ensure the voices of Contra Costa's seniors were heard. Shirley also worked to combat elder financial abuse in her role as Chairman of the Board at Bechtel Credit Union, where her efforts led to landmark reporting laws which are now emulated across the country. She also served in the California Senior Legislature, working to improve quality of life for California's seniors. Shirley has been a life-long champion for the dignity, safety, and well-being of older Americans.

Shirley's leadership has shaped state policy on dementia care, end-of-life decision making, and protections for our vulnerable populations. I would also like to commend her for her mentorship of the next generation of advocates, cementing her legacy of service for years to come. Shirley's service is a true example of outstanding public leadership and advocacy.

Please join me in thanking Shirley Krohn for her decades of exemplary service on behalf of older adults throughout the State of California.

HONORING FAMILYCORE ON ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2025

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the 125th anniversary of FamilyCore. For more than a century, FamilyCore has served as a pillar of support for families in Central Illinois, and now provides counseling, foster care, adoption, youth outreach, and family preservation services to more than 17,000 clients each year.

Founded in 1900 in the Assembly Room of Peoria's City Hall, FamilyCore began as Associated Charities and Philanthropies with the

mission of coordinating charitable efforts and uplifting families in need. While its name and services have changed over the past 125 years, the mission of strengthening families for a stronger community has stayed constant.

FamilyCore's impact has been bolstered by innovative thinking with a focus on collaboration. From its early efforts to establish a juvenile court and public health initiatives to its current work in behavioral health and family well-being, FamilyCore's positive effect in Central Illinois continues to grow.

As we celebrate 125 years of FamilyCore's service, we honor its proud history and the generations of staff, volunteers, and community partners who have made a lasting difference in the lives of thousands. I am proud to recognize this extraordinary organization and ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating FamilyCore on 125 years of strengthening families and building a stronger Peoria.

RECOGNIZING BUCKS COUNTRY GARDENS PRESIDENT TOM HEBEL'S RETIREMENT AFTER 40+ YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2025

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable constituent from my district, Mr. Tom Hebel, proprietor of Bucks Country Gardens in Doylestown, Pennsylvania—a business that has, for more than six decades, helped beautify homes and enrich communities throughout Bucks County and beyond.

Founded in 1961 as Royer Nurseries, the family run business has become a cornerstone of the local community, known for its commitment to excellence, creativity, and service. Mr. Hebel joined the company in 1981 as a young landscape designer, quickly finding a mentor and partner in owner Mr. Dick Royer who shared his vision for inspiring outdoor living. After a decade of collaboration, Mr. Hebel assumed ownership, guiding the business through decades of growth and transformation while remaining true to its founding principles.

Under Mr. Hebel's leadership, Bucks Country Gardens has thrived as both a retail garden center and a landscape design firm. The garden center offers an impressive array of plants, trees, and flowers as well as fine outdoor furniture from trusted brands such as Castelle, Hanamint, Telescope, and Jensen Outdoor. The boutique complements these offerings with unique gifts, jewelry, and home decor that reflect the artistry and taste of the region. From modest terraces to expansive poolside retreats and vegetable gardens, Bucks Country Gardens has helped countless homeowners turn their dreams into reality—always balancing creativity, functionality, and responsibility.

Mr. Hebel, a proud graduate of Penn State University's Landscape Architecture program, has long emphasized that landscaping is both a financial and a lifestyle investment. Through his guidance, the company has earned a reputation not only for its design expertise but also for its enduring client relationships through many generations.

Now, as Bucks Country Gardens enters a new chapter, Mr. Hebel looks with pride to his

sons, Gregory and Ryan Hebel, who together represent the next generation of leadership. Gregory, who oversees the company's design-build operations, and Ryan, who manages the retail garden center, share their father's passion for connecting people to the outdoors. With their dedication and vision, the future of Bucks Country Gardens shines brightly.

