

HONORING LOUIS G. BETZ, JR. AS
A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN
FLORIDA

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 2025

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Louis G. Betz, Jr., a lobbyist and political strategist, lived his entire life in his beloved Tampa. Louis began his political life in 1992 as a campaign manager for a successful Hillsborough County Commission race. This led to the launching of Louis Betz and Associates, a full-service lobbying firm both at the state and local levels. Clients ranged from Fortune 500 companies to small start-up companies, as well as not-for-profits. His campaign experiences included local, state, and federal elections on both sides of the aisle. He worked proudly and tirelessly for his clients. He was always known for his integrity, perpetual optimism, and pure relentlessness.

Louis led the charge to pass the Mark Wandall Traffic Safety Act, which allows cities and counties to implement and utilize red light camera safety programs. He believed this program, enacted in 2010, would save lives, and he was instrumental in the statewide implementation.

In 2011, working with the Crisis Center of Tampa Bay and various other organizations, Louis worked hard to help pass the landmark sexual assault legislation, Walk in Their Shoes Act, that expands the admissibility of collateral crime or "similar fact" evidence in cases where a person is charged with child molestation or a sexual offense. The Act also authorizes the use of service or therapy animals in courts hearing sexual offense cases.

In 2014, Louis proudly organized and brought back Hillsborough Day to the Florida Capitol to showcase the community to decision-makers in Tallahassee. This annual event still continues to this day.

In 2020, after a double lung transplant, Louis founded More Transplants More Life (MTML) dedicated to improving the processes to allow for more organs for transplantation to individuals waiting on the national organ transplant list and to provide support for patients and living donors.

Louis was also very involved in his community, serving on the Wellswood Civic Association (1988 to 1995), Tampa Homeowners Association of Neighborhoods (THAN, 1988 to 1996), Mayor's Blue Ribbon Panel, the University of Tampa Board of Counselors (1995 to 2002), Mayor's Blue Ribbon Panel, serving under Mayor Dick Greco (1995), Joshua House Board of Directors (1996 to 2006), Museum of Science and Industry Board of Directors (1997 to 2003), Cubmaster for his son's Cub Scout Pack (2004 to 2006), member of the Italian Club of Tampa and Florida State Fair Authority Board member (serving with State Agriculture & Consumer Services Commissioner Charles Bronson). Louis also organized, along with state representative Ed Narain, Senator Arthenia Joyner's 50 year anniversary for practicing law (2020).

Louis' biggest passion was helping people. His heart and his brain rivaled in size. He thrived being challenged, hence his trademarked signature line, "You Can't Beat Relentless".

He dearly loved his country, the state of Florida, and his Tampa community. Most of all he loved his family—his high school sweetheart, Jill Ippolito Betz, his children. Victoria and Louis III, as well as his grandchildren. Family was always first, and as he always reminded everyone, "I'm the happiest guy you will ever meet," and he lived it every day. Words to live by.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF PINE BEACH

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 2025

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, nestled along the southern shore of the Toms River, in Ocean County, New Jersey, just near the mouth of the beautiful Barnegat Bay, is the Borough of Pine Beach.

This picturesque Jersey town boasts of a warm and robust community where residents cherish American values, dependable, friendly neighbors and a storied history with a limitless future, full of promise.

On March 25, 2025, Pine Beach will mark its 100th anniversary of its founding with celebrations, dedications, contests and great fanfare.

Dubbed "The Pearl of the Toms River," the Borough's beginnings are rooted in the work and vision of two retail merchants from Philadelphia, Robert M. Horter and George Kelly, who launched a small summer colony along the coast of New Jersey by acquiring land in 1908 under the name of the Pine Beach Improvement Company. To fulfill their dream of a home away from home—at no better place than the remarkable Jersey coastal area—they borrowed many street names from the Philadelphia area that soon saw construction workers raise sturdy attractive summer and retirement homes. By 1910, 109 deeds were recorded and 22 homes built, with groundbreakings for new homes continuing each year.

As this small desirable community began to grow, local leaders looked towards establishing a stand-alone borough. On March 25, 1925, a majority of electors residing in the Pine Beach area voted to incorporate the borough of Pine Beach in the County of Ocean. Residents of the newly minted Borough of Pine Beach voted on April 21, 1925, for their first Mayor, Council, Assessor, and Collector.

We are grateful to the members of the Pine Beach Preservation Society Historical Committee, who led the research and preservation work that has helped secure and share the history of the Borough's founding. President George Roksvaag and Vice President Justine Saxton, are credited with pouring through Borough and Berkeley Township archives, as well as documents of the Ocean County Historical Society and the New Jersey State Library. The Committee's efforts culminated in its strong recommendation that the current Mayor and Council celebrate and adopt the date of March 25, 1925, as the Borough's official Founders Day.

