

grow and attract thousands of spectators each year for top-level competition. Its years of operation, led by the Association, have brought a great deal of pride and belonging to the Tri-Valley. The Association stays true to its local roots, supporting not only the rodeo itself, but also the broader community. Today, the event includes charities such as “Tough Enough to Wear Pink,” in support of breast cancer awareness, and “Patriot Day”, in honor of military service. Accompanying events like the “Lil’ Pardners Rodeo” and the Rotary Club parade make rodeo weekend an annual regional highlight.

This year, the Association celebrates its 107th year with its most distinguished honor yet, joining a select group of inductees to the ProRodeo Hall of Fame, recognizing its long-standing contributions to the sport. The ProRodeo Hall of Fame is the only museum in the world dedicated exclusively to professional rodeo and its legacy. This honor reflects the work of many volunteers, fans, directors, and community members who have kept the tradition alive for over 100 years.

Congratulations to the Association, the rodeo competitors and participants, and all the fans that have enjoyed the shows and made the Livermore Rodeo the success that it has become.

CELEBRATING GENE AND MARLENE EPSTEIN'S 65 YEARS OF MARRIAGE

**HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 10, 2025*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Gene and Marlene Epstein as they celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary. This remarkable milestone honors 65 years of steadfast love and enduring partnership. It is my privilege to commemorate their everlasting bond on this special day.

Gene and Marlene are high school sweethearts who once lived just three blocks apart in Philadelphia. In celebration of Gene's success in car sales, the couple often ate at The Hot Shot Diner, and soon thereafter, they got engaged on the Atlantic City boardwalk. They married in 1960 and went on to raise two children, Ellen and Robert.

What truly sets their story apart is that their relationship extends beyond their deep love for one another. As philanthropists and co-directors of the Gene & Marlene Epstein Humanitarian Fund, the couple has devoted themselves to serving others and caring for the people in our community.

To exemplify this, when asked by a local Newtown newspaper about a personal goal, Gene answered, “I want to do the best I can to make things better for everyone I can.”

His statement perfectly summarizes their 65 years of partnership: one filled with commitment not only to each other but also to the betterment of the entire community. Gene and Marlene's selfless dedication has marked countless lives, making their 65 years together a powerful expression of love in action.

United in their mission to care for others, the Epsteins have funded scholarships at Bucks County Community College for Lower

Bucks students; handed out \$100 bills during the COVID-19 pandemic to those in need; and established Wheelz2Work, a program that donates vehicles to low-income families.

Their philanthropic reach extends beyond Bucks County. The Epsteins have supported a Los Angeles food bank, an organ transplant program in Pittsburgh, and emergency services for drug overdoses in Philadelphia.

Ultimately, Gene and Marlene's relationship is one defined by love and service. Their 65 years together have made our community stronger, healthier, and happier. I am in awe of Gene and Marlene's endless love and giving spirits. It is an absolute honor to celebrate their 65th anniversary today. I thank them for all they have done, and continue to do, for our community.

RECOGNIZING TIMOTHY TEMPLETON FOR HIS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE WITH THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

**HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 10, 2025*

MR. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Timothy Templeton, who dedicated his time to contribute to the safety and security of our nation through his service in the United States Marine Corps. It is an honor to have an individual that embodies strength, courage and commitment in Missouri's Fifth Congressional District.

Born and raised in Missouri, Corporal Templeton enlisted in the United States Marine Corps after graduating from North Platte High School in Dearborn, Missouri, in 1982. Upon joining, he became a Small Missile Systems Electronics Repair Technician (MOS 2875) and was stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, with the 2nd Force Service Support Group, Electronics Maintenance Company, Calibrations Platoon to provide maintenance for TOW2 and Dragon anti-tank missile systems.

During his time at Camp Lejeune, he was temporarily assigned to the 26th Marine Amphibious Unit Service Support Group which deployed with Amphibious Squadron 6 as part of Marine Amphibious Readiness Group 1-86 to the Mediterranean Sea. During this deployment, he was the TOW Subject Matter Expert and was also selected to ship's platoon for the USS *El Paso* (LKA-117) to coordinate embarkation/debarkation of Marines and equipment. His unit was awarded the Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation for this deployment.

During his service, Corporal Templeton's unit participated in Operation Eldorado Canyon off the coast of Libya in the spring of 1986. His unit was awarded the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal for their contribution to the operation. It is evident that Templeton's leadership allowed his team to move with direction, motivation, and the ability to go far and beyond the standard, receiving recognition as a testament.

