

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

his Nation exemplifies our Nation's altruistic spirit.

MG Hamilton served honorably in Armor and Cavalry units in the Texas Army National Guard for 35 years. He served full time in operational assignments including Director of the Joint Staff, Chief of Staff to the Adjutant General of Texas, and the Texas Army National Guard Director of Operations.

In 2000, MG Hamilton served with the 49th Armored Division in Bosnia-Herzegovina as the Current Operations Officer. He later deployed to Afghanistan where he served as the Red Team Leader for the Commanding General. Additionally in 2017, he served as the Joint Task Force Commanding General for Hurricane Harvey military response, commanding 18,000 troops supporting evacuation and aid operations.

From 2018 to 2021, MG Hamilton served as the Commanding General of the 36th Infantry Division, where he commanded soldiers in nine countries across the Middle East as part of Task Force Spartan, under Operation Spartan Shield.

MG Hamilton's retirement did not end his service. He continues to train National Guard Division Commanders and staffs. In addition, he serves on the Board of Directors for the Central Texas YMCA and the Board of Governors of the Central Texas Community Foundation. For his extraordinary efforts during and after service he was awarded the 2023 Lieutenant General Raymond S. McLain Medal.

I am honored to join MG Hamilton's friends and family in celebrating his outstanding achievements. His commitment to selfless service makes him a deeply respected and honorable recipient of the Congressional Veteran Commendation.

HONORING THETA PI ZETA CHAPTER OF ZETA PHI BETA SORORITY, INC.

**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 truly exceptional organization, the Theta Pi Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., based in Itta Bena, Mississippi. Since its inception, the chapter has been a steadfast beacon of service, community involvement, and the embodiment of the principles upheld by Zeta Phi Beta.

Founded on November 10, 1976, with the leadership of then State Director Bertha Blackburn and co-founders Henri E. Lowe and Maxine P. Stewart, Theta Pi Zeta began its journey in a small yet significant way at the Western Sizzlin' Steak House in Greenwood, Mississippi. The chapter's roots are deeply intertwined with the spirit of dedication, as evidenced by the work of Henri E. Lowe and M'Elena Matthews, who signed the chapter's charter application, helping to ensure its establishment.

Throughout the years, 14 remarkable women have served as president, with the late Henri E. Lowe leading the charge during the formative years. Currently, under the leadership of Denise Pitchford, the chapter continues its dedication to service and community outreach, earning recognition at the state and re-

gional levels. The chapter boasts 32 financial members and has been involved in countless community initiatives, such as hosting a State Round-Up for Zetas in Greenwood, Mississippi, and supporting local events like the March for Babies campaign.

The Itta Bena Amicae Auxiliary, established in 1986 and sponsored by Sister Shirley Burks, remains a vital part of the chapter's outreach efforts, and the chapter's youth auxiliaries—including the Archonette, Amicette, and Pearlette Clubs—engage in community service projects like adopting families for Thanksgiving and Christmas, ringing Salvation Army bells, and delivering care bags to local nursing homes.

The chapter's charter members, such as Riller Bennett, Thelma Collins, Laura Davis, Doroty Edwards, Amanda Elzy, Anna Hicks, Irene Howard, Zelma Howard, Jean Jennings, Henri E. Lowe, M'Elena Mathews, Betty Morris, Geneva Pickens, Henrine Stewart, Bobbie Wicks, Ann Wilson, and Malinda Winters laid the foundation for what has become a powerful and enduring force in the Mississippi Delta. Many of them have left lasting legacies, including the late Henri E. Lowe, and Florence Weathersby, who served for an impressive 70 years and remained an inspiration to many.

The chapter's commitment to service continues with a full slate of community activities for 2025, including events like hosting a Sisterhood Tea for Women's History Month, visiting nursing homes, organizing water hydration drives, and supporting the March of Dimes Campaign.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in taking a moment to acknowledge the Theta Pi Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., for their unwavering dedication to service, leadership, and the betterment of their community.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF PATSY PETTUS

**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 life of Patsy Pettus, a cherished member of our community. Patsy is an extraordinary individual whose life has exemplified nothing short of the beauty in living life curiously.

Patsy is a passionate member of the Richmond community. Through her love of art and architecture, she has bettered the lives of everyone around her. Described by many as the "role model for aging gracefully," her lively character has made her a beloved figure to all who have the joy of knowing her. Patsy's commitment to the local community leaves an indelible mark on our district and beyond.

Patsy's efforts as an advocate for art programs across the state will leave a legacy to inspire generations to come. The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, where she volunteered as a docent decades ago, has benefited greatly from her and her beloved husband Hunter's generosity and support. Her family's contributions to Virginia Commonwealth University's (VCU) Institute for Contemporary Arts helped transform the creative arts programs at VCU. Ask anyone in Richmond's art scene and Pat-

sy's name will bring a sparkle to their eyes—She has always been known as the life of the party.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating Patsy. Our community is eternally grateful for everything she and her husband Hunter have done.

RECOGNIZING BOB DAVIDSON'S LEGACY

**HON. PRAMILA JAYAPAL**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 31, 2025*

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career and legacy of Bob Davidson. Bob is retiring after 23 years of committed service as the CEO and President of the Seattle Aquarium. I am so grateful for his tireless efforts to make the Seattle Aquarium a leader in conservation, education, and visitor experience.

Thanks to Bob's leadership, the Seattle Aquarium is now the largest marine conservation institution in the northwestern United States. His work has transformed the Seattle Aquarium from a local aquarium into a globally recognized conservation organization. Bob waited to step down from his post until the completion of the \$180 million Ocean Pavilion, which highlights sea life in the biodiverse Indo-Pacific Coral Triangle and educates guests on how we must work together to protect the world's oceans. His wide array of professional experiences helped him forge the partnerships necessary to complete the Ocean Pavilion project. Bob also led Woodland Park Zoo's \$40 million renovation project that transformed the zoo into a modern leader for design and habitats.

Thanks to Bob Davidson's many accomplishments, Seattle has seen significant expansion and continued improvement of the Aquarium's buildings, the ongoing transformation of the Seattle waterfront, and the growing reputation of the Seattle Aquarium as a global leader in ocean conservation. I am very grateful for his incredible service and confident that he will continue to be a staunch advocate for protecting our oceans and sea life. His leadership will serve as a model for years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GLENN THOMPSON**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 31, 2025*

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, due to unforeseen scheduling complications, I was unable to attend the first vote in the series. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 77.