

RECOGNIZING VICTOR ODERMAT

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Victor Odermat for his many years of dedication to our country, both through his military service and active support for the Puget Sound military community through Brown Bear Car Wash.

Victor valiantly served in the United States Marine Corps until the mid-1950's, and his dedication to service continued long after his active military duty. Upon graduating from Lakeside High School, Victor entered the University of Washington's NROTC program and would go on to serve in the United States Marine Corps until the mid-1950's. After leaving the Marines, Victor founded Brown Bear Car Wash, which would become a steadfast supporter of the military community. He displayed exemplary work ethic and was widely known for his commitment to "taking care of the customer."

Victor exemplified service and dedication to the military community, he carried this same unceasing devotion to serving those around him. Brown Bear Car Wash backs National Guard and Reserve troops through Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, offering free car washes to veterans on every Veterans Day and donating a portion of proceeds to the Puget Sound Honor Flight. Brown Bear Car Wash has donated over \$71,000 to the Puget Sound Honor Flight and is a vital partner to Cathay Post No. 186, helping raise funds for veteran services. Beyond supporting the post, Brown Bear contributes to organizations like the USO, Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation, and Boy Scouts of America, reflecting a deep commitment to the Puget Sound community. Victor has left a resounding impact on all those around him and was a true leader of the communities he was part of.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Victor Odermat for a lifetime of service to the United States of America and to his community. I am deeply grateful for his important efforts towards protecting our country and his outstanding contributions to the Puget Sound community. His legacy will not be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING MANASSAS REGIONAL AIRPORT'S AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL

HON. SUHAS SUBRAMANYAM

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the extraordinary Air Traffic Controllers of Manassas Regional Airport. Despite challenging circumstances during the 2025 federal government shutdown, the dedicated Manassas Tower workforce worked arduously to ensure seamless airport operations. Manassas Tower is one of few towers to have zero staffing triggers throughout the shutdown, a testament to the unwavering commitment and efforts of its employees.

The Manassas Tower is a critical part of regional air traffic. As the largest regional airport

in Virginia and ranked in the top 25 percent of busiest general aviation airports, it oversaw over 100,000 flights in 2024. In addition to prioritizing the safety of all flights moving through the airport, Manassas Tower is committed to providing mentorship and professional development for all its staff. Their impeccable training for controllers has equipped several employees with the skills and experiences to transition to major airport facilities.

Manassas Tower has historically prevailed against difficult circumstances. It has faced critical infrastructure issues yet maintained its role as a leader in air traffic control. As they prepare for commercial flights in 2026, they will continue to be a role model for perseverance and leading with purpose.

I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing and commemorating the efforts of the Manassas Air Traffic Control Tower team.

HONORING MARKENZY LAPOINTE

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career and inspiring journey of Markenzyl Lapointe, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida. Appointed by President Joseph Biden and confirmed by the U.S. Senate in December of 2022, Mr. Lapointe led an office of nearly 500 attorneys and support professionals dedicated to investigating and prosecuting federal crimes in South Florida and litigating civil matters in which the United States has an interest. Mr. Lapointe served in this capacity until he ended his term with the outgoing Biden Administration. His leadership in this pivotal role serves as a testament to his unwavering commitment to justice and public service.

Mr. Lapointe's remarkable legal career began with the Florida Supreme Court, where he served as a law clerk to the Honorable Harry Lee Anstead from 1999 to 2001. He subsequently joined the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Florida as an Assistant U.S. Attorney, handling federal criminal matters ranging from narcotics and firearms offenses to bank and mortgage fraud. His tenure in private practice included over a decade at Boies Schiller Flexner LLP, where he rose from litigation associate to partner before joining Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP.

Mr. Lapointe served as a partner at Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP in Miami, where he handled complex commercial disputes, high-exposure product liability cases, professional malpractice matters, and criminal investigations. As co-chair of the firm's Advancement of Diverse Attorneys Committee, he demonstrated a steadfast dedication to promoting the retention and advancement of attorneys from various backgrounds, exemplifying his commitment to equity and inclusion within the legal profession.

Throughout his career, Mr. Lapointe has also demonstrated an exceptional commitment to pro bono service. He has received numerous accolades for his advocacy, including the Legal Aid/Put Something Back Pro Bono Award in Child Advocacy and the Daily Business Review's Most Effective Lawyer Award for Pro Bono in Family Law.

