required to be D.C. residents since these agencies serve only D.C.

Congress has justifiably required that certain federal officials live in the jurisdictions to which they are appointed, including U.S. district court judges, U.S. Marshals and U.S. Attorneys. Similarly, Congress, which controls the local D.C. court system, has justifiably required local D.C. judges and members of the D.C. Judicial Nomination Commission and the D.C. Commission on Judicial Disabilities and Tenure to reside in D.C.

There is no reason that the Directors of CSOSA and PSA should not be required to live in D.C. These federal officials need to be part of the community they serve. A D.C. residency requirement for these federal officials will lead to better outcomes in the criminal justice system and is a matter of fairness for D.C. residents.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING THE HEROISM OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2025

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the courageous divers and first responders of the District of Columbia Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department, whose swift and selfless actions in the aftermath of the devastating collision between American Airlines Flight 5342 and a United States Army Blackhawk Helicopter over the Potomac River showed heroism in the face of tragedy.

When the unthinkable happened on that cold January evening, it was the brave men and women of D.C. Fire and EMS who rushed to the scene. Without regard for their own safety, these highly trained professionals entered dangerous, frigid conditions, diving into the depths of the Potomac to conduct a search and rescue, and bring comfort to the families and civilians anxiously watching and waiting onshore.

In the face of disaster, the efforts of the D.C. Fire and EMS divers were nothing short of heroic. Their steadfast presence and commitment to vigorously search amidst the confusion and chaos was a source of strength to a city, region, and Nation in mourning.

The divers of D.C. Fire and EMS showed us the very best of public service. Their leadership, courage, and compassion make us proud. They upheld their duty with unwavering courage and commitment.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this body join me in extending our deepest gratitude to these first responders. Let the record show our respect, our appreciation, and our enduring thanks to the divers of D.C. Fire and EMS. May their service continue to be an example for future generations of public servants to follow.

HONORING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COLUMBUS, GEORGIA CHAPTER OF THE LINKS, INCORPORATED

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2025

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the noble work of the Columbus, Georgia Chapter of The Links, Incorporated on its 60th anniversary. The Columbus, Georgia Chapter was chartered on December 19, 1964. Its members and supporters celebrated this milestone at a luncheon on Saturday, April 26, 2025.

The Links, Incorporated, is an international not-for-profit organization which traces its origins back to 1946. Margaret Roselle Hawkins and Sarah Strickland Scott gathered seven friends in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to form a group to respond to the pressing needs of the African American community after World War II. Today, an esteemed international women's service organization, The Links, Incorporated aims to improve the lives of African Americans by providing them with essential resources and services which offer disadvantaged communities new hope for improved lives. Today, Links has 299 chapters around the world, including over 17,000 members.

I would like to take this opportunity to specifically acknowledge the great work of the Columbus, Georgia Chapter of The Links, Incorporated. The Columbus, Georgia Chapter has implemented and sustained The Links, Incorporated's five programming categories: National Trends and Services, The Arts, Services to Youth, International Trends and Services, and Health and Human Services.

The National Trends and Services facet of the Columbus, Georgia Chapter champions the idea of empowering both the individual and the community through events such as a week-long community celebration that illustrates the positive impacts of diversity and multiculturalism. Displayed everywhere from government centers to schools to churches, The Links, Incorporated promotes ethnic pluralism within the community.

In addition, The Links were the first to gather local black entrepreneurs and prospective customers together in order to explore shared interests and encourage the potential for reciprocal benefits. The organization also takes the time to honor the lifeblood of local communities: trash collectors, school bus operators, postal carriers, and cafeteria workers. It seeks to recognize every aspect of a community, understanding that everyone deserves respect and gratitude for the vital roles they play in keeping the community afloat.

The International Trends and Services arm of the Columbus, Georgia Chapter brings resources to countries across Africa through well-building and providing clean birth kits to those in Uganda and survival kits to women in Haiti. The organization's dedication to domestic and international service showcases the depth of its commitment to community betterment through public service.

