

of Vermont and as chaplain to retired clergy. His ministry was marked by compassion, humility, and a fierce commitment to justice and healing. In every community he touched, he brought people together, building bridges of understanding and care.

Before his ordained ministry, Stan excelled as a psychotherapist—co-founding BTR Psychotherapy and serving as a Clinical Director and Mental Health Director—offering vital support to individuals and families facing difficult challenges.

Stan's most enduring legacy, however, is his courageous role in *Baker v. Vermont*. As the lead plaintiff, Stan helped secure Vermont's groundbreaking civil unions law, making it the first state in the nation to grant legal recognition and benefits to same-sex couples. This landmark decision marked a turning point in the struggle for equality—a step so bold and historic that it helped lay the legal and moral foundation for marriage equality across the United States.

So many LGBTQI+ Americans today can trace their right to marry the person they love back to the courage of Stan Baker and his fellow plaintiffs, who stood up at a time when few dared to do so. His action was not only a personal stand but a transformational moment in our Nation's history—one that reshaped the legal landscape and inspired a movement.

His life was also a testament to love and partnership. Stan and his husband, Peter Harrigan, were among the first same-sex couples to enter into a civil union in Vermont—and they later married. Their story reflects both the personal and political progress that can emerge from courage and conviction.

Stan was much more than a public advocate; he was a lover of music, a collector of books and fountain pens, a cello and guitar player, and a person of deep faith and generosity. He is survived by his husband Peter, whose grief is shared by all of us who knew and admired Stan.

Today, we remember Stan Baker—not only for the victories he helped achieve, but for the kindness he expressed, the communities he strengthened, and the hope he inspired.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring his memory and recommitting ourselves to the values he embodied: justice, dignity, and love for all. May his life continue to guide us, and may we carry forward his legacy with courage and compassion.

CELEBRATING CYPRESS ASSISTANCE MINISTRIES' 35TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MORGAN LUTTRELL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2025

Mr. LUTTRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend Cypress Assistance Ministries (CAM) on their 35th anniversary. Located within Texas' 8th Congressional District in Cypress, CAM has spent more than three decades serving as a pillar of compassion and hope for families in need. What began in 1990 as a community effort to distribute food to those in need from the back seat of a sedan has grown into a comprehensive non-profit organization that uplifts thousands of Texans each year. CAM currently operates a year-

round food pantry, two donation centers, educational programs, and workforce readiness classes for those who would otherwise not have the opportunity.

In 2024 alone, CAM distributed 1.2 million pounds of food, helped hundreds of households remain in their homes, and guided countless individuals to a path of self-sufficiency through job training. Behind these numbers are real people, parents, seniors, veterans, and children, whose lives are brighter because of Cypress Assistance Ministries. They have demonstrated the very best of what a community can achieve when it works together.

The tireless work of over 500 volunteers as well as over 40 local churches and businesses proves the resiliency and generosity of the people of Texas' 8th Congressional District and serves as an example to the nation. On behalf of a grateful community and the United States House of Representatives, I offer my heartfelt congratulations to Cypress Assistance Ministries on their 35th anniversary and thank them for their enduring service to our district.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF ANNA ROESSNER FOR WINNING THE DIVISION III STATE TRACK AND FIELD TITLE FOR THE 100 METER DASH

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2025

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of pride that I rise to pay a very special tribute to an outstanding high school athlete from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. Anna Roessner, a senior at Fort Recovery High School, has represented her school ably on her way to achieving the Division III State Title for the 100 Meter Dash at the State Track and Field Meet. Anna overcame the challenges posed by intense competition in her effort to win the title.

In pursuing the State Championship, Anna defeated her opponents with an impressive time of 11.75 seconds. Her hard work and dedication, both on and off the track, in achieving this accomplishment is truly outstanding. She has achieved an impressive season, bringing pride to her school and community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to Anna Roessner of Fort Recovery High School. On behalf of the people of the Fifth District of Ohio, I am proud to recognize this great achievement.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL HEIDI DEXTER

HON. JASON CROW

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2025

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel Heidi Dexter, Commander of Space Base Delta 2, Buckley Space Force Base, as she prepares to move on to her next duty station. I am grateful for her exceptional

service to our Nation and to the Aurora community.

Colonel Dexter has been an outstanding leader during her tenure at Buckley Space Force Base. Under her command, Buckley has made numerous advancements in space operations, infrastructure improvements, and community partnerships. Her dedication to the men and women of Space Base Delta 2 is evident in every action she takes on their behalf.

