

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 Leshner 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. Nenette Madla, who, after 37 years of service, retired from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), San Antonio, Texas.

Nenette 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.

Nenette'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, Nenette 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, Nenette 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, Nenette 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.

Nenette'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. Nenette Madla for a lifetime of service. I wish her a joyful retirement.

**RECOGNIZING THE RECIPIENTS OF
THE 2025 STEPHEN A.
MCLAUGHLIN FAIRFAX COUNTY
CHAMPIONS OF CHARACTER
AWARDS**

HON. JAMES R. WALKINSHAW

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2025

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the recipients of the 2025 Stephen A. McLaughlin Fairfax County Champions of Character Awards. Since 2001, these awards have been presented to athletes, coaches, and parents in our region who exemplify the tenets of teamwork, leadership, good sportsmanship, and community service during athletic competitions.

It is my honor to include in RECORD the following names of the 2025 Stephen A. McLaughlin Fairfax County Champions of Character Awards recipients:

BRADDOCK DISTRICT

Male Athlete: Tillman Abeyta, Football, Braddock Road Youth Club; Female Athlete: Norah Garcia, Soccer, Annandale Boys & Girls Club; Coach Carlos Santizo, Soccer, Braddock Road Youth Club, Parent: Angela Santizo, Soccer, Braddock Road Youth Club.

DRANESVILLE DISTRICT

Male Athlete: Brady Britt, Football/Baseball, Great Falls Little League/Langley High School Braddock Road Youth Club; Female Athlete: Ayla Sayd, Volleyball, Marshall High School/Coach Khayla Williams, Basketball, Herndon Optimist Club; Parent: Martine Silve, Field Hockey, Herndon Reston Youth Field Hockey.

FRANCONIA DISTRICT

Male Athlete: Bowen Kirui, Soccer, Lee-Mt. Vernon Sports Club; Female Athlete: Vivienne Jensen, Soccer, Lee-Mt. Vernon Sports Club, Coach Russell Balikian, Soccer, Basketball, Lee-Mt. Vernon Sports Club; Parent: Tara Suga, Baseball, CSLL/Patriot/Hayfield High School.

HUNTER MILL DISTRICT

Male Athlete: Teddy Gill, Football, Reston Youth Association-, Female Athlete: Sienna McIntyre, Ice Hockey, Reston Raiders; Coach Terry Redican, Football, South Lakes High School/Parent: Walid Choueiri, Basketball/Swim/Football.

MASON DISTRICT

Male Athlete: Makai Carothers, Football, Annandale Boys & Girls Club; Female Athlete: Michelle Soto, Soccer, Annandale Boys & Girls Club; Coach Alicia Hopkins, Basketball/Soccer/T-Ball/Football, Annandale Boys & Girls Club; Parent: Maria Colbert, Soccer, Premier Athletics Club.

MOUNT VERNON DISTRICT

Male Athlete: Tate Allen, Basketball, Lee-Mt. Vernon Sports Club; Female Athlete: Zoe Tickner Soccer, Lee-Mt. Vernon Sports Club/West Potomac High School, Coach Garrett Kell Basketball, Lee-Mt. Vernon Sports Club; Parent: Michael Day, Basketball, Lee-Mt. Vernon Sports Club.

PROVIDENCE DISTRICT

Male Athlete: Ben Ochsendorf Basketball, McLean Select/Nova Cats AAU; Female Athlete: Ryan Elizabeth McIntosh, Swimming, Poplar Heights Crush/Coach Mark Cruz, Volleyball, Vienna Youth Inc. Parent: Mary Wong, Volleyball, Vienna Youth Inc.

SPRINGFIELD DISTRICT

Male Athlete: Simon Fischer, Baseball, Central Springfield Little League; Female

Athlete: Valeria Morales, Soccer, Braddock Road Youth Club; Coach Dan Walsh, Baseball, Central Springfield Little League, Parent: Kwame James, Basketball, Cross-Training Athletes into Believers.