The Columbus, Georgia Chapter has instituted numerous programs under its Services to Youth facet, including a mentor program for kids in kindergarten to young adults in college. Additionally, Services to Youth promotes the values of higher education by raising interest in STEM education and career paths by awarding scholarships, creating endowments, and supporting Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

In line with its mission to promote cultural awareness through The Arts program, the Columbus, Georgia Chapter partners with a number of arts institutions, such as museums, art councils, symphonies, and educational institutes to reinforce the importance of a strong minority presence in the art community.

Last, but certainly not least, the Health and Human Services facet of the Columbus, Georgia Chapter works to implement and maintain community services to address the disparities in health conditions negatively impacting minorities. In this regard, the Columbus, Georgia Chapter has joined forces with Linkages to Life, Susan G. Komen for the Cure, Walk for Healthy Living, and the National Childhood Obesity Initiative.

Through the wisdom and strong leadership of its past presidents, the Columbus, Georgia Chapter has given back so much to the African American community and, in turn, the community as a whole. Today, the Chapter is led by current president, Tara Askew, and boasts 43 spirited and outstanding members who provide over 2,000 hours of service each year.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing 60 years of incredible and inspiring work by the Columbus, Georgia Chapter of The Links, Incorporated. The services this organization has provided to the greater Columbus community are immeasurable and there is no doubt in my mind that The Links, Incorporated will continue its worthy mission of promoting hope and prosperity for years to come.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT KAY AKIN

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Kay Akin of Decatur, Texas, and present her with the Congressional Patriot Award. Kay has dedicated herself to faithfully serving our community.

Kay is originally from Brownwood, Texas, and she earned her bachelor's degree in education from East Texas A&M University. She began her extensive teaching career in 1987 as an elementary school teacher for fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students. Since 1972, she has also been married to her high school sweetheart, Sheriff Lane Akin, and they raised several children and have many more grandchildren.

After retiring early from teaching, Kay has continued to remain involved in our community through numerous initiatives. She is a longtime volunteer with the Helping Hands program to provide clothing for those in need in the Wise County community, as well as helping to keep our roads clean from litter. Moreover, Kay is a member of the Decatur Church of Christ and has taught Sunday School for many years. As a result of her efforts to advance student learning and achievement, she

has been recognized as Bible School Teacher of the Year and Rookie of the Year at Lindale Elementary School. A devoted follower of Jesus, Kay is most proud of supporting Sheriff Lane's career as a public servant and being a role model for her children and grandchildren. I am pleased to commend Kay for her distinguished career as an educator for our youth, and I wish her continued success.

It is an honor to bestow Kay with the Patriot Award for her exceptional service to the people of North Texas.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FRED BRUNER LUNSFORD

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2025

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Staff Sergent Fred Bruner Lunsford of the United States Army, who passed away on March 1, 2025.

Fred was born on March 7, 1925, and was enrolled as a member of the eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. Fred graduated from Andrews High School in Andrews, North Carolina in the spring of 1943 and he and his wife, Gladys, were married on March 17, 1944, before Fred enlisted in the United States Army.

Fred served as a Staff Sergent during World War II and was deployed to the European Theater, with service at the Normandy Invasion, Battle of the Bulge and the Liberation of France. Fred was highly decorated for his bravery, leadership, and courage he displayed during those years of service. These decorations include the Europe-Africa-Middle East Medal, the American Defense Service Medal, the Victory Medal, the Army Occupation Medal, and the Army Good Conduct Medal.

Fred was honorably discharged from active duty following the war and returned home to Cherokee County, North Carolina where he would go on to be licensed to preach the Gospel on October 23, 1949, by Pleasant Valley Baptist Church in Murphy, North Carolina and was ordained in 1950.

On behalf of all of Western North Carolina, I would like to take a moment to honor the life of Fred Bruner Lunsford.

HONORING CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH OF LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2025

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Calvary Baptist Church as they celebrate their 150th anniversary. Calvary Baptist Church is located in Lexington, Kentucky.

On January 14, 1875, forty people stepped out in faith to start a new church in the growing city of Lexington, Kentucky. The church was first known as Second Baptist Church and J.M. Frost was called to serve as the first pastor. As the church membership grew, in 1906 the name was changed to Calvary Baptist Church and a new sanctuary was built at High Street and Rodes Avenue. Growth continued, and the current location, at High Street and Martin Luther King Boulevard, was built in 1962. Dr. Monty Stallins leads the congregation as the pastor today.

