

Today, the Bastrop Chamber of Commerce stands as a testament to what can be achieved when businesses foster collaboration, champion economic growth, and come together to ensure Bastrop is a place where both businesses and families can thrive.

I would like to extend my sincerest congratulations to the Bastrop Chamber of Commerce for this astounding achievement. I thank them for their exemplary service, their dedication to excellence, and their ongoing commitment to the people of Bastrop.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF PORTER-STARKE SERVICES

HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2025

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I rise today to congratulate Porter-Starke Services as it celebrates its 50th anniversary serving the Northwest Indiana community. Opening in 1975, Porter-Starke Services is a Community Mental Health Center (CMHC) dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in the community through prevention, treatment, education, and research.

Over the past 50 years, Porter-Starke Services has consistently grown and adapted to serve the evolving needs of communities in Northwest Indiana with adults, families, adolescents, and children with mental health or substance abuse issues. With offices in Valparaiso, Knox, Portage, Gary, Hebron, and La Porte, the nonprofit began by providing partial and inpatient hospitalization, outpatient therapy, and psychiatry in Porter County, and outpatient mental health services in Starke County. Today, Porter-Starke Services serves over 20,000 adults, families, adolescents, and children each year, offering a full continuum of care tailored to specific needs. In addition to being a CMHC, Porter-Starke Services operates an inpatient psychiatric hospital, opioid treatment program, and a federally qualified health center (FQHC).

It is because of the organization's dedicated team of doctors, nurse practitioners, nurses, case managers, peer recovery and engagement specialists, medical assistants, administrators, and support staff that Porter-Starke Services is able to provide a comprehensive array of essential mental health services, substance use treatment, crisis care, and primary healthcare services. The passion and commitment of these steadfast team members to address mental illness and substance use within our community is an inspiration to our entire region.

Porter-Starke Services' leadership, including its Board of Directors, work collaboratively to address public health issues and disparities that impact residents. Working with local hospitals, health clinics, social service providers, non-profit organizations, schools, law enforcement, and local businesses, Porter-Starke Services values community collaboration to respond to the health needs of the community. For their efforts to provide care to the most vulnerable in our communities and improve the quality of life in Northwest Indiana, Porter-Starke Services is worthy of the highest praise.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and all my distinguished colleagues join me in honoring the contributions of Porter-Starke Services on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

HONORING YAJAIRA RUBIO MACHADO AS ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S 8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT'S WOMEN OF THE YEAR

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Yajaira Rubio Machado as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year in tribute to her visionary cultural leadership and tireless dedication to her community. Her work has left a lasting impact in Vallejo, California, and beyond. As the Founder and Director of Moon Azteca Dance and Art School, has elevated Mexican heritage and indigenous traditions, bringing their richness to the forefront of community life. Even during times of financial hardship and through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, she remained steadfast in her mission of ensuring that young people stayed connected, creative, and proud of their cultural identity. Among her most notable accomplishments was her leadership in formalizing the Sister City agreement between Vallejo and Ensenada, Mexico. This diplomatic and cultural achievement exemplifies her ability to turn vision into sustained international partnerships bridging communities through shared heritage and mutual respect. Yajaira's service spans numerous civic, business, and cultural organizations, where she continues to empower others and advocate for inclusion and representation. Her contributions have preserved and promoted cultural expression, created pathways for youth development, and inspired civic pride. Yajaira's leadership stands as a shining example of how cultural diplomacy and grassroots engagement can strengthen and transform communities. Her unwavering resilience, community-first mindset, and creative spirit serve as an inspiration to all who know her. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Yajaira Rubio Machado for her invaluable contributions to our community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. RONALD J. VOLINO

HON. GEORGE LATIMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2025

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following obituary honoring the life of Dr. Ronald J. Volino:

Dr. Ronald J. Volino, lifelong resident of the City of Yonkers and beloved husband, father, grandfather and podiatric physician and surgeon, went home to the Lord on June 25, 2025 at the age of 83. Ron's sincerity, warmth and genuine care for his fellow man made him widely respected and loved. With his infectious smile and exuberance for life, Ron spread joy wherever he went, leaving an

indelible mark on so many lives. Everyone in his presence felt special.

Born on January 18, 1942, to Dr. Liborio A. Volino and Palma (Trafficante) Volino, Ron attended St. Barnabas Elementary School, Blessed Sacrament High School and Manhattan College. Ron grew up spending fabulous summers in the Catskills with his parents, brothers, cousins, aunts and uncles, and the family summer home was filled with laughter, music, food and swimming. After losing his older brother at the tender age of 9, followed by both his parents before the age of 23, Ron showed a remarkable resilience and commitment to live life to the fullest, knowing that tomorrow is never promised. On July 10, 1966, he married his neighborhood sweetheart, Annette Musco, and together they were blessed with four children, the first of which became their special angel shortly after birth.

