

HONORING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY
OF MARGIE MAJOR

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2025

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a remarkable woman, someone whose contributions to our community and to the lives of so many are truly unparalleled. On November 19, 2024, Ms. Margie Major celebrated a milestone 100th birthday, and it is my honor to recognize her incredible life.

Born and raised in Fort Worth, Texas, Margie's roots run deep in this city. She grew up in the historic Southside before her family moved to the Como neighborhood, which became an iconic African American Community. There, her parents founded Holloway Grocery Store, where Margie worked alongside her mother and sister, learning the values of hard work and service early on.

Margie's educational journey began at the historic I.M. Terrell High School, where she graduated at just 15 years old. She went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education from Hampton Institute—now Hampton University—at 19 and later completed a Master of Arts in Dance at Columbia University. After returning home to Fort Worth, she spent decades as an educator, first teaching at her alma mater, I.M. Terrell, and later at Southwest High School, shaping the lives of countless young people.

Margie didn't stop there. She went on to become a guidance counselor at Paschal High School, serving the community for an astounding 46 years. Her commitment to education didn't end with her retirement. She has been deeply involved in organizations such as Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., serving as President of the Fort Worth Alumnae Chapter, and the Jubilee Theatre, where she held leadership positions.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Margie has been a tireless community advocate, a founding member of St. Simon Episcopal Church, and a charter member of both Ft. Worth Chapter Charms, Inc. and the Perennial Cultural Club. Her impact is felt across Fort Worth, and her legacy will undoubtedly endure for generations to come.

Today, we honor Margie Major for her 100 years of grace, leadership, and service. Happy birthday to Margie. Her life is an inspiration to us all.

HONORING THE TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN
HERO BROOKE DONELSON

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2025

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Brooke Donelson. As a passionate advocate and board member for Dallas CASA, Brooke is dedicated to restoring the innocence of children who have experienced abuse and neglect. Dallas Court Appointed Special Advocates are trained to advocate for children living in the Dallas County welfare system, providing reports for court hearings that help de-

cide the best possible outcomes for children in foster care.

Since becoming a volunteer in 2018, Brooke has worked tirelessly on her cases, serving as a powerful voice for children who are unable to speak for themselves. She has also been a Young Professionals Council Board Member since 2019, where she does outreach, fundraising, and advocate recruitment for the non-profit.

I am grateful for Brooke's dedication to protecting North Texas children.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR.
BOBBY THOMAS

HON. RICHARD MCCORMICK

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2025

Mr. MCCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a true leader in the Forsyth County Community, Mr. Bobby Thomas.

Mr. Thomas was born on November 3, 1946, and spent his youth in Coal Mountain, Georgia. Signs of future success were evident early on, as Mr. Thomas won "Most Likely to Succeed" during his senior year at Forsyth County High School. Upon graduation in 1964, Mr. Thomas went on to Georgia Institute of Technology, where he excelled, and earned his bachelor's degree in industrial engineering in 1969.

During his time at Georgia Tech, Mr. Thomas met the love of his life, Brenda. They married three years later and enjoyed 57 years of wedded bliss together. Upon graduation, Mr. Thomas enlisted in the United States Navy and was commissioned as a supply officer, serving on a destroyer warship stationed out of Jacksonville, Florida and Glassboro, New Jersey. After returning home, he bought into the family lumber business, and by the mid-1980's he had turned the Thomas Lumber Company into the leading manufacturer of Western Red Cedar Products throughout the Southeast.

The Thomas Lumber Company, founded in 1927, is the oldest family-owned business in Forsyth County. As an active member in his community, Mr. Thomas was a founding member of the Forsyth County Rotary and later President, a 30-year member and leader of the Development Authority of Forsyth County, and maybe most importantly, an active member of Oak Grove Baptist Church, serving as a clerk and Sunday School teacher. Sadly, on January 6, 2025, Mr. Thomas passed away. He is survived by his wife, Brenda, two children, and 7 grandchildren. My prayers are with his family and friends during this difficult time. His impact on the lives of the people and community of Forsyth County will not soon be forgotten, and the entire community is mourning the loss of this great man.

REMEMBERING MAYOR PETE
SNYDER

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2025

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and legacy of Pete Snyder, the

first mayor of my hometown of Dublin, California, on the occasion of his celebration of life after his passing on Sunday, October 13, 2024 at the age 89.

Pete moved to Dublin with his wife and the love of his life, Priscilla, in 1961 after he served three years in the United States Army. They put down roots quickly and raised their family while becoming more and more involved in the community.