During her time at Buckley, Colonel Dexter has worked to bolster the morale and well-being of the personnel under her charge. Her commitment to creating a supportive environment does not go unnoticed and has contributed to the readiness and effectiveness of the base.

Colonel Dexter has also been a remarkable advocate for the base within the local community, strengthening ties and ensuring Buckley's integral role in our region. Her engagement with local leaders and citizens has fostered mutual understanding and support.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's 6th Congressional District, I extend my deepest gratitude to Colonel Heidi Dexter for her distinguished service and wish her the very best at her next duty station. Her leadership has been instrumental to Buckley's operations and her contributions to our Nation and community will have a lasting impact.

REMEMBERING KARANJA AJANAKU

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2025

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay a heartfelt tribute to Karanja Ajanaku, a respected reporter and editor in Memphis, who passed on Tuesday at the age of 70. A native of Natchitoches, Louisiana, who was raised in Kansas City, Dr. Ajanaku came to Memphis in 1977 right after graduating from the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Journalism as Leroy Williams Jr. He started at The Commercial Appeal as a beat reporter and was the first Black reporter to cover City Hall for the newspaper. He later became the paper's night news editor and a deputy Metro Desk editor for over 26 years. I first met Karanja, then Leroy, when he covered the general assembly while I served as his state senator. We became friends and visited often and, in the pressroom and in legislative plaza, that friendship continued for the rest of his life. I had and have nothing but the highest respect for his acumen and values. He was a first class reporter and a first class human being. In 1986, he had his name legally changed to Karanja Aidoo Ajanaku, reflecting his cultural sense of self as an agent of change, and was thereafter recognized by his colorful African dashikis. He said his adopted name meant "the guide who puts things in place." He joined The Tri-State Defender newspaper, focusing on the African American community, in 2007, and rose to be its Executive Editor before retiring in 2023. A mentor to many in those newsrooms, Dr. Ajanaku was known for his grace, compassion, patience and dedication to accuracy. The Tri-State Defender, in a statement mourning his loss, said "He was committed to elevating the African American voice in this community

through his exceptional journalism and incredible eye for a great photo." In addition to all of that, he was a genuinely nice guy. In a 2018 profile story in *Memphis Magazine*, Dr. Ajanaku expressed concern about the decline in newspaper reading and its impact on the quality of our democracy, "We've got people who are growing up that can't read. And many who can, can't read in context. They can't comprehend stuff. If you're going to live in a democratic republic, you're going to live where the individual has to be informed, and if he doesn't have the tools to take in the information and make informed decisions, you've got a problem. It's a greater threat than Russia." I express my condolences to his twin children, daughter Jamila Ajanaku, of Phoenix, Arizona, and son Karanja Ajanaku, Jr., of Nashville; a sister, Jacqueline Broadus of Reno, Nevada; two brothers, Randy Williams of Kansas City, Missouri, and Ronald Williams of Leavenworth, Kansas; and his six grandchildren; his former newsroom colleagues, his admirers and his many friends. His was a life well-lived. As Dr. Ajanaku himself said so often: The journey continues.

**RECOGNIZING THE CRUCIAL WORK
OF THE HIGH INTENSITY DRUG
TRAFFICKING AREA PROGRAM**

HON. SHARICE DAVIDS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2025

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the crucial work of the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area program, also known as HIDTA.

Far too many Americans have been tragically impacted by our nation's opioid epidemic. Thankfully, there is hope. Overdose deaths dropped by 24 percent from September 2023 to September 2024, and while that's something to celebrate, we have a long way to go.

The 33 regional HDTAs across the country are comprised of federal, state, and local partners, resulting in robust interagency coordination to respond to the most serious drug threats to the region. However, recent proposals to cut HIDTA funding by more than 30 percent, and even to remove the program from the Office of National Drug Control Policy, threaten the effectiveness of HIDTA.

Without full funding, regional HDTAs will lack the resources needed to maintain this high level of coordination. That's why I recently joined with my colleagues in urging House Appropriations Committee leadership to ensure that the HIDTA program receives the full funding and structural support needed to protect our communities.

Additionally, HIDTA's placement in the Office of National Drug Control Policy, positioned within the Executive Office, ensures policy neutrality, cross-agency alignment, and a whole-of-government approach that is essential to countering complex drug trafficking networks.

When it comes to HIDTA's great work, I speak with some experience. For years, I have held fentanyl roundtables that bring together educators, law enforcement, teenagers, health professionals, and more. At every single one of these roundtables, Midwest HIDTA

Executive Director Dan Neill has sat and listened to the tragic stories of loss and the challenges faced by our communities.