A proud alumnus of Florida State University, Mr. Lapointe earned both his law degree from the College of Law and his degree in finance from the College of Business. He also attended Miami Dade College, reflecting his deep ties to the South Florida community.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Mr. Lapointe's personal story is a profound source of inspiration. Born in Haiti, he immigrated to the United States as a teenager and settled in Miami's Liberty City neighborhood. A graduate of Edison High School, Mr. Lapointe went on to serve his country as a U.S. Marine during the Gulf War. Today, he is not only a distinguished legal professional but also a trailblazer as the first Haitian-born American to serve as U.S. Attorney.

Mr. Speaker, please join me as I recognize Markenzyl Lapointe. He embodies the values of perseverance, service, and excellence. His journey from Liberty City to leading one of the most significant U.S. Attorney's Offices in the Nation is a testament to the boundless opportunities our country provides. I extend my heartfelt congratulations and gratitude to Mr. Lapointe for his service to our Nation and his dedication to the pursuit of justice.

HONORING THE DEUTSCHER CLUB ON ITS 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

Mr. KEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 90th anniversary of The Deutscher Club in Clark, New Jersey. On September 30, 1935, a group of local men came together to establish an organization dedicated to celebrating and preserving their German heritage and ancestral roots. From this commitment on, this club has grown to be the largest German club in New Jersey. The club's first gathering took place in the welcoming walls of Nick Grunwald's delicatessen in Rahway, New Jersey. Shortly after this, the first official meeting was held at the Grevens Hotel. At this meeting Karl Krumer was elected as the organization's first president and the name "Deutscher Club of Rahway" was formally adopted. By the 1950's the club continued to grow. In response, the Deutscher Club purchased a farmhouse sitting on acres of beautiful land. With their dedication and outstanding effort by the members, the humble "Ole House" was turned into a beautiful and expansive Club House, reflecting the club's impressive progression and commitment to the German heritage. In 1955, The Ladies Division was established and reactivated again in 1979. Throughout the years, the ladies of this division have played a vital role in emphasizing the club's culture by organizing card parties, fashion shows and other cultural events. To advance the German Culture and education, the club provides financial support to multiple organizations, schools and other cultural institutions. The Deutscher Club will continue to be an "Oasis for German-Americans in New Jersey." I am deeply proud of the achievements of this club and its members. Mr. Speaker as The Deutscher Club celebrates their 90th anniversary of German-American cultural and communal excellence, I am pleased to commend all members of The Deutscher Club for being

an integral part of the Clark area. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring this community truly dedicated, to German cultural heritage.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
PATRICK GLEASON AFTER 26
YEARS AT JESSE BROWN VA
MEDICAL CENTER

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Patrick Gleason on his retirement after a remarkable 26-year career with the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center.

Patrick started as a Canteen chief before moving over to voluntary services. He collaborated with the Chicago Mattress Company to bring veterans in need of a mattress, bed frame, pillows, and sheets. He led the first VA food pantry program in the country, which ran from 2013 to 2020. Patrick coordinated a concert tour for The Dogz Jazz Band, performing at 9 different VA hospitals.

Patrick revived a program to provide ambulance and stretcher services to discharging veterans who have no other option to get home after a hospital stay. He singlehandedly repaired the relationship with the transportation provider who wanted to end their contract after previous nonpayment. Now, this service is available for those patients most in need. Patrick's leadership and service have made a lasting impact on the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center and on the veterans they serve.

As he begins this new chapter, I offer my gratitude and congratulations. Patrick Gleason's 26-year legacy at JBVA will continue to inspire leaders and communities for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and all our colleagues in the House of Representatives in recognizing Patrick Gleason for his immense contribution.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADRIANO ESPAILLAT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, due to a personal matter, I was not present for two votes on December 4, 2025. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 313, and NAY on Roll Call No. 314.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF
MR. DAVID WARM

HON. SHARICE DAVIDS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the career of Mr. David Warm, the executive director for the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC).

Economist John Kenneth Galbraith once wrote, "All of the great leaders have had one characteristic in common: It was the willingness to confront unequivocally the major anxiety of their people in their time."