Corporal Templeton was released from the Marine Corps active duty in 1987, serving in the ready reserves and earning an Honorable Discharge in 1989. His willingness to put his life on the line and endure the hardships that come with military service has not gone unno-

ticed. As a thank you for his sacrifice, bravery and example set, it is my honor to present Corporal Templeton with the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal as well as the Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation ribbon he earned while serving our country. Corporal Templeton served the Marine Corps with a source of immense pride, leading an often-distinguished team and his service deserves to be honored. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Timothy Templeton and thank him for his service.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF NATHAN BRIGHT FOR WINNING THE DIVISION I STATE TRACK AND FIELD TITLE FOR HIGH JUMP

**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. Nathan Bright, a senior at North Ridgeville High School, has represented his school ably on his way to achieving the Division I State Title for High Jump at the State Track and Field Meet. Nathan overcame the challenges posed by intense competition in his effort to win the title.

In pursuing the State Championship, Nathan defeated his opponents with an impressive jump of 6 feet 9 inches. His hard work and dedication, both on and off the field, in achieving this accomplishment is truly outstanding. He has achieved an impressive season, bringing pride to his school and community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to Nathan Bright of North Ridgeville High School. On behalf of the people of the Fifth District of Ohio, I am proud to recognize this great achievement.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF MRS. FREIDA B. DORITY

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 10, 2025*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to mourn the loss and celebrate the life of a friend and a great American: Mrs. Freida B. Dority of Alabama. She passed away on June 28 at age 73. I came to know her over the years on the Faith and Politics Institute's Congressional Civil Rights Pilgrimages to Alabama. Mrs. Freida served as Director of Culinary Experiences for the Faith and Politics Tour Luncheon, playing a leading role hosting Members of Congress and other distinguished guests as we came to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma and pay tribute to the civil rights heroes who helped build a more perfect Union.

The bible tells us: Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms, 1 Peter 4:9-10. Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Freida offered her hospitality cheerfully, eagerly, and enthusiastically. She had many gifts, including a lifelong aptitude for

cooking. The hearty fare that came out of her kitchen nourished not only the body but the soul. She put together meals infused with joy, love, and comfort. It was impossible to partake without feeling kinship and community with those around you. The Members who attended the pilgrimages came from across the country and the political spectrum. Mrs. Freida helped bring them closer together, not only with her food but with her warm, generous spirit. So too did the rest of the team at First Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama, including Benjamin and Annie Beasley and Reverend E.B. Morris.

Some of my most cherished memories are walking across the Edmund Pettus Bridge arm-in-arm with my dear friend and brother, John Lewis, on numerous pilgrimages over the years. Those memories are incomplete, however, without recalling the stories, laughs, and prayers he and I shared at the dinners Mrs. Freida helped prepare.

Indeed, Mrs. Freida lived a life of service. As an Army & Air Force Exchange Services Manager at Maxwell Air Force Base for nearly two decades, she helped lift up countless servicemembers and military families. From singing in the First Baptist Church's Choir to overseeing its Meals on Wheels program, Mrs. Freida was also a leader in her church and her community.

No one was more familiar with Mrs. Freida's, beautiful soul than her family. She was a loving wife of 52 years to her husband, Chief Master Sergeant Jackie T.L. Dority. She lovingly raised her daughter, Alisha; adopted son, Eric; and numerous foster children over the years. She was a nurturing force in the lives of so many, including her siblings, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and many godsons and goddaughters. My prayers are with her family and with everyone whose life was blessed by her generosity.

Mr. Speaker, until her very last breath, Mrs. Freida B. Dority was, as the verse said: a faithful steward of God's grace. May her memory not only be a blessing but a calling for all of us to act as faithful stewards of that grace as well. I ask that all my colleagues join me in praying for her and giving thanks for her life of service.

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HONORING MS. LIZ MARTIN

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 10, 2025*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Liz Martin on her retirement as President of the VCU Health Tappahannock Hospital. She wrapped up her time in June after an esteemed thirty-six-year career in healthcare.

Ms. Martin's commitment to improving the lives of countless physicians, nurses, and patients throughout her career is what sets her apart. She has served as President of the Tappahannock Hospital for the past twenty years, overseeing the hospital's transition from the Riverside Health System to VCU Health. Ms. Martin's guidance and vision enabled the Tappahannock Hospital to enter a new age of health services while maintaining exceptionally high standards of care.

During her time as President of the hospital, Ms. Martin invaluable aided in the develop-

ment of the Dr. Jeffery Haskins Scholarship Fund for healthcare professionals committed to serving the Tappahannock area during their career. She also was instrumental in the creation of the Jeri Sibley VCU Health Tappahannock Cancer Care Fund, which helps to provide wellness and beauty services to cancer patients. She also briefly served in a leadership role for the Riverside Walter Reed Hospital in Gloucester.

