

HONORING THE MEMORY OF FOUNTAIN VALLEY FIRE CHIEF BILL MCQUAID

HON. DEREK TRAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 15, 2025

Mr. TRAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with solemn remembrance that I rise today to pay tribute to a beloved husband, devoted father, local leader, and selfless public servant, Fountain Valley Fire Department Chief Bill McQuaid. Chief McQuaid, a fixture in the Fountain Valley community, passed away much too soon on July 25, 2025, at the age of 57.

A native of Fountain Valley, California, Chief McQuaid was a proud graduate of Fountain Valley High School and entered the workforce with a dream of joining the fire service. In 1996, his dream was realized when he joined the Fountain Valley Fire Department, where he stayed for nearly 30 years. Chief McQuaid held numerous positions over the course of his career, including firefighter/paramedic, fire engineer, fire captain, battalion chief, and division chief of operations, before ultimately being named chief in January 2023.

Throughout his life, Chief McQuaid served the city of Fountain Valley with unwavering integrity and commitment. He often spoke about how his role as chief was not just his job, but his calling to serve the people of his hometown. In addition to the incalculable support Chief McQuaid lent to his native city, he also faithfully served the state of California. Over the years before becoming chief, McQuaid led multiple teams of firefighters as a strike team leader to battle some of the largest wildfires in the state's history, including the Thomas fire in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties, and the Dixie fire in Northern California.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work with Chief McQuaid several times during my tenure in Congress, and I got to see firsthand the level of respect and compassion his city had for him. Chief McQuaid's loss has been felt deeply across our Fountain Valley community, and the impact he has made on both his department and his hometown will never be forgotten.

Chief McQuaid is survived by his wife, Tracy, and their daughters, Ally and Julie. I have requested that the United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capital in recognition of Chief McQuaid's life and contributions to his community. Chief McQuaid will be dearly missed by his friends and family, and his legacy will continue in the minds of everyone who has met him.

RECOGNIZING MR. FRANK C. PARKER, IV, QUAKERTOWN COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT DIRECTOR OF BANDS, FOR 27 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 15, 2025

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a remarkable individual from my district, Mr. Frank C. Parker, IV. For nearly three decades, Mr. Parker has nurtured and

inspired the musical abilities of students in the Quakertown Community School District.

Mr. Parker attended Moravian College, where he earned a bachelor's degree in musical performance and studied wind conducting, choral conducting, and saxophone under renowned academics and musicians. During his time there, he co-founded both the Moravian College Jazz Quartet and the Moravian College Dixieland Band. His exceptional talent earned him the lead alto saxophone positions with the Moravian College and Muhlenberg College Big Bands, and he also served as Principal Alto Saxophone for the Moravian College Wind Ensemble.

His pursuit of excellence in music continued through his master's education at Wilkes University and additional graduate coursework at Villanova University, University of Miami, University of Arts, and West Chester University.

Mr. Parker dedicated 27 years to sharing his musical expertise and passion with QCSD students. From 1998 to 2004, he directed the award-winning Milford Middle School band, even earning them a performance at the 2003 Pennsylvania Music Educators Association. During his six-year tenure, the Milford Jazz Band received nothing less than a superior rating at 26 consecutive jazz festivals—an extraordinary feat.

For the past 21 years, Mr. Parker has served as the Director of Bands at Quakertown High School, where he led the Symphonic Band, Wind Symphony, Jazz Ensemble, and numerous other small ensembles. Under his direction, these ensembles were invited to perform at the PMEA Conference, the NAFME National Conference, and the NAFME Eastern Division Conference an impressive fourteen times.

Additionally, Mr. Parker directed Quakertown High School's award-winning marching band, which has won both national and state-level competitions under his leadership.

At this year's PMEA Conference, Mr. Parker was honored as the Phi Beta Mu Outstanding PA Bandmaster. Over the years, many of his students have been selected to participate in PMEA district, region, and state band festivals.

Outside of his work at QCSD, Mr. Parker has taught saxophone lessons for the past 38 years. He is an active clinician, adjudicator, and guest conductor, having led bands across Pennsylvania and Vermont. He is a dedicated member of PMEA, NAFME, QCEA, PSEA, NEA, and Phi Beta Mu.

As a performer, Mr. Parker has experience as a saxophonist with wind bands, big bands, and variety bands in the Lehigh Valley and Philadelphia areas, and has performed internationally in Great Britain and the British Virgin islands.

