

The Caring Place, speaking to schools about selfless service and visiting veterans at homes and local events. LTC MacMillan works tirelessly for youth in her community, both as a Scout leader for over 21 years and through her involvement with the American Legion's mentorship, scholarships, and outreach programs. Her efforts continue to make a lasting impact on the next generation.

LTC MacMillan's determined efforts for veterans and youth are a powerful reflection of her commitment to selfless service. Her patriotism, honor, and commitment to excellence reflect the very best of Central Texas.

RECOGNIZING CHANCELLOR JOE  
GARCIA

**HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 31, 2025*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Chancellor Joe Garcia on his retirement from the Colorado Community College System (CCCS). Joe spent more than 35 years working in higher education and leaves CCCS in a strong position for the future.

Joe is the former Lieutenant Governor and Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Higher Education, becoming the first person in our state's history to hold both roles at once. Joe was a strategic advisor to then-Governor John Hickenlooper to increase the state's investment in higher education and expand opportunities for students from low-income backgrounds. Throughout his career, he has prioritized access to education for students of all ages and backgrounds, fought for college affordability, and invested in workforce development efforts to meet the needs of our changing economy. Joe is a true public servant, and generations of students will remember his dedication to higher education long after his retirement.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Joe Garcia and thank him for his commitment to the people of Colorado.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF HUEY PAUL WILLIAMS, SR.

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 31, 2025*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Huey Paul Williams, Sr., a devoted man of faith, a trailblazer in gospel music, and a proud native of Mississippi.

Born to the late Leon "Pop" Williams and Mrs. Amanda Williams in Smithdale, Mississippi, Huey was raised in a household where faith and music were intertwined. His parents instilled in him the values of worship, perseverance and dedication to spreading the Gospel through song. With their encouragement, Huey embarked on a journey that would make him a beloved figure in the gospel music community.

A dedicated family man, Huey was supported throughout his life by his loving wife,

Mamie Williams, his son, Huey Paul Williams, II, and his daughters, Dee Dee, Wanda, Shononda, and Joy. Their unwavering support allowed him to pursue his calling in gospel music, ensuring that his message of faith and inspiration reached audiences across the nation and beyond.

Huey began his musical journey singing gospel alongside his brothers in their youth. Though he was the last remaining original member of the group founded by his late father, he carried forward its mission and propelled the Jackson Southernaires to national and international recognition. Under his leadership, the group became one of the most influential gospel recording artists in Mississippi and the United States. Their music resonated deeply with fans of all generations, securing them a place in gospel history.

The Jackson Southernaires, originally formed in 1940 and becoming active in recording in 1969, have released more than 34 albums. From 1969 to 2010, they released 28 albums that consistently ranked among the top in gospel music. Huey's songwriting, arranging, and powerful vocals contributed to the group's longevity and success, ensuring their music became a staple in gospel households. His contributions not only enriched the gospel music industry but also uplifted countless individuals through the power of song.

Beyond his musical achievements, Huey was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed hunting and fishing in his spare time. Even when he was not on the road ministering through music, he found solace in these simple joys of life.

On March 24, 2025, at the age of 87, Huey Williams passed away, leaving a remarkable legacy of faith, music, and perseverance. His voice and message will continue to inspire future generations of gospel artists and listeners alike.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and honoring the life and legacy of Huey Paul Williams, Sr. His impact on gospel music and his devotion to his faith and family will never be forgotten. We celebrate his contributions and extend our deepest condolences to his loved ones and the countless fans who cherished his music and ministry.

HONORING BOSWELL HIGH  
SCHOOL'S LADY PIONEER BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WINNING  
TEXAS' 6A DIVISION 2 STATE  
CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. CRAIG A. GOLDMAN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 31, 2025*

Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Boswell High School's Girls Basketball team for winning Texas' 6A Division 2 State Championship. The Lady Pioneers defeated Fort Bend Hightower with a final score of 51–42. This victory marks not only Eagle Mountain-Saginaw Independent School District's first girls basketball state title, but also the City of Fort Worth's first in over 18 years.

The Lady Pioneers' dominance was evident throughout the season. The team finished with an outstanding 39–2 overall record, including a 12–0 district record and an undefeated

home record of 14–0. Their success extended beyond team achievements, with several standout individual performances. Head Coach John Reese was named 3–6A Coach of the Year and is the Lady Pioneers' all-time winningest coach. Throughout his career, Coach Reese has amassed over 200 overall wins, more than 100 district wins, and now a state championship title. Team Captain Camille Williams was awarded District 3–6A MVP, while Haleigh Jackson earned District 3–6A Defensive Player of the Year honors.

