

HONORING TWIN BROTHERS KEITH AND KENNETH PALMER ON CELEBRATING THEIR 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. CHARLES J. "CHUCK" FLEISCHMANN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 100th Birthday of twin brothers Keith and Kenneth Palm on October 11, 2025. Keith and Kenneth are the youngest of 10 children born to Swedish immigrants Alfred and Sigrid Palm. Both are World War II veterans having served in the European Theater with the 103rd Infantry Division. Both Keith and Kenneth are Purple Heart recipients.

Following their military service, both Keith and Kenneth enrolled at the University of Illinois, graduating with Bachelor of Science Degrees in Chemistry. Upon their graduation, both remained in Chicago working for Swift and Company in the edible oil refinery inside the Chicago stockyard. In 1974, Keith and his wife, Patricia, relocated to Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Since arriving in Chattanooga, Keith has been very active with his local church assisting Patricia, his wife of 67 years, teaching Sunday School. Keith has said that one of his deepest joys was the opportunity to teach Sunday School to his grandchildren. Keith has dedicated many years of service to various positions in his church. For many years, he drove kids to a Christian camp in Clemson, South Carolina. Today, Keith and his wife have two children, seven grandchildren, and four great grandchildren. Keith continues to be the foundation of a strong family unit striving to serve others.

I am honored to stand today and congratulate Keith and Kenneth on their 100th birthday. I encourage all to thank them for their service to our country, for being part of the Greatest Generation and to thank Keith for serving tirelessly within our community.

RECOGNIZING MARY ANN KECKLER

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and tireless service of Mary Ann Keckler, a remarkable advocate for her fellow veterans and their families. Hernando County, and indeed all of Florida, were fortunate to benefit from her decades of selfless dedication. Mary Ann served as Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Commander for Hernando County No. 67, and from 2018 to 2019, she held the position of State DAV Commander. Her commitment extended to the national level, serving on the National DAV Executive Committee from 2023 to 2024. In recognition of her exceptional volunteer efforts, she was named National DAV Volunteer of the Year in 2014.

For more than 25 years, Mary Ann devoted her time to the James A. Haley Veterans' Hos-

pital (JAHVH), logging over 11,000 volunteer hours. She played a pivotal role in the creation of both Fisher House I and II, providing families of hospitalized veterans a place to stay during long-term care. She was also instrumental in founding the monthly Operation Helping Hand dinners at JAHVH SCI, ensuring that veterans and their families received nourishment, fellowship, and support.

Beyond her service, Mary Ann was a loving mother and grandmother, a loyal friend, and a fierce advocate for those in need. Her legacy is one of compassion, leadership, and unwavering commitment. Through her tireless work, countless veterans and their families have been uplifted, comforted, and empowered. Her life reminds us all of the importance of standing alongside those who have sacrificed so much for our country.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Mary Ann Keckler for her extraordinary service. She leaves behind a legacy that will continue to impact veterans and our community for generations. May her memory be eternal.

HONORING THE LEADERSHIP AND LEGACY OF JAMES GOOD

HON. LORI TRAHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

Mrs. TRAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the tremendous contributions and legacy of James Good, a devoted community leader and advocate whose life's work has transformed and strengthened the Greater Lowell and Merrimack Valley region. He will retire as Chair of the Merrimack Valley Food Bank, an organization he founded over 30 years ago, on December 10, 2025.

James was born and raised in the Highlands section of Lowell, Massachusetts, where his parents, John and Pearl Good, taught their children the importance of generosity, kindness, and service. On Saturdays, James and his father collected newspapers to support families in need, and his mother served as a crossing guard on Stevens Street for over 30 years, greeting every child by name. This devotion to service extended throughout the Good family. His late brother, Jack, was active in his church and community in Essex County and is remembered for his lasting generosity, while his sister, Maryanne, continues the family tradition, always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone in need. James's dedication to serving others began when he proudly enlisted in the United States Army, the ultimate commitment that set the course for a lifetime of service to his community and those around him.

After completing his service in the Army, James turned his focus to giving back to the community where he was raised, channeling his compassion to founding Good Friends, Inc. to ensure that children across the region could experience the joy and magic of Christmas. His dedication to helping others soon expanded as he supported the Middlesex Shelter, an effort that laid the groundwork for what would become the Merrimack Valley Food Bank in 1991. Determined to address local hunger and meet the urgent needs of families facing food insecurity, James began by distributing food from the back of a rented truck to

a handful of local agencies. This modest start quickly evolved: by 1993, the organization had incorporated as an independent nonprofit with its own board of directors, and in 1995 it moved into a larger warehouse on Broadway Street, adding refrigeration and expanding its distribution capacity. Under the leadership of its first Executive Director, Irene Reagan, and with the support of dedicated staff, volunteers, and board members, the Food Bank grew from serving two small agencies to partnering with more than 100 organizations and feeding approximately 70,000 individuals each month. Throughout this growth, James's vision, advocacy, and unwavering commitment remained central, enabling the Food Bank to extend its reach beyond Lowell and into communities across the Merrimack Valley. Today, with a renovated facility on Middlesex Street and ongoing efforts like the Feed & Nourish capital campaign, the Merrimack Valley Food Bank continues to honor James's legacy by providing essential support and fighting food insecurity throughout the region.

As the founder of the Merrimack Valley Food Bank and an active leader on numerous boards, James's impact extends far beyond immediate relief. He has fostered lasting change, strengthened nonprofit infrastructure, and uplifted generations of families through leadership, dedication, and compassion. His service includes roles as President and Chairman of the Food Bank, Founder and President of Good Friends, Inc., member of the Chelmsford Planning Board, Chairman of the Lowell Regional Transit Authority Advisory Board, Treasurer of the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments, member of the Metropolitan Planning Organization, and board service with the Chelmsford Business Association, Southwell Park, and Lowell Five, among many others. James has continuously used each role to advance opportunity, dignity, and care for those in need. James's kindness and wisdom make him a trusted figure for individuals to lean on when experiencing hardship. Through James's leadership and efforts, he has made the City of Lowell a better place to live, work and raise a family.

Throughout his life, James has been widely recognized for his contributions and leadership, receiving numerous honors including the Chelmsford Lodge of Elks Citizen of the Year Award, the Local Hero Award from Community Teamwork, the DeMolay International Legion of Honor, the Lions Club of Lowell Good Guy of the Year and serving as Grand Marshal of the Chelmsford Fourth of July Parade. These accolades speak to the breadth of his service, but those who know him will agree that he has never sought recognition, only results for the people and communities he cares so deeply about.

In a time when many turn inward, James Good stands as a beacon of service and hope. His legacy reminds us that generosity builds stronger communities, that compassion can change lives, and that one individual, guided by values of empathy, humility, and action, can leave an impact that endures for generations. Most importantly, James is known for his love for his wife Paula, his family and friends, his kindness to those around him, and his immense pride in the City of Lowell.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 308, and YEA on Roll Call No. 309.

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been