Following in the footsteps of his father, Dr. Liborio Volino, a family medical doctor who practiced in Yonkers for decades, Ron became a Doctor of Podiatric Medicine in 1971 and dedicated his office to the memory of his father with a beautiful commemorative plaque. Just like his father, he set up a home office to be close to his children so that he could spend more time with them. On breaks, he would take off his white coat and have a tea party in the backyard with his daughters or play basketball with his son. Also like his father, Ron took exceptional and compassionate care of his patients who appreciated his dedication and kind, gentle approach to their care. Ron was proud and happy to make house calls to the homebound with his father's medical bag in hand and cared for his patients until he became physically unable to do so.

Despite his professional demands, which included the addition of two offices in New York City and his role as an attending physician at Mount Vernon Hospital, Ron always prioritized his family. As a father, he was in the audience at his daughters' dance recitals, and his roaring voice was heard from the sidelines at football games cheering on his son. There was always time to talk after a long day at the office or to roll up his sleeves to work into the wee hours of the night to get a school project completed with his children. Ron loved to celebrate life's special moments with elaborate parties that brought family and friends together in love and joy.

When his five grandchildren came along, his joy and loving heart only multiplied and each one of them grew a special bond with their "Pop Pop." When his children asked him how they could ever repay him for all the love and support he offered them, Ron told them that all he wanted was for them to do the same for their children. As Ron's parents did not have the privilege of meeting his children, Ron felt great satisfaction at having met and shared his love with each of his grandchildren whom he absolutely adored. He relished hugging and kissing them, surprising them with smiley-face bakery cookies, and taking them to Carvel for his favorite "frozen custard."

Ron felt great pride in his Italian heritage and had enormous respect and admiration for his ancestors who overcame obstacles to provide him a life filled with opportunities. He gave them credit for his success and had a moving experience with his wife and children visiting the Italian town his grandfather emigrated from to obtain his grandfather's birth certificate from the town hall. He was a member of the Order of the Sons & Daughters of Italy in America (John D. Calandra Lodge) and served as Grand Marshal of the Columbus Day Parade for the City of Yonkers in 2012. He was recognized as "Man of the Year" by the Congress of Italian

American Organizations (CIAO) in 2005. He had a great devotion to St. Joseph and, carrying on a family tradition, celebrated every St. Joseph's Day by erecting an elaborate altar ordained with candles, flowers and blessed bread to share with guests.

Ron devoted much of his time spent outside of his work and family life to numerous community organizations. A proud and life-long resident of Yonkers, he loved the City and looked for ways to make it a better place. For the past 40 years he devoted himself to the East Yonkers Kiwanis Club, serving as President many times as well as Lieutenant Governor and bringing his children with him to many of the club's service projects to instill in them the value of service to others. He was also a member of the Hyatt Civic Association, the Yonkers Beautification Conservancy, the Yonkers Animal Shelter Committee, and the Male Glee Club of Yonkers. Ron was honored as "Man of the Year" by the YWCA of Yonkers in 2006. He was active in local politics, enjoying the camaraderie and friendships that came from connecting with others about community affairs, and served on the Westchester County Charter Revision Commission from 2011 to 2013.

Ron's good heart and kind nature were apparent to all who witnessed his volunteer work. Whether it was distributing turkeys before Thanksgiving, working the BBQ grill at a picnic for nursing home residents, honoring nonagenarians at the "90 Plus" event, or even dancing the Macarena as Santa Clause at a YWCA Christmas party, the sincere joy that helping others brought him was palpable. In Ron's work with others, he had an amazing ability to connect with people from all walks of life to make them feel welcome and comfortable in his presence.

Ron had a love for the great outdoors and enjoyed many hunting trips with friends and camping with his children. He relished natural beauty and enjoyed taking photos of beautiful scenery. He took his family on so many memorable trips to explore the world, one being a month-long cross-country adventure with the entire family and the family dog and another being a tour of the Canadian Rocky Mountains. As a skilled equestrian, he desired to share his love of horses and the peace and serenity they brought him with visually impaired children by giving them the opportunity to ride a horse. Together with his dear friend Neal Petrucci, these two men of great compassion and heart made that idea into a reality.

Ron is survived by his wife of 58 years, Annette, and his three children Palma McCormick and her husband Paul, Victoria Moore and her husband Edward, and Vincent Volino and his wife Marisa, his five grandchildren, Grace Moore, Rose Moore, Faith McCormick, Anna Volino and Anthony Ronald Volino, extended family and many loyal friends whom he embraced as family. He is predeceased by his parents, his brothers Frank A. Volino and Anton Volino and many dear aunts, uncles and cousins. May all who were touched by Ron's life carry forth his gentle, generous and humble spirit and embody the essence of his favorite quote from his beloved musical, *Les Misérables*: "To love another person is to see the face of God."

RECOGNIZING DETECTIVE GABRIEL GONZALEZ OF THE SAN BENITO POLICE DEPARTMENT

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 Detective Gabriel Gonzalez of the San Benito Police Department in San Benito, Texas, for his outstanding service and dedication to justice.

