

Their joint effort brought forth a lasting tribute to the values we hold dear: freedom, opportunity, and harmony. Central to this garden stands the Bell of Peace and Harmony, cast in Korea and installed to honor the spirit of unity and the shared commitment to democratic ideals that bind our two nations.

Situated within Meadowlark Botanical Gardens in Vienna, Virginia, the Korean Bell Garden has become a treasured landmark in the Commonwealth and throughout the Nation. It remains the only Korean Bell Garden of its kind in the Western Hemisphere, distinguished by its intricate engravings of flora and fauna native to both Korea and Virginia, symbols of the deep and natural connection between our cultures. The garden's traditional architecture, totem poles, and statuary further embody centuries of Korean artistry and philosophical reflection, offering visitors an enduring space for contemplation, appreciation, and peace.

As we mark this milestone, we recognize that the Korean Bell Garden represents far more than a place of beauty, it is a living testament to the bonds of friendship and cooperation between Korea and the United States, and to the shared values that continue to strengthen our partnership.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the fifteenth anniversary of the Korean Bell Garden and in expressing our deep appreciation for the Korean American community of Virginia's 11th Congressional District. May this garden continue to serve as a beacon of peace, hope, and harmony for generations to come.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. MICHAEL A. RULLI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 20, 2025*

Mr. RULLI. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 298; YEA on Roll Call No. 299; YEA on Roll Call No. 300; YEA on Roll Call No. 301; and YEA on Roll Call No. 302.

#### RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN STEVE PETTY

### HON. KAT CAMMACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 20, 2025*

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Captain Steve Petty, a United States Army veteran, who was inducted into the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame on November 5, 2025, for his outstanding service, leadership, and unwavering commitment to the health and dignity of his fellow veterans.

Captain Petty has dedicated his post-service life to ensuring that those who served our Nation receive the care, respect, and honors they have earned. As Director of the Veterans Resource Center in Ocala, Florida, he has led groundbreaking efforts to provide free Galleri blood testing for veterans exposed to carcinogens such as Agent Orange and burn pits—conditions that have claimed far too many lives long after the battles ended. Through his

leadership, veterans who served “boots on the ground” in the Vietnam War, Gulf War, and the Global War on Terrorism can now access this \$950 cancer screening at no cost, right in their own community. This lifesaving initiative—made possible through partnerships with the Marion County Hospital District and the Marion County Community Development Block Grant—stands as a model of community collaboration, compassion, and unwavering commitment to those who have borne the battle.

Beyond his work in advancing preventive care, Captain Petty has also been instrumental in ensuring that every Marion County veteran interred at the Bushnell National Cemetery receives full military honors—a solemn and sacred recognition of their service to our Nation. Captain Petty's dedication exemplifies the very best of the veteran community: leadership through service, compassion through action, and a steadfast refusal to leave any brother or sister behind. His induction into the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame is not only well-deserved—it stands as a testament to what one individual can accomplish when driven by love of country and devotion to those who have borne the battle.

On behalf of Florida's 3rd Congressional District, I offer my deepest congratulations to Captain Steve Petty, his wife Joan, and all those at the Veterans Resource Center who continue to serve those who served us.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF OFFICER HOWARD “HOWIE” LIEBENGOOD

### HON. JAMES R. WALKINSHAW

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 20, 2025*

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Officer Howard “Howie” Liebengood for his tremendous service to our Nation as a U.S. Capitol Police officer on January 6, 2021. Officer Liebengood proudly served with the U.S. Capitol Police for over 15 years and demonstrated incredible courage, commitment, and honor during his decorated career.

Officer Liebengood was on duty at the U.S. Capitol during the events of January 6, 2021. In the days that followed, he continued to serve, carrying the immense and often unseen toll felt by so many officers in the aftermath of that tragic day. He tragically passed on January 9, 2021, at the age of 51. At the time of his passing, he lived in Vienna, Virginia, where he was a valued member of the community.

Officer Liebengood's story is quieter and harder to speak about, not because his service was any less meaningful, but because the nature of his loss reflects the unseen burdens that many public servants carry. It is precisely for that reason that his life and service must be remembered with dignity. Service and suffering that go unseen still matter, and those who bear such weight in silence deserve our lasting gratitude.

Officer Liebengood's colleagues would often describe him as steady, kind, and deeply committed to the shared mission. These qualities made him an incredible officer, a trusted partner, and a genuine friend within the U.S. Capitol Police.