Shortly after arriving, in 1962, Pete became a charter member of the Dublin Host Lions Club and he later became a member and president of, what was known at the time as, the Murray School District. His commitment and acumen were noticed, and he was asked to join a committee that was looking into the feasibility of the incorporation of Dublin.

Of course, with Pete at the helm, the incorporation efforts were successful and he was chosen as the new City of Dublin's first-ever mayor in 1982. He served on Dublin's city council for twelve years, including two terms as mayor between 1982 and 1994.

When the community decided that they wanted to continue seeing Pete in a leadership role, they elected him to the board of Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART). He served our community there for another eight years, expanding access to work and fun for residents of the city he helped found, as well as our neighbors.

While his service as mayor, member of city council, and the BART board may be his most notable roles, his service in other aspects of local governance is almost too voluminous to count. Included on his resume would be service to the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority, the Alameda County Economic Development Advisory Board, and United Way of the Bay Area. He also founded the Dublin Fine Arts Foundation and the Dublin Sister City Association.

Pete made a profound impact on not only my hometown, but the entire Tri-Valley region. He gave his life to public service, first to the military, and then to his community. We would be well-served to model our leadership and political dexterity after someone like Pete.

My thoughts and gratitude remain with his wife of 68 years, his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. I hope they know that Pete's legacy lives on in the entirety of the thriving community he helped create.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN
HERO KORBAN BEST

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2025

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Korban Best, a 21-year-old sprinter and Paralympic medalist from Southlake, Texas. While representing Team USA in the 2024 Paris Paralympic Games, Korban set a personal best time of 10.75 seconds in the men's 100-meter T47 event, earning him a silver medal—America's first medal in the event.

Born with ulnar dysplasia in his right arm, Korban, who is known to family and friends as "Cheetah Fast," developed a love for sports at a young age. While attending Southlake Carroll High School, he played football and excelled on the track team. It was clear Korban

had a natural talent, but his dedication, positivity, and relentless work ethic set him apart. Although the 100-meter dash is an individual sport, Korban has always been a team player. Before competing, he can typically be seen dancing to R&B or Latin music to settle his nerves and lighten everyone's mood.

Even after the incredible achievement of winning a silver medal in the 2024 Paralympic Games Korban has set his goals even higher, determined to bring home the gold at the 2028 Los Angeles Paralympic Games. Korban has never forgotten his Texas roots—when qualifying for the Paralympic Games, he explained, “you know how we do it here in Texas, we do it big.”

I'd like to recognize Korban for inspiring our North Texas community as he excels on the track and beyond.

NEWSLETTER FROM
CONGRESSMAN CHUCK EDWARDS

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2025

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following newsletter to give an update to my constituents on the 119th Congress agenda, the Equal Representation Act, and disaster recovery.

DEAR FRIEND: With a House speaker elected and a presidential election certified, we look ahead to the inauguration that will pave the way to a new era for the American people and better position us to fix how Washington works.

I was proud to cast my vote for MIKE JOHNSON as Speaker of the House for the 119th Congress, and to concur with the certification of the presidential election.

Speaker JOHNSON has a good working relationship with President Trump to be able to pursue and deliver an America First agenda.

It was essential to swiftly elect a speaker to kick off the 119th Congress so we can get to work for the American people.

Western North Carolinians have struggled over the past four years under high prices, less-safe communities, disastrous open-border policies, and crippling regulations.

As we begin this new Congress, I'm eager to move policies forward that benefit the hardworking families in our mountains, especially as we rebuild from Helene.

ONLY AMERICAN CITIZENS SHOULD BE
REPRESENTED IN CONGRESS

The first bill that I re-introduced in the 119th Congress is the Equal Representation Act, which would prohibit illegal immigrants from influencing Americans' congressional representation.

Citizens across our mountains and nation are demanding that we protect our nation's sovereignty and secure our borders.

This bill addresses one of the many consequences of the Biden administration's open border policies, which allowed millions of illegal immigrants to pour into the U.S., increasing the country's non-citizen population.

Mass illegal immigration has unfairly skewed political presentation in the U.S. House and Electoral College by including illegal immigrants in the total population count that determines how many representatives a state receives, or is apportioned.

This is diluting the voices of U.S. citizens in the political process. The Equal Representation Act will address these problems by

asking a very simple, commonsense question on the U.S. Census, “Are you a citizen of the United States?” so that non-citizens are not counted toward congressional district and Electoral College apportionment.

