

took the initiative to attend courses on his own time, using his personal vacation days to become a certified Accident Reconstructionist. His expertise grew to encompass vehicle, motorcycle, and pedestrian accidents, making him a respected authority figure in traffic safety. As a member of the department's Traffic Safety Unit, he also specialized in speed enforcement, truck enforcement, and weighmaster duties.

Officer Baranowski chose to remain on patrol, believing that he could make the greatest impact by being out in the community—seeing, hearing, and engaging directly with the people he served. This philosophy not only guided his career but earned him the respect, trust, and admiration of Warminster residents.

Among his many accomplishments, one of the most memorable occurred roughly ten years ago, when a series of overnight burglaries struck local pizza and convenience shops. Through patient teamwork and surveillance, he and his fellow officers apprehended the suspects after a brief foot pursuit, uncovering stolen property and solving multiple open burglary cases across several jurisdictions. This case remains a testament to his dedication, vigilance, and the power of teamwork.

Having grown up in Warminster, Officer Baranowski possessed a unique understanding of and connection to his community. His familiarity with residents and business owners made him a trusted figure, someone to whom people could turn in moments of both crisis and celebration. Over the years, he built countless relationships grounded in mutual respect, compassion, and service. His chief often remarked that if something was needed, day or night, Officer Baranowski could make it happen.

Throughout his career, Officer Baranowski supported the people of Warminster through their best and worst moments. He attended weddings, funerals, and community events, celebrating and sharing sorrows with the people he served. His empathy and consistent presence left a lasting mark on countless lives. As Officer Baranowski's career comes to a close, this moment is bittersweet. Though retirement marks the end of an extraordinary career, it does not end his commitment to the community that shaped him. Warminster gave him his roots, his purpose, and a life of service that he will always cherish. He leaves behind a legacy of professionalism, compassion, and integrity that will inspire future generations of officers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our deepest gratitude to Officer Eric Baranowski for his exemplary service to the Warminster community and to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. His dedication to justice and his unwavering commitment to the safety and well-being of others represent the highest ideals of law enforcement. We wish him a fulfilling and well-deserved retirement.

HONORING THE RAYMONDVILLE
HIGH SCHOOL BEARKAT MARCH-
ING BAND

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2025

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remark-

able achievements of the Raymondville High School Bearkat Marching Band, whose hard work, dedication, and talent have brought immense pride to the community of Raymondville and the Rio Grande Valley.

This year, the Bearkat Band earned an extraordinary honor by placing second in the University Interscholastic League (UIL) State Marching Band Competition in the Class 3A division. Competing among the very best bands in Texas, the Bearkat Band demonstrated exceptional musical talent, discipline, and teamwork that reflect the highest standards of performance and school spirit.

Through the help of their devoted directors and supported by families, teachers, and the Raymondville community, the Bearkat Band advanced to the state level after earning first place in their area competition. Their journey to the Alamodome in San Antonio was the culmination of countless hours of rehearsal and dedication.

On behalf of the 34th Congressional District of Texas, I wish to congratulate the Raymondville High School Bearkat Marching Band, their directors, and everyone who helped them achieve this extraordinary milestone. Their achievement inspires not only their peers across South Texas but students across the state to pursue their passions.

HONORING GRIOT ARTS, INC.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an enthusiastic and self-motivated community organization, Griot Arts Inc. This dynamic organization is composed of dedicated educators, artists, and community leaders who have tirelessly served the youth and citizens in the City of Clarksdale and Coahoma County, Mississippi.

Based in Clarksdale, MS, Griot Arts Inc. is commitment to nurturing creativity, empowering individuals and fostering strong sense of community belonging. The organization's focus lies in the arts education and workforce development—two powerful tools for creating a brighter and more equitable future. Griot Arts is more than an organization; it is a movement where every brushstroke, every melody, and every creative expression contributes to building a better tomorrow. Through its comprehensive arts education programs, Griot Arts inspires and cultivates the next generation of artists, equipping them with the skills and confidence to excel in their chosen fields and to make meaningful contributions to society. They believe that artistic expression is not only a personal outlet but also a powerful catalyst for community growth and positive change.

In addition to arts education, Griot Arts is deeply dedicated to workforce development. The organization recognizes the importance of preparing individuals for success in today's evolving job market. Through a variety of programs and initiatives, they provide participants with the tools, training, and opportunities needed to achieve economic stability and professional fulfillment.