Officer Liebengood's life and legacy have been recognized with several significant hon-

ors. In 2022, he was posthumously awarded the Defenders of Democracy Award by the University of Virginia's Center for Politics for his brave service on January 6th and his efforts to protect our democracy alongside his fellow officers. That same year, Officer Liebengood was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, the oldest and highest civilian award in the Nation. In 2023, he was awarded the Presidential Citizens Medal, which recognizes citizens who have performed exemplary deeds of service for their country or fellow citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering Officer Howard “Howie” Liebengood and in extending our deepest condolences to his family, friends, and fellow officers. His steadfast service to the United States Capitol Police will not be forgotten.

#### RECOGNIZING PHIL AND LAURIE DAVIS AS A COMMUNITY CHAMPION IN PENNSYLVANIA—16

### HON. MIKE KELLY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 20, 2025*

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Phil and Laurie Davis for their extraordinary service to the veteran community of Crawford County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Phil Davis proudly served in the United States Army from January 21, 1970, to December 3, 1971. He deployed to Vietnam from January to October 1971, serving his country during one of the most challenging periods in our Nation's history.

On November 28, 1988, the Veterans of the Vietnam War, Post 52 was established in Meadville, Pennsylvania. Phil was among the founding members who helped launch the post and shape its mission of supporting veterans in need. When the National Organization later went bankrupt and closed, Post 52 refused to let its mission end. In 2019, the post reorganized, completed all necessary work to become an independent 501(c)(19) organization, and expanded membership eligibility to veterans of all eras, ensuring that no veteran seeking help would be turned away. This decision dramatically increased the number of veterans they have been able to serve.

It was at Post 52 that Phil and Laurie met, forming a partnership rooted in service and compassion. They were married in 1995, and together they have dedicated decades to supporting their fellow veterans. Phil has served as Commander of Post 52 many times over the years, and has held the position continuously since 2020. Laurie has long served as the Quartermaster, ensuring that the post remains organized, responsive, and financially sound. Their leadership has been essential to sustaining the post's mission and expanding its impact.

Phil and Laurie's commitment goes far beyond titles. They provide Walmart gift cards and gas cards to the Crawford County Veterans Service office so that any veteran who walks in without food, resources, or fuel can receive immediate assistance. Their generosity has provided critical support to veterans in crisis and has exemplified the values of honor, service, and community.

Phil and Laurie Davis represent the very best of what it means to serve. Their decades of dedication have strengthened our community and improved the lives of countless veterans and their families. It is my honor to extend deep appreciation and recognition for their unwavering commitment to those who have worn our Nation's uniform.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF COREY LEE SIDNEY

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2025

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join the Sidney family in celebrating the life of Corey Lee Sidney, who was born on June 10, 1977, and died all too soon on October 11, 2025. He was a quiet man with a gentle spirit, and was cherished by his family, loved ones, and friends.

Corey Lee Sidney was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to Melanie Sidney and Norman Gladden. After spending his early childhood in Philadelphia, he returned to Pittsburgh around age eight, where he lived until moving to Buffalo, New York, where he made his home for the past decade.

Corey was a devoted man of faith, a lifelong member of Rodman Street Missionary Baptist Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he faithfully served as a Trustee. His love for God and church was a guiding force throughout his life. Family was at the heart of Corey's world. He cherished his grandmother, the late Margaret Lucinda Sidney, his aunt Sylvia Sidney, and his cousin Arthur Dennis Sidney, both of whom now reside in Washington, D.C. Corey was proud of his close-knit family and maintained affectionate relationships across the country.

Though he might have claimed to be shy, Corey was truly a social butterfly, effortlessly making friends wherever he went, thanks to his gift of gab and genuine warmth. He loved good food and embraced new experiences, dedicating himself recently to a passion for international travel. Among many things, he will be remembered for his care, compassion, loving kindness, sense of humor, his unique laugh, and his face full of freckles.

Corey's circle of love extended to his beloved partner, Laurence Jones; many aunts—including Carole (and husband Clayton), Clarice, Yvonne, and Sylvia; cousins Juan, Jose, Thomas, and countless others; and a wide community of close friends who will dearly miss him.

Corey touched countless lives with his kindness, faith, and joyful spirit. He leaves behind a legacy of love that will be remembered by all who knew him.

RECOGNIZING NOVA PARKS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PAUL GILBERT ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JAMES R. WALKINSHAW

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2025

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Mr. Paul Gilbert on his up-

coming retirement after two decades of extraordinary leadership as Executive Director of NOVA Parks. Mr. Gilbert has transformed our park system into a vibrant, inclusive network of outdoor spaces that serve more than 2 million residents across Northern Virginia. His dedicated service to our region is worth celebrating and commemorating.

