

work of advancing opportunity, liberty, and justice for all.

KOCO's historic legacy, its transformative impact on the lives of countless individuals and families, and its enduring role as a beacon of hope and liberation for the City of Chicago and the Nation will continue to inspire our community to great acts of service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the 60th anniversary of KOCO.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LORTON COMMUNITY ACTION CENTER (LCAC)

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2025

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC) on the momentous occasion of its 50th Anniversary and to honor its extraordinary service to the residents of southeastern Fairfax County.

Founded in 1975 as the Lorton Community Information Center, LCAC began as a grassroots effort to connect neighbors in need with basic essentials such as food, clothing, and human services. What began at Gunston Elementary has since evolved into a lifeline for thousands across Lorton, Fort Belvoir, Newington, and beyond.

Under the visionary leadership of founder Christine Herbstreith, LCAC was built on the idea of a "supermarket of human services," a dream that became reality in 2022 with the opening of the co-located Lorton Community Center and Lorton Library. From this vibrant hub, LCAC continues to expand its reach and impact.

In just the past three years, LCAC has witnessed a steady rise in demand. From serving 1,700 individuals in FY 2023 to nearly 1,800 in just the first half of FY 2025, LCAC has never wavered in its commitment to serving our community. Food pantry visits alone are expected to top 11,000 this year, a testament to both growing need and the Center's enduring role in meeting it.

As Executive Director Rob Rutland-Brown has noted, this work continues through trusted partnerships, dedicated volunteers, and the incredible generosity of donors. Even amid economic uncertainties and the potential impacts of federal policy changes, LCAC remains steadfast, adaptive, and deeply rooted in service.

In 2025, LCAC is not only marking its golden anniversary with a gala celebration and a tribute to its founder, but also with strategic initiatives to deepen its impact. These include strengthening its food pantry and case management programs and investing in education and workforce development.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating LCAC on 50 years of transformative service. I extend my deepest appreciation to the board of directors, staff, and countless volunteers past and present who have made this work possible. Through their compassion and commitment, they have built not just a service organization, but a pillar of hope and dignity for all in our community. Here's to the next 50 years of progress, partnership, and purpose.

HONORING THE LUCAS FOUNDATION

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2025

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today, the 12th Congressional District recognizes the critical work of the LUCAS Foundation, and its upcoming 1,000-mile relay run to raise awareness about the tragic reality that suicide is the leading cause of death among law enforcement officers.

Beginning its powerful six-state journey in Atlanta, Georgia, on September 24 and ending in Detroit, Michigan, on September 30, this run encompasses 130 relay legs. More than just a physical feat, the relay serves as a crucial call to action, dedicated to raising vital awareness about the mental health crisis within law enforcement and dismantling the stigma that often prevents officers from seeking the help to overcome their battles.

I honor the volunteers, families, and first responders behind this effort and support their call for congressional action to recognize this epidemic and uplift suicide prevention work. I thank the LUCAS Foundation for their tireless commitment to saving lives and creating a culture of support and healing.

RECOGNIZING THE HIGH PLAINS HONOR FLIGHT

HON. GABE EVANS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2025

Mr. EVANS of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate our Nation's brave men and women and to recognize the High Plains Honor Flight Network, which conducts trips for veterans to Washington, D.C., to tour the monuments built to honor their bravery and service. The High Plains Honor Flight gave some of our fellow brave men and women the chance to visit our Nation's capital. As a fellow veteran myself, I am pleased to honor the High Plains Honor Flight and to recognize the World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War veterans of Colorado who took part in it.

Mr. Speaker, the veterans who participated in this flight are as follows:

Veteran of World War II: Richard Chubb.

Korean War Veterans: Dale Bellinger, Elmer Dillman, Donald Garcia, Robert Golden, Donald Mayfield, David Mourisse.

Veteran of both Korean and Vietnam War: Darwin Dow.

Vietnam War Veterans: Anthony Aragon, Robert Archuleta, Dennis Argo, Clarence Axtell, Thomas Bacon, William Baker, Alfred Barthelemy, Larry Beck, Kenneth Beckstead, John Bona, Dallas Bowles, Robert Bowser, James Brinks, Richard Brown, Henry Castillon, Richard Clampitt, Dennis Clermont, Thomas Corrick, Kenneth Cosby, Manuel Covarrubias, Duane Crapser, Gary Cummins, Milo Cushman, Herbert Davis II, Arthur Dehn, Jr., Ben Delahay, David DeMars, Manfred Dorth, William Dundas, Robert Eatman, William Eckert, Donald Eddy, Darrell Einspahr, Teddy Emmons, William Farr, Daniel Frodsham, Sylvio Gamache, Leslie Gardinier, Melchor Garza,

