

veterans, Collin embodies the Volunteer Spirit. He even spearheaded my Congressional Resolution honoring the father of country music, Hank Williams, on his 100th birthday. Just like the “Hillbilly Shakespeare,” Collin dedicated himself to preserving the vibrant spirit of Music City.

Collin’s influence extended far beyond state lines. During his time in my office, Collin championed tuneless principles, recognizing that we stand on the shoulders of giants and understanding that conserving Western Civilization is a fight worth having. A steadfast patriot, he is a stalwart defender of liberty and our Constitutional principles.

Collin’s hard work, his passion for Article I, and his eagerness to learn were only a portion of what made his impact in my office and the House of Representatives so robust. His deep understanding of history and insights into conservative giants like Winston Churchill and Margaret Thatcher greatly benefited our team.

I’d be remiss if I didn’t mention Collin Miller’s admiration for the great J.R.R. Tolkien. Collin’s shelves lined with Tolkien’s books weren’t just for decoration—they were a well-worn source of inspiration. As Tolkien wrote, “It is not our part to master all the tides of the world, but to do what is in us for the succor of those years wherein we are set . . .” I believe Collin is doing just that.

While Collin recently departed my office for an incredible opportunity, I know that he will continue to bring the same light and joy into the lives of others as he did to me and my staff. We will miss his steadiness on difficult days and his quick wit.

I want to leave Collin with this quote from one of his favorite historical figures, William Wilberforce:

Fix your eye on the glorious prize which is before you, and when your strength begins to fail, and your spirits are well-nigh exhausted, let the animating view rekindle your resolution, and call forth in renewed vigour the fainting energies of your soul.”

I wish Collin all the best in his future endeavors as he and his wife, Reiley, go out and conquer this next chapter in their lives.

HONORING GORDON “GORDY” KIRK

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2025

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life of an extraordinary man, cherished community member and dedicated veteran, Mr. Gordon Willis Kirk, affectionately known as “Gordy.” Gordy passed away on March 2, 2025, just three weeks shy of his 102nd birthday. He is preceded in death by his loving spouse Gwendolyn and their legacy lives on through their children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great grandchildren.

Born in Helena, Montana, Gordy and his family moved to Saint Paul at the age of 10 for his father’s work with the Northern Pacific Railway during the Great Depression. He graduated from Saint Paul’s Marshall High School in 1942. Gordy is a product of Saint Paul’s Rondo neighborhood, a predominantly African American community, most of which was demolished to make way for Interstate 94

in the late 1950’s. Throughout his life, Gordy remained a tireless advocate for the Old Rondo neighborhood by keeping its history alive and seeking healing and reconciliation by preserving its rich heritage and culture.

Gordy was a proud veteran of World War II. Bravely serving in combat, Gordy became a Quartermaster with a trucking company, Third Army, Fourth Armor Division (Patton’s Vanguard) on the front lines in the European Theatre from 1943 to 1945 at a time when the ranks of U.S. servicemen were segregated. The company landed at Omaha Beach six days after D-Day, was with General Patton at Saint-Lô, fought at Verdun and the Battle of the Bulge where he suffered frostbite on his hands during the winter. He stated that he felt fortunate that he was in battle on the front lines and came home whole.

Gordy’s courage was demonstrated well before he was deployed to Europe. Following his enlistment in the U.S. Army in 1943, he and his fellow enlisted men departed by train for basic training at Fort Wolter, Mineral Wells, Texas. While in route the train stopped at a station; the African American men were told to leave the Pullman passenger cars they had been traveling in and go to the Jim Crow car—with its much less desirable accommodations. He refused, as did other enlisted men. He and the men essentially said, “If we’re good enough to fight for our country like other enlisted men, then we’re good enough to ride in a Pullman car like they do.” The train was held up for six hours as the railroad located another Pullman car for the group.

Upon returning to Saint Paul, Gordy drove a streetcar from 1947 to 1952 until streetcars were replaced by buses. He then went to work on the railroad as a waiter. He next went to work for Braniff Airways as a skycap, joining Northwest Airlines in 1960 where Gordy has a long and successful career, eventually becoming the head skycap, retiring in 1993.

His extraordinary commitment to his fellow veterans and their families compares to none. As a long-time leader and advocate in Minnesota’s veterans community, Gordy became the first African American VFW District Officer in Minnesota in 1986. He rose through the leadership ranks of the Fourth District as well as the state and national VFW organizations—advocating for all veterans while seeking to bring diversity to the ranks of our state’s veterans organizations and ensuring that all veterans are welcome. Gordy was instrumental in establishing the Twin Star VFW Post 8854, which was located on Concordia Avenue in the Rondo neighborhood until 2008 when the hall closed, with Gordy serving as the Post’s Commander.

