

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 EX-  
TRAORDINARY SERVICE TO  
JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVER-  
SITY 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 ANNIVER-  
SARY OF THE UF/IFAS GULF  
COAST RESEARCH AND EDU-  
CATION 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.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF SUNSHINE HAVEN, INC. FOR PROVIDING HOSPICE CARE

**HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 7, 2025*

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 25th anniversary of Sunshine Haven, a local hospice care center in Olmito, Texas.

Throughout their 25 years, Sunshine Haven has shown true care and empathy for their patients. Their work highlights the best of South Texas—caring for the most vulnerable of our neighbors and community members. I am honored to represent such dedicated individuals who devote their time and compassion to caring for our senior citizens.

The end-of-life care Sunshine Haven provides brings peace of mind to patients and their families, knowing their loved ones are cared for with dignity, comfort, and respect.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful South Texas, I congratulate Sunshine Haven and all those who have contributed to its mission over the past two and a half decades. May they continue to serve and care for our communities for many years to come.

CELEBRATING THE 225TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SAVANNAH

**HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 7, 2025*

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the First Baptist Church of

Savannah on their 225th Anniversary. Since 1800, this church has stood as a cornerstone of faith, service, and resilience in our community. From its beginnings on Franklin Square to the historic sanctuary on Chippewa Square, First Baptist Church has been a beacon of steadfast devotion and is recognized as the oldest surviving house of worship in Savannah. Through its leadership and dedicated members, this church has shaped not only life in Savannah but also Baptist life across Georgia and our Nation. It has nurtured faith, advanced education through its connection to Mercer University, and embraced a spirit of service. Between its open-door policy during the Civil War to its recent pipe organ concert series, First Baptist Church has continually worked to build community and welcome all into their congregation. We celebrate them for both a remarkable history and a vibrant legacy of hope for the future.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF CINDY GERSHEN

**HON. MARK DeSAULNIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 7, 2025*

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Cindy Gershen on her 70th birthday. Cindy has worked tirelessly to bring healthy eating initiatives to life throughout the East Bay. She graduated from U.C. San Diego before opening Sunrise Bakery and Catering in Walnut Creek. Now called "Sunrise Bistro & Catering", the over 40 year old locally renown restaurant prides itself on nutrition and healthy cooking. Throughout her time as owner and chef of the Sunrise Bistro, Cindy has continuously revamped the menu to

align with the best nutrition standards. In 2009, Cindy created the nonprofit, "Wellness City Challenge", which seeks to improve community health and promote the importance of nutrition. She has impacted the lives of countless residents across the East Bay, encouraging them to follow her own journey to live healthier lives.

Additionally, Cindy has worked to promote wellness in schools and ensure that future generations can become educated culinary experts. For over ten years between 2011 to 2022, she taught students about food and nutrition at Mount Diablo High School in Concord, creating the Sustainable Hospitality Program. Her classes focused on topics such as food science, harvesting, and career readiness. Cindy's class was so successful that it inspired similar courses at several other high schools across the county. Additionally, she was recognized for her wellness advocacy efforts as California Assembly District 14's "Woman of the Year" in 2014.

Cindy is also an author who has collaborated with Dr. Robert Lustig at the University of California, San Francisco to publish cookbooks backed by scientific research. She currently works as a chef at East Bay Health, helping patients practice intentional, healthy eating. Cindy's work has been immensely impactful across our region and her service has left an indelible impact on our community.

Please join me in thanking Cindy Gershen for her outstanding work and in wishing her a very happy 70th birthday.