Furthermore, Griot Arts demonstrates its commitment to community health and wellness

by hosting annual events during October's Breast Cancer Awareness Month, including the Zumba-A-Thon "Glow in the Dark," Sunset Yoga, and Boots & Boogie for the Cure at no charge. These events bring the community together in support of awareness, education, and hope.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Griot Arts, Inc. for their unwavering dedication and commitment to empowering youth through art, education, and workforce development continues to enrich the lives of the people of Clarksdale and Coahoma County, Mississippi.

CELEBRATING THE FIRST WOMAN
SENIOR PASTOR OF FIRST
MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. EUGENE SIMON VINDMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2025

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a historic moment in our community—the installment of Rev. Dr. Sandra K. James as the first woman senior pastor in the history of First Mount Zion Baptist Church (FMZBC) located in Dumfries, Virginia.

Over twenty-five years ago, Rev. Dr. James began serving at FMZBC, one of the oldest churches in Prince William County. Before her leadership at the church, Rev. Dr. James served our Nation with honor in the United States Army for more than 24 years, retiring with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

After retiring from the U.S. Army, Rev. Dr. James continued her leadership and service to others as Assistant Pastor at FMZBC, where she provided guidance in preaching, teaching, pastoral care, and ministry development.

Rev. Dr. James is also a dedicated scholar of faith. She earned a Master's Degree in Theological Studies from Virginia Union University and later went on to earn a Doctor of Ministry in Pastoral Studies and Ministry from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, which equipped her to serve others with wisdom and compassion.

In 2024, Rev. Dr. James made history when she was appointed Acting Pastor of FMZBC, leading the church with vision and grace. Today, she stands as the 11th Pastor of First Mount Zion Baptist Church, a milestone in the churches' 158-year history.

Mr. Speaker, I want to personally recognize Rev. Dr. James as she makes history as the first woman to pastor First Mount Zion Baptist Church, bringing a fresh vision to meet the challenges of today.

Founded in 1867 by formerly enslaved men and women determined to build a place of worship and community, FMZBC has stood as a symbol of faith and hope in Prince William County. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Rev. Dr. James and the entire First Mount Zion Baptist Church family as they enter this new and inspiring chapter in their church's history.

HONORING JANE CAMPBELL FOR HER SERVICE TO CLEVELAND AND THE U.S. CAPITOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HON. SHONTEL M. BROWN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2025

Ms. BROWN. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the Honorable Jane L. Campbell for her distinguished career in public office and public service. As a Cleveland, a Member of Congress, and a representative of communities across Northeast Ohio, I truly appreciate the varied ways in which she served the people throughout her many years of service.

In 2001, Campbell became the first woman elected Mayor of the City of Cleveland. As Mayor she helped spur economic development in downtown Cleveland and our lakefront, and stabilized the city's finances. And to date, she remains the only female Mayor in Cleveland's history. Campbell's historic mayoralty was preceded by six terms in the Ohio House of Representatives and two terms as Cuyahoga County Commissioner.

Following her time in office, Campbell also served as Chief of Staff for Senator Mary Landrieu of Louisiana, Senior Advisor to Senator MARIA CANTWELL of Washington, and worked in leadership roles for the National Development Council, the International Economic Institute, and the National Democratic Institute. Through her years of service, uplifting underserved communities has been a consistent theme.

In 2019, Campbell was appointed as the President and CEO of the United States Capitol Historical Society (USCHS). Chartered by Congress, the USCHS was founded to foster patriotism and to connect the American people with the history that is made inside their Capitol here in Washington. As President, Campbell strengthened and expanded the Historical Society's public events, educational programming, outreach to students, online programming and more.

This week, I join people from across Ohio and the country in celebrating her career and sharing my thanks for her dedication to the ideals of our country.

Jane Campbell made history in Cleveland, and in Washington she led the effort to preserve history. From City Hall to the halls of the Capitol, she championed the virtues of our Republic.

I thank the Honorable Jane Campbell for all the ways she has served. We wish her the best upon her retirement.

HONORING THE LATE VINNIE CARR AS HE IS POSTHUMOUSLY RECOGNIZED AS THE 2025 WEST HAVEN ITALIAN AMERICAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2025

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with both joy and a heavy heart that I rise today to join the City of West Haven and the West Haven Italian Heritage Committee in paying tribute to

the late, great Vinnie Carr as they honor him as this year's Italian American of the Year. This special award is bestowed annually on a West Haven resident or couple of Italian descent who personifies service in the community, celebrating the contributions of Italian Americans to the City and honoring the Italian immigrant experience. Vinnie Carr was indeed a reflection of the spirit in which this honor is bestowed.

