

recognize and celebrate the extraordinary career and service of Marilyn Dillihay, who has dedicated more than forty years to public service in the Tennessee General Assembly, the United States House of Representatives, and a brief stint at the Tennessee Lottery; and,

Whereas, forty years ago, on December 3, 1985, Marilyn began working for me in my Tennessee State Senate office, and I had little idea then how blessed I would be; she immediately became a valued staffer, a close friend, and an advisor on a multitude of subjects quickly proving indispensable not only to our work, but to me personally; and,

Whereas, Marilyn was integral to the passage of the Tennessee Education Lottery, a landmark effort that took years of dedication, negotiation, and leadership; she was with me on that fight from the beginning, a partnership forever captured in our "victory celebration and lottery headquarters" hotel photo; and,

Whereas, the lottery would later be recognized as one of the most meaningful legislative achievements in recent state history; and has provided over eight billion dollars in unprecedented educational opportunities for Tennessee students; and,

Whereas, when I was elected to Congress, Marilyn came with me to Washington, established my congressional office from day one, and initially served as my Press Secretary and Legislative Director before becoming my Chief of Staff, a role in which she has done a marvelous job; and,

Whereas, Marilyn has been the heart and soul of our operation mentoring generations of staff and cultivating an office culture defined by loyalty, kindness, and hard-work; her personality has attracted exceptional staff and colleagues over the years, enhancing our productivity, our reach, and the spirit of our team; and,

Whereas, Marilyn possesses a knowledge of me and my career that exceeds anyone else's, a continuity and institutional memory that has been invaluable to me as a legislator; and her sound judgment, historical insight, and understanding of government have made her a trusted counselor that I have respected and relied upon; and I appreciated her tenacity and perseverance in securing us an office with a Capitol View; and,

Whereas, Marilyn's sense of humor, her love of the arts, her passion for animal welfare and prohibiting the soring of horses, and her command of history and international affairs, have enriched not only our work but our friendship, reminding us daily that public service is not only serious business but also a labor of joy, humanity, and heart; she is one of the best things to come out of Muhlenberg County, Kentucky; and,

Whereas, the 9th Congressional District is profoundly grateful for Marilyn's unwavering devotion to public service, to her colleagues, and to the people of Memphis, and we gather today in celebration of her achievements, her leadership, and her well-deserved retirement; and

Now, therefore be it resolved that, I, Steve Cohen, Member of Congress, along with the citizens of the 9th Congressional District of Tennessee, do hereby honor Marilyn Dillihay, for her more than forty years of distinguished public service, express our deepest appreciation for her immeasurable contributions, and extend our warmest wishes for a joyful and fulfilling retirement.

SALUTING THE SERVICE OF GARY D. DENNETT

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Colonel Gary D. Dennett (Ret.) has devoted his life to service to this country, through thirty-one years in uniform and thirty-one concurrent years with the Department of Defense, and through his continued commitment to our veterans and the Central Texas community. It is my privilege to honor him with a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

Colonel Dennett began his military career in 1958 and served in the United States Army, the Kansas National Guard, and the Army Reserves until his retirement in 1989. During his career he served in Germany, and after Ranger School deployed to Vietnam as an advisor to the Army Republic of Vietnam (ARVN). After attending OCS and receiving his commission as an officer in the Army National Guard, he continued his distinguished service in the Army Reserves where he held various command positions at every level. During his military career he was awarded the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star for Valor, Army Meritorious Unit Commendation, Army Superior Unit Commendation, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, Army Commendation Medal, and Army Achievement Medal, along with numerous campaign and service ribbons.

After retiring from the Army Reserves, Colonel Dennett continued to dedicate himself to honoring veterans and serving the community. He is a longstanding member of the Williamson County Veterans Memorial Advisory Group, which established and continues to maintain and conduct ceremonies at the Veterans Memorial Plaza in Georgetown, Texas. He remains active as a life member in organizations such as the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign War (VFW), and Military Order of World Wars (MOWW), serving in various officer positions at the state and local level.

