

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF RIDE ON CENTER FOR KIDS (ROCK)

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2025

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the 20th anniversary of the ROCK On Veterans program, a pioneering initiative of the Ride On Center for Kids (ROCK) in Georgetown, Texas. Since its founding in 2005, this program has provided equine-assisted services to more than one thousand veterans, offering healing and support to those who have served our Nation.

The program began as a collaboration between Lt. Colonel Scott Schule of the 1st Cavalry Division Horse Detachment at Fort Cavazos (formerly Fort Hood) and ROCK, with the goal of supporting wounded veterans recovering at Brooke Army Medical Center Under ROCK's leadership and with the expertise of team members such as Dr. Priscilla Lightsey, Joan Cutler, Heidi Darning, and Dr. Nancy Krennek, the program has grown significantly over the past two decades.

Today, ROCK On Veterans offers a no-cost, 24-week curriculum proven to reduce PTSD and anxiety while enhancing overall quality of life. In addition to its equine services, the program now includes the Sport Clips Heroes Arena, the H-E-B Serving Kitchen, and the expanded Patti Colbert Learning Center. It also benefits from valuable partnerships with Texas A&M University and Parsons Mounted Cavalry.

This milestone reflects ROCK's unwavering commitment to those who have worn the uniform. The organization's work is a powerful testament to the impact of community, innovation, and compassion in the lives of our veterans.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I commend the Ride On Center for Kids for 20 years of exceptional service to our veteran community and thank them for their continued dedication to healing through horsemanship.

HONORING MR. NEVILLE SMITH

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2025

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Neville Smith of Manchester, Kentucky, who is retiring just before his 94th birthday from his stalwart law practice, where he has dedicated approximately 47 years of service in Eastern Kentucky.

Neville was born to Charles and Sallie Smith on May 1, 1931. By the time he was 24 years old, he had graduated from Law School, married his lovely bride Betty Sue Cornett, and enlisted in the U.S. Army. Shortly after completing basic training, he was recruited to the prestigious Army Intelligence Service, where he valiantly served this great Nation in the midst of the Cold War era.

In 1957, he proudly returned to his hometown of Manchester, Kentucky to raise a family and build a highly respected law practice.

Over the years, he served as general counsel to some of Eastern Kentucky's largest employers, providing wise counsel to the local school board, highly productive coal companies, non-profit organizations, insurance companies, and other businesses across the Commonwealth. His expertise and advice have been highly coveted by leaders across Kentucky, including Kentucky Senate President Robert Stivers, a fellow Clay County native who considers Neville to be among his most admired mentors.

Outside of his legal practice, Neville has been a long-time champion of the conservative principles of the Republican Party, serving as chairman of his county party for more than 20 years and encouraging others to stand firm on their values. I personally appreciate Neville for being one of my earliest supporters and shaming his savvy political acumen about Kentucky's Appalachian region. Neville has also been a faithful member of the First Baptist Church of Manchester, where he and his late wife Betty raised their family.

Although Neville was born as part of the "Silent Generation," defined by their focus on securing stability and immense hard work, his lifetime of success has spoken volumes in southeastern Kentucky. Neville's incredible life of service to his beloved country, his family and his community serve as a true inspiration to us all.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK AND THE UT SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH SAN ANTONIO

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2025

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of National Public Health Week and the UT School of Public Health San Antonio. It is an honor to shed light onto a mission devoted to strengthening our communities, improving quality of life, and ensuring that everyone has equal access to quality health and wellness services.

Health extends beyond clinics and hospitals. It is the cornerstone of a strong nation. By engaging our communities, public health workers address health care disparities and implement competent wellness programs that provide essential services to diverse communities.

The opening of the UT School of Public Health San Antonio—the newest addition to the UT Health San Antonio system—underscores the dedication to implementing tools that lead to a healthier life. The institution is a step forward in addressing the challenges faced by communities in San Antonio and South Texas. Through cutting edge-research, the new generation of public health workers will drive our nation forward.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize and bring attention to this special celebration.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK TAKANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2025

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances, I was unable to be

present for votes on Monday, March 31, 2025. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 84 and YEA on Roll Call No. 85.

