

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.

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.

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.

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

service, I extend my deepest gratitude for his leadership, and unwavering commitment to strengthening the economic fabric of New York City. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Theodore M. Renz for his outstanding contributions and wishing him good health and joy in this next chapter of life.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF RANIA BROWN FOR WINNING THE DIVISION I STATE TRACK AND FIELD TITLE FOR THE DISCUS THROW

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. Rania Brown, a senior at Avon High School, has represented her school ably on her way to achieving the Division I State Title for the Discus Throw at the State Track and Field Meet. Rania overcame the challenges posed by intense competition in her effort to win the title.

In pursuing the State Championship, Rania defeated her opponents with an impressive throw of 153 feet 4 inches. Her hard work and dedication, both on and off the field, 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 Rania Brown of Avon High School. On behalf of the people of the Fifth District of Ohio, I am proud to recognize this great achievement.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF LAKES REGION COMMUNITY SERVICES

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2025

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 50th anniversary of Lakes Region Community Services, a non-profit centered around meeting critical needs in New Hampshire.

For more than 50 years, Lakes Region Community Services (LRCS) has been a pillar for providing crucial services in New Hampshire. Through a number of initiatives, LRCS has acted as a lifeline for so many people throughout New Hampshire. Whether through its Family Resource Center, Sober Parenting Journey, or Home Assist programs, thousands of Granite Staters are helped each year through this essential work.

These programs assist people with developmental disabilities, acquired brain disorders, chronic illnesses, families with children, and our aging population. Community service organizations like LRCS play a vital role in creating a positive environment where people can grow and thrive in any stage of life. Covering 24 towns, LRCS has been a support system where people from across our communities can come and get the resources they need. I

commend LRCS and its more than 300 employees for the important work they do every day to positively impact people's lives.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I want to say thank you and congratulate LRCS on 50 years of dedicated service to our state. We are grateful for your commitment to our community, and I look forward to continuing to support this life-changing work.

CELEBRATING ROY DRINKARD'S 105TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2025

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a special event that is occurring to celebrate and honor an extraordinary American and a dear personal friend: Mr. Roy Drinkard of Cullman, Alabama.

This event is scheduled to occur on Friday, July 11, 2025. This will be an event to celebrate Mr. Drinkard's 105th birthday as he personally plans to welcome family, friends, and acquaintances to his home in Cullman, Alabama.

Born July 12, 1920, Mr. Drinkard is the oldest living United States Marine in the Nation, a proud veteran of World War II who served his country with courage and who continues to inspire all who know him.

My wife, Caroline, and I plan to attend this momentous occasion and celebrate with Roy and all those in attendance.

Mr. Drinkard remains actively engaged in his business and continues to serve on the Board of Trustees of Troy University, demonstrating that age is no barrier to leadership, commitment, or purpose.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and all of our colleagues pause for a moment in celebration on Friday as we celebrate the man and the life of Roy Drinkard and wish him a very happy 105th birthday.

HONORING THE LIFE OF COLONEL CARLYLE "SMITTY" HARRIS

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2025

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable life and legacy of Colonel Carlyle "Smitty" Harris, a true American hero. Colonel Harris, a retired United States Air Force officer, was 36 years old when his aircraft was shot down over North Vietnam on April 4, 1965. He became the sixth American taken as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam.

Colonel Harris served this Nation with unwavering courage and strength. Following his capture, he endured more than eight years of brutal conditions, including torture and starvation. Yet, he never yielded to his captors. Instead, he put his military training into action, using the Tap Code to communicate with fellow prisoners and maintain unity, morale, and resistance.

After returning home, Colonel Harris continued his service, leading and mentoring fellow

airmen until his retirement from the Air Force in 1979. His devotion to our Nation didn't end with his military career—he remained deeply involved in his community, lending his time and voice to numerous charitable and veteran-focused causes.

In recognition of his service, I was honored to introduce H.R. 208, legislation that was signed into law by President Joe Biden in 2021, designating the United States Post Office in Tupelo, Mississippi, as the "Colonel Carlyle "Smitty" Harris Post Office." That designation serves as a permanent tribute to a man who embodied the best of America.

Colonel Harris passed away in hospice care on July 6, 2025, at the age of 96. Today, we remember his extraordinary service, enduring sacrifice, and lifelong commitment to his country and community.

He is survived by his wife, Louise; their three children; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

May his legacy of honor, resilience, and patriotism continue to inspire generations of Americans.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOX METRO WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2025

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Fox Metro Water Reclamation District as they celebrate their 100th anniversary, marking a century of wastewater management and environmental stewardship.

Founded in 1925 in Aurora, Illinois as the Aurora Sanitary District, this institution was established to protect public health and preserve the natural beauty of the Fox River from disease and pollution.

By 1929, this vision became a reality with the construction of a wastewater treatment plant and supporting infrastructure. Over the past century, Fox Metro WRD has been a model of sustainability, fiscal responsibility, and environmental stewardship. The Fox Metro WRD has continually invested in innovation from solar power and nutrient reduction to recycling biosolids, restoring native landscapes, reusing treated effluent, and recovering methane gas for campus and public use.

Fox Metro WRD now serves over 304,000 people across 90 square miles, operating twelve pump stations and more than 100 miles of intersecting sanitary sewers. They manage an 150-acre treatment facility where an average of 36 million gallons of wastewater is treated daily, ensuring the health and environmental protection of the Fox Valley region.

For 100 years, the dedicated public servants of Fox Metro WRD have safeguarded public health, supported local economies, and helped eradicate deadly diseases.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the Fox Metro Water Reclamation District's century of service, and I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating their remarkable contributions and continued commitment to protecting public health and our environment. I commend their vital contributions and congratulate them on a century of service to our communities.