

Building Safety Month is sponsored by the International Code Council and its partners to remind the public of the professionals who ensure buildings are safe, resilient, affordable, efficient, and livable.

The Code Council brings together local, state, and federal government stakeholders, as well as those from the private sector to develop model codes and standards that protect the occupants of the buildings in which we live, work, and play. Those standards are then implemented year-round by building safety officials, the fire services, architects, engineers, builders, and other skilled tradespeople to ensure the safe construction and maintenance of buildings.

Building Safety Month is an annual celebration to remind the public of the critical role of local code officials—who ensure the safe, sustainable, and affordable buildings essential to prosperity.

In late 2020, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) released its “Building Codes Saves” report, which found that implementing modern building codes could prevent \$600 billion in disaster-related spending by 2060. FEMA further confirmed a prior report by the National Institute of Building Sciences that found that adopting modern codes provides \$11 dollars in mitigation savings for every \$1 dollar invested.

As the Ranking Member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee—responsible for oversight and authorization of FEMA—I have heard repeated testimony from expert witnesses on the increase in both the frequency and severity of natural disasters. Building codes and standards are critical to protecting the public from these disasters, including wildfires, hurricanes, tornadoes, snow and ice storms, and earthquakes.

As Americans rebuild after disasters, we recognize and thank those who implement and enforce building codes for protecting lives, property, and businesses, and ultimately ensuring our communities are resilient to future events.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking International Code Council Board President David Spencer—a fellow Washingtonian—as well as ICC’s Chief Executive Officer John Belcik, the International Code Council leadership, and ICC’s Members and staff as they recognize Building Safety Month 2025.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF GWEN WATSON

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 6, 2025

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Gwen Watson.

Throughout her life, Gwen was committed to serving vulnerable populations and empowering community members. She began her career as an educator, working with high school students in her home state of Louisiana who were interested in pursuing vocational careers. After moving to the San Francisco Bay Area, Gwen remained focused on giving back to her community. She was a part of St. Vincent de Paul’s Advisory Task Force, working to serve Contra Costa County’s homeless population.

Driven by her faith and her dedication to service, Gwen helped to provide rental assistance and other critical resources to unhoused individuals through St. Vincent de Paul’s mobile homeless shelter. That program has grown into what is known today as the St. Vincent de Paul Hope Conference.

Additionally, Gwen was a member of the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County and cofounded the Winter Nights program. This program aims to break the cycle of homelessness by providing shelter, food, childcare, and other key services to unhoused families. Through this program, Gwen helped countless Contra Costa families to get back on their feet and to have access to the resources they need in order to thrive.

Furthermore, Gwen served as President of the League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley. In this role, she oversaw the “You Don’t Need a Home to Vote” project, which worked to increase civic engagement from unhoused and low-income individuals and help them register to vote. Gwen’s fierce commitment to advocacy and social justice was evident to all who knew her.

Sadly, Gwen passed away in May 2025. She will be remembered for her compassion, unwavering commitment to service, and her deep love for this community. Please join me in honoring Gwen Watson for her invaluable contributions to our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUSS FULCHER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 6, 2025

Mr. FULCHER. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 153.

SUPPORT FOR PATIENTS AND COMMUNITIES REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2025

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2025

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I will vote in support of H.R. 2483, the Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment (SUPPORT) Reauthorization Act of 2025. This bill, which was first signed into law in 2018, aims to fight the opioid epidemic in our country by improving access to treatment, increasing recovery opportunities, and strengthening prevention initiatives. The opioid epidemic has devastated communities and torn apart families across our country, and H.R. 2483 is the latest in a long line of bipartisan efforts to address this problem and ensure Americans get the help they need without stigma or other barriers.

However, we must acknowledge that this legislation came to the House Floor at a time when the Trump administration is systematically dismantling our Nation’s mental health and substance use treatment programs. In the last several months, the administration has announced plans to eliminate the Substance

Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) as an independent division of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), fired hundreds of SAMHSA employees, rescinded over \$1 billion in state funding to treat mental health and substance use disorders, and proposed eliminating some of the very programs that are authorized in the SUPPORT Act. House Republicans have also just voted to make the largest health care cut in history in their so-called “Big Beautiful Bill”, taking away Medicaid from millions of Americans.

