

disorders, depression, and addiction. Events like Brain Awareness Week helps every American understand how important this research is.

HONORING COMMISSIONER
HEATHER EDELSON

HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2025

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend congratulations and to recognize the continued leadership of Heather Edelson, who was elected in 2024 as the Hennepin County Commissioner for District 6, after serving in the Minnesota House of Representatives for six years.

Ms. Edelson was raised in North and Northeast Minneapolis and attended grade school in Columbia Heights. She was the first person in her family to graduate from college and went on to earn a Master's degree in Social Work from the University of Minnesota. Prior to representing the constituents of Minnesota's District 50A, Ms. Edelson worked as a clinical outpatient mental health therapist. From a young age, she was taught by her grandfather, "that doing the right thing is not a question, it's the only answer." This sentiment led to her passion for service.

During her three terms as a State Representative, Ms. Edelson was committed to making a positive impact on the lives of her constituents by advancing policies that improved their quality of life. She has been a champion for disability rights, senior rights, the education system, environmental issues, as well as mental health and public safety. She served on multiple committees, including Education Finance, Human Services Policy, and Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

Growing up, her family depended on services provided by the county, so she deeply understands the important role she now plays as one of seven Commissioners on the Hennepin County Board.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to honor Ms. Heather Edelson and her commitment to public service. Our community is fortunate to have a leader like Commissioner Edelson, and I look forward to working with her in her new role to make our communities a better place to work and live.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT AND
SERVICE OF JON RILEY

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Jon Riley as he retires from his long and distinguished tenure with the Napa-Solano Central Labor Council (AFL-CIO). Throughout his career, Mr. Riley has been a tireless champion for the rights of working people, dedicating his time, energy, and passion to improving the lives of those he served.

Mr. Riley began his 40-year career of service as a firefighter with the Vallejo Fire Depart-

ment, where he served as Vice President Emeritus of Firefighters Local No. 1186. Mr. Riley fought to protect the communities of Vallejo and served as an invaluable mentor to the next generation of firefighters.

Mr. Riley went on to join the Napa-Solano Central Labor Council, where his work has left a lasting legacy on the labor movement in Napa and Solano counties and beyond. Mr. Riley served as President of the Labor Council from 2005 to 2009 before assuming the role of Executive Director in 2009, a position he has held ever since.

As Executive Director of the Labor Council, Mr. Riley oversaw various successful strategies, coalitions, and a significant growth in the membership of the Labor Council. His leadership has been fundamental in ensuring that working people in our region receive fair wages, safe working conditions, and opportunities for economic advancement.

Mr. Riley is a true champion for working people. His leadership and advocacy have been instrumental in fostering a strong and unified voice for workers across Napa and Solano counties, and his work has left an indelible mark on the Northern California labor movement.

On behalf of California's 8th Congressional District, I extend my congratulations to Jon Riley on his well-deserved retirement. Mr. Riley's years of service to the labor community will be remembered for generations to come.

HONORING AND COMMENDING EM3
GILBERT KLEIN

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2025

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend EM3 Gilbert Klein. Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, EM3 Gilbert Klein served in the United States Navy from March 1944 to May 1946 when he was honorably discharged as an Electricians Mate 3rd Class. He was stationed at USNTC Bainbridge, the U.S. Navy Training Center at Port Deposit in Maryland before serving on the USS YMS 283 mine clearing ship that sailed out of Yorktown, Virginia, the home of the Naval Mine Warfare School.

Gilbert Klein was deployed to serve in the East China Sea as a part of Operation Juneau and the American Occupation of Japan. He, alongside his fellow servicemen, had the distinct responsibility of clearing mines at the ports of Okinawa, Japan and in the East China Sea to prepare for the United States safe arrival as they occupied the island. He also served as a patrolman during the occupation in and around Okinawa, Japan.

For his service in the United States Armed Forces, Gilbert Klein is the recipient of The Honorable Discharge button and lapel pin awarded to those who served honorably in the federal military from 1925 to 1946 as well as the "Ruptured Duck" also known as the Honorable Service Lapel Pin awarded to servicemembers who were honorably discharged during the second World War. Alongside these two awards, he is the recipient of the Navy Occupation Service Medal with Asia Clasp, World War II Victory Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with Three Bronze

Campaign Medals, American Campaign Medal and the Combat Service Medal.

