

# RECOGNIZING THE U.S. MARINE CORPS ON ITS 250TH BIRTHDAY

## HON. ERIC BURLISON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 10, 2025*

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the brave members of the U.S. Marine Corps as they celebrate their 250th birthday today.

The Marine Corps was born in Philadelphia on November 10, 1775, when two battalions of Continental Marines were established as a service branch of infantry troops capable of fighting both at sea and on shore. Two hundred fifty years later, it remains the maritime land force service branch of the United States Department of War.

Over the years, Marines have been called by many nicknames, including "leathernecks" due to the stiff leather collars worn in their 18th- and 19th-century uniforms, which protected against sword slashes and encouraged good posture; "jarheads," which was initially due to the appearance of their high-collared dress uniforms that made their heads look like a mason jar in the early 1900's and has since evolved to also reference the popular "high and tight" haircut; and "devil dogs" from the German nickname given to them during the Battle of Belleau Wood in World War I. The term originated from the German soldiers' perception of the Marines' tenacious and fierce fighting style.

However, I merely call them patriots and believe the words of the Marine Corps Anthem best describe their character and their mission and I hereby include them in the RECORD:

From the Halls of Montezuma To  
the shores of Tripoli;  
We will fight our country's battles  
In the air, on land, and sea;  
First to fight for right and freedom  
And to keep our honor clean;  
We are proud to claim the title Of  
United States Marine.

Our Marine Corps men and women—both our veterans and those in active service—deserve our eternal gratitude for the battles they have fought to keep Americans free. I would like to congratulate all the Marine Corps members serving across America, especially those in Detachment No. 993 in Missouri's 7th District, for their commitment to God and country, and to serve and protect us against our enemies. They serve a noble cause. May they ever carry the torch of liberty and continue to serve honorably for the next 250 years.

# RECOGNIZING ANNA KATHLEEN CUMMINS KENNEDY

## HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 10, 2025*

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Anna Kathleen Cummins Kennedy of Poplar Bluff, Missouri, whose life exemplified service to country, devotion to family, and tireless commitment to community. Born on January 1, 1925, near Falmouth, Kentucky, Anna Kathleen was the seventh of ten children on her parents' farm. When her moth-

er died at age 12, she immediately assumed the duties of running the household, caring for her younger brothers, cooking, and keeping the home, all while continuing her education and graduating from Falmouth High School in 1942. During those formative years she became an extraordinary cook, an immaculate homemaker, and a steadfast caretaker to her family.

After contributing to the wartime labor force in Cincinnati, Ohio, she enlisted in the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service in early 1945 and trained in New York. She served with the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps at Naval Air Station Memphis, Tennessee, where she ministered to service members during the final months of World War II. She was honorably discharged in January 1946 after devoting service to her country.

In the closing days of her service, she met Ardell O. Kennedy at the Memphis Naval Air Station. They married in January 1946 and began their family in 1947. Ardell and Anna enjoyed 71 amazing years together welcoming their four children: Karen Delleen, Bonnie Lee, Mark Alan, and Douglas Ray. They both made education a priority, ensuring each child completed college and pursued careers in nursing, teaching, and law.

The Kennedys made Poplar Bluff their permanent home in 1950. For two decades Kathy raised her children while serving as a devoted wife and mother and as an active leader in her church and community. She was a charter member of Fellowship General Baptist Church and served as Den Mother, PTA member, Vacation Bible School director, Sunday School teacher, and participant in mission and quilting societies. She devoted herself to food, clothing, and fund drives and served Eastern Star for more than 50 years, holding local and state offices.

Once her children were grown, Kathy worked for more than 25 years as a clerk at livestock auctions across Missouri and Arkansas. She cherished family gatherings, hosted Sunday dinners, and traveled with relatives to nearly every state. She was a talented craftswoman whose creativity touched every part of her life. She enjoyed bowling for both fun and friendship, and her love of reading kept her mind curious and engaged. She became grandmother to 10 and great-grandmother to 16, creating cherished quilts and paintings for each and continuing to nourish her family with homemade meals as long as she was able.

It is my honor to recognize Anna Kathleen Cummins Kennedy for a life defined by courage in service, devotion to family, and enduring generosity to her community. Her legacy of care, craftsmanship, and commitment stands as a model of the quiet, steady contributions that strengthen families and towns across our Nation. On behalf of myself, Congressman JASON SMITH and the community she served, I offer profound appreciation for her remarkable life.

# HONORING THE S.S. EDMUND FITZGERALD

## HON. PETE STAUBER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 10, 2025*

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the S.S. *Edmund Fitzgerald* on the 50th anni-

versary of her sinking. The S.S. *Edmund Fitzgerald* was launched on June 8, 1958, in River Route, Michigan. She was the largest ship on the Great Lakes for thirteen years, at 729 feet and over 13,000 gross tons. Her normal course often took her between Minnesota, where she would load on taconite ore, and the steel mills in Michigan and Ohio.