Beyond her calling as a healthcare leader, Ms. Martin remains a crucial leading light in her community, where she serves on the board of the Ledwith-Lewis Free Clinic and the Essex County Chamber of Commerce. Previously, she has also chaired the Essex County School Board and the Board of Aylett Country Day School. Throughout all her many roles, her colleagues have continued to recognize Ms. Martin as an uncompromising leader, visionary, and public servant.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Ms. Liz Martin for her years of tireless dedication to our healthcare system and community. I wish her all the best in her well-deserved retirement, and pray for her success in whatever adventures come her way.

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REMEMBERING JOHN C. HARRIS

**HON. VINCE FONG**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 10, 2025*

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of John C. Harris, a visionary agriculturalist, respected horseman, successful businessman, and generous philanthropist, who passed away on July 2, 2025, at the age of 81.

A lifelong resident of Fresno County, Mr. Harris was born into a farming family and embodied the spirit of the San Joaquin Valley. After graduating from the University of California, Davis, in 1965 and serving his country as a U.S. Army officer, Mr. Harris returned to the Central Valley to carry on and expand his family's agricultural legacy. As the driving force behind Harris Farms, he transformed the business into one of California's most prominent agricultural operations. Under his leadership, Harris Ranch Beef Company became a nationally respected name in food production, known for quality and innovation.

Mr. Harris was equally influential in the world of thoroughbred horse racing. Over five decades, he bred and raced champions, including California Chrome, the winner of the 2014 Kentucky Derby and the 2014 Preakness Stakes. As chairman of the California Horse Racing Board and a board member of the Jockey Club and the Breeders' Cup, he was a pillar of integrity and advocacy in the sport. His green-and-white silks became a fixture in California's winner's circles, and his leadership helped shape the industry for future generations.

Beyond his impact as a businessman and sportsman, John Harris was a servant of his community. He supported educational institutions throughout the Central Valley such as Fresno State, UC Davis, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, and Saint Agnes Medical Center. His philanthropic work spanned education, healthcare, and vocational training, including supporting a program at Pleasant Valley State Prison that pairs inmates with horses.

Over the years, Mr. Harris was honored with numerous accolades, including the Livestock Man of the Year Award, the Leon S. Peters Award, and induction into the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame. However, he was known not only for his accomplishments, but for his humility and his steadfast dedication to his home. He believed deeply in investing in people, mentoring young agricultural leaders, and uplifting those around him through quiet acts of kindness. He is survived by his beloved wife, Cookie.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in remembering John C. Harris—a pioneer whose legacy will continue to shape California agriculture, equine sport, and civic life for generations to come.

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RECOGNIZING THEODORE M. RENZ

**HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 10, 2025*

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Theodore M. Renz, who is retiring after nearly four decades of exceptional public service as the Executive Director of the Myrtle Avenue Business Improvement District (BID) in Ridgewood, Queens. Throughout his distinguished career, Mr. Renz has exemplified an unwavering commitment to community development, small business, and neighborhood revitalization, laying a strong foundation for a more vibrant community for future generations.

Since the Myrtle Avenue BID's establishment in 1988, Mr. Renz has been at the helm, guiding it through transformative growth. Recognizing the vital role that small businesses play in New York City's economy, Mr. Renz has worked tirelessly to ensure that the BID serves as an accessible and indispensable resource for local entrepreneurs. Under his leadership, the BID supports more than 300 businesses along a mile-long stretch of Myrtle Avenue, providing essential services including sanitation, public safety, beautification, and marketing that fosters a robust and welcoming commercial corridor.

Mr. Renz's tenure is marked by numerous accomplishments. He spearheaded major urban improvement projects, including a \$2.4 million streetscape enhancement for Myrtle Avenue and played a pivotal role in helping secure a \$55 million upgrade of the Myrtle-Wyckoff transit hub, enhancing accessibility for thousands of daily commuters and consumers. As an advocate for open space, he successfully championed the conversion of underutilized spaces into public plazas for the community. Today, the BID corridor is home to four new public plazas enjoyed by all.

As a lifetime resident of Ridgewood, Mr. Renz public service extends beyond the BID. He has served as Executive Director of the Ridgewood Local Development Corporation (RLDC) and as a member of Queens Community Board 5, consistently advocating for small businesses, public safety, and quality-of-life improvements. His collaboration with city agencies, elected officials, and local stakeholders has left a lasting impact on the Ridgewood community.

As Mr. Renz embarks on a well-earned retirement after 37 years of dedicated public