

Medical Services, Inc., Chicot & Drew Counties, Arkansas; Morgan Stanley, American Medical Response, Independence, Missouri; Jason Staszko, Bell Ambulance, Inc., Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Jonathan Stocker, Superior Mobile Health, San Antonio, Texas; Doug Struble, Mercy Ambulance Service, Inc., Savannah, Georgia; Sarah Stump, Spirit EMS, Greenville, Ohio; Samantha Sukel, Emergent Health Partners, Ann Arbor, Michigan; Tristan Tomlins, Medic Ambulance Service Inc., Vallejo, California; Jonathan Tseng, Falck USA, Orange, California; Corey Tucker, Century Ambulance, Orange Park, Florida; Stone Volkmer, Community Care Ambulance Network, Ashtabula, Ohio; Julianna Wadsworth, Olympic Ambulance, Poulosbo, Washington; Adam Wagh, Superior Mobile Health, San Antonio, Texas; Parker Wallace, Mecklenburg EMS Agency, Charlotte, North Carolina; Michelle Walsh, Superior Air-Ground Ambulance Service, Lancaster, Ohio; April Weisler, Southern Oklahoma Ambulance Service, Ardmore, Oklahoma; Alisha Welicki, Superior Air-Ground Ambulance Service, Sterling Heights, Michigan; Melissa White, Metropolitan EMS, Little Rock, Arkansas; Dustin Williams, Superior Air-Ground Ambulance Service, Schaumburg, Illinois; Dustin Wilson, American Medical Response, Stockton, California; Ryan Zavada, Advanced Medical Transport, Peoria, Illinois; and Brannen Zilka, American Medical Response, Concord, California.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 18, 2025*

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I missed the first vote during the second voting series on December 17, 2025, as I was detained in a time-sensitive meeting at that time.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 345, H. Con. Res. 61.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF DR. MIKE JENKINS

### HON. NATHANIEL MORAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 18, 2025*

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Dr. Mike Jenkins of Kilgore, Texas, whose passing is deeply felt across the Kilgore College community and throughout East Texas.

Dr. Jenkins faithfully served Kilgore College for 35 years and most recently held the role of Executive Vice President of Internal Collaboration and Strategic Initiatives. Throughout his long career, he impacted countless students, educators, and staff members with a positive, encouraging spirit and a deep commitment to the mission of education.

Those who worked alongside Dr. Jenkins consistently describe him as a leader who used his influence for good, offered grace and guidance to others, and created a culture of care, kindness, and support. He was known as a mentor, a trusted colleague, and a steady presence who lifted people up and made them feel valued, regardless of title or circumstance.

As Interim President, Dr. Staci Martin shared, Dr. Jenkins truly had a servant's heart

and will be greatly missed. I join the Kilgore College family and the broader East Texas community in offering condolences to his loved ones and honoring a life devoted to service, faith, and education.

#### HONORING GARY ACOSTA

### HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 18, 2025*

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gary Acosta for his many contributions to our community.

Gary is an entrepreneur, investor, and advocate for the Latino community, and the co-founder and CEO of the National Association of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals (NAHREP), whose mission is to advance sustainable Hispanic homeownership.

Under Gary's leadership, NAHREP has grown to be the largest Latino business organization in the Nation with more than 58,000 members and 100 local chapters, and created the Hispanic Wealth Project, a non-profit committed to increasing household wealth in the Latino community.

Gary is a founding partner of L'ATTITUDE Ventures, the largest venture capital fund in the Nation that invests exclusively in Latino-led startups and has also launched and led several companies in real estate, mortgage, and technology.

Additionally, Gary founded both AVANCE Sports and the National Hispanic Construction Alliance (NHCA), business organizations focused on advancing the professional and economic mobility of Latinos in these industries.

Gary has been recognized by REALTOR as one of the 25 Most Influential People in Real Estate and by Latino Leaders Magazine as one of the 101 Most Influential Latinos in America.

Gary originally studied chemistry at the University of California, San Diego and Pomona College, worked at the Scripps Institute of Oceanography in San Diego, and became a junior underwriter at a community bank, where he learned firsthand about real estate and finance.

I am glad to recognize Gary for his countless accomplishments and commend him for his exemplary efforts as one of the most influential Latino leaders in the country.

#### HONORING COMPTROLLER GENERAL GENE DODARO

### HON. ROBERT GARCIA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 18, 2025*

Mr. GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Honorable Gene Dodaro, the eighth Comptroller General of the United States and head of the Government Accountability Office, Congress's nonpartisan investigatory arm. Mr. Dodaro's fifteen-year term as the Comptroller General ends on December 29 and his service to GAO, Congress, and our Nation has been remarkable.