In retirement, Mr. Parker looks forward to guest conducting, running clinics and teaching lessons online, as well as continuing to play his saxophone. He is the proud father of one daughter.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. Parker for his 27 years of service to the Quakertown community, and I am honored to congratulate him on his well-deserved retirement. His efforts have made an everlasting impact on generations of students, enriching their lives through music education and inspiring a deep appreciation for the arts.

HONORING CALIFORNIA WATERFOWL

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 15, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor California Waterfowl as it celebrates 80 years of dedicated conservation service. This organization's decades long work protecting California's waterfowl and wetland resources has made it the largest state-based waterfowl group in the United States and a vital force for environmental stewardship in our state and district.

California Waterfowl was founded in 1945 as the Duck Hunters Association of California by hunters concerned about the rapid loss of wetlands. At the time, California had already lost 90 percent of its original wetlands, and few resources were dedicated to reversing this trend. In 1985, the organization partnered with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to conduct studies that revealed most mallards harvested by hunters in the state were hatched locally, a finding that underscored the importance of in-State habitat to the health of the entire Pacific Flyway.

Today, California Waterfowl includes more than 20,000 members united by a shared vision of a California abundant in waterfowl, vibrant wetlands, and thriving hunting communities. Over the past four decades, the organization has invested \$280 million in conservation efforts and completed more than 1,500 projects to protect, restore, and enhance nearly 730,000 acres of waterfowl habitat statewide. More than half of these projects occurred on public lands, including significant work in the Suisun Marsh and California Delta. Recognizing the importance of agriculture to conservation, California Waterfowl has also partnered with landowners through programs such as the Delayed Wheat Harvest Incentive, Rice Levee and Agricultural Corridors Program, and Fallow Agriculture Program to support nesting waterfowl and pollinators while maintaining productive farmland.

The organization's research and education efforts have contributed significantly to wildlife science and public awareness. Its Wood Duck Program has successfully hatched more than one million ducklings and distributed over 165,000 wood duck boxes. More than 180,000 students have participated in their conservation education programs. In 2009, the Hunt Program was launched to improve land access for hunters, now serving nearly 2,000 participants annually. The Veteran Hunt Program has supported over 5,000 service members, while broader outreach efforts have introduced more than 28,000 Californians to hunting and outdoor stewardship.

Mr. Speaker, California Waterfowl's 80 years of conservation leadership have helped restore and protect hundreds of thousands of acres of critical habitat while educating generations of Californians about the importance of wetland conservation. Their work continues to benefit our state and district's wildlife, agriculture, and outdoor recreation opportunities. It is fitting and proper that we honor them today for their outstanding service to our region's natural resources and conservation heritage.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF NORTHGLENN PD'S DETEC-
TIVE PAUL GESI

HON. GABE EVANS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 15, 2025

Mr. EVANS of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life and service of Detective Paul Gesi—a hero whose dedication to the ideals of justice and the protection of his community spanned more than four decades.

Paul devoted 41 years of his life to public service through law enforcement, 39 of them with the Northglenn Police Department, where he served as the department's Homicide Detective. That noble work is demanding in every sense—it calls for skill, persistence, and deep compassion. Paul brought all of those qualities to the job and more. He passionately pursued the truth and justice in the cases that he worked to honor the victims of serious crimes. When families in our community grappled with the grief that accompanies the loss of a loved one, Detective Gesi was a gentle presence and steady hand to help comfort those suffering unimaginable pain.

But Paul's service was not confined to his career. He served as a teacher at the Citizens' Police Academy, spoke with students in local schools, and was a trusted friend to many in the community. He lived out his faith in Christ every day, and he was a devoted single father to six children, raising them with the same love and strength he projected in the force.

Last week, after a long battle with post-traumatic stress disorder brought on by the burdens of his work, Paul left us. The loss of this titan in the Northglenn Police Department is a sobering, painful reminder of the unseen wounds that can come with a life spent protecting others. During their career, the average police officer will experience 178 life-threatening situations; the average citizen will experience three.

Detective Gesi leaves behind a deep void—in his family, among his fellow officers, and across the City of Northglenn. Yet his example of courage, integrity, and selfless service will endure. As we, alongside his family and the City of Northglenn, make our final goodbyes, we do so with gratitude for his life and with a renewed commitment to care for the first responders and protectors who bear the weight of protecting our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Detective Paul Gesi for his service, for his sacrifice, and for the countless lives in my district made better by his work. May we remember him always, and may God grant comfort and peace to all who mourn his loss. May he rest easy. We have the watch from here.