SULLY DISTRICT

Male Athlete: Otto Hutchins, Soccer, Southvester n Youth Association, Female Athlete: Quinn Crozier, Softball, VA Glory, Coach Javier Alarcon, Soccer, Southwestern Youth Association, Parent: Dan Mac, Soccer, Southwestern Youth Association.

I would also like to give special recognition to the 2025 Champions of Character Award recipient, Harold Leff, who is recognized for his 33 years of dedicated and tireless service to The Fairfax County Athletic Council.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the recipients of the 2025 Stephen A. McLaughlin Fairfax County Champions of Character Awards and commend them for their exemplary sportsmanship character, and values, which serve as a source of inspiration for their peers and community.

**RECOGNIZING NATIONAL
CUSTODIAN APPRECIATION DAY**

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2025

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise today to recognize school custodians on National Custodian Appreciation Day. Celebrating the tireless work of our school custodians is immensely important, for they are the quiet champions of our schools working diligently, day in and day out, to ensure that our learning environments remain clean, safe, and welcoming. They are often the first to arrive and the last to leave, faithfully fulfilling their duties with dedication and pride. National Custodian Day was first established in 1972, when a group of educators and school administrators recognized the vital contributions of custodians in creating safe and healthy spaces for students to learn. They wanted to show appreciation for the hard work and steadfast commitment of custodial staff to their school communities.

By 1998, custodian appreciation efforts had expanded beyond expressions of gratitude to raise awareness about the critical role custodians play in maintaining cleanliness, hygiene, and order in every setting. People have begun to acknowledge the often-overlooked impact custodial workers have on our daily lives.

Since then, custodian appreciation initiatives have continued to grow and gain global recognition. Planned events and gestures have grown, promoting respect and recognition, and emphasizing the significance of the contributions of school custodians. School custodians are our children's first line of defense against germs and illness. Through their consistent and tireless efforts, they ensure that our schools remain places where students can thrive. From before the first bell rings until long after the last student leaves, custodians work to create an environment where learning and growth can flourish.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the custodians in our schools throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the entire United States. I ask that my colleagues in

Congress and friends throughout Massachusetts join me in celebrating school custodians on National Custodian Appreciation Day as we honor their dedication and their many contributions to our school communities.

**RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN FLOYD
BLAIR**

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 Floyd Blair of Marion County, Florida, who celebrated his 105th birthday on November 15, 2025.

Captain Blair's life is a complete representation of the American spirit—characterized by courage, service, and an enduring commitment to his country. He was born in a 1920, a defining moment in history when the world faced the threat of tyranny and oppression. Answering his Nation's call to service, Captain Blair served honorably in the United States Army Air Forces during the Second World War, where he demonstrated the incredible valor that were the hallmarks of America's Greatest Generation.

Throughout his service, Captain Blair embodied the values of duty, honor, and sacrifice. As a fighter pilot in combat operations across Europe, he placed himself in harm's way to defend the cause of liberty and ensure a future of peace for generations to come. His courage and leadership remain an inspiration to all who cherish freedom and understand the profound cost at which it is preserved.

Following his military service, Captain Blair continued to exemplify these same values in civilian life. For decades, he has been a devoted member of the Marion County community, respected for his humility, integrity, and steadfast patriotism. Even in his later years, Captain Blair has continued to inspire others through his quiet strength and lifelong commitment to his fellow veterans.

This year, as family, friends, and community members join together to celebrate this remarkable milestone, we pause to reflect on the profound legacy of a man who has given so much to his Nation. Captain Blair's story reminds us of the resilience and selflessness that define America's veterans and the importance of honoring those who have safeguarded our freedom.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Florida's 3rd Congressional District, I extend my deepest gratitude and warmest congratulations to Captain Floyd Blair on his 105th birthday. May his life continue to be blessed with health, joy, and the enduring appreciation of a grateful Nation.

**RECOGNIZING THE RECIPIENTS OF
THE 2025 ARTSFAIRFAX ARTS
AWARDS**

HON. JAMES R. WALKINSHAW

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2025

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize ArtsFairfax and the recipients of the