Following his service in the United States Navy, Gilbert Klein became a salesman at several companies and reached Sales Manager during his time with Reader's Digest. He lived in Pennsylvania and Ventnor, New Jersey before moving to Haddon Township 12 years ago where he resides today at the age of 99 years old. Although, his beloved wife and son with whom they raised together have both since passed, he has remaining family throughout the west coast in California, New Mexico and Arkansas.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring and commending EM3 Gilbert Klein of Haddon Township, New Jersey, a resident dedicated to his community and country, and who has thoroughly served them both to the best of his ability.

REMEMBERING THE REMARKABLE
LIFE OF BOB BOUWMAN OF
BRANCHBURG, NEW JERSEY

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2025

Mr. KEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of Robert A. "Bob" Bouwman, a former Branchburg Committeeman who faithfully served the Branchburg community for over thirty-five years.

Bob's volunteer service began in 1990 when he was appointed to the Historic Preservation Commission, where he served until 2002. He was appointed again in 2012, serving until 2025. A true representation of New Jersey, he left a legacy of kindness, service, and dedication to his community. Inspired by change and seeing the potential to enhance his community, he became a founding member of the Country Fair in 1997. For 27 years, he diligently organized the annual "hometown" event, which brought community members together for a day of fun-filled activities and fireworks at White Oak Park. In addition to his long list of achievements, Bob was appointed to the Planning Board in 2001, serving until 2021. He also served on the Township Committee from 2003 to 2012 and was elected Mayor in both 2005 and 2010.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to Robert A. Bouwman for his many years of dedicated service and countless contributions to the Township of Branchburg. May his memory continue to inspire us all and live on in the heart of our community.

COMMEMORATING THE 175TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF BONHAM, TEXAS

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 175th anniversary of the founding of Bonham, Texas.

Bonham's rich history began in autumn of 1837 as Fort English, a small, fortified blockhouse and stockade constructed by Mr. Bailey English and his neighbors to protect against

raids by Native Americans at the time. As the prior elected sheriff of nearby Miller County, Arkansas, Mr. Inglish was familiar with these attacks and determined to protect families who sought refuge at Fort Inglish. The fort and its settlement quickly grew, and in 1840, Mr. Inglish was appointed to lead its newly established post office. Initially known as Bois D'Arc, the settlement was renamed in 1844 in honor of James Butler Bonham, who died in 1836 as a messenger and one of the final defenders during the Battle of the Alamo. On February 2, 1848, Bonham officially became incorporated as a city.

From its early beginnings, Bonham has been enriched with deep history. The city rapidly grew as a trading post and key point for settlers heading west. Throughout the late 1800's, Bonham became a center for agriculture, especially cotton, and later developed a strong industrial base. The city saw the rise of various industries, including manufacturing, and Bonham became a regional hub for trade and commerce. Moreover, the concurrent evolution of the railroad further connected Bonham to other regions in Texas and beyond, opening the gate to new economic opportunities and westward expansion that built the Nation we know today.

I have requested the United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capitol to commemorate this historic occasion. We should always look to the past every now and then to protect and preserve our Nation's history for future generations to admire.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AND EXTRAORDINARY LIFE OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOHANNY RODRIGUEZ

HON. NICOLE MALLIOTAKIS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2025

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the distinguished service and extraordinary life of Lieutenant Colonel Johanny Rodriguez, a dedicated and decorated military officer who served our Nation with valor and integrity.

Lieutenant Colonel Rodriguez, a native of Manhattan, New York City, embarked on his distinguished military career by enlisting in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1998. Following his honorable service in the Marine Corps, he transitioned to the U.S. Army, receiving his commission as a Second Lieutenant in the Transportation Corps in 2004.

Throughout his career, Lieutenant Colonel Rodriguez held numerous critical positions, demonstrating unparalleled leadership and expertise. His assignments included roles such as Platoon Leader, Operations Officer, Mobility Officer in Iraq, and various leadership positions at Fort Dix, New Jersey. He served with distinction as the Executive Officer for the 354th Movement Control Battalion during Operation Enduring Freedom in Kuwait. Lieutenant Colonel Rodriguez pursued extensive education, earning a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, a Master of Business Administration, and a Master of Science in Health Services Administration.

His dedication and service were recognized by numerous awards and decorations, includ-

ing the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, and Army Commendation Medal, among many others. His service record reflects not only his valor and dedication but also his unwavering commitment to the principles of duty, honor, and country.