Until well into his 90’s, Gordy was a VFW Hospital Representative at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center, acting as an advocate for veterans attempting to resolve issues experienced by veterans at the Medical Center. When once asked the question, do any special veterans and their cases come to mind, and his response was “every veteran is special to me!”

Gordy was very special to me and to the constituents of Minnesota’s Fourth Congressional District. It was my privilege to nominate Gordy for a Minnesota Humanities Center Veterans Voices Legacy Award which I presented to him on September 11, 2016, for his outstanding work in service to others.

It was an honor to call Gordy a friend. He has been an inspiration to me and his legacy

will continue to inspire many for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the remarkable life and the dedicated work of Mr. Gordon “Gordy” Willis Kirk.

CELEBRATING ELIZABETH AND CHARLES J. MAJIKES, SR. 70TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2025

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the 70th wedding anniversary of a beloved couple. I ask you to join me in honoring Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Majikes, Sr., of Ashley, Pennsylvania, as they celebrate this important milestone.

The couple was married in St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Creek Catholic Church in Wilkes-Barre by the late Very Rev. Gregory Szeyko on Feb. 19, 1955. Mrs. Majikes is the former Elizabeth “Betty” Chmil, daughter of the late Mary (Gulick) and John Chmil. Mr. Majikes is the son of the late Theresa (Hughes) and John Majikes. The Majikes’s are the parents of four sons, Charles J. Jr. and his wife, Mary, Larksville; Paul, Sr. and his wife, Ann, Hanover Township; John and his wife, Kim, Apex, North Carolina, and Matthew, Sr., and his wife, Linda, Richmond, Virginia.

They are proud grandparents of Kristen and her husband, Adam Scali, Hanover Township; Jacob, Gaithersburg, Maryland; Alison and her husband Bryan Riviello, Old Forge; Charles J. III, and his wife Kylee, Ashley; Keri and her husband Nick Carnes, Durham, North Carolina; Paul, Jr. and his wife, Alyson Klush, Richmond, Virginia; Mark and his wife Adele, Larksville; Matthew, Jr., Richmond, Virginia, and Daniel, Richmond, Virginia. Also, great-grandchildren Charles IV, Jack, Charlotte, Alex, Joe and Preston.

Mrs. Majikes is retired after working in the shoe industry and as a waitress in local restaurants. Mr. Majikes, a USMC Korean War Purple Heart Veteran, was employed at Eberhard Faber in Mountain Top for more than 30 years and continued employment at Wyoming Valley Health Care Systems until his retirement at age 78. To mark their 70th wedding anniversary, blessings were given to the couple by the Rev. Michael Lepa, their nephew the Rev. John Chmil, and the Rev. Vincent Dang.

Family is their mantra. Their marriage is a role model to their family as their boys and family’s 11 marriages total over 250 years married together, and they have helped to build a wonderful family with 31 lives celebrating over 1,000 years. Now that’s a Wonderful Life. A family dinner party was held in their honor at Pate’s Sports Bar in Wilkes-Barre and was hosted by their family.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to recognize the Majikes family on this momentous occasion. May they continue to find joy to one another as they inspire generations to come.

SALUTING THE SERVICE OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL SPENCER HUTSON SMITH

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2025

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and honor that I present Lieutenant Colonel Spencer Hutson Smith, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.), with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His life and career are a testament to his exceptional character and unwavering commitment to service.

On active duty from 1973 to 1997, Lt. Col. Smith served in various locations around the globe, including Quantico, London, Brussels, Hong Kong, Australia, and Turkey. In 1990, Lt. Col. Smith was deployed to Kuwait in support of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm. He played a critical role in contingency operations in Beirut, Lebanon, where he developed essential emergency plans. Notably, Lt. Col. Smith served on Marine Helicopter Squadron One responsible for Executive Transport for President Ronald Reagan and was the Marine One Command Pilot for President George H.W. Bush. His dedication earned him numerous prestigious awards, including the Presidential Service Badge and the Navy and Marine Corps Parachutist Insignia.

After retiring from the Marine Corps, Lt. Col. Smith continued to serve his community with the same passion. He served for six years as the Mayor of Harker Heights, following 14 years of work in Harker Heights city government. His contributions also extended to the Greater Killeen and Harker Heights Chambers of Commerce and as a tri-county soccer official. His leadership extends to his faith community as well, where he has held the title of deacon at Temple Bible Church since 2007, following a decade of service as a deacon at First Baptist Church of Killeen.

I join Lt. Col. Smith's family, friends, and colleagues in saluting his honorable contributions to our Nation and to Texas. He is a deserving recipient of the Congressional Veteran Commendation and a deeply valued member of our community.