RECOGNIZING ASSUMPTION OF
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
PARISH'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 15, 2025

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an incredible parish from my dis-

trict—Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (BVM) Parish in Feasterville, Pennsylvania. This year, Assumption BVM celebrates its 75th Anniversary, an exceptional milestone that reflects decades of spiritual dedication and charitable impact. It is my honor to commend the parish on this remarkable achievement.

Since its founding on November 3, 1950, Assumption BVM has dedicated themselves to ministry and outreach. By offering a welcoming place for worship to the residents of Feasterville, Langhorne, Oakford, and Trevoise, the parish has been a steadfast presence in Bucks County for three-quarters of a century.

Celebrating 75 years as a parish also means celebrating 75 years as their self-titled Family of Faith. Through grounding their lives in love and faith, Assumption BVM has become a source of strength, spiritual growth, and support for countless individuals.

Assumption BVM works alongside the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to assist people who struggle to afford basic necessities. To help ease these burdens, Assumption BVM collects grocery store gift cards and other monetary donations for those in need.

Their outreach also includes the Caring for Friends program, which provides home-cooked meals to individuals facing food insecurity. Additional efforts include a community meal program with Advocates for Homeless and Those in Need, and the Change for Life Baby Bottle Project, which supports families in crisis. And yet, these examples capture only a fraction of Assumption BVM's deep commitment to serving those in need.

The parish's Knights of Columbus chapter provides even more opportunities for parishioners to engage in charitable outreach, sponsoring events such as spring pancake breakfasts and baseball outings that bring people together in fellowship and service.

It is my honor to celebrate 75 years of faith, generosity, and service at Assumption BVM. Bucks County is a stronger, more compassionate place because of the enduring presence of this extraordinary parish. I am proud to celebrate Assumption BVM on this remarkable milestone.

HONORING CABE LAMBERT

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 15, 2025

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Cabe Monroe Lambert, the last living World War II Veteran of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians. Mr. Lambert was born on September 25, 1926, and currently lives in the Wolftown community on the Qualla Boundary in Cherokee, North Carolina. Mr. Lambert is deeply loved by his community and family.

As a member of the greatest generation, Mr. Lambert answered the call of the free world and served in the United States Army during World War II. While in combat, Cabe Monroe Lambert fought the Axis Powers that were advancing across independent, sovereign countries. Mr. Lambert prevented forces with evil intent from reaching our great country and liberated countless people. We owe a debt that we can never repay but will always remember

and honor. Without brave men and women like Mr. Lambert, our world would undoubtedly be a much darker place.

Mr. Lambert served in the Asiatic Pacific Theater of Combat Operations where our troops not only halted the Japanese advance, but pushed them back island by island, freeing the inhabitants of those communities. It is my distinct honor to acknowledge the service of Cabe Monroe Lambert to the United States of America and to our world.

HONORING DR. JAMES HORN

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 15, 2025

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. James Horn on his upcoming retirement as President and Chief Officer of the Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation. After over a decade as the leader of Jamestown, the site of America's first permanent settlement, Dr. Horn will conclude his illustrious career.

Dr. Horn's passion for history has helped expand our understanding of America's beginning. He has served as the President of the Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation since 2015, steering the organization through a period full of novel discoveries, enlightening research, and critical preservation efforts. While President, Dr. Horn oversaw the restoration of Jamestown's Memorial Church and its famed 17th century tower, ensuring that the site, which hosted Virginia's first General Assembly in 1619, stands as a beacon of democracy for years to come.

During his time at Jamestown, Dr. Horn ushered in new educational and community programs, sharing a critical time in American history with the public. He also aided in fundraising over \$16 million dollars to help protect Jamestown from flooding risks, preserving the park for future generations.

Beyond his service at Jamestown, Dr. Horn remains an active and prolific historian, having published nine books and numerous articles on colonial America. He also has worked for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and taught several classes at the University of Virginia and the College of William & Mary. Dr. Horn has dedicated his life's work to researching, writing and teaching about our most treasured institution: our democracy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Dr. James Horn for his years of tireless pursuit of historical knowledge and preservation. I wish him all the best in his well-earned retirement and pray for his continued health and happiness in the future.

HONORING DR. MARGIE FAYE
CLARK

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 15, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Margie Faye Clark—an outstanding educator, faith leader, and founder of the Amarie Youth Impact Organization, a nonprofit dedicated to uplifting