The grandson of immigrants from Naples, Vinnie embraced his Italian heritage with a unique zeal and love of family and community. Vinnie's career in music began at the age of five when he began playing the accordion at his parents' restaurant. He joined the United States Army after his graduation from Wilbur Cross High School and during his time in the service he formed a band and began playing the keyboard. Following his honorable discharge from military service, Vinnie enrolled in the Police Academy and served as an officer in the New Haven Police Department. However, his passion for music never waned and he soon began the Vinnie Carr Orchestra and later Vinnie Carr and the Party Band.

Vinnie was best known as an entertainer—the ever-animated leader of Vinnie Carr and the Party Band as well as the Vinnie Carr Orchestra. Both musical groups were known for their renditions of beloved classical Italian standards as well as performing hits from the 40's 50's and 60's. If there was a community event, particularly an Italian heritage event or gathering, in the Greater New Haven area, you could guarantee that Vinnie Carr was providing the musical entertainment. He also served as the West Haven Senior Center's resident musician for more than forty years. For Vinnie, bringing the delight of his ancestral melodies to live audiences, whether a small group at the senior center or a sea of people on the town green, nourished his soul.

We lost Vinnie just a few short weeks ago. His love of music and Italian heritage touched the lives of many and his one-of-a-kind talent that will be missed by many. His loss will be felt by many, but none more so than his beloved wife, Denise, and his two children, Vinnie, Jr. and Daniella. I join many in extending my heartfelt condolences to them as they receive today's honor in his name. Vinnie Carr was an institution, celebrating his Italian heritage through music and sharing his love for both with the community he called home. I cannot think of a more fitting accolade to recognize his dedication and commitment. I am honored to have called him my friend and proud to join the City of West Haven, the West Haven Italian American Heritage Committee, and the many family and friends gathered today in remembering and thanking Vinnie Carr for all that he gave to our community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL DAVID WILLITS SWANSON

HON. JAMES C. MOYLAN

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2025

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, today I honor and remember the extraordinary life and legacy of Lieutenant Colonel David Willits Swanson, a retired officer of the United States

Army, a decorated patriot, and a beloved mentor and leader.

Lieutenant Colonel Swanson's passing is deeply mourned by his family, his fellow soldiers, and the many communities he served so selflessly throughout his life. His life was defined by duty, courage, and an unshakable commitment to service.

From the beginning, Lieutenant Colonel Swanson lived to serve others. A graduate of the prestigious United States Military Academy at West Point, he pursued one of the most demanding and honorable callings in our Nation: military service. He underwent rigorous training, completing nearly every combat course available like airborne, infantry, ranger, and more.

During his time in uniform, he answered his country's call not once, but three times—serving multiple tours in both Vietnam and Korea. His bravery and valor on the battlefield earned him some of our Nation's highest military honors: the Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, a Purple Heart, seven Air Medals, and three Meritorious Service Medals. These are more than just decorations—they are symbols of sacrifice, of heroism, and of lives protected through his service.

But Lieutenant Colonel Swanson's commitment to our country did not end on the battlefield. After his combat service, he turned his focus to shaping the next generation of military leaders. He taught at the Command and General Staff College in Kansas, then as Professor of Military Science at the University of Hawaii.

Most notably, he pioneered the first ROTC program at the University of Guam, where his very first freshman class went on to win the Warrior of the Pacific Award. Over the course of his academic service, he commissioned 640 students as Second Lieutenants—young men and women who now continue his legacy in service to our Nation.

We do more than mourn his passing. We celebrate his life that embodied the highest ideals of duty, honor, and country. From every soldier he led, every student he taught, and every life he touched, we salute him.

May we honor his memory by continuing to uphold the values he exemplified, and may his legacy of service forever inspire us all.

HONORING THE BASTROP CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ON RECEIVING OFFICIAL FIVE-STAR ACCREDITATION FROM THE U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2025

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor the Bastrop Chamber of Commerce for achieving one of the highest distinctions a chamber can receive—Five-Star Accreditation from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

This recognition is more than just an award; it reflects years of commitment, professionalism, and a deep dedication to strengthening our local economy in Texas. A Five-Star Accreditation is awarded to chambers that demonstrate exceptional leadership, hard work, and a clear vision for the communities they serve.