On behalf of the 12th Congressional District of Texas, I am proud to recognize Boswell High School's Lady Pioneers Basketball team for its historic season. Their remarkable record and numerous accolades stand as a testament to their dedication, talent, and relentless hard work. Their success has brought immense pride to our community. I wish Coach Reese and the Lady Pioneers continued success in all their future endeavors, both on and off the court.

SALUTING THE SERVICE OF  
COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR AN-  
GELA WILSON

**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 31, 2025*

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the extraordinary career of Command Sergeant Major Angela Wilson, U.S. Army, Retired. Throughout her life, she has dedicated herself to her country, fellow heroes, and neighbors. I am proud to present her with the Congressional Veteran Commendation.

CSM Wilson's 30 years of service in the U.S. Army exemplify strength, compassion, and duty. CSM Wilson was and continues to be a trailblazer. Selected in 1996, she served as the first-ever female Command Sergeant Major in the Military Police Corps. Then in 2004, she became the first female Command Sergeant Major to lead a Combat Brigade, the 89th Military Police Brigade, into a combat zone.

Throughout her service, CSM Wilson demonstrated true and unwavering commitment to her fellow soldiers and the civilians she protected. She served in various locations, including Taegu, Korea, Fort Lewis, Guantanamo Bay, Iraq in Operation Iraqi Freedom, and served her last assignment at Fort Cavazos. Her extraordinary service has been recognized with more than 20 military medals, awards, and commendations, including the Legion of Merit and Bronze Star.

CSM Wilson's service on and off duty reflects the true meaning of "Soldier for Life". After retirement, she worked as an elementary school teacher in KISD for 20 years, chaired the Harker Heights Parks and Recreation Committee for 12 years, and coached youth soccer for over a decade. Her selfless work has positively impacted the lives of countless young people. Today, she continues to serve as a Wounded Warrior member and volunteer and has been a member of the Fort Hood Retiree Council for the last five years.

CSM Wilson's life stands as a model of selfless and genuine care for those around her. Her fearless dedication, devotion to service

above herself, and trailblazer spirit make her a worthy recipient of a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE NINTH DISTRICT CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL

**HON. LISA C. McCLAIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 31, 2025*

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exceptional group of young students who have worked with my staff and me to better their civic engagement and understanding of the federal government. This year's Congressional Youth Council consists of some of the brightest and most dedicated young minds from throughout the Thumb of Michigan.

These young leaders have remained committed to regular meetings, coming together to immerse themselves in the legislative process on a non-partisan, academic basis. Throughout their time in the program, these students have studied legislation, prepared mock bills, and worked to better understand critical issues that impact their communities and countless families across the country. It is incredible how in-depth and thorough their work has been. This determined group of students has demonstrated an incredible wealth of knowledge of our democratic system, its key challenges, and what is to come in the future.

Mr. Speaker, as policymakers, we would be wise to take notes from this generation of promising young leaders. I ask all my colleagues to join me in commending Michigan's Ninth District Congressional Youth Council for their outstanding performance this year. These students, along with their families and those in their lives who support them, should be incredibly proud of the work they have done.

CELEBRATING MRS. ODESSA BOWIE'S 111 YEARS OF LIFE

**HON. JASMINE CROCKETT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 31, 2025*

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, it is with great joy and honor that we celebrate Odessa Bowie's 111th birthday. I would like to celebrate her life and the impact she has had on others. A milestone that many people can only hope to reach one day. May we acknowledge this day and hope that this celebration be filled with love, joy, and gratitude as she celebrates alongside those most important.

The life of Mrs. Odessa Bowie has had an immeasurable impact on those around her. As a mother and grandmother, she has extended love and kindness to her children and grandchildren. Instilling in them the value and importance of hard work, compassion, and grace for others. She has never hesitated to provide a system of support for those in her life or help them in a time of need. When one has experienced the many seasons of life and all that it brings to us, it can be easy to harden our hearts and lose faith, but Mrs. Bowie never

has. She has remained a steadfast believer and a faithful attendant of St. Paul United Methodist Church. The faith she has carried throughout her life is one reflected in the character she possesses.