And celebrate they will. The official kick-off begins on Monday, March 24, 2025, with Mayor Lawrence Cuneo, and the Borough's Council Members James Keesling, Lori

McGee, Raymond Newman, Richard Polhemus, James Saxton, and Barry Wieck at a town hall ceremony where they will proclaim the official date of Pine Beach Founders Day.

Day-long ceremonies will follow on Tuesday, March 25, led by the Pine Beach Preservation Society's Events Committee at Borough Hall. Additionally, delightful artwork depicting scenes of Pine Beach life composed by local artists will be on display at the nearby Pine Beach Elementary School, home to the Pine Beach "Panthers" and its 400 students.

To cap off the day, Borough celebrations continue with a Pine Beach Founder's Day Reception at the Pine Beach Yacht Club. Older than the Borough itself, the Yacht Club has been a true "anchor" of the community since 1916, hosting social and civic activities like dinners, dances, skits, fairs, auctions, moonlight cruises, and teas. Its Junior Sailing Program helps train, shape and prepare New Jersey's next generation of sailors. The evening will include a presentation by Gretchen Coyle, a writer and member of the New Jersey Maritime Museum who has written about Pine Beach.

A landmark in the midst of Pine Beach's history is the Pine Beach Volunteer Fire Company No. 1. The original members—including Howard Hutchinson, LeRoy Hutchinson and Charles Creamer, Jr.—answered the first calls nearly 100 years ago and today's Company President, John Kubilewicz, Chief David McKay and all the dedicated Executive Officers Line Officers carry the same first responder attributes of courage, selflessness dedication to their community. Fire Company No. 1 is known for also hosting great community events and it too will celebrate its 100th anniversary on December 11, 2025.

The heart of the community, Mr. Speaker, may be its historic chapel, a "summer church" built in 1910 by the Reverend August Pohlman, who is believed to have built the first summer home in Pine Beach in 1909. Then a pastor of the Temple Lutheran Church in Philadelphia, he became the first pastor of the chapel. Initially used by both Protestants and Catholics and even doubling as a schoolhouse for a time, it was put to year-round use in 1932 with a resident pastor. Today, Pine Beach Chapel continues its inspiring worship traditions with Sunday services, Bible studies and other faith activities.

When recapping Pine Beach landmarks, we must also highlight the original home of the Admiral Farragut Academy, named after the Civil War naval hero who famously declared in battle "Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead!" For six decades, between 1933 and 1994, the school operated as one of only two Naval Honor Schools in the Nation. Future Navy aviator and astronaut Alan B. Shepard, Jr. once attended the school. The history of the academy lives on today at its southern campus in St. Petersburg, Fla.

It's been a remarkable, impressive 100 years for Pine Beach. Today, the Borough has more than 900 households and more than 2,100 people, according to the most recent U.S. Census Bureau figures. As the congressman for Pine Beach, it is my pleasure to congratulate the entire community and join you in celebrating this important milestone. You are truly blessed to call Pine Beach your hometown, an amazing place to visit, live, and raise a family.

RECOGNIZING THE CLARKSTON
HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING
TEAM'S OUTSTANDING SEASON

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 2025

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exceptional achievements of the Clarkston High School wrestling team and their dedicated coaching staff during the 2024–2025 season. Their unwavering commitment, discipline, and perseverance have brought immense pride to their school and community, both on and off the mat.

This season, the Clarkston Wolves continued their tradition of excellence, securing their 18th consecutive District Championship and capturing their first Regional Championship since 2021. Their remarkable determination propelled them to the State Semifinals for the first time since 2007—an extraordinary milestone in the program's history.

Beyond their dominance in competition, these student-athletes demonstrated the same level of excellence in the classroom, earning recognition as an Academic All-State Team—a testament to their hard work and dedication both as wrestlers and as scholars.

Individually, the Wolves had an impressive presence at the state tournament, with nine wrestlers qualifying, six earning a place on the podium, one claiming a State Championship title, and another finishing as a State Runner-Up. These outstanding accomplishments reflect their relentless drive, skill, and sportsmanship.

At the heart of this success is Head Coach Brian Gibbs, whose leadership and passion for the sport have shaped Clarkston wrestling into a powerhouse program. His impact on these student-athletes was recognized with the Regional Coach of the Year award and the prestigious Michigan Division 1 Coach of the Year honor—achievements that underscore his dedication to fostering a winning culture built on hard work, respect, and perseverance.

This program's success is also a testament to the collective effort of 55 student-athletes and seven devoted coaches, each playing a vital role in this historic season.

Mr. Speaker, the Clarkston High School wrestling team has exemplified the values of teamwork, resilience, and excellence. I extend my sincere congratulations to the entire team, their coaches, and their families for an unforgettable season. Their achievements serve as an inspiration to their peers, their community, and the future generations of Clarkston wrestlers.

HONORING HAROLD HALL

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Harold Hall, a devoted community servant, entrepreneur, and beloved family man.