On November 9, 1975, the S.S. *Edmund Fitzgerald* left Burlington Northern Railroad Dock No. 1 in Superior, Wisconsin. Carrying a load of taconite ore, she set sail for Zug Island, Detroit, Michigan, but weather conditions rapidly deteriorated, and soon the S.S. *Edmund Fitzgerald* was fighting one of the most violent storms the Great Lakes region has ever seen. Reports suggest the S.S. *Edmund Fitzgerald* was fighting steady winds of 58 knots with gust winds of up to 70 knots and seas of 18 to 25 feet.

On November 10, 1975, the S.S. *Edmund Fitzgerald* sank in Lake Superior approximately 17 miles from Whitefish Point, Michigan. It took the lives of all 29 crew members aboard, including Captain Ernest M. McSorley.

Today, the legacy of the S.S. *Edmund Fitzgerald* lives on in the Great Lakes region and beyond. Her legacy is shared through community ceremonies, museums, and other maritime organizations, both in story and in song, including the well-known 1976 ballad by Gordon Lightfoot, "The Wreck of the *Edmund Fitzgerald*."

As a representative from and lifelong resident of northern Minnesota, I will continue to do my part in sharing the story of the S.S. *Edmund Fitzgerald* so that her legacy may live on forever.

# RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF STEVE KENNEDY

## HON. AARON BEAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 10, 2025*

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I have always believed that a strong city is like a well-planted tree: deep roots give you staying power, sturdy branches let you grow, and a good neighborhood street, well, that's your main limb. So today, I'm pleased to recognize a man whose roots run deep and whose work on roots and limbs alike has brought new life to Green Cove Springs, Florida. I rise to honor the retirement of Steve Kennedy, longtime City Manager for the City of Green Cove Springs.

Steve joined the city as City Manager on October 1, 2018, following more than 38 years of exemplary municipal service in Georgia. During his nearly seven-year tenure here, he led with vision, steadiness, and a keen sense of public service, culminating in an impressive 48-year career in local government.

One of Steve's signature achievements for Green Cove Springs is the redevelopment of Walnut Street, where he oversaw the major redesign and reconstruction project that is now helping the city both preserve its historic charm and position itself for future growth. This project reflects Steve's commitment to the everyday quality of life for residents, business owners, and visitors alike.

Under his leadership, the city also advanced the Harbor Road Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant and established the city's first

Community Redevelopment Agency, major infrastructure and policy shifts that will benefit the community for decades to come.

On behalf of the people of Northeast Florida, I extend my sincere thanks to Steve Kennedy for his dedication to public service, his countless hours working behind the scenes to ensure this city's progress, and for planting the kind of roots that will support growth for generations. May his retirement be full of relaxation, quality time with family and the satisfaction of watching all he built continue to flourish.

**HONORING THE LIFE OF A REMARKABLE SOUTH TEXAN,  
BETTY BENTSEN WINN**

**HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 10, 2025*

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of a great South Texan, Betty Bentsen Winn, who passed away on January 25, 2025. I include in the RECORD her obituary:

Betty Bentsen Winn, a Valley native, spent her life enjoying a rich cultural tapestry. She gave of herself, and her homeland gave back many times over.

She was born in Mission, Texas to the parents of Lloyd and Edna Ruth "Dolly" Bentsen on November 22nd, 1931. Her three older brothers, Lloyd, Donald and Kenneth, completed her family circle.

She attended elementary school in Mission and graduated from McAllen High School as salutatorian and Lady of the Mirror where her children and grandson also graduated. She married Robert Daniel Winn after graduating from The University of Texas at Austin and proceeded to build a family of three children, Ellen Ruth, Robert Daniel, Jr., and Susan Elizabeth. Her faith and family were tantamount to all else.

Betty gave her time to improve her community and church for her children and others. She was a Girl Scout leader, a Cub Scout leader, a Sunday School teacher, a Vacation Bible School volunteer and the leader of Acteens at First Baptist Church for many years.

As her children grew older, her philanthropy and volunteerism expanded. Betty was a founder and board member of the Texas Committee for the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, D.C. and a founder and board member of the International Museum of Arts & Science in McAllen, Texas. Betty was also instrumental in bringing the Bolshoi Ballet to McAllen whilst being involved with the McAllen Performing Arts. The Easterseals Rio Grande Valley also held a special place in her heart as a volunteer and board member.

