

Love for his extraordinary contributions to our city and state. His relentless work ethic, passion for the culinary arts, and dedication to Fort Worth's growth have left a lasting impact. I congratulate him on this milestone anniversary and look forward to the continued success of his restaurants for years to come.

RECOGNIZING JARETSSY  
SANDOVAL-PEREZ

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 2025*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jaretssy Sandoval-Perez for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Jaretssy has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Jaretssy, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Jaretssy's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Drake Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Jaretssy Sandoval-Perez on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING SERGEANT JESS  
GOMEZ, JR.

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 2025*

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Sergeant Jess Gomez, Jr., and his commitment to our nation throughout his three years of military service and twelve years of service in the U.S. Army National Guard (USANG). During his service with the USANG, he achieved the rank of Sergeant with Service Battery 2/144 Field Artillery.

In 1965, on Christmas Day, Sergeant Gomez was deployed to Vietnam, and in July of 1968, he was honorably discharged. Sergeant Gomez further answered the call to service with the USANG, demonstrating his dedication to protecting and serving his community. His unit was located at the U.S. Army in Arcadia, California, where he participated in monthly weekend drills and annual Summer Camp for two and a half weeks. He was loved by many in his personal and professional life, including his section of Ammo buddies, with whom he kept in touch throughout his life.

As a result of his service, Sergeant Gomez was praised by local leaders for his dedication to protecting the safety of his local and greater community, regardless of the need. He was an Army truck driver for firefighters during the Northern California Red Bluff fires. In 1992, during the Rodney King riots, he was called out to protect cities in the Los Angeles area. The community was known to express genuine respect and heartfelt gratitude toward him

and his team for the protection they provided as members of the National Guard.

Following Sergeant Gomez's military and USANG service, he became a loyal member of Vietnam Veterans of America's (VVA) Chapter 47 and Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 12034.

Not only did he spread awareness for the VVA by serving as a board member and by joining his chapter in local parades, but he also volunteered for the VVA Food Pantry. Mr. Gomez's work with the VVA Food Pantry was critical to ensuring more than 500 veterans received essential food products each week throughout the Greater Los Angeles region.

VFW Post 12034 remembers Sergeant Gomez fondly for his mentorship of younger and incoming veterans, praising him for embodying the phrase "still serving." He regularly attended community events to increase membership and engagement, and could be found annually at Rancho Remembers, ensuring high schoolers could understand the experiences of veterans.

During a challenging time when our city faced funding cuts that led to the potential closure of Pomona's beloved library, Sergeant Gomez showed up for his community—organizing and protecting a space that serves as a cornerstone for learning and dedication. His tireless efforts not only safeguarded the Pomona library but also inspired a renewed sense of unity and purpose.

For his outstanding accomplishments, it is my honor to recognize Sergeant Jess Gomez, Jr. His civic service and commitment to both California and our Nation are worthy of the highest commendation.

HONORING JIM BRANDENBURG

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 2025*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life of an iconic figure in the world of wildlife photography, Jim Brandenburg. Jim passed away at home in Minnesota on April 4, 2025, at the age of 79. He is survived by his spouse, Judy, daughter Heidi and her husband Nels Pierson, and grandchildren Olivia, Liam, and Lindsey.

Born and raised in Minnesota, Brandenburg's career began in the early 1970s, and he quickly gained recognition for his ability to humanize animals through images. His work as a staff photographer for National Geographic further solidified his reputation in the field of wildlife photography. He was named Wildlife Photographer of the Year in 1988, and Magazine Photographer of the Year by the National Press Photographers Association in 1981 and 1983. Of the 40 most important nature photographs of all time, chosen by the International League of Conservation Photographers, four are by Jim Brandenburg. In 2023, Jim became one of just six photographers to earn the National Geographic Lifetime Achievement Award.

Jim's ability to artfully capture the unique and beautiful landscapes and wildlife of Minnesota is perhaps his clearest legacy. By choosing to focus his lens on the animals of the Upper Midwest, he highlighted the exceptional ecosystems and biodiversity of our re-

gion, including wolves. In fact, two of his most renowned photographs are of wolves: one capturing a white wolf leaping between ice floes in the Arctic, the other a gray wolf staring directly into his lens, watching Jim from behind a tree in his own backyard in northern Minnesota. Jim's work conveys his deep respect and empathy for the animals he photographs, which helped him to capture moments that transcend mere documentation. His photographs invite viewers to pause and consider the lives of the creatures that share our planet.