HONORING THE LIFE OF REPRESENTATIVE RAÚL GRIJALVA

SPEECH OF

HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2025

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of the late Congressman Raúl Grijalva.

Raúl was one of was one of my dear friends in Congress and someone who I looked up to as a model for what real progressive leadership looked like.

He was a legend for the Chicano activism of his youth, and a trailblazer who started his career in public service as a community organizer and activist.

From his time on the school board to the County Board of Supervisors to the halls of Congress—Raúl was always a voice for the voiceless.

He left such a profound legacy on Tucson's school board that an elementary school was named after him years before he ever got elected to Congress.

He was a fighter for working families his entire life and used every ounce of grit to deliver for his beloved community every day he was in office.

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He was an uncompromising champion of the environment, of bilingual education, of the rights of immigrants, and of the rights of Native Americans.

He was also a genuine human being to the very last, committed to what he believed in, who never let the petty politics of the day make him cynical, or hard, or mean.

I am grateful for his commitment and unwavering courage that he used to make our country better.

I will miss him greatly.

I am sending love and light to his family, Ramona, Adelita, Marisa, and Raquel, his staff, and all who loved him.

HONORING FALLEN U.S. DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION AGENT ENRIQUE "KIKI" CAMARENA

HON. TROY E. NEHLS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2025

Mr. NEHLS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the memory of Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, a true American hero who gave his life fighting the drug trafficking operations of Mexican cartels. As a former law enforcement officer and Army reserve officer, I am deeply moved by Kiki's bravery and sacrifice.

Kiki's remarkable career with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration took him from the

streets of Calexico to the halls of power in Mexico, where he fearlessly worked to dismantle the Guadalajara Cartel. His groundbreaking work led to the discovery of massive drug plantations and the arrest of high-ranking cartel members.

Tragically, Kiki's life was ended by the very criminals he sought to bring to justice. His brutal murder in 1985 shocked our Nation and sparked a renewed commitment to the battle against the Mexican drug cartels.

The recent capture of Rafael Caro Quintero, one of the masterminds behind Kiki's murder, is a testament to the tireless efforts of our great men and women in law enforcement. It's a reminder that justice may be delayed, but it will not be denied. Not to the United States of America.

As we honor Kiki's memory, we also reaffirm our commitment to continuing his vital work. We will not rest until our communities are safe from the greatest drug threat our country has ever faced, fentanyl, which is killing our young people at unprecedented rates.

I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Kiki Camarena, a true patriot who gave his life in service to our Nation. May his sacrifice never be forgotten, and may his legacy inspire future generations to carry on his courageous work.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2025

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances, I missed an important vote on H.R. 997, the National Taxpayer Advocate Enhancement Act of 2025. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 85.

SALUTING THE SERVICE OF COLONEL TERRY WILSON

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2025

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize and salute a great Texan, Representative Terry Wilson, U.S. Army, Retired, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His life and career reflect hard work and selfless service to his nation and Central Texas.

Enlisting in the Army after graduating from high school, COL Wilson honorably served on Active Duty for 29 years and the Texas National Guard for 3 years. During his career, he courageously served our nation in both Iraq and Afghanistan. His exemplary service earned him numerous awards and accolades, including the Bronze Star, Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal and Army Commendation Medal, among many others. He is a graduate of the U.S. Army War College, Ranger School, Airborne School and Pathfinder School.

After his retirement, COL Wilson's dedication to his community did not waiver. He now serves as the Texas State Representative for

House District 20. As Chairman of the House Committee on Defense & Veterans' Affairs, he fights tirelessly for our brave servicemembers and leverages his expertise as an Army Acquisitions Officer to deliver critical capabilities to our warfighters. He is also a champion for expanding vocational education for all students, ensuring they are job- or college-ready upon graduation.

COL Wilson continues to lead with strength, integrity, and dedication for the betterment of his community. Aside from his role as State Representative, he strives to support the next generation, serving as an Assistant Scout Master and regularly speaking to students and working on special projects.

I am honored to join COL Wilson's fiends 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.