Mr. Dodaro began his career at GAO more than fifty years ago. During his time as the

head of GAO, Mr. Dodaro has adapted the agency to meet Congress's needs in a time of extraordinary technological change. While maintaining GAO's stringent quality assurance standards, Mr. Dodaro expanded GAO's work to examine how changes in science and technology affect our government's ability to make sure every federal dollar is spent as Congress intends.

A stalwart commitment to GAO's core values of accountability, integrity, and reliability have defined Mr. Dodaro's tenure. During his term as Comptroller General, GAO's work has led to over one trillion dollars in financial benefits.

Mr. Dodaro has testified before Congress more than 200 times. A cornerstone of his work is GAO's "High Risk List," which highlights specific challenges in programs that involve substantial resources and provide critical services to the public.

GAO's real value, however, goes far beyond what any dollar amount can tell us. GAO's value derives from its ability to independently report the facts and speak truth to power.

I ask my colleagues to please join me in thanking Mr. Dodaro for his more than 50 years of service in helping us perform the Constitutional duties of the legislative branch and in wishing him well as he completes his term.

#### RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF MR. STEVE BACHMANN FROM THE BOEING COMPANY

### HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 18, 2025*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Steve Bachmann for his many years of dedication to our country, both through his military service in the United States Air Force and through his time at The Boeing Company.

After graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Virginia, Steve became an officer in the United States Air Force. During this time, he earned a Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the U.S. Air Force Institute of Technology. In 2006, after twenty years of military service, Steve went on to join The Boeing Company as Vice President for Legislative Affairs. Throughout his time at Boeing, Steve was known as a dedicated mentor who always made the time to share his knowledge and expertise. An honest and forthcoming friend, Steve brought humor and lightheartedness to tough conversations. After retirement, Steve plans to spend time with his grandkids and enjoying traveling in his RV. It has been a pleasure to work with him for the past twenty years and I wish him all the best.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Steve Bachmann for a lifetime of service to the United States of America and to his community. His legacy will not be forgotten.

REMEMBERING BREGGIE LEJUANE  
GILKEY

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 18, 2025*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise sadly today to remember one of my constituents, Breggie Lejuane Gilkey—a lifelong servant to the city of Memphis, a musician and the devoted father of my outstanding former staffer with a bright political future, Kyler Gilkey—who passed on December 13 at the age of 54.

Mr. Gilkey was born September 24, 1971, in Memphis, Tennessee, to Lilly R. Faulkner and Everett Gilkey. He attended Vollentine Elementary and Snowden School in Memphis, and graduated from Overton High School in 1989. He was a member of Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church. On September 23, 1995, he married his high school sweetheart, Roniece N. Gilkey, and they were together for 36 years, raising five sons: my former staffer Kyler and his brothers Bryson, Carson, Conner, and Bre'dyn. For years, he served the City of Memphis as a skilled mechanic. He was someone friends could rely on, not just for his expertise, but for his honesty, generosity, and willingness to help anyone in need. Beyond his work, Breggie had a deep love for music and played a meaningful role in Memphis' rich musical heritage. He worked with such legendary artists as The Bar-Kays and Shirley Brown and was a vocalist for Unexpected and The Temprees, contributing quietly but significantly to the sound and soul of the city he loved. He was also a volunteer with the STAX Music Academy and his sons' education while being an influential father figure to other young students who affectionately called him "Pops." Above all else, Breggie was a family man. He found his greatest joy in spending time with his loved ones and was known for his warmth, laughter, and calm presence. His compassion and love left an indelible mark on everyone fortunate enough to know him.

Breggie L. Gilkey leaves to cherish his memory, his loving and devoted wife Roniece; his five sons, Kyler Gilkey, Bryson Gilkey, Carson Gilkey, Conner Gilkey, and Bre'dyn Lovett; his parents, Lilly Gilkey, Everett Gilkey (Margree) and his siblings, Brandon Gilkey, Marvin Pride, Tinica Mitchell (Brandon), and Daphane Tyms (Eldon) and his many friends and colleagues. I extend my profound condolences to them all. Breggie Gilkey was a proud Memphian whose life was defined by hard work, creativity, and compassion. His was a life well lived.

THANKING LAURA FALENDER

**HON. NIKKI BUDZINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 18, 2025*

Ms. BUDZINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of and express my deep gratitude for my Veterans Affairs Policy Fellow, Laura Falender, and her outstanding service to my office over the past year.