Colonel Dennett has been a leader, mentor, and steadfast advocate for veterans and their families. His service and efforts have ensured that the sacrifices of our Nation's service members are honored and remembered with dignity and respect.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I extend my deepest gratitude to Colonel Gary D. Dennett for his faithful service to our Nation and his lifelong dedication to others.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SYDNEY KAMLAGER-DOVE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained, and unable to vote on Roll Call No. 334. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 334.

HONORING OFFICERS GONZALO RUBIO AND FRANK MALDONADO OF THE BROWNSVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Officers Gonzalo Rubio and Frank Maldonado of the Brownsville Police Department for an extraordinary act of compassion that reflects the very best of public service and community-centered policing.

In the early morning hours of December 5, 2025, while on routine patrol in downtown Brownsville, Texas, Officers Rubio and Maldonado noticed a man lying on the sidewalk wrapped in a blanket. With temperatures in the low 50's and cold, breezy conditions, the officers stopped to conduct a welfare check. Upon approaching the individual, they observed that he was shivering, soaked from the damp blanket he was using for cover. As they further assessed his condition, the officers realized the man was not fully clothed and exposed to the elements.

Recognizing the immediate safety concern, Officers Rubio and Maldonado attempted to locate an open business nearby to purchase clothing. When they found that all downtown stores were closed at that hour, they chose not to treat the situation as routine or walk away. Instead, they drove to a nearby Walmart and used their own personal funds to purchase warm, dry clothing. The officers returned with the items and ensured the man was safe and comfortable.

This quiet, selfless act speaks volumes about the character of Officers Rubio and Maldonado. Their actions exemplify the Brownsville Police Department's guiding principle of "Service From the Heart," demonstrating that true public safety is grounded not only in enforcement, but in empathy, dignity, and care for the most vulnerable among us.

Officers Gonzalo Rubio and Frank Maldonado went beyond the call of duty to help a fellow human being in need. Their actions are a powerful reminder that policing at its best is about compassion, humanity, and service to the community. I am proud to recognize them for their commitment to the people of Brownsville.

REMEMBERING DAVY CROCKETT'S
NOT YOURS TO GIVE SPEECH

HON. CRAIG A. GOLDMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the enduring wisdom of Davy Crockett's "Not Yours to Give" speech. Thankfully, his famous speech was preserved by Edward S. Ellis in *The Life of Colonel David Crockett*.

Davy Crockett was a true American hero. He was a frontiersman who served in this very House. Later, Crockett would courageously fight and die for Texas' independence.

The true story is that Crockett stood against a widely popular government spending bill, and lost. But his words still resonate today.

I include in the RECORD, his speech from April 2, 1828, when a bill came before the House to appropriate money for the widow of a distinguished naval officer, Crockett rose on the House Floor and said:

“Mr. Speaker—I have as much respect for the memory of the deceased, and as much sympathy for the sufferings of the living, if suffering there be, as any man in this House, but we must not permit our respect for the dead or our sympathy for a part of the living to lead us into an act of injustice to the balance of the living. I will not go into an argument to prove that Congress has no power to appropriate this money as an act of charity. Every member upon this floor knows it. We have the right, as individuals, to give away as much of our own money as we please in charity; but as members of Congress we have no right so to appropriate a dollar of the public money. Some eloquent appeals have been made to us upon the ground that it is a debt due the deceased. Mr. Speaker, the deceased lived long after the close of the war; he was in office to the day of his death, and I have never heard that the government was in arrears to him.

Every man in this House knows it is not a debt. We cannot, without the grossest corruption, appropriate this money as the payment of a debt. We have not the semblance of authority to appropriate it as a charity. Mr. Speaker, I have said we have the right to give as much money of our own as we please. I am the poorest man on this floor. I cannot vote for this bill, but I will give one week's pay to the object, and if every member of Congress will do the same, it will amount to more than the bill asks.”

Now more than ever, Crockett's words are an important reminder to us all. Americans deserve a government that spends their money wisely.

RECOGNIZING THE LAMAR SCHOOL RAIDERS MAIS 4A DIVISION III STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 2025 MAIS 4A Division III State Champions, the Lamar School Raiders. This is the school's first football championship win since 2018, and is a direct reflection of the leadership the team has within its players and coaches and the support provided from the community. In the championship game, the team played well on both sides of the ball by starting with a 14–0 lead and continuing with two pick-sixes throughout the game. The team persevered throughout the game resulting in a 34 to 17 win over Brookhaven Academy. I congratulate the Lamar Raiders, their coaches, and the school community. I am honored to have their volunteer coach, Charlie Ballou, on my staff. Go Raiders.