Having spent a career in drug and law enforcement, Mr. Neill connects with my constituents in the Kansas Third District, and all of those in his six-state region, to ensure that the Midwest HIDTA provides the top-notch coordination and leadership that is fighting the fentanyl epidemic and has led to a reduction in overdose deaths. But just as HIDTA has supported us, we must support HIDTA.

If we want to continue building on the progress we've made and continue saving lives, we must resist calls to reposition HIDTA or cut its funding. I am grateful for the heroic work of HIDTA and the program's proven impact. I urge my colleagues in Congress to provide full support for this worthy and lifesaving program.

**RECOGNIZING UNITED STATES MARINE
SGT RICHARD LOUGHRAN
AS JULY 2025 VETERAN OF THE
MONTH**

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2025

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with profound respect and gratitude to recognize the extraordinary service and unwavering dedication of Sgt. Richard Loughran, a proud veteran of the United States Marine Corps and our distinguished Veteran of the Month for July 2025 from Michigan's 9th Congressional District. His exceptional military career and steadfast commitment to duty, excellence, and patriotism embody the very best of American service.

Richard Loughran answered the call to serve his country at the young age of 17—with his father's permission—when he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. He graduated from the Detroit Institute of Technology in 1942 and enlisted in 1943. He began basic training and soon after completed training as a Private First Class, demonstrating his strong performance upon graduation. Richard continued to demonstrate his strong performance and high skill set when he was recruited to the Communication Intelligence Group as a Japanese Code Interpreter in the Pacific Theater during World War II.

Over his three years of service, Richard was on the battlefields of Tinian, Saipan, Guam, and Okinawa. During these years, Richard also took part in the Wind Talkers Initiative. This initiative involved the use of the Native American language of Navajo by the U.S. military to create coded messages the Japanese couldn't decipher. Being a part of this initiative highlights Richard's high aptitude in languages and his deep dedication to serving our country.

Richard was also a part of the radio deception that led to the 1942 Battle of Midway. In this operation, codebreakers successfully deciphered Japanese naval codes and intercepted messages detailing an attack, which was later confirmed to be targeting Midway. Richard's group also contributed to the Buckner Bay capture of a German Enigma Code Machine. Being involved in such critical turning points in United States history is a testament to Richard's intelligence, bravery, and impact.

After his service, Richard earned an Associate's Degree in Engineering from Valparaiso Institute, using that knowledge to become a manufacturer's representative. In 1961, he launched his own business—Data Electronics—which grew across five states and demonstrated his entrepreneurial drive and success in the field.

In the years that followed, Richard pursued a wide range of interests, from photography to the art of stage makeup. He even revitalized a struggling makeup studio in Chicago, turning it into a thriving business. More recently, he continued his service to others through volunteering for the Marine Corps. Richard helped run the Toys for Tots program in Illinois and served as an ombudsman for local nursing homes. His dedication earned him the title of Volunteer of the Year, further demonstrating his compassion and commitment to community.

Richard is also a frequent guest speaker at local elementary and middle schools, where he shares his World War II experiences with younger generations, ensuring that the legacy of service and sacrifice lives on.

Above all, Richard is a loving husband and devoted father. Together with his wife, he raised three children. He recently celebrated his 100th birthday, surrounded by over fifty family members including seventeen great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren, a remarkable milestone befitting a remarkable man.

Mr. Speaker, let us express our sincerest appreciation to Richard Loughran for his outstanding military service and for his excellent acts of valor that have protected our country and our freedoms in our great nation. His story is a testament to the American spirit of service, sacrifice, and resolve, and it is an honor to recognize him as our Veteran of the Month.

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF
COLDWATER HIGH SCHOOL'S
GIRLS TRACK AND FIELD TEAM
FOR WINNING THE DIVISION III
STATE TRACK AND FIELD TITLE**

HON. ROBERT E. LATTI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2025

Mr. LATTI. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of pride that I rise to pay a very special tribute to an outstanding high school track and field team in Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. The young women of the Coldwater High School Girls Track and Field Team have represented their school ably on their way to achieving the Division III State Track and Field Title. The team overcame the challenges posed by intense competition in their effort to surpass all other teams at the 2025 OHSA Division III State Track and Field Championships.

In pursuing the State Championship, the Cavaliers defeated their outstanding competitors to win with an impressive 65.5 points. The members of this very special team have shown that their sport requires an individual effort for a team result. Their hard work and dedication, both on and off the track, in achieving this accomplishment should be commended.