As Executive Director of MARC for the past 35 years, Mr. Warm has confronted the major challenges of the Kansas City region time and time again. From emergency management to environmental protection, early education to aging services, and transportation to local government cooperative services, Mr. Warm has worked tirelessly with a servant's heart and a singular focus on the mission ahead.

Mr. Warm is retiring after 35 distinguished years as MARC's Executive Director. Under his leadership, MARC has earned a reputation for innovative work and has become a vital organization for the development of 119 cities and nine counties in the Kansas City area.

Prior to Mr. Warm's tenure at MARC, he worked for the city of Kansas City, Missouri, and later, the city administrator's office for the City of Liberty, Missouri, eventually leading the office. Mr. Warm also serves on the boards of several area nonprofits focused on health care, community development, and education, including the Hall Family Foundation.

He has been honored with many awards. After becoming a fellow in the National Academy of Public Administration, Mr. Warm also received the Walter Scheiber Leadership Award from the National Association of Regional Councils. In 2012, he received the Professional of the Year award from Nonprofit Connect, and in 2020, he was honored with the Kansas Citizen of the Year award by the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce.

Those who have worked with Mr. Warm describe him as a practical, humble, and exemplary leader who has had a positive and critical impact on the region. He is known for his dedicated service and devotion to the Kansas City region and has been an invaluable asset to my office. Mr. Warm has proactively provided my office with valuable knowledge and has been an esteemed contributor to my many roundtables addressing various issues or concerns within the community. His support, not only for my office but also for other public servants, has always been in the interest of doing what is best for the region, and we will greatly miss his unique insight.

Please join me in wholeheartedly congratulating Mr. Warm on his illustrious career and profound impact on the Kansas City region. I wish Mr. Warm a well-deserved and prosperous retirement alongside his family.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ERNEST
L. "ERNIE" STEVENS, JR.

HON. SHARICE DAVIDS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Ernest L. "Ernie" Stevens, Jr. Ernie was a fierce and loyal advocate for Indian country who dedicated his life to advancing tribal sovereignty and protecting tribal rights through his advocacy.

Ernie was an active leader among his tribe and community, the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin. Ernie most notably served as the

Chairman for the Indian Gaming Association for more than two decades and demonstrated his unwavering commitment to tribal communities across the country through his policy contributions and his advancements to Indian gaming.

Ernie was a mentor, a passionate community leader, and a friend to all. He will be remembered for his countless contributions and commitments kept to Indian country. He will be deeply missed.

CONGRATULATING MR. DAVID
COOK OF HUNTSVILLE, ALA-
BAMA ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. DALE W. STRONG

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

Mr. STRONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable citizen, Mr. David Cook of Huntsville, Alabama, on his well-deserved retirement from Torch Technologies. Dave Cook's distinguished career is a powerful testament to the American dream, and a lifetime dedicated to the service and protection of our Nation.

Dave began his service to our Nation by enlisting in the United States Army. His exceptional potential was quickly recognized, earning him an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point, from which he graduated in 1984 with an Engineering degree. He further sharpened his expertise, earning an MBA from The Ohio State University and completing a Senior Service Fellowship at the University of Texas Institute for Advanced Technology.

His military career spanned critical roles in both combat arms leadership and defense acquisition. At the Pentagon, he served as Executive Officer to the Deputy for Systems Management and as Deputy Director of Executive Communications and Control for the Secretary of the Army. Most notably, as Senior Military Assistant to the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, he was instrumental in the urgent effort to field fifteen thousand Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles, a lifesaving action that protected countless troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Dave's contributions to our Nation's missile defense capability are equally extraordinary. As Product Manager for the Sentinel Radar System following the September 11th attacks, he rapidly deployed teams to support operations, achieving record readiness rates and earning him recognition as the top product manager among thirty-two Lieutenant Colonels. As Project Manager for the Ground Based Interceptor Program at the Missile Defense Agency, he achieved the first successful launch of a newly configured interceptor within five months and doubled the operational interceptors deployed. For this success, he was awarded both the Program Manager of the Year and the Missile Defense Pinnacle Leadership Awards. Following his military retirement, Dave brought his leadership to Torch Technologies, rising to the level of Senior Vice President and Business Group Lead.

Mr. Speaker, as Dave Cook begins this next chapter alongside his wife, Petra, and their two children, David, Jr. and Brandi, I ask my