

HONORING DELIA G. GARCIA
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Delia G. Garcia Elementary School of Roma Independent School District on being named a Governor's Lone Star Ribbon School, an honor that recognizes extraordinary academic excellence and outstanding achievement in public education across Texas.

This distinction is reserved for campuses that exemplify rigorous instructional standards, exceptional student outcomes, and a schoolwide commitment to creating an environment where every child can succeed. Earning this recognition reflects years of hard work, innovation, and an unwavering dedication to student success.

It speaks not only to the resilience and determination of the students, but also to the leadership of the administration, the skill and passion of the teachers, and the steadfast support of parents and the entire Roma ISD community.

At Delia G. Garcia Elementary, educators have shown that excellence in education is achieved through collaboration, high expectations, and a shared belief in the potential of every student.

Their efforts shape the foundation of learning for our youth, strengthen our community and inspire future generations to pursue opportunities with confidence.

Mr. Speaker, the achievement of Delia G. Garcia stands as a testament to what is possible when a school community commits itself fully to academic excellence and student growth.

On behalf of the 28th District of Texas, I commend the students, teachers, staff, and families of this exemplary school for earning this well-deserved honor.

WELCOMING THE EXPANSION OF
HOFFMAN & HOFFMAN

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, South Carolinians are grateful that Hoffman & Hoffman is expanding within the 2nd District of South Carolina. Established in 1947, Hoffman & Hoffman serves as a leader in heating, ventilation, and air conditioning solutions (HVAC).

The new facility is expected to open in the second quarter of 2026 and will allow Hoffman & Hoffman to consolidate their existing Lexington County offices and grow its operations in the state.

The \$8.5 million investment will create 60 new jobs, strengthen the local economy, and enhance career opportunities across the state.

With a presence across the Southeast, Hoffman & Hoffman continues to demonstrate a commitment to innovation and growth. I appreciate the dedication and leadership of Chief Executive Officer, Jim Bingham.

I extend my best wishes to Hoffman & Hoffman for success in their future endeavors.

CELEBRATING CHIEF ERIC
VOLLMER

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Hayward Fire Department Interim Chief Eric Vollmer on the occasion of his upcoming retirement on December 30, 2025, after nearly three decades of exemplary service to the City of Hayward and to communities throughout California.

Eric grew up in Fremont, California, where he first developed a strong appreciation for community and public service. That commitment would later define a distinguished career in the fire service spanning nearly 30 years, including service with CAL FIRE, the Manteca Fire Department, and the City of Hayward.

Eric earned an Associate of Science in Fire Technology from Columbia Junior College and a Bachelor of Arts in Biology from California State University, Hayward.

Eric began his service with the City of Hayward in 1999, where he rose through the ranks, serving as Firefighter, Captain, Battalion Chief, and Deputy Chief of Special Operations, prior to his current assignment as Interim Fire Chief. His leadership, professionalism, and dedication have left a lasting impact on the department and the residents it serves.

Before being promoted to management, Eric dedicated ten years as a member of the Local 1909 Executive Board, including four years as President, where he advocated for firefighters and worked collaboratively to strengthen labor-management relations.

Among his proudest accomplishments is his time in the Training Division, where he managed three recruit academies and helped shape the next generation of firefighters. Eric also worked to introduce local youth to the fire service through a partnership with the Eden Area ROP First Responder Program, expanding access and opportunity for students interested in public safety careers.

Eric played a critical role in renewing the department's Critical Incident Stress Management program, ensuring firefighters had the support they needed during challenging moments. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he also managed the Hayward Emergency Operations Center, providing steady leadership during an unprecedented public health crisis.

As Eric prepares for retirement, he looks forward to spending more time with his wife, Mallory, and their daughter, Sloane.

We extend our deepest gratitude and congratulations to Mr. Vollmer as he embarks on this new chapter of his life, with utmost respect for his service and with the best wishes for his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LIZZIE FLETCHER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mrs. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, on December 15, 2025, a family commitment caused me to miss Roll Call votes No. 335 and No. 336.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 335, and YEA on Roll Call No. 336.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MARIJUANA IN FEDERALLY ASSISTED HOUSING PARITY ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Marijuana in Federally Assisted Housing Parity Act. This bill would permit the use of marijuana in federally assisted housing, including public housing and Section 8 housing, in compliance with the marijuana laws of the state (including the District of Columbia) where the property is located. Senator CORY BOOKER is introducing the companion bill.

Individuals living in federally assisted housing should not be denied admission, or fear eviction, for using a product that is legal in the state where they reside. Adult-use marijuana, medical marijuana or both are currently legal in 40 states, the District of Columbia and three territories, and approximately 90 percent of Americans support legalized medical marijuana. Under federal law, users of drugs that are illegal under federal law, including marijuana, are prohibited from being admitted into federally assisted housing. Moreover, federal law allows landlords to evict residents of federally assisted housing for using illegal drugs.

The federal government has begun to change its approach to marijuana. For example, for the last several years, Congress has prohibited the Department of Justice (DOJ) from using federal funds to prevent jurisdictions from implementing their medical marijuana laws. This bill would similarly allow individuals to use marijuana in federally assisted housing in compliance with a state's marijuana laws. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), like DOJ, should not be allowed to interfere with jurisdictions implementing their marijuana laws.

Under this bill, HUD must develop regulations that restrict smoking marijuana in federally assisted housing in the same manner and in the same locations as HUD restricts smoking tobacco in federally assisted housing.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, on December 16, 2025, I missed votes due to personal reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 337; NAY on Roll Call No. 338; YEA on Roll Call No. 339; NAY on Roll Call No. 340; YEA on Roll Call No. 341; and NAY on Roll Call No. 342.