In addition to his photographic contributions, Jim Brandenburg has been a tireless advocate for conservation. His work has been instrumental in raising awareness about the environmental challenges facing the Upper Midwest and advocating for the preservation of wilderness areas including Minnesota's Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Jim also worked with another famous adventurer-advocate from Minnesota, the explorer Will Steger, helping to document Will's polar expeditions. The United Nations Environmental Programme awarded Jim the World Achievement Award in recognition of his work to raise public awareness of the need to protect our planet's natural habitats.

Jim Brandenburg's legacy extends far beyond his photographic achievements. He has inspired photographers, conservationists, and nature lovers with his unique ability for capturing the soul of the wild. Through his work, he has shown us that nature is something to be cherished and protected. As we reflect on his life and career, we must honor not only his photographic contributions but also his commitment to the preservation of the natural world for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the remarkable life and work of Jim Brandenburg.

HONORING THE CAREER OF  
POLICE CHIEF ROWDY KAGARISE

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 2025*

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Williamsburg Police Chief Rowdy Kagarise, who is retiring on April 30, 2025, after a distinguished 23-year career with the Williamsburg Police Department.

Chief Kagarise holds distinctions as the longest-serving Chief of Police in Williamsburg and the first ever to retire from the department. His primary goal has always been to help ensure that Williamsburg remains a safe community to live in.

Admired for a common-sense approach and communication skills that many times defused tense situations during police interventions, Chief Kagarise began his career with the department as a part-time police officer in 2001. A Williamsburg native, he was appointed officer-in-charge in 2010 and chief of police in 2011.

In describing his philosophy on police work in Williamsburg, Chief Kagarise commented that, "It all comes down to caring about this community."

On behalf of everyone in Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I congratulate Police Chief Rowdy Kagarise on his retirement

and express fond wishes for joy and contentment in all future endeavors.

#### RECOGNIZING JACKSON ROGERS

##### HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 2025*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jackson Rogers for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Jackson has overcome many challenges along his journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Jackson, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Jackson's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Drake Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Jackson Rogers on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

#### RECOGNIZING K9 OFFICER ANDY MAYBO

##### HON. BURGESS OWENS

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 2025*

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor K9 Officer Andy Maybo of the U.S. Capitol Police, whose tireless work has ensured that our fallen heroes are never forgotten.

For years, Officer Maybo has been at the heart of organizing the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service, coordinating with Congress, the U.S. Capitol Police, the Secret Service, and the U.S. Park Police.

His dedication has been particularly impactful for Utah's fallen officers, ensuring that their families were properly honored at this important event. In addition to his role in the memorial, Andy served as president of DC FOP Lodge 1 and contributed to several other lodge committees.

As Andy steps down from his role on the National FOP Memorial Committee this May, we owe him our deepest gratitude for his leadership and service. His unwavering commitment has made a lasting impact on the families of fallen officers across the nation.

I thank Officer Maybo for his years of service and dedication. May God bless him, and may God bless the United States of America

#### HONORING THE LEGACY AND DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVICE OF REYNAUD LAVARNCE WALLACE

##### HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 2025*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy, and dedicated public service of Reynaud LaVarnce Wallace, a pillar of the Fresno community. Born on October 18, 1952,

in Montgomery, Alabama, Reynaud was the eldest of six children born to Carl Phillip and Ernestine Jackson Wallace.

In 1957, the Wallace family embarked on a journey westward, leaving Montgomery with their sons Reynaud and Rodney. The family eventually settled in the Nickerson Gardens Housing Project in Watts, Los Angeles, after stops in San Diego and San Francisco. There, young Reynaud earned the affectionate nickname "Silver", owing to a silver crown that adorned a chipped front tooth—an incident the precise details of which remain unconfirmed, as noted by his ever-loyal brother.

