

example to New Yorkers and to Americans. I truly respect and admire them for their enthusiasm and patriotism.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I want to thank Marie and David Troy for being model citizens of our community.

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CLAREMONT GRADUATE UNIVERSITY

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2025

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and commend the Claremont Graduate University on their 100th Anniversary. I include in the RECORD the following proclamation:

Whereas, in 1925, the Claremont Graduate University was founded on the belief that higher education holds a vital role in shaping the future of our nation and in nurturing the intellectual and ethical foundations upon which our democracy thrives; and

Whereas, for 100 years, the Claremont Graduate University has contributed immeasurably to the intellectual, cultural, and civic life of California, the nation, and the world through the education of generations of students, groundbreaking research, and public service; and

Whereas, The Claremont Graduate University has long been a beacon of intellectual rigor, fostering a diverse and inclusive academic environment that has produced leaders and innovators in many fields. The university's commitment to transdisciplinary education and research has had a profound impact on society; and

Whereas, The alumni of the Claremont Graduate University are professionals from diverse cultures and backgrounds who have gone on to become members of Congress, university presidents, professors, health researchers, superintendents, classroom teachers, data analysts, deans, art directors, and community leaders; and

Whereas, the 100th anniversary of the Claremont Graduate University is a moment to honor the legacy of its founders, celebrate a century of achievement, and inspire future generations to uphold the principles of academic inquiry, leadership, and service;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, Congresswoman JUDY CHU, representing California's 28th Congressional District, do hereby recognize and commend the Claremont Graduate University on the occasion of their 100th Anniversary, and extend sincere appreciation for their enduring contributions to the people of California and beyond.

HONORING CARL LUCAS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Carl Lucas—a dedicated educational leader, proud native of Hollandale, Mississippi, and tireless advocate for student achievement and equity in education.

Mr. Lucas began his career as a secondary mathematics teacher, where he created a classroom culture of rigor and relevance. His students consistently demonstrated significant

growth on state assessments, earning him recognition for narrowing achievement gaps and instilling academic discipline.

As Principal of Simmons High School, Mr. Lucas set a bold goal of earning a B rating. Through systems that raised expectations, improved instruction, and increased student accountability, he led the school to measurable gains in academic performance, graduation rates, and climate.

In addition to school leadership, Mr. Lucas developed and expanded transformative academic programs, including:

Dual Enrollment & Career Pathways with Mississippi Delta Community College and Tougaloo College.

ACT Prep Initiatives, including summer boot camps and classroom integration.

Credit Recovery & Summer Learning, led by certified teachers.

Middle College Readiness Programs for college and career acceleration.

Student Support Systems including mentoring and behavior contracts.

Mr. Lucas holds a Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics and a Master's Degree from Mississippi Valley State University, as well as an Education Specialist Degree from Belhaven University.

He is married to his high school sweetheart, Monet Dye-Lucas, and together they are the proud parents of Carl Kaisha, Carl Jr., Carlnell, and Carlndria.

Mr. Lucas leads with heart, vision, and integrity. He believes every child deserves access to a quality education and the opportunity to thrive. His life's work reflects that belief, right in the community that raised him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Carl Lucas for his unwavering service to education and his lasting impact on the Mississippi Delta.

HONORING AIR FORCE VETERAN PETER TAUTZNIK

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2025

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor United States Air Force and Air National Guard Veteran Peter Tautznik.

Peter Tautznik, born on December 4, 1947, has dedicated his life to serving both his country and his community. Peter served in the U.S. Air Force as a Vehicle Maintenance Superintendent, and later with the Air National Guard. He achieved the rank of Senior Master Sergeant, reflecting not only his technical expertise but also his strong leadership abilities and commitment to his country.

During his military career, Peter earned an impressive number of commendations. His honors include three Air Force Commendation Medals, two Air Force Achievement Medals, seven Air Force Longevity Service Awards, two National Defense Service Medals, and two Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards. He was also awarded two Humane Service to New York State Medals and four Long and Faithful Service Awards, recognizing his ongoing commitment to excellence and selfless service.

Beyond his military service, Peter has been a dedicated and active member of his community. For more than 35 years, he owned and

operated PJ's Truck Repair, providing reliable service to his neighbors. He has also served as a certified National Rifle Association (NRA) Instructor and as a Fulton County Sheriff's Licensing Course Instructor. Today, Peter continues his service by maintaining the Lake Valley Ambulance Corp. vehicles, ensuring the readiness of critical emergency services in Fulton County.