Frank Gower, Delbert Hammond, George Hampton, Edward Hansen, Larry Hanson, Stanley Hanson, Delbert Hawkins, Harlow Hill, John Hoelscher, Robert Holt, III, Alfred Homan, Lowell Hummels, Jerome Jaworski, David Johnson, Jonnie Johnson, Korwin Johnson, Clifford Jung, Leonard Juranek, William Klingman, Richard Kotch, Homer Kurtz, Jr., Richard Laingor, Steven Lamon, Jim Lantis, Peter Lederer, Robert Lindsey, James Ling, Larry Luckow, Ronald Macaluso, Karl Magnuson, Russell Maher, Edward Messer, Philip Mollendor, Jr., Robert Mygatt, Robert Neal, John Neill, Jr., James Nelson, Richard Nenko, Michael Nissen, Merlin Otteman, James Pelster, Jonathan Platt, Lloyd Poindexter, Peter Raube, Ronald Ring, James Roof, Jr., John Ross, John Schieler, Carolyn Schneider, David Schneider, William Schumann, Larry Seems, Jerry Severidt, Bryon Shapiro, William Sipe, Carl Smith, Danny Smith, William Stanley, Jr., Lawrence Starck, Richard Steely, Ronald Stine, William Sturgeon, Jerry Tausz, Allen Thomsen, Carlton Thygesen, Antonio Trujillo, Edwin Visconti, Wilton Webb, William Williams, Michael Young, Richard Yurkus.

It is my honor and privilege as a veteran and the United States Representative of the 8th District of Colorado to recognize the sacrifice and service of these men and women and all other members of our Nation's military. I thank them for their bravery and service to our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND KENNETH F. HODGES

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2025

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a distinguished South Carolinian—a pastor, legislator, artist, and community builder whose influence reached far beyond his beloved Lowcountry.

Reverend Kenneth F. Hodges, a native of Bennetts Point, passed away on April 22, 2025, having left an indelible imprint on the spiritual, cultural, and civic life of South Carolina. His journey was marked by service, creativity, and a deep devotion to both his heritage and his faith.

Born to Benjamin and Lydia Hodges in the Sea Island community of Bennetts Point, Reverend Hodges excelled early in both academics and athletics. A record-setting track star at Walterboro High School, he went on to earn a business degree from Clark College, where he also studied photography under the esteemed Edmond Marshal. His powerful images of African life and culture earned national acclaim and awards. His passion for the arts led him to establish LyBensons Studio and Art Gallery—later expanding into the Gullah Geechee Visitors Center on St. Helena Island.

After earning a Master of Divinity degree from the Morehouse School of Religion in Atlanta, Georgia, Reverend Hodges pastored churches in Bennettsville and Beaufort, South Carolina. At Taberbacl Baptist Church, he spearheaded efforts to honor African American icons, including securing recognition for Robert Smalls' gravesite and leading the construction of the Harriet Tubman Monument. His spiritual calling extended abroad as he preached and taught across Africa and the United Kingdom.

Elected to the South Carolina House of representatives in 2006, Reverend Hodges served until 2016. He introduced the bill naming the Combahee River crossing the “Harriet Tubman Bridge,” led the creation of the SC Microenterprise Development Act, and chaired multiple legislative subcommittees. His work consistently reflected a commitment to empowerment, equity, and cultural preservation.

Reverend Hodges was a devoted husband to Patricia A. Few and a proud father to three daughters—Kendra, Kenyatta, and Kenithea. Through faith, public service, and the arts, he uplifted generations and preserved the stories of his people with grace and purpose.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in recognizing and honoring the extraordinary life of Reverend Kenneth F. Hodges. He was more than a leader; he was a vessel of faith, a preserver of culture, and a voice for those who too often go unheard, and to me—a personal friend. South Carolina is richer for his service. May his memory inspire us to serve with the same humility, passion, and purpose that defined his life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BECCA BALINT

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2025

Ms. BALINT. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present on April 29, 2025. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 109, and NAY on Roll Call No. 110.

HONORING PRIVATE JAMES
“STANLEY” MITCHELL

HON. DOUG LaMALFA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2025

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great American hero, Private James “Stanley” Mitchell, who volunteered to serve our great Nation in World War II and died 82 years ago in a Japanese POW camp in Luzon, Philippines. Private Mitchell’s remains were located and identified and have been returned to his family, a testament of his courage and sacrifice.

Private Mitchell was born in Joplin, Missouri on October 2, 1917. The family would move frequently during his early life, eventually settling down in Hamilton City, California.

On March 4, 1941, Private Mitchell enlisted in the United States Army and was deployed as part of the 31st Infantry Regiment on assignment to Clark Field in Luzon, Philippines. Ten months after his initial deployment to the Philippines, Imperial Japanese Forces would bomb Pearl Harbor, bringing the United States and all her territories into World War II. Japanese forces begin a full-scale invasion of Luzon, Philippines on December 22, 1941. The 31st Infantry Regiment stood defiant and courageous against overwhelming Japanese forces until their surrender on April 9, 1942.