Americans deserve fair and equal representation in their federal government, something that will not be possible until we eliminate the influence of noncitizens in our electoral process.

\$16 BILLION HEADED TO WNC FOR DISASTER
RECOVERY

Upon returning to Washington after Hurricane Helene, it was my top priority as a member of the House Appropriations Committee to craft a supplemental disaster funding bill to aid in WNC's recovery.

As the sole co-sponsor of the American Relief Act—also known as the disaster supplemental—I fought for and secured nearly \$16 billion to come directly to Western North Carolina for disaster recovery. It's customary that the chairman of the committee be the lead sponsor of a disaster supplemental bill, and the committee only rarely names a co-sponsor for such bills.

As a lifelong resident of Western North Carolina, I'm grateful that House leaders—including Speaker JOHNSON, Majority Leader STEVE SCALISE, and Appropriations Committee Chairman TOM COLE, sought my unique understanding of the challenges WNC residents are facing in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. I am grateful for their strong support for our mountains, for their leeway in letting me craft this legislation, and for passing this historic disaster supplemental bill.

WELCOMING MITCHELL AND AVERY COUNTY

We are excited to welcome Mitchell and Avery counties to North Carolina's 11th congressional district. The Carolina Cruiser has already made four stops in these counties, and members of my team were glad to meet some new faces and hear what's on the minds of our newest constituents.

It is a privilege and honor to serve each and every one of you, and my team and I are looking forward to getting to know you, whether at Carolina Cruiser mobile office hours or at one-on-one Chat With Chuck meetings.

If you're experiencing issues with FEMA after Hurricane Helene, you can call my office at 223-FIX-FEMA for assistance.

You can also stay informed on NC-11 news and legislative updates by subscribing to my newsletter here.

ANNOUNCING SENIOR CASEWORKER MADELINE
LEHMAN

Congratulations to Madeline Lehman, who has been promoted to senior caseworker in my district office. Madeline has been a part of my team since my first day in office. Her strong work ethic and can-do attitude have allowed her to advance from the position of staff assistant to caseworker, and now to senior caseworker, in little more than two years. She also did this while simultaneously obtaining her master's degree in public administration.

Madeline has diligently worked to take my office's case management to a new level and it's this kind of strong performance that has led my office to have the reputation far and wide as “First in Constituent Services.”

With my warmest regards,

CHUCK EDWARDS,
Member of Congress.

COMMENDING DAVID ZIMMERMAN
ON 27 YEARS OF SERVICE TO
TAZEWELL COUNTY

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2025

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize David Zimmerman for his decades of service to the Central Illinois community. Zimmerman served on the Tazewell County Board for 27 years and was the Chairman of the Board for the last 16 years.

Zimmerman graduated from Illinois State University with a degree in Political Science and began his service to the Tazewell County Board in 1997. Before becoming Chairman, Zimmerman held many responsibilities as a Board Member including Finance, HR, Insurance Review, and Land Use Chair. During his tenure on the Board, Zimmerman positively influenced the lives of his constituents by improving the well-being of Tazewell County.

Outside of his work on the Tazewell County Board, Zimmerman has served the people of Central Illinois through different public service roles. Examples include the Greater Peoria Economic Development Commission Executive Board, United Counties Council of Illinois Vice-President, Tazewell County and Peoria Salvation Army Board Member, and Berean Prison Ministry Board Member, among others. A strong leader within the Central Illinois community, Zimmerman was also recognized in the Peoria Magazine through their “40 Leaders Under 40” award.

David Zimmerman's decades long efforts have left a lasting impact on the Greater Peoria community and the state of Illinois. His commitment to our community is truly inspiring and I wish him the best in all future endeavors.

HONORING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN
HERO OFFICER AMY LANGBINE
HEATH

HON. BETH VAN DUYN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2025

Ms. VAN DUYN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Amy Langbine Heath, who began working in tree care after moving back home to Dallas. She was the first woman in Texas to become a Board-Certified Master Arborist through the International Society of Arboriculture, achieving this in 2008 and acquiring Texas Tree Surgeons two years later.

In the aftermath of storms that left half a million Texans without power and severe property damage, Amy stepped up to help. Traveling across the community to clean up split trees and limbs, she even saved one North Texas couple's home from being destroyed after removing a damaged tree at risk of falling into their bedroom.

Amy is a shining example of neighbor helping neighbor. I'm grateful for her efforts to help our community get back on track after devastating storms.