HONORING DEWAYNE SIMS, 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 recognize the distinguished service and leadership of Mr. Dewayne Sims, Sr., who, after 23 years of dedicated service as Chief of Police for the Vicksburg Warren School District (VWSD), has officially retired. His tireless efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of students, staff, and the broader community leave an enduring legacy.

A proud graduate of Alcorn State University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in communication and broadcast journalism, Mr. Sims furthered his education by obtaining a master's degree in public administration and human resources from Jackson State University. He was first hired at VWSD by Dr. James Price and Dr. John Walls, and over the years,

he rose to lead a team of six resource officers and oversaw the district's security contracts. His leadership and expertise were instrumental in creating a secure environment in which students could thrive.

Mr. Sims has also contributed to the community beyond his role with the school district. He served on the board of directors at the YMCA and worked with the Mississippi Department of Education for School Safety. These roles reflect his deep commitment to public service and his dedication to improving safety and security throughout our state.

In his own words, Mr. Sims noted that one of the most rewarding aspects of his job was the opportunity to cultivate meaningful relationships with students and coworkers.

He worked tirelessly to guide students, especially those facing difficulties, offering them hope and alternatives to negative decisions. His ability to connect with young people and serve as a mentor is a testament to his character and heart for service.

As Mr. Sims begins his well-deserved retirement, he looks forward to spending time with his children, Destiny and Dre, and enjoying his favorite pastimes, including running, working out, and hunting.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Dewayne Sims, Sr. for his remarkable career, his selfless service, and his lasting impact on the Vicksburg Warren School District and the community at large. His leadership and dedication will be greatly missed, but his legacy will continue to inspire future generations.

RECOGNIZING NATHAN WHITTINGTON

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2025

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nathan Whittington of Broomfield, Colorado for receiving the 2024 Statewide Emergency Manager of the Year Award.

As the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office's Emergency Manager, Nathan leads coordination and response plans during natural disasters and other emergencies. He was instrumental in developing Jeffco's new Emergency Operations Center. During the Quarry Fire in 2024, Nathan managed the EOC and re-entry plans—ensuring all evacuees were able to return home safely. Nathan's commitment to public service extends beyond Jefferson County—he also deployed to Sarasota County, Florida to provide critical support during Hurricane Milton.

Nathan has led the way in adapting innovative technology and strategies that have strengthened our community's preparedness and resilience. We are grateful for his leadership and commitment to keeping our communities safe.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to thank Nathan Whittington for his service to the Jefferson County community.

HONORING JUDY ADAMS AND THE I SUPPORT THE 1% FOOD PANTRY FOR THEIR SERVICE TO MICHIGAN VETERANS

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2025

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary dedication and service of Judy Adams, Director of the I Support the 1% Food Pantry. The I Support the 1% Food Pantry, an organization celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, is committed to ensuring that no veteran in Michigan goes hungry. Through their tireless efforts, Judy and her team have provided not just food but also hope and dignity to those who bravely served our Nation.

Founded on July 28, 2014, and opening its doors in April 2015, the I Support the 1% Food Pantry was established in response to the growing crisis of food insecurity among veterans and military reserve members. Too many of our Nation's heroes struggle to put food on the table, often feeling ashamed or hopeless in their hardship. Judy and her team understand the critical need for support and made it their mission to ensure that "No Veteran Should Ever Go Hungry."

The pantry partners with VA social workers, including those in the HUD-VASH Homeless program and Home-Based Primary Care program, to ensure food reaches veterans in need—even those who are homebound due to medical conditions.

Additionally, the I Support the 1% Food Pantry works directly with military reserve units, assisting service members and their families during times of financial difficulty. Since its founding, the pantry has served over 1,000 veterans across Michigan, including WWII and Korean War veterans living on fixed incomes, combat-wounded veterans, and those struggling with PTSD and economic hardship. For many, the pantry is the difference between going hungry and being able to provide for their families. Thanks to Judy Adams and I Support the 1% Food Pantry, these veterans now have a place to turn for assistance and compassion.

Mr. Speaker, the work of Judy Adams and the I Support the 1% Food Pantry is a testament to the power of community and service. Their unwavering commitment to Michigan's veterans embodies the very spirit of selflessness and patriotism. Today, we honor Judy Adams for her leadership, her compassion, and her unyielding dedication to ensuring that those who have served our Nation never have to face hunger alone.

SALUTING THE SERVICE OF MAJOR GENERAL PATRICK HAMILTON

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 salute the extraordinary career of Major General Patrick Hamilton, U.S. Army, Retired, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His service to both the Army and