Detective Gonzalez currently serves in the Criminal Investigations Division's Special Investigations Unit, where he has demonstrated exceptional investigative skill and leadership. Over the past six years, his work has been instrumental in solving some of the most complex and high-profile cases in our community.

Earlier this year, Detective Gonzalez led the investigation into the tragic fentanyl-related death of a young man in San Benito. Through meticulous investigative work, Detective Gonzalez identified and apprehended the suspect responsible for distributing the narcotics that caused the victim's death. His efforts ultimately led to a confession and a murder conviction, bringing a measure of justice to the victim's family and accountability to those who endanger our communities.

More recently, Detective Gonzalez served as the lead investigator in a fatal shooting in San Benito that left one victim deceased and another critically injured. Working closely with state and federal law enforcement partners, he helped negotiate the successful surrender of the suspect, who had fled across the border into Mexico. The suspect was apprehended within 24-hours and later confessed to his crimes—a testament to Detective Gonzalez's swift coordination and determination to deliver justice.

Mr. Speaker, Detective Gabriel Gonzalez's unwavering commitment to protecting the people of San Benito and the greater Rio Grande Valley embodies the very best of our law enforcement community. His professionalism, courage, and dedication to truth and justice reflect great credit upon himself and the San Benito Police Department.

I am proud to represent Detective Gonzalez and recognize his exemplary service to the people of San Benito and all of South Texas.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
REVEREND ADREN BIVINS, SR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2025

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the memory of a loving husband, dedicated father, former pro wrestler, outstanding Man of God, and devoted spiritual leader, Reverend Adren Bivins, Sr., who passed from labor to reward on November 6, 2025. A funeral service to celebrate his remarkable and committed life was held on Saturday, November 15, 2025, at Emanuel Missionary Baptist Church in Bainbridge, Georgia.

Born to the union of Abraham Bivins and Hazel Sapp Bivins on January 22, 1950, Rev-

erend Bivins was raised in Plant City, Florida before setting down roots and raising his family in Decatur County, Georgia. After losing his father at age nine, young Adren helped his mother support the family by picking strawberries and oranges to help his two younger brothers. A 1968 graduate of Marshall High School, Adren was an accomplished athlete who played football and earned a full athletic scholarship to Prairie View A&M University in Houston, Texas. He later transferred to Florida A&M University in Tallahassee, Florida where he was a member of the amateur wrestling team and majored in Mental Health and Social Work.

After college, Reverend Bivins was offered opportunities to play professional football for both the Chicago Bears and the Dallas Cowboys but instead followed his passion for wrestling. He later enlisted in the United States Army where he would serve as a Military Police officer before receiving an honorable discharge.

At the conclusion of his service in the U.S. Army, Reverend Bivins went on to fulfill his childhood dream of becoming a professional wrestler, performing for over 35 years under the name "The Black Assassin." Standing 6'7" tall and weighing 350 pounds, he was a powerful presence in the ring. Throughout his career, he wrestled across the United States and abroad with major organizations including the WWF, WCW, NWA, WWE, ICW, and Florida Championship Wrestling. He competed alongside many legendary figures such as the Brisco Brothers, Harley Race, André the Giant, Dusty Rhodes, Dick Slater, Wahoo McDaniel, and Rocky Johnson.

It was during a charity wrestling event in Bainbridge, Georgia, that he met the love of his life, Sylvia Jefferson of Fowlstown, Georgia. Reverend and Mrs. Bivins would have celebrated 42 years of marriage on December 27, 2025. The two married and built a life together, raising two beloved sons. During his time in Southwest Georgia, Reverend Bivins held numerous roles in the community, including Health Service Technician at the local hospital, Security Guard, author, pastor, Parent Teacher Organization President, Cub Scout leader, and YMCA football coach. Additionally, before becoming a pastor, he faithfully served at Emanuel Missionary Baptist Church as an usher, chorus member, Sunday School teacher, Vacation Bible School instructor, and Laymen President, where he initiated a church basketball project.

As parents, Reverend Bivins and his wife, Sylvia, worked hard to raise their sons and set them on a path to success. But as their sons grew older, they went the extra mile and answered God's call to start a new community organization that could minister to at-risk youth and alleviate poverty and violence in Decatur County. After he was ordained as a minister, Reverend Bivins began preaching and ministering to the congregations of Emanuel M.B. Church and First Morning Star M.B. Church. Following his pastoral service, Reverend and Mrs. Bivins founded The Laymen Brotherhood Second Chance Outreach Ministry in 2007 and began ministering to young males in the community who were in need of shelter, hot meals, and spiritual mentoring. As a dedicated professional with a diverse set of life skills and experiences—from servicemember to professional wrestler to pastor—Reverend Bivins was uniquely positioned for outreach to disadvantaged young men, and he worked hard