

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. VINCENTE 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.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 335. I support the bipartisan Congressional Award Program which encourages our youth to develop valuable life skills, foster citizenship, and build self-confidence.

Also, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 336. I support the transfer of a vacant parcel of property to Perry County for public use, particularly for youth programs, agricultural education, and conservation efforts.

RECOGNIZING REVEREND DR.
SAMMUEL MCKINNEY

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Rev. Dr. Sammuel McKinney for what would be his 100th birthday on December 28, 2025 for the contributions he made to our Nation as a civil rights leader who fought tirelessly for social justice and racial equality in Seattle and who served devotedly as the beloved pastor of the Central Area's Mount Zion Baptist Church.

The son of a Baptist minister and grandson of a Georgia sharecropper, the Reverend Dr. McKinney was devoted to serving his community throughout his life. McKinney bravely served during World War II in a segregated unit of the U.S. Army Air Corps. He graduated from Morehouse College in Atlanta after returning home from war, and then he went on to earn a divinity degree from Colgate in 1952. He settled down in Seattle, where he came to lead the congregation of one of Seattle's oldest and largest African American churches for forty-three years as pastor of Mount Zion Baptist Church. He was not only a spiritual guide, but a community builder who tripled the size of his congregation during his time as pastor at Mount Zion. McKinney was a founding member of Seattle's First Human Rights Commission, which successfully fought for the Seattle's first Fair Housing Act, establishing protection for tenants of protected classes and marginalized communities. A lifelong champion for racial justice, McKinney founded Liberty Bank, Seattle's first black-owned financial institution which countered racially biased restrictions on loans to African Americans and expanded opportunities for homeownership in Seattle.

McKinney was a friend to many, including the noted fellow pastor and civil rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The pair had known each other from childhood but grew closer friends at Morehouse College. Dr. King visited Seattle only once, after his old friend requested that he come to give a speech in 1961. During his visit, Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke of McKinney's influence in the civil rights movement and his commitment to racial equality.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Rev. Dr. Sammuel McKinney for a lifetime of service to the United States of America and to the city of Seattle. I am deeply grateful for his important efforts towards protecting our country, advancing social justice, and fostering economic development. His legacy will not be forgotten.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SCOTT H. PETERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, due to a flight travel delay, I could not be present for votes on December 15, 2025. My flight was originally scheduled to arrive at 3:32 pm ET, but it was delayed. My flight arrived at 5:45 pm ET and I could not make it to the Capitol in time for votes. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 335, and YEA on Roll Call No. 336.

RECOGNIZING MOLLY BRIMMER
LOLLI

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Molly Brimmer Lolli for her service to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

A graduate of the University of Maryland for both a bachelor's degree in Political Science and a Juris Doctorate degree, Molly began her career on Capitol Hill as a Legislative Assistant for Rep. ANDY HARRIS (MD-01) in 2019, before becoming Senior Advisor on Health Policy and later Legislative Director for Rep. RICHARD HUDSON (NC-09) in 2021. In January 2023, Molly became Counsel for the Subcommittee on Health for the House Committee on Energy and Commerce under Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers while I was serving as Subcommittee Chair. When I became Chairman in January of this year, I knew I wanted to keep her on my team as an expert on health issues.

After serving two Chairmen and three Subcommittee Chairmen, Molly has departed the U.S. House of Representatives to accept another opportunity to continue to serve as a health expert. I wish her the best, congratulate her on her new role, and thank Molly Brimmer Lolli for her service to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and the United States Congress. I also congratulate her on the birth of her and her husband Tim's new 6 pound, 2 ounces baby girl Carmela Gray Lolli who was born on October 26, 2025, and wish this young family all the best. I know Molly, Tim, and Carmela's big sister Breslin are very proud to welcome her to the family.

RECOGNIZING EMPLOYEES OF THE
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WHO HAVE REACHED 25
YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. BRYAN STEIL

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, Ranking Member JOSEPH D. MORELLE and I wish to recognize a special group of dedicated and exceptional employees of the Office of the Clerk, Office of the Sergeant at Arms, Office of Inspector General, and the Office of the Chief Administrative

Officer of the U.S. House of Representatives who have reached the milestone of 25 years of service.

The House's most important asset is its remarkable and steadfast employees, whose work is essential to keeping its operations running efficiently and effectively. The employees we acknowledge today are distinguished by their hard work, dedication, and professionalism in support of House Members, their staff, and constituents, as well as for their daily contributions to the overall operations of the House. These employees, whose work is often performed behind the scenes, have a diverse range of responsibilities and skills. They support the legislative process, ensure the security of this great institution, maintain our technology and service infrastructure, and contribute to a more efficient and productive House. The outstanding contributions and accomplishments of these devoted employees during their years of service, have benefited the U.S. House of Representatives, its Members, staff, and the American public.

We recognize and honor the individuals named below for 25 years of loyal service to the House. Collectively, the employees listed below represent 675 years of service and include their names in the RECORD:

Office of the Clerk: Carla Benson, Ora Branch, Philisha Lane, Bennetta McDuffie, Jenelle Pulis Kenneth Rosen

Office of the Sergeant at Arms: Wendy Benson, Christopher Brown, LaKeisha Commodore, Christopher Fischer, Lynn Hershey, John Looney, Robin Pegues, Diana Rodriguez

Office of Inspector General: Julie Poole
Office of the CAO: Marcus Suydam, Shawn Sessoms, Steve Hunter, Brandon Braxton, Andreale Little, Myrtle Norma, Carol Swan, Richardo Underwood, Lisa Butler, George Vallandingham, Alfonzo Wallace, Jamie Harvey

On behalf of the entire House community, I want to once again congratulate, acknowledge, and thank these employees for their professionalism and commitment to the U.S. House of Representatives as a whole, and to the Clerk, the Sergeant at Arms, the Chief Administrative Officer, and the Inspector General. Their long hours, hard work, diverse skills, and team spirit are invaluable, and their years of unwavering service and dedication set an example for their colleagues and raise the bar for those who will follow in their footsteps. I applaud all our honorees, and I am proud to stand before you and our great Nation on their behalf to recognize the importance of their public service.

HONORING RONALD "RON" A.
SEGE'S LIFETIME OF IMPACT

HON. SAM T. LICCARDO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Mr. LICCARDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Ronald "Ron" A. Sege, a beloved member of our Silicon Valley community who passed away on November 30, 2025. Ron Sege was a respected technology executive, a philanthropist, and a dear friend to many. He leaves behind an extraordinary legacy of leadership, and service.

Born in New York and raised in California, Ron earned his B.A. in Economics from Pomona College and an M.B.A. from Harvard