SALUTING THE SERVICE OF FRANK ESPINOSA, JR.

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Frank Espinosa, Jr. has exemplified the highest ideals of service, both in uniform and throughout his civilian life, and I am proud to recognize him with a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

Mr. Espinosa served on active duty in the United States Navy from July 1978 to December 2002. Among his most notable assignments was his tour from May 1985 to May 1989 with the Special Programs Office of the White House Military Office, where he contributed to the largest construction project completed at the White House in a quarter century.

His dedication to service has continued long after his military retirement. For more than 30 years, he has been a Paid-Up-For-Life member of the American Legion, contributing significantly to Post 174 in Georgetown as 1st Vice Commander, newsletter editor, and project coordinator for clothing donations serving homeless and at-risk veterans.

He is also a Gold Legacy Life Member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and has provided steadfast support to Post 8587, where he donated equipment, maintained the flag collection, assisted with community events, and continues to serve as Webmaster. In addition, as a Life Member of the U.S. Submarine Veterans Central Texas Base, he has organized blood drives, served as an Ambassador for the Charity Foundation, and was honored as Sailor of the Year in 2023.

Mr. Espinosa's commitment to service extends deep into the community. Since 2014, he has been a dedicated volunteer with The Caring Place, serving in multiple roles, including on the Board of Directors, and helping coordinate food distribution for at-risk families during the COVID-19 pandemic.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I extend my deepest appreciation to Mr. Frank Espinosa, Jr. for his remarkable contributions to our Nation and his lifelong commitment to serving others.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANDREW S. CLYDE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, I missed Roll Call No. 335 and Roll Call No. 336, as I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 335, and YEA on Roll Call No. 336.

HONORING CHIEF TIMOTHY RAKER ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to proudly congratulate Chief Timothy Raker on his re-

tirement and to recognize his more than forty years of dedicated service in law enforcement. This stands as a testament to his dedication to the communities he served across multiple states and jurisdictions.

Chief Raker began his law enforcement career in 1981 with the City of Houston Police Department, where he served as a patrol officer and accident reconstructionist. In 1988, he returned home to Michigan and joined the St. Clair County Sheriff's Office as a special deputy and warrant officer.

Beyond his local responsibilities, Chief Raker also served with FEMA's Disaster Mortuary Response Team from 2000 to 2017. During that time, he assisted in the recovery and identification efforts following several major national and international disasters, including Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the 2010 Haiti earthquake, and the Joplin, Missouri tornado. His work helped return loved ones to their families and provided a measure of closure during times of tragedy.

In 2017, Chief Raker joined the City of St. Clair Police Department, first as a patrol officer and later as Chief of Police. Over the past eight years, he has established the Citizens Police Academy, strengthened community engagement, and helped build the St. Clair Police Foundation initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, it is with sincere appreciation that we honor Chief Timothy Raker for his decades of service. Chief Raker's retirement marks the close of a forty-four-year career dedicated to public service. I thank him for his many contributions to public safety and wish him well in this next chapter.

HONORING FREMD HIGH SCHOOL

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Fremd High School on their designation as a 2025 National Blue Ribbon School.

Since 1982, the Blue-Ribbon School Award has recognized the most exemplary public and private schools for outstanding academic performance and significant progress in closing achievement gaps among students.

From its inception in 1961 to its continued excellence through the 21st Century, Fremd High School has continued to pave a bright path of academic leadership and set an example for schools and communities in the Chicagoland area.

Fremd High School was designated an Exemplary School in the State of Illinois for performing in the top 10 percent of schools statewide, with no underperforming student groups. Due to this success and high graduation rates, Fremd High School is an academic performance leader, not just in Chicago but across the country.

Although the Blue-Ribbon School Award has been canceled, it is imperative to recognize schools like Fremd High School, which deserve praise and congratulations for this outstanding achievement.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and all our colleagues in the House of Representatives in recognizing Fremd High School for their exceptional and continuous success in educating