HONORING MASTER SERGEANT
DAVID FRIETS ON HIS RETIRE-
MENT FROM THE UNITED
STATES MARINE CORPS

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Master Sergeant (MSgt) David Friets on his retirement from the United States Marine Corps (USMC) after 20 years of dedicated service. I thank MSgt. Friets for his steadfast dedication towards keeping his fellow Servicemembers, the communities throughout Northern Michigan, and our Nation safe.

Born and raised in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, the values of determination, integrity, and service to his country were instilled in him by his parents and community. It was these core values that would guide him through a distinguished and proud career with the USMC, shaping his dedication to his mission and fellow Marines.

On December 6, 2005, shortly after graduating from Escanaba High School, MSgt. Friets enlisted in the USMC where he would go on to serve as a Signals Intelligence/Electronic Warfare (SIGINT/EW) Chief. In this role, he directed complex SIGINT collection, analysis, and dissemination efforts while also supervising the implementation of electronic warfare tactics for operational support. Within a variety of high-pressure environments, he ensured the security, integrity, and effectiveness of communications and intelligence systems.

Mr. Speaker, let us all join in congratulating MSgt. David Friets on his retirement from the United States Marine Corps after 20 years of service. I wish him great happiness in retirement and thank him once more for keeping Michigan's 1st Congressional District and our Nation safe.

CELEBRATING LOWNDES COUNTY'S
200TH BIRTHDAY

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Lowndes County in Georgia's 8th Congressional District. Lowndes County was established by the Georgia State Assembly on December 23, 1825. Since then, the county has grown to be home to more than 118,000 people and spans 511 square miles. What was once a railroad town dominated by cotton sales has grown to serve as home to Valdosta State University, the Grand Bay Wildlife Management Area, Moody Air Force Base, and many charming Georgia towns. Lowndes County has served our airmen at Moody Air Force Base for many years and sets the example for how we can best support our soldiers and their families. I am honored to represent this community and look forward to seeing Lowndes County continue to grow for years to come.

HONORING CAPTAIN J.J.
PLUNKETT

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished leader in the maritime industry, retired United States Coast Guard Captain J.J. Plunkett, who is retiring after more than three decades of dedicated service to maritime safety, port operations, and national security.

A 1987 graduate of the United States Coast Guard Academy, Captain Plunkett served in the Coast Guard for over twenty-two years, progressing from field inspector to senior executive leadership. His career in the Coast Guard had many stops serving as a Marine Inspector in Portland, Oregon; Chemical Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) Executive Assistant and Project Chemical Engineer at Coast Guard Headquarters; Chief of the Operations Department at Marine Safety Office Mobile, Alabama; Deputy Sector Commander of Sector Long Island Sound; and Captain of the Port of Marine Safety Unit Port Arthur, Texas.

Following his service in the Coast Guard, Captain Plunkett has served for over fourteen years as the Chief Operating Officer and Port Agent for the Houston Pilot Association. In this role, J.J. provided strategic leadership over pilot operations, enhancing efficiency, safety protocols, and organizational excellence while serving as a trusted industry voice. The Houston Ship Channel is home to the largest petrochemical complex in the United States and the largest container port in the Gulf of Mexico. It contributes nearly one trillion dollars to our Nation's economy annually. Houston ranks first in U.S. exports and first in U.S. foreign tonnage.

J.J. Plunkett's leadership and expertise help the Houston Pilots safely guide more than 8,200 vessels through the channel annually. On December 17, 2025, Captain Plunkett will retire after a distinguished maritime career with the United States Coast Guard and the Houston Pilots.

Mr. Speaker, I wish my friend Captain J.J. Plunkett, his wife, Lori, their children and grandchildren. Fair Winds and Following Seas in the next chapter of their lives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ASHLEY HINSON

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mrs. HINSON. Mr. Speaker, due to the tragic death of Iowa National Guardsmen Sgt. William Nathaniel Howard and Sgt. Edgar Brian Torres-Tovar and my attendance at their dignified transfer, I missed votes on the morning of December 17, 2025. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 343, and YEA on Roll Call No. 344.

RECOGNIZING THE HANFORD CIVIC
AUDITORIUM

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Hanford Civic Auditorium on their 100th anniversary. For the past century, this iconic building has stood as a symbol of Hanford, California's rich history, architectural heritage, and cultural identity.

Since opening its doors in 1925, the Hanford Civic Auditorium has served as the cornerstone of community life—a vibrant hub for artistic performances, civic engagement, and social events. From city council meetings and public forums to receptions, family reunions, and community celebrations, it has hosted countless gatherings that reflect the heart and spirit of Hanford. More than just a venue, the auditorium plays a vital role in fostering civic pride, cultural expression, and a shared appreciation for the city's rich local history—ensuring its legacy will endure. The original vision for the Hanford Civic Auditorium was not only to meet the needs of a growing community, but also to honor the brave members of our military who answered the call to arms during WWI—and to memorialize those who never returned. Today, the City of Hanford proudly designates the auditorium as a local historical and cultural landmark. This recognition is made possible by the dedicated staff and team members who work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the auditorium's continued success.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to those who have contributed to preserving and promoting the Hanford Civic Auditorium. Their commitment ensures it will continue to serve the people of Kings County and stand as a living testament to the community's values and history.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the Hanford Civic Auditorium on their 100th anniversary. Its contributions to the cultural and civic life of Hanford will continue to resonate for generations to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RANDY FEENSTRA

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. FEENSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for these votes. Had I been present, I would have voted on YEA on Roll Call No. 335, and YEA on Roll Call No. 336.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, due to an important constituent engagement, I was not present to vote for Roll Call No. 335 and Roll Call No. 336.