On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I am honored to recognize Senior Master Sergeant Peter Tautznik for his service, sacrifice, and unwavering dedication to both our Nation and our local community.

HONORING ROBERT AND LINDA MCNEILL ON 25 YEARS OF MARRIAGE

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2025

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Robert and Linda McNeill on the occasion of their 25th wedding anniversary. It is with great pleasure and excitement that I share this wonderful news.

Robert, a man of integrity, loyalty, and strength, has devoted his life to family and loved ones. Linda, a kind and graceful soul, treasures her family values and cherishes every moment with those dearest to her.

Fate brought Robert and his beautiful wife, Linda, together at the Curwood festival in Owosso, Michigan. In a serendipitous moment, as he picked her up, their eyes locked, and their lifelong love began. Robert and Linda's story reached a cherished milestone on September 23, 2000, when they were united in marriage. Since then, they have raised three sons together and have continued to grow not just as individuals, but also as partners in life.

Love and marriage represent the joining of two hearts and lives, built on a foundation of trust, respect, and shared dreams. Robert and Linda embody the promise to stand together through life's joys and challenges, growing stronger as individuals and as partners. Their love story is a testament to the beauty of finding someone who not only inspires you but also walks beside you every step of the way.

Mr. Speaker, let us all join in congratulating Robert and Linda on this momentous milestone and celebration of their long-lasting love. I wish them boundless happiness, love, and success as they continue on their journey together.

RECOGNIZING SALVADOR BARAJAS

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2025

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Salvador Barajas, an outstanding historical muralist and visionary artist, who has worked tirelessly to preserve history, mental youth, and strengthen multicultural identity in San Diego.

Mr. Barajas served in the United States Air Force from 1961 to 1964. During his service,

he worked as a Technical Illustrator, a skill that would later influence his artistic career. He was recognized as a Newfoundland Air Force Base Boxing Champion and honorably discharged as Sergeant.

An Associate of Arts graduate of Los Angeles Trade Technical-College, Mr. Barajas first became involved with Chicano Park in 1973. Since then, he has been a driving force in the creation, restoration, and preservation of its murals, negotiating with Caltrans to protect the park's cultural heritage. Accordingly, he served as the Lead Artist for the Historical Mural Restoration Project.

Mr. Barajas is the founder of Motivational Design and has completed more than 500 public art projects throughout Southern California. Some of his notable works include "The Founders Mural," "No Border Wall," "Amor Si Se Puede," and "Amigos Car Club," and many others.

He is the recipient of multiple honors, including a Southwestern College Honorary Degree, inclusion in the Mexican Heritage Foundation's 100 Portraits: Pioneers, Visionaries and Role Models, and recognition as a San Diego County Library Living Well Legend.

Mr. Barajas lives in South Park with his wife, Leticia Barajas, and is the proud father of four children, Xochitl, Anailia, Graciela, and Salvador Jr., all graduates of California universities.

I am proud to honor Salvador Barajas as the 52nd Congressional District Constituent of the Month for August 2025. His work has inspired our community and will empower generations to come.

HONORING BRIAN MURRAY FOR HIS DEDICATION TO SERVING OUR RURAL COMMUNITIES

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2025

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Brian Murray for his dedication and commitment to serving our rural communities.

Mr. Murray's dedication to serving our communities has been incredible through his work to help develop Upstate New York and the North Country. A lifelong New Yorker, Mr. Murray is from Peterboro, New York and currently resides in Lisbon, New York. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in financial economics from the State University of New York at Potsdam and went on to work as a commercial lending officer for a local banking institution for over 15 years. From 2002 to 2007, Murray worked as a USDA Rural Development loan specialist in the Canton Field Office before being named New York State Director for USDA Rural Development. During his time as State Director, Murray spent a year on the USDA RD Community Economic Development team in Washington, D.C. and has served as the Associate Enterprise Director.