Mrs. Bowie has been a pillar in her community, and we hope that her legacy is an inspiration to others to always be of service to others with a gracious heart and humility.

HONORING MR. EDDIE COTTON, JR.

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 31, 2025*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a torchbearer of the blues tradition, Mr. Eddie Cotton, Jr. Mr. Cotton exemplifies what can be achieved through hard work, dedication, and a desire to achieve success.

Bluesman Eddie Cotton, Jr.'s music is rooted in the church. His father was a Pentecostal minister, shepherding the Christ Chapel Church of God in Christ, which he founded in Clinton, Mississippi, just west of Jackson. While music was central to church services, both his family and his congregation shunned secular music. Still, Cotton reflects, "The deepest of the blues I've ever played is in church. . . . The style they play on is nothing but blues." When he was six, his father bought him his first electric guitar, and by age eight, the younger Cotton was an official member of the church band, eventually becoming the lead guitarist. At 18, he earned a full scholarship to study music theory at Jackson State University, where he learned music theory and discovered that the basic structures of blues were ingrained in his playing. After college, he became the minister of music at the family church while simultaneously playing with Mississippi bluesman King Edward Antoine, known in Jackson as "The Blues Picking King."

Cotton is a master of a genre called soul blues. Emerging in the 1960s, soul blues fuses the gritty guitar sound central to blues with the smoother, gospel-influenced vocal style of soul and R&B music. Soul blues is music meant to move the body and spirit, which is why Cotton describes his sound as "hard-driving blues" or "juke joint blues." Eddie's musical career remains focused on two things: regular gigs for enthusiastic soul blues audiences and a continuing commitment to his home church in Clinton, where he serves as both church administrator and minister of music. Whatever the venue, Cotton's goal is always to find what his church calls "the pocket," a place of spiritual transcendence where "the music just pulsates in everybody's mind and heart."

Now in his 50's, Eddie Cotton, Jr. is a blues master with a growing international fan base. He has opened for legends like Ike Turner and B.B. King, and in 2015, he took top honors at the International Blues Challenge in Memphis. Eddie Cotton performed at the Richmond Folk Festival in 2017 and is among the favorites returning to celebrate the festival's 20th anniversary. He released his latest album, *The Mirror*, in March of 2024, just days after an electrifying set at the SXSW Festival in Austin, Texas. In July of 2024, he traveled to Las

Vegas to perform at the National NAACP Convention, where he has frequently performed for the gathering's Mississippi Catfish and Blues Night over the past 15 years. Recently, Eddie received the 2025 Governor's Arts Award for Excellence in Music. Among his awards and accolades, he has a Mississippi Blues Trail marker in his hometown of Clinton.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Eddie Cotton, Jr. for his passion and unwavering dedication to the art of music.

SALUTING THE SERVICE OF MASTER SERGEANT DUANE C. BYGUM, JR.

**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 31, 2025*

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to award Master Sergeant Duane C. Bygum, Jr., USMC and USAF, Retired, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His unwavering commitment to our country and community is a shining example of honor and duty.

During his 32 years of military service, MSgt Bygum served in both the U.S. Marine Corps and the U.S. Air Force in various roles including Law Enforcement, Security Operation, and Emergency Management. During his four years in the Marine Corps, he served as an Infantry Corporal in Subic Bay, Philippines.

Upon transitioning to the Air Force, MSgt Bygum served under the Secretary of the Air Force Director, Security, Counterintelligence and Special Program Oversight (SAF/AAZ). There he implemented the first Biometric Identification Fingerprint System, significantly enhancing the use of technology to expedite time-critical and sensitive data for the Department of Defense and the Air Force.

Throughout his service, MSgt Bygum participated in Operation Northern Watch and Operation Enduring Freedom, and supported recovery efforts following the 9/11 attacks. He was awarded over 30 Military medals, awards and commendations including the Meritorious Service Medal.

After retiring from active service, MSgt Bygum's duty to his fellow servicemembers and community did not end. He currently serves as an Associate Professor of Homeland Security and Emergency Management at National University. Additionally, he helped establish the Disaster Recovery International Military Mentorship Program, which provides transitioning veterans with training, mentorship, resume writing assistance, job placement, and skill-building opportunities, helping them smoothly transition into private and governmental sectors.

MSgt Bygum's unwavering dedication and service to his Nation exemplify why he deserves this honor. I commend his remarkable contributions and extend my best wishes for his continued success as a steadfast advocate for our service members and veterans.