

HONORING ANDRE JACKSON WITH
A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN
COMMENDATION

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant Andre Jackson of Rockwall, Texas, and to honor him with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Sergeant Jackson honorably served in the United States Army from 2000 to 2007, dedicating nearly a decade of service for the defense to our Nation with distinction, leadership, and selfless service.

During Sergeant Jackson's seven years of service, he served as an Information Systems Operator, Analyst, and Maintainer. In this role, he oversaw and managed networks and help desks for all information technology functions for over two-thousand users. Sergeant Jackson was deployed to Iraq for both Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, where he demonstrated outstanding character, organization, and communication in performing his duties at the highest level.

For his exemplary service, Sergeant Jackson received numerous awards, including the Army Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Army Service Ribbon, and Overseas Service Ribbon, among many others recognizing his exceptional performance and commitment to excellence.

Following his retirement from the Army, Sergeant Jackson has continued his legacy of leadership and service in his community. In 2012, he became involved with Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, which led to his participation with Heroes on the Water, Disabled American Veterans, the American Legion, and Veterans of Foreign Wars. He currently serves as the Interim Post Commander and District Chaplain for Rockwall Veterans of Foreign Wars. Sergeant Jackson also serves as the President of Operation Frontline Warriors Foundation, which works to address food insecurity among active-duty service members, veterans, and first responders. He also founded the Rockwall County VET Together Facebook group, which promotes fellowship and camaraderie with local veterans, while also connecting them with local resources.

I am deeply honored to recognize Sergeant Jackson for his courage, pioneering leadership, and lifelong dedication to serving his country and community. He represents the very best of Texas' 4th Congressional District and of the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING
LINDA LEWIS

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Linda Lewis of Jasper,

Alabama, wife of Ray Lewis and longtime President of the Chamber of Commerce of Walker County, for her decades of service, leadership, and steadfast commitment to the people and businesses of Walker County.

A proud graduate of Walker High School, Class of 1974, Mrs. Lewis has dedicated much of her life to making Walker County a better place to live, work, and raise a family. Since assuming the role of Chamber President in 1996, she has been instrumental in leading Walker County through transformative growth and economic development. Under her leadership, retail across the county has flourished, from the revitalization of downtown Jasper to the expansion of Interstate 22.

Mrs. Lewis has guided the Chamber in launching critical programs focused on leadership development, community engagement, and technical advancement. She has strengthened partnerships with regional and national bass fishing organizations, boosting tourism and supporting business recruitment. Through her efforts, nationally recognized brands in lodging, dining, and retail have chosen to invest in Walker County, creating hundreds of new jobs and expanding opportunities for families throughout the region.

Most recently, the Walker County Chamber of Commerce unveiled plans for a major new development near Walker Baptist Medical Center in Jasper, a project made possible by Mrs. Lewis's determination to continue advancing the county's economic future.

Mrs. Lewis's contributions to our communities cannot be overstated. Her vision, commitment, and unwavering work ethic have left a lasting impact on Walker County and will continue to shape its success for generations to come.

On this day, November 18, 2025, Linda Lewis will be honored as the recipient of the 2025 Jamie Wallace Award, the highest recognition that a chamber of commerce executive in the State of Alabama can receive. In recognition of her dedicated service, I am proud to present Mrs. Lewis with a flag flown over the United States Capitol in her honor.

It is my privilege to congratulate Linda Lewis on this well-deserved award and to commend her for nearly three decades of exceptional leadership and devotion to Walker County. Her contributions demonstrate the very best of public service, and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring her legacy.

RECOGNIZING THE 102ND ANNIVERSARY
OF THE FOUNDING OF THE
REPUBLIC OF TÜRKIYE

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 102nd anniversary of the founding of the Republic of Türkiye. On October 29, 1923, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk proclaimed the establishment of the Republic, ushering in a new era of modernization and progress for the Turkish people. Today, we honor more than a century of friendship, alliance, and cooperation between the United States and Türkiye.

The relationship between our two nations has been anchored in shared strategic inter-

ests and enduring partnership, particularly through our joint commitment to NATO. As allies, the United States and Türkiye have worked together to promote regional stability, strengthen transatlantic security, and advance the values of freedom and democracy. Our collaboration continues to play a vital role in addressing global challenges—from counterterrorism and defense cooperation to humanitarian efforts and energy security.