Since Calvary Baptist's founding in 1875, the pastors have changed and the locations have changed, but the mission of the church has remained the same, to invite people into relationship with the Lord. Over the years, members have recognized the call to serve the needs of the community and the world. Significant highlights include organizing the establishment of Central Baptist Hospital, partnering with First United Methodist Church to open the High Street Neighborhood Center, organizing mission trips to Haiti, opening the Interfaith Counseling Center and Mission (Health) Lexington, organizing the Build a Bed Ministry, and establishing the Clothed by Grace clothing closet. The ministry of Calvary Baptist Church has touched thousands of lives in life changing ways over its century and a half history.

As Calvary Baptist Church celebrates their 150th anniversary, it is my honor to lift up this faith community before the House of Representatives. I wish them many more years of faithful ministry serving God.

RECOGNIZING DAVID CRUZ

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that David Cruz made to our community through his voluateerism with the Knights of Columbus. When Hurricane Beryl hit Texas, Operation Barbeque Relief sent David to Texas. While there, he organized 21 Knights in six days to make 7,500 meals a day. These meals were fed to relief workers and victims of the hurricane. David is the Disaster preparedness Coordinator for the Knights for the Dioceses of St. Petersburg which encompasses Pasco, Pinellas, Hillsborough, and Hernando counties.

After Hurricane Milton, David was assigned to accompany and work with a Medical Crew from Ohio. Together, they treated over 400 patients providing medical assistance to those in need. The team also worked with Fresh Start for Pasco to feed shut-ins in East Pasco for Thanksgiving. David has worked on bringing together many of the spiritual groups and civic organizations within the community to help hurricane victims. Thanks to these efforts, Our Lady Queen of Peace served 12,000 families during the six weeks after the hurricanes. David still works with Fresh Start for Pasco, Endeavors, and Pinellas Emergency Operations Center to help victims of disasters. Most recently, his volunteerism brought David to muck out homes where the water has finally receded.

It is clear David Cruz has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for his service. May we all strive to serve our communities with the same dedication and humility.

RECOGNIZING MR. HAROLD R. ARVE, JR.

HON. CARLOS A. GIMENEZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2025

Mr. GIMENEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Harold Arve, Jr., a lifelong resident of South-Dade and a pillar to the community of Homestead.

Throughout his 47-year career with the Florida Farm Bureau, Mr. Arve has dedicated his career to community service.

From earning the rank of Eagle Scout to coaching on the football field and raising a family with his high school sweetheart Linda, Mr. Arve embodies dedication, integrity, and hometown pride.

Further, his decades of experience in charity auctioneering, show his unwavering community spirit.

Mr. Arve's contributions to local causes and organizations have left a lasting mark on the South-Dade community. It is with great gratitude that I recognize Mr. Arve for his lifetime of service, leadership, and love for our community.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT RALPH O'DELL

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Ralph O'Dell of Celina, Texas, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Ralph has dedicated himself to faithfully serving our community and country.

Ralph is a veteran of the Second World War and served with the United States Army from 1943 to 1946. He participated in the South Pacific campaign, and after being honorably discharged, he joined the Army Reserves in 1948 where he remained until 1985. For his distinguished service, Ralph has received the Meritorious Service Medal, the Southern Philippine Islands Campaign with one Bronze Star, the Philippine Liberation Medal and Ribbon with one bronze Star, and many more commendations.

In addition to his military service, Ralph has continued to be a fierce advocate for American values and a dedicated community volunteer. He served as the President of Oak Cliff Junior Chamber of Commerce and was a member of Rotary International, the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature, the Reserve Officers Association, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the American Legion. Ralph also assisted with Salvation Army and Red Cross drives to support those in need. As a result of his outstanding work, he was recognized as Celina's Citizen of the Year several times and received the Key to the City from Celina's mayor. Moreover, the Ralph O'Dell Senior Center in Celina has been established in recognition of Ralph's decades of service as a senior center coordinator. He is also a man of faith, and he regularly attends First Methodist Church in Celina. I am pleased to recognize Ralph today for being an upstanding American patriot and his