Following the tumult of the 1965 Watts Riots, the Wallace family relocated to Altadena, California, where Reynaud attended Eliot Junior High School and John Muir High School. A bright and energetic student, Reynaud immersed himself in both academic and extracurricular pursuits, most notably as a member of the John Muir Cadet Corps, the precursor to the school's ROTC program. He graduated in June 1970 and pursued his passion for justice and community service by studying Police Science in college.

In 1975, Reynaud married the love of his life, Deborah Ann Drayton. He went on to serve as Security Manager for Zody's Department Store in Pasadena and, in 1979, was entrusted with the leadership of the security team opening a new Zody's location in Fresno, California. It was in Fresno that the couple would welcome their daughter Jasmine in 1987.

Reynaud, or "Rey" as he came to be known, joined the Fresno Police Department in December 1981, beginning a storied and impactful career in public service that spanned nearly three decades. His legacy is perhaps best encapsulated in his founding of the Fresno Police Activities League (PAL) in 1992—an initiative that grew to include 30 programs and served more than 3,500 youth annually, helping to build trust and hope in the community he so dearly loved.

His accolades and achievements are too numerous to list in full, but among them are the Life Saving Medal of Valor (1985), Fresno Human Relations Commission Award (2003), NAACP Image Awards (1993 and 2005), African American Heritage Award (2008), and the Risk Taker and Dream Maker Award. He served as President of the Fresno Black Police Officers Association, was appointed to the California State Commission on Juvenile Justice, and offered his guidance at both the state and national levels of PAL.

Despite the seriousness of his work, Rey's personality left an indelible mark. Known affectionately as "Chocolate Thunder", he was a force of nature—compassionate, commanding, and charismatic—whose legend, like his nickname, was built on stories his brother, in good humor, will neither confirm nor deny.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my esteemed colleagues to join me in honoring the legacy of Reynaud LaVarnce Wallace who embodied the spirit of public service, community empowerment, and family devotion.

#### TOWN OF HILLIARD REMEMBERS OUR VIETNAM VETERANS

##### HON. AARON BEAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 2025*

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, President Calvin Coolidge once said, "The nation which forgets its defenders will be itself forgotten." His words perfectly encapsulate the importance of remembering our Vietnam War veterans.

I rise today with great honor to recognize the legacy and great sacrifice of our Vietnam War veterans through The Wall That Heals, which will be on display in Nassau County, Florida, from April 17th through April 21st at the Northeast Florida Fairgrounds.

The Wall That Heals is a half-scale replica of the permanent memorial in Washington, D.C., that stands six feet tall at the center and covers almost 300 feet from end to end.

The traveling exhibition will be a unique opportunity for individuals in our community, including the 26,900 Vietnam Veterans who call the Fourth Congressional District of Florida home, to see the names of their loved ones and comrades who otherwise may not be able to make the trip to Washington.

I would like to thank the Town of Hilliard, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10095, and all the volunteers who dedicated their time and effort to bring this distinct honor to Northeast Florida.

Mr. Speaker, we will never be able to repay our debt to those who have given their last measure of devotion for the spirit of America. But we can continue to do our duty: to remember. May the lives of those who served and were killed during the Vietnam War never be forgotten.

#### COMMEMORATING MR. DANA SKELTON ON HIS RETIREMENT AS FINE ARTS AND DISTRICT PROJECTS DIRECTOR FOR TERRELL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

##### HON. LANCE GOODEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 2025*

Mr. GOODEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable career of Dana Skelton, who retired in July 2024 after 42 years of dedicated service to the students and community of Terrell Independent School District.

Dana's legacy in Terrell ISD began in 1982 when he stepped into the role of Director of the Terrell High School Band. Under his leadership, the Tiger Band flourished, earning UIL Superior and Sweepstakes ratings, performing at Texas Stadium, and achieving excellence at the Texas State Solo & Ensemble Contest. Dana's commitment to building a strong, disciplined program transformed the band into one of the finest in the state, growing from just 68 members in the 1980s to 192 by 2000. His work helped instill values of perseverance, teamwork, and leadership in thousands of students.

In addition to his work with the band, Dana played a key role in expanding Terrell's fine