Our bilateral economic relationship is also significant and growing. Trade between the United States and Türkiye reached nearly \$33 billion in 2024, underscoring the strong commercial ties that benefit both nations. Here in Michigan, Turkish-American trade and investment have contributed to local growth and job creation—totaling approximately \$545 million in 2024 alone. From advanced manufacturing and automotive partnerships to agricultural exports, the economic link between Michigan and Türkiye continues to strengthen our state's role in the global economy.

Equally important are the contributions of Turkish Americans to our society. Turkish Americans enrich our communities through their entrepreneurial spirit, cultural traditions, academic and scientific achievements, and civic engagement. Their success reflects the shared values of opportunity and perseverance that define both our nations.

Mr. Speaker, as we mark this milestone in the history of the Republic of Türkiye, I extend my best wishes to Turkish Americans in Michigan and across the United States, and to the people of Türkiye. May the friendship between our nations continue to grow stronger in the years ahead, rooted in mutual respect, shared prosperity, and a steadfast commitment to peace and security.

HONORING ASHTEN WALDREP
WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VET-
ERAN COMMENDATION

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Petty Officer Third Class Ashten Waldrep of Whitewright, Texas, and to honor her with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Petty Officer Waldrep honorably served in the United States Navy from 2008 to 2015, demonstrating integrity, discipline, and dedication to duty as a Master at Arms.

During her military career, Petty Officer Waldrep was stationed at Naval Station Everett in Washington, where she played a vital role in maintaining security and readiness, ensuring the safety and effectiveness of her fellow sailors. Serving during the post-9/11 War on Terrorism, she contributed to the Navy's global mission to protect the Nation and combat terrorism both at home and abroad. For her honorable service, she received the Navy Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal—each recognizing her commitment and professionalism in service to our Nation.

Following her military career, Petty Officer Waldrep has continued her dedication to others through her work with the Military Veteran

Peer Network, where she provides peer support, suicide prevention, and community outreach for veterans in need. As a Mentor Coordinator for Veterans Court, she assists justice-involved veterans by offering guidance, accountability, and a second chance at success through rehabilitation and support.

In 2024, Petty Officer Waldrep graduated from the Texoma Regional Police Academy, where she received the Grayson College Veteran Award for her outstanding achievements. She went on to serve with the Grayson County Sheriff's Office and now provides security for Austin College. In addition to her service and career, she is a devoted mother of four, continuing to lead with strength and compassion.

I am deeply honored to recognize Petty Officer Third Class Ashten Waldrep for her courage, patriotism, and lifelong devotion to serving others. She exemplifies the very best of Texas' 4th Congressional District and of the United States of America.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR.
JAMES E. ALDREDGE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Dr. James E. Aldredge, a trailblazer, educator, and public servant whose lifelong commitment to improving the City of Fresno—particularly for residents in Southwest Fresno—has left an enduring mark on our community. Dr. Aldredge passed away peacefully on October 12, 2025, surrounded by his loved ones.

Born in Gilmer, Texas, and raised in Fresno from the age of four, Dr. Aldredge's story is one of perseverance, excellence, and service. A star athlete at Edison High School, he signed with the Pittsburgh Pirates at just seventeen years old, showcasing the talent and determination that would define his life. After a career-ending injury ended his professional baseball aspirations, Dr. Aldredge redirected his focus to education, an area he would champion for decades to come.

Dr. Aldredge earned degrees from Fresno City College and California State University, Fresno, before completing both a master's and Ph.D. in Organizational Development at the University of Southern California, with additional studies at Oxford University. His academic journey reflected his deep belief that education is the key opportunity, a principle he shared throughout his life with students and colleagues alike.

In 1985, Dr. Aldredge made history when he became Fresno's first Black City Manager, breaking barriers and paving the way for future generations of leaders. His steady leadership, integrity, and commitment to equity guided the city through times of transition and progress. After retiring from City Hall in 1989, he continued to serve the community as an educator at Fresno State, City College, the University of San Francisco, and Fresno Pacific University, mentoring countless students who would go on to serve their own communities with the same sense of purpose.