Beyond his professional achievements, Lieutenant Colonel Rodriguez was a devoted family man, deeply cherished by his wife and four children. His legacy of service and leadership will continue to inspire future generations of service members and citizens alike.

Mr. Speaker, it is with deep respect and gratitude that we remember and honor Lieutenant Colonel Johanny Rodriguez for his extraordinary contributions to our Nation.

HONORING MARYALICE CROFTON

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2025

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I rise along with Congressman JARED GOLDEN to recognize the leadership of Maryalice Crofton as the Executive Director of Volunteer Maine. During her 30 years of dedicated public service, Maryalice has engaged thousands of volunteers across the state to tackle local challenges and strengthen their communities.

Under her leadership and innovation, Volunteer Maine has helped bridge the gap between persistent areas of need and state resources. Initiatives include the Maine Service Fellows program which connects passionate college graduates with service opportunities in rural, underserved communities, and the Maine Service Exchange, which matches nonprofits with skilled consultants via an online platform. During her tenure, she has also supervised 4,265 AmeriCorps members in over 3.9 million hours of service supporting and improving housing, education, environmental conservation, healthcare, childcare, and emergency preparedness initiatives in Maine.

Her tireless efforts have contributed to Maine's ranking as one of the top five states in the Nation for organized volunteerism. By facilitating government, nonprofit, and private sector collaboration and promoting the development and training of Maine's volunteer force, Maryalice has laid the foundation for Mainers to serve their communities for years to come.

I commend Maryalice for an outstanding career dedicated to promoting civic engagement and volunteerism. I wish her the best of luck in her next chapter.

NEWSLETTER FROM CONGRESSMAN CHUCK EDWARDS

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2025

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following newsletter to give an update to my constituents on keeping our government funded, a grant for the Town of Canton, and hurricane recovery efforts.

DEAR FRIEND, Being accessible, listening, and answering questions for the people of

WNC are among my favorite activities, even if we might not always agree.

That is why in my first term as a congressman, I held eight in-person town halls, and recently I was eager to host my ninth one in Asheville.

It's always valuable to engage in discussions with the folks in our mountains about concerns or questions you have.

If you were unable to attend my town hall, stay tuned for my upcoming tele-town hall by following me on social media and subscribing to my newsletter.

KEEPING OUR GOVERNMENT OPEN AND SERVING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The U.S. House voted on a clean, long-term continuing resolution (CR) to keep our government open and providing critical services to the American people.

A CR is not the preferred method to keep our government funded. However, with a looming shutdown, the House was able to collaborate with President Trump on a bill that funds our federal government and reduces non-defense spending.

It's disappointing that 212 Democrat House Members chose a government shutdown instead when just in December, not one voted "no" on the CR.

This CR funds core government services; protects Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid recipients from payment disruptions, and strengthens veteran health care and housing programs as well as our defense. The long-term CR will also enable the House to keep our momentum to continue delivering an America First agenda and go after the waste, fraud, and abuse of your hard-earned tax dollars.

I will continue to fight for lower costs, safer communities, and common-sense legislation that will ensure a better future for folks in our mountains.

TOWN OF CANTON TO RECEIVE OVER \$40 MILLION DOLLAR GRANT

Canton Mayor Zeb Smathers and I announced that the Town of Canton will be receiving a \$40,780,000 grant as a result of the Water Resources Development Act of 2024 and the American Relief Act.

This grant will revolutionize the town's water and wastewater systems by funding the design and construction of stormwater improvements, water tank and waterlines, and a new wastewater treatment facility to serve the residents of Canton for decades to come.

WNC MAKES STRIDES IN RECOVERY AFTER HELENE

Western North Carolina has a long way to recovery, but we've certainly made great strides.

As we're nearing the six-month mark since Helene hit our mountains, I wanted to share some of the milestones we've achieved.

FEMA has approved applications for more than 157,000 households in WNC and more than \$400 million has been awarded for disaster-caused needs. Additionally, more than 6,000 families have received nearly \$19 million for repair or replacement of private-access roads and bridges.

One of our greatest challenges has been debris removal, especially from waterways, but as of this week, nearly 5 million cubic yards of debris have been cleared from public right of ways and another 600,000 cubic yards of debris were removed from waterways.

While there's more work to be done, we've achieved more than most communities in this period of time. Our mountain folk have shown resilience throughout the response and recovery process, and I'm proud of the way everyone continues to show up for one another during these difficult times. I'm optimistic that together, we will rebuild our