Mr. Hebel's decades of work have brought joy, inspiration, and beauty to the people of Bucks County. His story reflects the very best of American entrepreneurship—family, creativity, and community spirit—and stands as a testament to the enduring value of small businesses in our Nation's fabric.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Tom Hebel and the entire Bucks Country Gardens team for their remarkable contributions to the community, their commitment to excellence, and their role in nurturing both the community and the people they serve.

RECOGNIZING DR. KENNETH G. "KEN" BODIFORD FOR HIS EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE TO JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY AND THE FIELD OF MUSIC EDUCATION

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2025

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor Dr. Ken Bodiford. Dr. Bodiford served as Director of Bands at my alma mater, Jacksonville State University. During his 32-year tenure, he transformed the Marching Southerners into one of the most respected and accomplished collegiate marching programs in the Nation.

Under Dr. Bodiford's leadership, the Marching Southerners expanded from approximately 140 members to more than 500, becoming one of the largest collegiate marching ensembles in the country. His vision and commitment to excellence elevated the Southerners to national and international acclaim, representing Jax State and the State of Alabama on some of the world's most prestigious stages.

Throughout his tenure, Dr. Bodiford led the Southerners in performances at the 80th Anniversary of D-Day in 2024, the World Peace Parade in 2019, the Bands of America Grand National Championships in 2019 and 2002, the 75th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor in 2016, the London New Year's Day Parade in 2012 and the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in 1995.

Dr. Bodiford served as Director of the Spirit of JSU Drum and Bugle Corps from 2001 to 2007, guiding the ensemble to multiple Top 12 finishes at the Drum Corps International World Championships. He also served as Director of the United States Army All-American Marching Band from 2016 to 2017, leading some of the nation's most talented young musicians in performances of the highest caliber.

His contributions to music education have been recognized nationally through his election to Phi Beta Mu, the International Bandmasters Fraternity, which honors exceptional leadership and lifelong dedication to the advancement of band music. Beyond his professional achievements, his greatest legacy lies

in the generations of students, educators and performers he has mentored.

Dr. Bodiford's career stands as a testament to the power of vision, passion and leadership in shaping both institutions and lives. His tireless dedication has brought great honor to Jax State, the Marching Southerners and the State of Alabama.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Jax State fans and family, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and celebrating the extraordinary career of Dr. Kenneth G. "Ken" Bodiford.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UF/IFAS GULF COAST RESEARCH AND EDUCATION CENTER

HON. SCOTT FRANKLIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 2025

Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 100th anniversary of the University of Florida's IFAS Gulf Coast Research and Education Center, a cornerstone of Florida agriculture supporting our growers and research community for generations.

Founded in 1925 in Palmetto as the Tomato Disease Laboratory, the Center was created to combat a devastating fungal disease threatening Florida's tomato production. Over the decades, its mission expanded as Florida agriculture grew and diversified, adding work in breeding, plant health and soil and water research to strengthen crop quality and sustainable production. In 2005, the Center relocated to Wimauma to support broader research and collaboration benefiting producers across our state.

For a century, this Center has delivered practical, science-based solutions to strengthen Florida agriculture. Its research has improved crop quality, enhanced resilience against disease and pests, and supported the development of new crops that sustain local economies and help specialty producers thrive. It works hand in hand with producers and industry partners to support new opportunities, including work on caladiums, hops and berry production that expands Florida's agricultural footprint and helps specialty crops thrive in our region.

Now, a new chapter is taking shape. The UF/IFAS Center for Applied Artificial Intelligence in Agriculture is integrating automation, data and machine learning to help producers work more efficiently and address labor needs. With federal support championed in Congress, the Center is acquiring new equipment and technology to accelerate this work and strengthen hands-on research capacity at the site. This investment will bring cutting-edge innovation directly to the farm, improving productivity and competitiveness across the industry.

As we mark this milestone, we honor the scientists, staff and growers who make this progress possible. Their dedication supports rural communities and strengthens American food security. I congratulate the UF/IFAS Gulf Coast Research and Education Center on a century of extraordinary service and look forward to its continued leadership in the years ahead.