Private Mitchell joined approximately 72,000 American and Filipino prisoners of war (POW) on a 65-mile march known as the Bataan Death March. These brave souls endured tor-

ture, starvation, disease and ultimately death at the hands of the Japanese forces. By the end of the march, only approximately 52,000 American and Filipino POWs remained alive.

Private Mitchell and many surviving POWs would be held at the Cabanatuan POW Camp. Conditions would not improve for these courageous men. On January 7, 1943, Private Mitchell succumbed to starvation and disease, dying at a weight of only 70 pounds. Private Mitchell was buried in one of the many mass graves at the camp.

The Cabanatuan POW Camp would be liberated on January 30, 1945, with only 489 POWs remaining alive. Unfortunately, 2,656 brave American POWs had lost their lives at the camp.

Private Mitchell was the first World War II casualty from Hamilton City. His status as a POW brought great sadness and pain to his family. The news of his death brought devastation to his parents and family. His remains were exhumed and identified in September of 2024. Private Mitchell’s remains were brought home to the United States on May 3, 2025, and he will be laid to rest between his parents at the Los Molinos Cemetery, in Northern California.

Private Mitchell’s story and sacrifice will not be forgotten. His legacy and impact to our community will continue to be felt. His return will bring closure to his family. God bless Private Mitchell and welcome home.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FALL OF SAIGON

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2025

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th Anniversary of the Fall of Saigon.

April 30, 2025, marks 50 years since the pivotal moment that signaled both the end of the Vietnam War and the beginning of a new chapter for millions of Vietnamese refugees—many of whom have made extraordinary contributions to communities across the United States, particularly in Northern Virginia.

On April 30, 1975, the world watched as the city of Saigon fell. For many, it marked a day of loss, of country, of family, and of home. Yet it also marked the beginning of a remarkable story of resilience, strength, and hope.

In the years that followed, hundreds of thousands fled Vietnam in search of liberty and opportunity, many finding a new beginning here in the United States.

Northern Virginia is home to one of the largest and most vibrant Vietnamese American communities in the country.

Places like the Eden Center stand as a testament of the rich cultural heritage and entrepreneurial spirit.

The businesses, traditions, and values the Vietnamese American community upholds continue to enrich our region and make invaluable contributions.

The Vietnamese American community’s story is one of perseverance, courage, and hope. Their contributions have made our communities stronger and better.

Their journey embodies the ideals we hold dear: perseverance through hardship, strength

in adversity, and an enduring hope for a better future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this history, paying tribute to the lives lost and forever changed, and reaffirming our commitment to the universal values of freedom, democracy, and human dignity.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEREK TRAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2025

Mr. TRAN. Mr. Speaker, when attempting to cast my vote on April 29, 2025 for S. 146—the TAKE IT DOWN Act, my voting card did not properly record my vote. Had my voting card been functioning properly, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 104.

RECOGNIZING VICTORIA MORTON,
GOLD AWARD

HON. W. GREGORY STEUBE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2025

Mr. STEUBE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Victoria Morton. Victoria is a member of Girl Scouts of Gulf Coast Florida, Troop 135, and has exemplified extraordinary leadership, innovative problem-solving, and a demonstrated commitment to making a lasting, positive impact, by earning the most prestigious award in Girl Scouting, the Gold Award.

Gold Award Girl Scouts are recognized as trailblazers who are willing to tackle the most pressing challenges facing their communities and the world with measurable, sustainable, and far-reaching results. To earn the Girl Scout Gold Award, high school-age Girl Scouts must identify and investigate an issue they care about, devise a plan, and then lead a team of experts and community members to implement a project that produces lasting change. Over the course of 1–2 years, Gold Award Girl Scouts demonstrate significant initiative, commitment, and leadership, distinguishing them from their peers. Through their resourcefulness and perseverance, they embody the Girl Scout Law to truly make the world a better place.

Victoria’s project, “Pet Resource Central,” in partnership with the Community Resource Center of Punta Gorda, the Harry Chapin Food Bank, the Animal Welfare League, the Suncoast Humane Society, and peers at Port Charlotte High School, was an excellent endeavor to address food insecurity and animal welfare in our community by creating a pantry for low-income pet owners. She collected donations to stock the pantry and hosted free workshops on affordable pet care. Additionally, Victoria provided free grooming services, including ear and teeth cleaning, nail trimming, and created a resource booklet with spay and neuter information. Victoria dedicated 136 hours to her project, which will have a lasting and positive impact on the community for years to come.

On behalf of the 17th Congressional District of Florida, congratulations to Victoria Morton