Born on August 21, 1937, Mr. Hall was the son of the late Ruby Edwards, whose love and guidance instilled in him a deep commitment to family and service.

For over 50 years, he was a pillar of the Lealand community, where his entrepreneurial spirit and steadfast dedication to others left a lasting impact. Through his business ventures and countless acts of kindness, he worked tirelessly to uplift and support his neighbors, embodying the values of perseverance, generosity, and service.

Mr. Hall's life was a testament to hard work, love, and an unwavering devotion to both family and community. Though he will be deeply missed, his legacy lives on in the many lives he touched.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me honoring the life and service of Mr. Harold Hall, recognizing his enduring contributions to his community and the profound love he had for those around him.

DESIGNATING APRIL 29 AS
#ENDJEWHATRED DAY

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 2025

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following proclamation:

Whereas, for millennia, the Jewish people have sustained their shared religious, cultural, and ethnic identity and traditions in the face of enslavement, persecution, genocide, segregation, and discrimination, and all manner of adversity; and

Whereas, ever since the first Jew set foot in America in 1654, members of the Jewish community have made indelible contributions to the culture, history, and social fabric of Georgia and the United States of America, strengthening the country and helping shape all areas of American life; and

Whereas, the first 42 Jewish immigrants arrived in Savannah, Georgia, on July 11, 1733, making Savannah the largest Jewish settlement in the English colonies in North America at the time; and

Whereas, the belief in the greatness of the American way of life, the freedoms enshrined in American law and jurisprudence, and the opportunities sustained by American democracy drew generations of Jewish immigrants to America, including Jews fleeing persecution and pogroms in Europe and the Middle East, Holocaust survivors, and Jews trapped behind the Iron Curtain; and

Whereas, this history encouraged many Jews to become leading proponents and supporters of the civil rights movement, marching shoulder to shoulder with African Americans and others, united in support for equal rights, equal protection under the law, and the recognition and respect of human dignity; and

Whereas, the Jewish community has prominently participated in virtually every civil rights effort in the American experience, fighting against discrimination and bigotry in all its forms and demanding the equal rights of every member of society; and

Whereas, despite the advances made in promoting social justice for other minority groups, the Jewish community has continued to be subjected to antisemitism and Jew-hatred, including discrimination in the workplace, at school, and in public spaces; and

Whereas, this antisemitism and Jew hatred has manifested in places of work, on cam-

pus, and in society, expressing itself as both discrimination and violence targeting Jews for their identity and seeking to deny their shared identity, including their indigenous connection to their ancestral homeland; and

Whereas, hate crimes directed against the Jewish community have skyrocketed in recent years, inspiring the formation of a grassroots End Jew Hatred civil rights movement to alter public discourse and make Jew hatred unacceptable in contemporary society, empowering Jews with positivity and strength to discover and enjoy their heritage in whichever manner they choose, without fear of attack or persecution; and

Whereas, we all share an obligation to condemn and combat Jew hatred in all its forms; and

Whereas, April 29, 2022, marked the recognition of the first #EndJewHatred Day, on which people joined together to commit to ending Jew hatred across the United States and to work toward the promise of a bright future that can only be achieved by fighting racism and bigotry today; and

Whereas, we recognize the urgent need to stand resolute against Jew hatred so that the intergenerational trauma of the past shall never be repeated; now, therefore, be it

Proclaimed, that I, Honorable Earl L. "Buddy" Carter, in recognition of the need to end Jew hatred in this generation, declare and proclaim every April 29 to be #EndJewHatred Day; and be it further

Proclaimed, that I, Honorable Earl L. "Buddy" Carter, affirm and proclaim that the 1st Congressional District of Georgia condemns Jew hatred in all its forms and shall stand resolute to end discrimination against, and persecution of, the Jewish community.

RECOGNIZING TEXAS-24 HOME-
TOWN HERO DR. KATIE SIMPSON

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 2025

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, who is described by others as a giver, leader, mentor, servant, strategist, planner, and doer. It's clear that Dr. Katie Simpson of Southlake goes above and beyond to help and inspire individuals in our community. While her husband served as an Active-Duty fighter pilot. Katie was an Air Force volunteer, establishing a bi-annual family deployment fair in Ramstein and mentoring other military families during her husband's deployments.

Now, Katie serves North Texans in a variety of ways—as a volunteer team leader at the Texas Ramp Project, Dr. Simpson surveys sites, designs ramps, and leads a volunteer crew in building dozens of wheelchair ramps. Leading three textile ministries, she makes prayer shawls for patients at Texas Oncology, makes blankets and hats for veterans transitioning out of homelessness, works with the Fort Worth VA, and creates fidget quilts/blankets for special needs children and individuals in memory care. Katie also finds time to volunteer with her church and delivers meals weekly with Metroport Meals on Wheels in Southlake.

Katie's tireless service has earned her numerous awards, including the National Daughters of the American Revolution Distinguished