RECOGNIZING GREG EDWARDS

HON. ZACHARY NUNN

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2025

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I honor Greg Edwards, President and CEO of Catch Des Moines, for his outstanding contributions to our community. Since joining in 2000, Greg has been a driving force in tourism and economic development, bringing his experience from Peoria, Illinois, and Overland Park, Kansas. Under his leadership, Catch Des Moines has grown into a premier destination marketing organization, strengthening the region's reputation and economy.

Greg has successfully championed major projects transforming Des Moines, including the Wells Fargo Arena and the downtown Hilton convention hotel. His efforts also helped secure Des Moines as a recurring host for NCAA Division I events, including the first and second rounds of the Men's Basketball Tournament in 2016 and 2019, with another round secured for 2028. Additionally, he played a key role in reorganizing the Des Moines Area Sports & Tourism Commission and served as chair of Destinations International.

Beyond tourism, Greg was vital in revitalizing the city post-COVID and recently helped break ground on 515 Walnut, a 33-story skyscraper set to reshape the downtown skyline. His leadership has left a lasting impact on Des Moines, and we thank him for his service. We wish him success in his next endeavors and are confident he will continue making a difference.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE STEVEN "STEVE" DARGAN, WEST HAVEN'S 2025 IRISH PER- SON OF THE YEAR

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2025

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the West Haven St. Patrick's Day Committee as well as

city and community leaders as they gather to honor our dear friend, Steven "Steve" Dargan, as West Haven's 2025 Irish Person of the Year. This special award is bestowed annually on a West Haven resident or couple of Irish descent who personifies service in the city's close-knit Irish community.

Steve hails from an ancestry whose legacy is woven into the tapestry of the American story. Like so many of us, his family's story is one of emigration—of leaving the only home you know to search out a better life for yourselves and family. In the mid-1800s, Steve's paternal great-grandparents, Pierce and Ellen Dargan, emigrated from Ireland to the United States and settled in New Haven. His maternal grandparents, John Glacken and the former Margaret McGowan, who left County Donegal and Derry, Northern Ireland respectively, for America at different times in the early 1900s. They met and married, first settling in Norwich before making West Haven their home.

Steve was born in New Haven in 1955 to Margaret and Robert Dargan, Jr. He and his siblings—Robert Dargan, III, Timothy Dargan and Mary Margaret Dargan—were raised by their hardworking parents in a traditional Irish Catholic household on Richards Place in the center of West Haven. Steve attended public schools and graduated in 1973 from West Haven High School, where he ran track. He also attended Quinnipiac College. It was through his parents that Steve learned the importance of giving back to his community and he took those lessons to heart, dedicating most of his adult life to public service. In fact, his late father, Robert, was honored with this same award in 2012, making them the only father/son recipients its 32-year history.

Steve has represented his community as an appointed or elected leader since he was 21 years old. He served on the City Council from 1985 to 1991 and the First Fire Taxation District's Board of Fire Commissioners from 1980 to 2004. As a member of the Connecticut House, Steve represented West Haven's 115th District from 1991 to 2017. For 20 years, he was a co-chair of the General Assembly's Public Safety and Security Committee, which oversees all matters related to civil preparedness, state and municipal police, and the overall safety of residents. He also served on the Gaming Policy Task Force, the Police Pursuit Task Force and the Private Security Personnel Task Force as well as on the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee and the Insurance and Real Estate Committee. In January 2017, Steve resigned to serve on the state Board of Pardons and Paroles, a seat which he still holds.

In addition to his civil service, Steve has dedicated much of his time and energy to a myriad of local organizations. He is a former volunteer for West Haven Hook and Ladder Company 1, a longtime member of the West Haven Irish American Club, a lifetime member of West Haven's Elks Lodge 1537, and a former member of the Knights of St. Patrick in New Haven, Connecticut's oldest continuously run Irish society.

I would be remiss if I did not also take this opportunity to extend a personal note of thanks to Steve for his many years of friendship and support. Steve has always been known for his gregarious nature, ready smile, and big heart. Elected to our respective seats, myself to Congress and Steve to the General