Since joining my team from the Department of Veterans Affairs earlier this year, Laura be-

came an integral member of my policy staff and helped spearhead my work on Veterans Affairs issues—especially as I have taken on the role of Ranking Member of the Technology and Modernization Subcommittee of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. During her time in my office, Laura proved invaluable to both me and my staff, while also serving as a strong voice for veterans across my district and throughout the country. Upon joining our office, Laura also led several legislative initiatives. These include, but are certainly not limited to, the VA Mental Health Engagement Act, the Improving Veterans' Experience Act of 2025, and the Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship Opportunity Act, which unanimously passed the House of Representatives earlier this year. Laura's dedication to improving access to benefits for our Nation's more than 18 million veterans played a significant role in her ability to expertly introduce and advance legislation in support of those who have served.

Beyond her policy contributions, Laura has been a key member of our team, helping to foster a culture of collaboration, camaraderie, and hard work.

While I am saddened to see Laura's time in my office come to an end, I am encouraged that she will continue her public service by returning to the Veterans Experience Office at the Department of Veterans Affairs, where she will build on her important work on behalf of our Nation's veterans.

I want to once again thank Laura Falender for her service to my office, our Nation's veterans, and my constituents. While she will be missed, I am confident she has a bright future ahead in public service.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION  
RECOGNIZING THE 90TH ANNI-  
VERSARY OF THE NATIONAL  
COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN

**HON. MAXINE WATERS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 18, 2025*

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pride to introduce a resolution recognizing the 90th anniversary of the National Council of Negro Women, one of the most enduring and consequential organizations in the history of our country.

Ninety years ago, the incomparable Mary McLeod Bethune founded the National Council of Negro Women with a singular purpose: to unite Black women's organizations and strengthen our collective power to make a better world. She believed deeply in the strength of organized womanhood and the necessity of Black women's leadership in shaping the future of this Nation.

For generations, NCNW has carried that mission forward. It has stood at the forefront of movements for justice, equality, economic empowerment, and educational opportunity. It has been a training ground for advocates, a safe harbor for families, and a beacon of civic leadership.

Mr. Speaker, it is impossible to speak of NCNW without honoring the extraordinary legacy of my dear friend, Dr. Dorothy Irene Height. For 42 years, Dr. Height served as President of NCNW and transformed it into a

national powerhouse for civil and human rights. She was an advisor to presidents, a strategist for the movement, and a fierce defender of Black women's dignity and advancement.

Dr. Height's vision gave birth to programs that continue to shape our communities today—most notably the Black Family Reunion, a national celebration of culture, unity, and intergenerational strength. This gathering has helped reinforce the bonds that hold families together and affirm the values that empower us to overcome the challenges Black people face in America.

Today, under the leadership of Rev. Shavon Arline-Bradley, NCNW continues to grow its reach and impact. Its programs promote health equity, economic mobility, STEM education for girls, and community wellness. Its membership now represents more than two million women, spanning hundreds of community and collegiate sections and more than 330 affiliate organizations.

And for decades, its headquarters on Pennsylvania Avenue has stood as a symbol of NCNW's enduring place in the civic landscape of Washington, D.C. The only Black-owned building on this historic avenue in our Nation's capital, it is a center of excellence, and a national treasure.

Mr. Speaker, as NCNW marks 90 years of service, it is important that this Congress acknowledge its contributions to the Nation, honor the women who built its legacy, and celebrate the generations who continue to carry its mission forward.

With this resolution, we recognize NCNW's historic work, its transformative leadership, and its unwavering commitment to strengthening Black families and communities. We honor the legacies of Mary McLeod Bethune and Dr. Dorothy Height, and we express our deep gratitude to Rev. Shavon Arline-Bradley and the millions of women who make NCNW a force for good in our country.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution and in celebrating the National Council of Negro Women on its 90th anniversary.

HONORING HAYNES KING

**HON. NATHANIEL MORAN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 18, 2025*

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Longview, Texas native Haynes King, on being named the Atlantic Coast Conference Player of the Year and ACC Offensive Player of the Year. These honors reflect an outstanding season and place him among the top players in one of college football's premier conferences.

Haynes King attended Longview High School, where he played for the Longview Lobos under his father, John King, who has served as head coach since 2004. As a junior in 2018, Haynes led Longview to its first state championship in 81 years, an achievement that brought a proud East Texas community together and remains a defining moment in Longview football history.

Longview football is known for toughness, discipline, and accountability. Those values shaped Haynes King early and followed him to