Mr. Gilbert became Executive Director of NOVA Parks in 2005 after serving many years on the NOVA Parks Board. During his tenure as Executive Director, Mr. Gilbert remained steadfastly dedicated to public service in land acquisition, conservation, and management.

Under Mr. Gilbert's visionary leadership, NOVA Parks completed 22 major land-acquisition transactions totaling over 1,800 acres of parkland, 15 new parks, and 3 expanded parks. These acquisitions increased access to nature, preserved precious habitat, and elevated the quality of life in our region.

A hallmark of Mr. Gilbert's career has been his commitment to telling the untold stories of Northern Virginia. Under his guidance, NOVA Parks made significant efforts to illuminate the forgotten stories of the many communities that helped shape Fairfax County. Mr. Gilbert's vision ensured that NOVA Parks was not only protecting natural landscapes but also honoring the diverse communities and stories that helped shape Northern Virginia.

Mr. Gilbert's many contributions to public service have been recognized throughout his career, including receiving the Outstanding Contribution to Outdoor Recreation award from the Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation and the Land Manager of the Year award from the Mid-Atlantic Mountain Bike Enthusiasts. Along with his tremendous service to NOVA Parks, Mr. Gilbert has also dedicated his time as an Executive-in-Residence for George Mason University's Recreation Management Program, Chairman of the Board of Visit Fairfax, and a member of the Board for The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, Paul Gilbert's decades of vision, leadership, and dedication to our parks system will benefit our region for generations to come. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Mr. Gilbert for his years of dedicated service and wishing him a joyful and well-earned retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF GWEN REGALIA

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2025

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Gwen Regalia.

A proud resident of Walnut Creek since 1958, Gwen was an incredible leader and public servant. Beginning as a local 4th grade schoolteacher, Gwen started her career in local politics with the Walnut Creek School District board, serving nearly a decade. During this time, she was also instrumental in helping elect Peg Kovar, the city's first female mayor.

In 1987, Gwen was elected to Walnut Creek City Council. She served on City Council for 21 years, including five terms as Mayor. During her time in city government, Gwen was al-

ways a champion of local arts and culture. Some of her most notable accomplishments include overseeing the development of the Leshler Center for the Arts, the Downtown Walnut Creek Library, the Shadelands Art Center, and the Iron Horse Trail bridge over Ygnacio Valley Road. Gwen's leadership also extended past Walnut Creek, as she was a president of the Association of Bay Area Governments Executive Board.

Unfortunately, Gwen passed away on November 17, 2025, at the age of 92. She was a wonderful mentor to me and so many others and the Bay Area is better because of Gwen. She will be remembered for her outstanding leadership, dedicated service to her community, and the incredible impact she had on the City of Walnut Creek and beyond. Please join me in honoring Gwen Regalia for her many contributions to our community.

CELEBRATING MRS. NENETTE MADLA'S RETIREMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2025

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in celebration of the career of Mrs. Nenetta Madla, who, after 37 years of service, retired from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), San Antonio, Texas.

Nenetta began her civil service career in 1988, working in the Office of Public Affairs at the Defense Mapping Agency at Fort Sam Houston. A year later, she would begin her remarkable tenure with the VA.

Nenetta's first role in the VA was in the Medical Transcription Unit where she supported medical transcriptionists. In 1992, she began a 10-year stint as a Program Assistant to the Chief of Neurosurgery and Urology. She would then work as a Credentialing Specialist for the Office of Chief of Staff and a Management Assistant/Suspense Coordinator for the Associate Director. In 2006, Nenetta joined the Office of Public Affairs, where she remained until her retirement.

In the Office of Public Affairs, she served as a Congressional Affairs Liaison, Deputy Public Affairs Officer and as the Chief of Public Affairs. In these roles, Nenetta oversaw the South Texas Veterans Health Care System's (STVHCS) public affairs program. Under her guidance, awareness for STVHCS programming has grown. Leading many of our Nation's veterans in Military City, U.S.A. to receive essential services.

Throughout her career, Nenetta had a wonderful support system along every step of the way. She is the daughter of Linda and Arnulfo Cardenas and the granddaughter of Rosa and Jesus Torres. She has shared 23 years of marriage with Dr. Frank Madla, III. They have one child, Crystal Zapata, and two grandchildren together, Bailey Gonzalez and Jackson Zapata.

Nenetta's career embodies what it means to be a civil servant. She dedicated over three decades of her life helping those who sacrificed themselves in service of our Nation. Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Mrs. Nenetta Madla for a lifetime of service. I wish her a joyful retirement.