She is survived by her children Robert Daniel Winn, Jr. and Susan Winn Lowry (William David Lowry, III), grandchildren Carrie Johnson Fiorito (Ted) and William David Lowry, IV (Vanessa), and great-grandchildren William David "Liam" Lowry, V, Lilia Ruth Fiorito, and Luke Anthony Fiorito. She is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents Lloyd and Edna "Dolly" Bentsen, her brothers and sisters-in-law Senator Lloyd Bentsen, Jr. (Beryl Ann Longino), Donald Bentsen (Nell McCarter), and Kenneth Bentsen (Mary Bates), her daughter Ellen Ruth Johnson, and former husband Robert Daniel Winn.

Betty took great pride in showing people from other parts of the United States and around the world her Valley home. The burgeoning life, culture, flora and fauna never ceased to delight her and she shared that enthusiasm with multiple individuals. They all came away with an awe and new appreciation for the Southern Tip of Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank Mrs. Bentsen Winn for all she has done for South Texas.

**HONORING THE RIO VISTA  
AMERICAN LEGION POST 178**

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 10, 2025*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Rio Vista American Legion Post 178 as it celebrates the 100th anniversary of its charter and a century of service to our veterans and our Rio Vista community.

The American Legion was founded in 1919 by an act of Congress in the wake of World War I to support veterans, active-duty military personnel, and their families. Over the past century, it has grown into one of the largest and most respected veterans organizations in the world, advocating for key federal programs like the GI Bill, advancing veterans, health care, and fostering civic engagement and youth leadership. Today, the American Legion includes more than 1.6 million members serving in over 12,000 posts across our country and abroad.

Rio Vista American Legion Post 178 joined this distinguished network on October 23, 1925, bringing the Legion's mission of service, patriotism, and community to our local level. For 100 years, Post 178 has stood as a cornerstone of our Rio Vista community, supporting veterans, strengthening civic ties, and honoring those who have served our Nation.

Throughout its history, Post 178 has demonstrated steadfast commitment to our local veterans. The Post played a key role in establishing a home for unhoused veterans in Rio Vista, raising funds and providing volunteer labor for its construction. It continues to provide critical assistance for veterans through its post service officer, who helps veterans access benefits through the Department of Veterans Affairs, including health care, disability, and education programs. The Post also serves as an important gathering place for veterans and their families. Each week, it opens its doors for Thursday evening social hours, offering a place for camaraderie and connection. The facility doubles as a community hub, available for use by civic organizations, churches, and residents, and hosts a wide range of local events that bring people together across our Rio Vista.

Post 178 honors the service and sacrifice of our Nation's veterans through annual ceremonies that have become local traditions. These include the Memorial Day ceremony in front of Rio Vista City Hall, the placement of flags on veterans' graves, the Patriot Day ceremony each September 11th, the POW/MIA ceremony at City Hall, and the annual flag retirement ceremony at the Post. In addition to its service to veterans, Post 178 actively supports youth in the community. The Post provides scholarships to local students

and sponsors candidates for the American Legion's Boys State and Auxiliary Girls State programs, which give high school students hands-on experience in civic leadership and government. The Post also organizes the annual Kinser Cup Golf Tournament in honor of Adam Kinser, a Rio Vista soldier who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country.

For a century, Rio Vista American Legion Post 178 has exemplified the spirit of service that defines both our veterans and our community. Under the leadership of Post Commander John Fashing and Adjutant Jim Wheeler, the Post continues to honor the men and women who served and to strengthen the bonds of community in Rio Vista.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting and proper that we honor Rio Vista American Legion Post 178 here today on the occasion of its 100th anniversary and recognize its enduring service to our veterans and to our community.

**CONGRATULATING THE WASHINGTON CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION ON THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY**

**HON. DAN NEWHOUSE**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 10, 2025*

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the Washington Cattleman's Association on their 100th anniversary, an incredible milestone that ranchers in our State should be proud of.

Since its inception in 1925, the Washington Cattleman's Association has been instrumental in promoting the agriculture and cattle industry in the State of Washington. They preserve, protect, and promote the beef industry through producer and consumer education, legislative advocacy, regulatory scrutiny, and legal intervention.

Based in Ellensburg, Washington, the Washington Cattleman's Association has 1,500 members across the State. Their excellent leadership in Olympia and Washington D.C. has helped advance important legislation and cut red tape for ranchers in our State. Despite challenges facing ranchers and cattleman in the State, the Washington Cattleman's Association has been instrumental in establishing water, grazing, and local conservation efforts that has helped build our robust cattle industry here in Washington.

Their exceptional work has helped so many ranchers, and on their 100th anniversary, I thank them for all they do for the State of Washington.

**RECOGNIZING DALE PETROSKEY**

**HON. ROGER WILLIAMS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 10, 2025*

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, I recognize Dale Petroskey for his outstanding leadership and dedicated service as President and CEO of the Dallas Regional Chamber. Under his guidance, the Chamber has helped make North Texas one of the most dynamic and business-friendly regions in