While I will vote in favor of the SUPPORT Act, my concern is that this Republican led Congress has authorized these programs with no one left at the agencies to see them through.

RECOGNIZING GAVIN PROFFITT

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 6, 2025

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gavin Proffitt for his service to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

A Lynchburg, Virginia native, Gavin began his career on Capitol Hill as a Research Assistant for Rep. Louie Gohmert (TX-01) in October 2016 before becoming a Legislative Correspondent and Legislative Assistant for Rep. Bob Goodlatte (VA-06) and a Professional Staff Member for the Republican Study Committee. In February 2023, Gavin joined the House Committee on Energy and Commerce as a Professional Staff Member for the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations after serving as a Senior Advisor to the Administrator and Medicaid Project Officer for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. During his time working for the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, Gavin worked on a wide array of issues such as the fentanyl crisis, FDA drug shortages, and antimicrobial resistance.

Recently, Gavin departed the House Committee on Energy and Commerce to take on a new role as Health Policy Advisor for Sen. RON JOHNSON (WI). I wish him the best, congratulate him on his new role, and thank Gavin Proffitt for his service to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF JAKE LARSON

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 6, 2025

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor World War II veteran and D-Day survivor, “Papa” Jake Larson, for his invaluable contributions to our nation.

Eager to serve his country, Jake enlisted in the National Guard at just 15 years old after lying about his age. After the attack on Pearl Harbor in December, 1941, Jake was sent to Fort Dix, New Jersey before heading overseas to Europe. He advanced to the position of Operations Sergeant where he assisted in planning the invasion of Normandy in Operation

Overlord. In 1944, Jake arrived on the shores of Omaha Beach carrying 74 pounds of gear and narrowly surviving what was at the time the largest amphibious operation in history. He avoided gunfire and landmines, fighting the German Nazi forces and helping to liberate France from Nazi control. Throughout his time in service, Jake bravely endured six battles, including the infamous Battle of the Bulge. The heroism and courage demonstrated by Jake and others were critical in defeating the Nazis and putting an end to the war.

More recently, Jake Larson earned the nickname of “Papa Jake” from his online presence as a storyteller on TikTok and Instagram. Online, Papa Jake shares details of his time in the U.S. Army, teaching audiences about our nation’s history and reminding us of the sacrifices that have been made to protect our freedom. Jake has amassed over 1.3 million followers on social media and his stories have touched countless lives.

As we commemorate the 81st anniversary of D-Day, I’d like to extend my gratitude and respect to Jake for his extraordinary bravery. Please join me in recognizing “Papa” Jake Larson for his dedicated service to our country.

RECOGNIZING GERALD “JERRY” DANFORTH

HON. TONY WIED

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 6, 2025

Mr. WIED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Gerald “Jerry” Danforth, a distinguished Tribal leader, a decorated Navy veteran, and a beloved husband, father, and grandfather, who passed away on the morning of June 1, 2025, at the age of 78.

Born on December 24, 1946, in Oneida, Wisconsin, to Leslie and Eva Schuyler Danforth, Jerry devoted his life to service—first to his country, and then to his people. He served honorably in the United States Navy for over three decades, retiring in 1994 with the esteemed rank of Force Master Chief, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet. He was a veteran of both the Vietnam War and Desert Storm, embodying courage, commitment, and leadership throughout his military career.

Jerry brought the same conviction and discipline to his leadership within the Oneida Nation. He was elected Chairman of the Oneida Business Committee in 1995 and again in 2005, where he advocated tirelessly for policies that advanced Indian gaming, economic development, healthcare, higher education, and the preservation of the Oneida language. His long-term vision was to build a strong, sustainable economy not solely reliant on gaming and to enhance communication between tribal governance and the General Tribal Council.

A public servant in every sense, Jerry also served his Nation as a judge on the Oneida Judiciary, where his wisdom, fairness, and devotion to justice left a lasting impact.

Beyond his public service, Jerry was a man of deep personal warmth and abiding family values. He is survived by his loving wife, Pamela Johns Danforth, and their children Paul Jameson (Virna), Steve Jameson (Cathy),

Tanya Wood (Steve), Gerald Danforth Jr. (Chitra), Patrick Danforth, and stepson Keith Bimosae Johns Herman. He is also survived by his brother James Danforth (Joanne), sister Joanne Smith (late Bruce Smith), and many grandchildren who brought him great joy. He was preceded in death by his son Thomas Danforth and his parents.