Mr. Murray's impact on our communities has been profound and has helped thousands achieve homeownership and brought in billions of dollars in investments towards rural interests. He's brought in this incredible investment through working with local leaders, state representatives, and federal agencies to achieve common goals of improving the qual-

ity of life for members of rural communities in New York. His contributions include supporting rural clinics and medical facilities across the state, providing first responders with essential equipment, vehicles, and facilities in an effort to keep communities safe, and supporting thousands of entrepreneurs in starting and expanding businesses. Murray has worked tirelessly and advanced education in rural areas to create opportunities for tens of thousands of students through access to higher-quality curriculum and coursework. Mr. Murray has also collaborated with the Native American community, most notably with the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, to address their healthcare, housing, and infrastructure needs. In all of his time serving New York's communities, Mr. Murray has been responsible for over \$2 billion in investments towards rural development.

Mr. Murray has optimistically taken on incredibly challenging issues ranging from fostering opportunities for young talent to promoting infrastructure, internet access, healthcare, and housing developments. Outside his work for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development, Murray has served on the St. Lawrence County Planning Board for over 12 years, recently as the chairman, and is active in his local fire department, serving as an interior firefighter and as a member of the rescue squad. His commitment to serving his community outside of his professional life demonstrates his remarkable and genuine dedication to improving New York's rural communities.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I would like to thank and honor Brian Murray for his efforts to enhance the quality of life for members of New York's rural communities. His dedication to public service is truly admirable and has made a lasting impact that will continue to benefit New Yorkers for years to come.

HONORING WILLIAM W. "BILL" CROW

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2025

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the well-deserved retirement of William W. "Bill" Crow. Born and raised in Morganfield, Kentucky, Bill Crow graduated in 1980 from the United States Naval Academy earning a Bachelor of Science degree and a commission as Ensign in the United States Navy. He also holds a Master of Science degree from the National Defense University Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

His Navy career included at sea assignments of various division officer billets and Chief Engineer in USS *PHARRIS* (FF-1094), Assistant Operations Officer of Commander Destroyer Squadron 26, an extended department head tour as Chief Engineer in USS *BRISCOE* (DD-977), Material Officer for Commander Destroyer Squadrons 10 and 2, Executive Officer of USS *Peterson* (DD-969), Commanding Officer of USS *Austin* (LPD-4), and Training and Readiness Assistant Chief of Staff for Commander Amphibious Group Two.

Ashore, he served as a steam engineering instructor, Surface Warfare Programs Officer for COMNAVSURFLANT, Chief Staff Officer to

the Commandant, Naval District Washington, and Executive Officer of Naval Station Norfolk, the world's largest naval base. After retirement from the Navy in July of 2010, he transitioned into the private business sector as a Senior Naval Consultant for McKean Defense Group. He assumed his current duties as President of the Virginia Ship Repair Association on September 18, 2012.

Bill is married to the former Jeanne Boucher of Chesapeake, Virginia. They reside in the Great Bridge community in Chesapeake, Virginia and are the proud parents of four children; John, Karen, Sara and Kevin.

I have had the honor and privilege of working with Bill in a professional and a personal capacity and can attest he is a generous and dedicated man. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Bill Crow for his unyielding dedication to protecting our Nation to the best of his abilities. I wish him all the best in his well-earned retirement and pray for his continued health and happiness in whatever adventures come his way.

HONORING THE EAST JORDAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE HISTORY OF THE PORTSIDE ART FAIR

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2025

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the East Jordan Area Chamber of Commerce for its continued leadership in hosting the 2025 Portside Art Fair, one of Northern Michigan's most prestigious and long-standing artistic traditions.

Founded in August 1962, the Portside Art Fair was the vision of a dedicated group of East Jordan residents who believed their community was the ideal setting for local artists to share their work with the public. What began with just 30 participants has now grown to its full capacity of 75, reflecting not only the fair's increasing popularity but also the vibrant creativity it continues to inspire.

Held along the beautiful shores of Lake Charlevoix, the Portside Art Fair honors the deep connection between our region's natural beauty and the inspiration it provides to artists. It showcases the work of established and emerging artists from East Jordan and throughout Northern Michigan. Each year, a qualified judge in the visual arts carefully selects standout pieces to be honored with inclusion in the prestigious Cygred Riley Gallery at Elm Point.

The standards for recognition at the Portside Art Fair are high, and the quality of submissions reflects the extraordinary talent of our local artists. The fair serves as a powerful reminder of the important role that the arts play in strengthening our communities, inspiring future generations, and celebrating the unique character of Northern Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to commend the East Jordan Area Chamber of Commerce for organizing the 2025 Portside Art Fair and for its unwavering support of the arts. I offer my best wishes to all participating artists and look forward to the continued success of this treasured cultural event.