Beyond public service, Dr. Aldredge dedicated his time to numerous organizations, in-

cluding the boards of Saint Agnes Hospital, Kings View Behavioral Health, and CEN-CAL Business Finance Group. He also established a foundation that grew over one million dollars in assets to support students, athletes, and social services. Among his many honors, he received the B'nai B'rith Award for his lifelong commitment to justice and equality and was inducted into the State Center Community College District's Wall of Honor at the African American Historical and Cultural Museum.

Dr. Aldredge was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Daisy Rae, and his brother, John Aldredge. He is remembered by his family, friends, colleagues, and former students for his humor, wisdom, and unwavering belief in Fresno's potential. His legacy continues through the James E. Aldredge Foundation, which embodies his vision of empowering others through education and civic engagement.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing and celebrating the extraordinary life of Dr. James E. Aldredge. His story reminds us that true leadership is rooted in service, resilience, and commitment to uplifting the communities we call home.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for the vote series on November 17, 2025 due to a funeral for a family member.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 286; YEA on Roll Call No. 287; and NAY on Roll Call No. 288.

HONORING BILLY GENE TEAGUE
WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VET-
ERAN COMMENDATION

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Specialist Billy Gene Teague of Denison, Texas, and to honor him with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Specialist Teague honorably served his country across multiple branches, including the United States Marine Corps Reserve from 1981 to 1982, the Texas Army National Guard from 1982 to 1983, the United States Army from 1986 to 1987, and the Texas State Guard from 1988 to 1990 and again from 2015 to 2017.

Throughout his military service, he held roles as a tracked vehicle repairman, armored vehicle landing bridge operator, military police supervisor, and later as a nurse and military police officer in the Texas State Guard, where he achieved the rank of First Lieutenant. His duty stations included Parris Island, Aberdeen, Fort Hood, Hunter Army Airfield, the Rio Grande Valley, Fort Walters, Dallas, and Camp Pendleton. For his exemplary service, Specialist Teague received numerous awards and honors, including the Army Service Ribbon, the Medal of Merit, the Adjutant Gen-

eral's Individual Award with two stars, the Commanding General's Individual Medal, the Humanitarian Service Ribbon, the NCO Professional Development Ribbon, the Cold War Medal, the Sons of the American Revolution Good Citizen Bronze Medal, and the Texas Medal of Merit.

Beyond his military service, Specialist Teague has remained deeply devoted to his fellow veterans and the Texoma community. He developed both the Terminally Ill Veteran Flag Program and the Texoma Heroes Project, dedicating more than 1,500 volunteer hours to recognizing hundreds of veterans. He also created a Trauma-Affected Veteran training curriculum for law enforcement and an ASVAB pretest program for students at Grayson College.

Specialist Teague currently serves as Chaplain for the American Legion Post No. 29 in Sherman, Texas, where he continues to assist veterans and their families. A proud husband, father of four, and grandfather of six, he lives by the values of God, family, and country. Despite being a 100 percent disabled veteran, he continues to dedicate his life to serving others and uplifting the veteran community across North Texas.

I am deeply honored to recognize Specialist Billy Teague for his courage, patriotism, and lifelong dedication to serving both his country and his community. He exemplifies the very best of Texas' 4th Congressional District and of the United States of America.

COMMEMORATING THE 245TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE FIRST AFRI-
CAN BAPTIST CHURCH OF RICH-
MOND, VIRGINIA

HON. JENNIFER L. MCCLELLAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 245th anniversary of the First African Baptist Church of Richmond, Virginia, one of the oldest continuously operating Black congregations in the United States and a cornerstone of faith, resilience, and community leadership in the Commonwealth and in Virginia's 4th Congressional District.

The church's roots run deep into Richmond's past. On July 1, 1841, members of three Baptist churches gathered at First Baptist Church to formally organize what was to become "The African Baptist Church of Richmond." That founding charter included stipulations that reflect the fraught realities of its time, including the oversight of religious instruction by a committee of white members of Richmond's Baptist churches.

Founded in 1780, during a time when the vast majority of African Americans in Virginia were enslaved, First African Baptist Church began as a congregation of free and enslaved worshippers who sought spiritual refuge and self-determination in the heart of Richmond. Despite extraordinary obstacles, the congregation persevered, grew, and became formally recognized as an independent church in 1841 under the leadership of Reverend Robert Ryland.

Throughout its remarkable history, First African Baptist Church has stood as a beacon of hope and activism in Richmond. It was a center for abolitionist organizing, education, and