Jerry lived a life rich with passion and purpose—he loved fishing, golf, entertaining with his prized green egg grill, red wine, chocolate, and pie. He cherished winters spent in South Padre Island with Pam and was happiest when surrounded by family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, Gerald “Jerry” Danforth’s life was defined by service, leadership, and love. He exemplified the highest ideals of his people and of this Nation. His legacy will endure in the lives he touched, the institutions he shaped, and the Nation he served so faithfully. I offer my deepest condolences to his family, his community, and the entire Oneida nation. May his memory be a blessing.

HONORING MY LONGTIME POLICY DIRECTOR, ELIZABETH JOSEPH

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 6, 2025

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my former Policy Director, Elizabeth Joseph, for her service to the people of the Third Congressional District of Mississippi. Elizabeth joined my office with an impressive resume, having worked for Senator Thad Cochran and Congressman Gregg Harper. Elizabeth started with me when I was sworn into office in January 2019 and brought a wealth of knowledge that helped lay a solid foundation for my office.

A native of Clinton, Mississippi, Elizabeth earned her bachelor’s degree from the University of Mississippi and was inducted into the Ole Miss Hall of Fame in 2010. Elizabeth also completed her Masters of Public Affairs at the University of Texas, researching the power of social media for members of Congress. Her impressive research was published through the Congressional Research Service.

Elizabeth helped build a legislative team in my office that makes Mississippi a priority every day. Elizabeth’s knowledge of healthcare and defense issues, among others, has been recognized throughout her career. While serving on my team, Elizabeth was presented with the prestigious Patrick Henry Award from the National Guard Association of the United States. Elizabeth’s dedication to our national defense has been instrumental to Mississippi and our Nation.

Elizabeth led sessions each year throughout the Third Congressional District with local leaders and elected officials. These sessions helped to build both relationships with the communities we serve and a greater understanding of the appropriations process, which has resulted in a high acceptance rate for community project funding requests submitted by my constituents.

I am honored to have had Elizabeth Joseph on my staff these last 6.5 years. My team and I will greatly miss her smile, expertise, and dedication to Mississippi. Elizabeth will continue her service to the United States Con-

gress at the Senate Appropriations Committee’s Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee. This is a huge honor for her and for the state of Mississippi. I thank Elizabeth for her dedication to my team, for laying a great foundation, and for always supporting fellow Mississippians. I am thankful to have had so many great years with her on my team. I wish Elizabeth the best in her new role.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RASHIDA TLAI

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 6, 2025

Ms. TLAI. Mr. Speaker, I was not present during votes on Thursday, June 5, 2025 or Friday, June 6, 2025. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 152; NAY on Roll Call No. 153; YEA on Roll Call No. 154; NAY on Roll Call No. 155; and NAY on Roll Call No. 156.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF JOSEPH CALABRIGO

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 6, 2025

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Joseph Calabrigo as he retires from the Town of Danville.

Joe has served Danville residents for decades, starting with the Town of Danville in 1985. He has served in many positions for the town, including Chief of Planning, Transportation Director, Administrative Services Director and Assistant Town Manager. He was appointed as Town Manager in 1993, being only the third person to hold this title since the town’s inception. Throughout his tenure, Joe has worked tirelessly to foster a vibrant community in the Town of Danville and has diligently served the town’s residents. Joe oversaw the development of all three of Danville’s General Plans and both Master Plans. He has worked with every councilmember ever elected in the town and worked alongside seven police chiefs. Additionally, Joe’s leadership was critical as he guided the town through three recessions and a global pandemic while still maintaining a balanced budget. Joe has continually demonstrated his steadfast commitment to service and his community.

Joe is a consummate professional and his work has helped to shape Danville into the beautiful community it is today. His time as Town Manager is marked by his dedication and years of expertise as the longest tenured city or town manager in the Tri-Valley. His leadership and collaboration have galvanized the respect of many and have left an indelible impact on his neighbors and peers.

Please join me in congratulating Joseph Calabrigo on his well-deserved retirement after decades of devoted service to the Town of Danville.