

take place every September during Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. Now an annual downstate tradition, Paint the Town Gold brings together businesses, schools, local governments, and citizens to honor children, inspire hope, and advocate for continued progress in both cancer and blood disorder care.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to urge the chamber to join me in congratulating OSF Children's Hospital of Illinois Cancer and Blood Disorders Institute on their new name, while applauding their leadership in pediatric cancer and blood disorder care. Likewise, I am happy to recognize Paint the Town Gold as an enduring community tradition in the fight for every child's health.

HONORING THE LIFE AND
MEMORY OF JOSEPH D. PUTNAM

HON. KEVIN MULLIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2025

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and memory of a legendary business and community leader in San Mateo County, California, Joseph D. Putnam, who died peacefully at his home in Woodside on August 11, 2025, at the age of 90.

Born in Gregory, South Dakota, Mr. Putnam was one of six children of Francis and Bertha Putnam. He was raised on his family's farm, where, during the depths of the Depression and the Dustbowl, they carried their water to the house in buckets from a well, their heat was provided by the wood-burning stove in the kitchen, and their light by oil lamp. Their out-house was located behind the house. From a very young age Joe showed his entrepreneurial spirit by trapping minks and selling them to the war department for lining the jackets of bomber pilots in World War II. In those early years, he also developed the skill of western riding as he spent many hours with his beloved horse.

When in high school, Mary Lou Kayl set her sights on the smartest boy in school, and Joe was the unwitting beneficiary of her plan. After they married a couple of years later, he started his career selling used cars in Minneapolis. Mary Lou was employed with Braniff Airlines, which enabled the young couple to honeymoon in Brazil. Thus began a lifelong quest to jointly explore the world.

When Mary Lou gave birth to their first child, Joe had to work double-time to sell three cars in one day so that he could afford to pay the hospital bill and bring them home. That ambition drove him year-round, as their family grew to six children and Joe made the leap from selling used cars in the Dakotas and Minnesota, to buying a dealership in Burlingame, California. Through grit, smarts, and long hours at work, Joe developed a very successful business, Putnam Auto Dealerships. The business has grown from one dealership to thirteen, selling seventeen brands around the San Francisco Bay Area in Burlingame, San Mateo, Redwood City, San Carlos, and Oakland.

Joe was a mentor and friend to many over the years managing his automobile dealerships. Well known for his radio ads on KCBS in the 70's and 80's—"bring your wife or hus-

band, your pink slip and your check book"—he leaves behind a legacy of family-friendly values and excellent customer service.

Joe and Mary Lou were married for 54 years and created a dynamic life together, centered always on family while being active in the Catholic Church and in charitable activity throughout the community. They were a generous, tireless, formidable couple. Mary Lou predeceased Joe by eighteen years.

Outside of family and work, Joe's lifelong passion was horses. A skilled western horseman, he won many cutting competitions across the west and rode with his good friends at the Mounted Patrol of San Mateo County. In 1998 Joe was awarded Outstanding Horseperson-Citizen of the Year by the Mounted Patrol. His children grew up in Woodside riding their horses after school the way other kids ride their bikes.

Mr. Putnam leaves a proud legacy of community engagement and service, values instilled in his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. A self-made family man who lived and embodied the American dream, Mr. Putnam will always be remembered for his many contributions to our community. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to please join me in celebrating and commemorating the life and the accomplishments of Joseph D. Putnam.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
OF SERGEANT MAJOR TROY E.
BLACK

HON. MORGAN MCGARVEY

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2025

Mr. MCGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize an extraordinary American patriot, Sergeant Major Troy E. Black, United States Marine Corps, on the occasion of his retirement following a distinguished 37-year career in faithful service to our Nation.

Sergeant Major Black's journey began in Louisville, Kentucky, where the values of duty, discipline, and perseverance were instilled early in his life. In July 1988, he answered the call to serve and reported to Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island. There, he began a journey that would span nearly four decades and see him rise to the highest enlisted ranks in the Marine Corps and in our Armed Forces.

After completing infantry school and earning his military occupational specialty as an 0331-Machine Gunner, Sergeant Major Black trained at Marine Security Force School before deploying aboard the USS *Forrestal* (CV-59) in support of Operation Just Cause. He deployed again in 1990 with the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines to Kuwait during Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

From the beginning, Sergeant Major Black distinguished himself not only through valor in combat but also as a dedicated mentor and leader. He served as a two-time drill instructor at Parris Island, ultimately rising to the roles of Senior Drill Instructor, Drill Instructor School Instructor, and Drill Master of the Recruit Training Regiment. It was there, fittingly at the very birthplace of Marine transformation, that he met his wife Stacie, herself a proud Marine who would later retire as a First Sergeant.

Following the tragic attacks on our Nation on September 11, 2001, Sergeant Major Black deployed repeatedly to the frontlines of the Global War on Terror. With the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines, he completed two combat deployments to Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom, and later, with the 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines, he deployed twice more to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

In one unforgettable moment of heroism, Sergeant Major Black ran through uncleared territory to rescue a wounded Marine struck by an IED. For this act of extraordinary courage under fire, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V", a testament to his unwavering commitment to those he led.

His exceptional leadership culminated in his appointment as the 19th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, the highest enlisted position in that service, and subsequently as the 5th Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the most senior enlisted position in the entire U.S. Armed Forces.

Over the course of nearly four decades, Sergeant Major Black's work has had an immeasurable impact on our Joint Forces servicemembers and the civilian employees of the Department of Defense. His dedication to the mission, to the men and women and then families who accomplish it, and his tireless efforts to lead from the front, have contributed to the safety and security of all Americans. Today, his legacy lives on through the Black family, with their daughter, Corporal Are'wynn Black, following in her parents' footsteps in the Marine Corps.

On behalf of a grateful Nation, I offer my deepest thanks and best wishes to Sergeant Major Troy Black, to 1st Sergeant Major Stacie Black, and to their entire family as they begin this well-earned new chapter.

WELCOMING HIS ALL-HOLINESS
ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

HON. WILLIAM R. TIMMONS IV

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2025

Mr. TIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome to Washington, D.C., His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the spiritual leader of Orthodox Christianity worldwide. As Archbishop of Constantinople—New Rome, His All-Holiness is recognized as the "first among equals" of Orthodox Primates and shepherds more than 300 million faithful across the globe.

Since his election in 1991, Patriarch Bartholomew has been an unwavering advocate for peace, interfaith dialogue, religious freedom, and environmental stewardship, earning him the title of "Green Patriarch" and international recognition for his vision of reconciliation and unity. He has convened historic gatherings of Orthodox leaders, fostered dialogue with other Christian traditions, and extended a hand of friendship to leaders of the Jewish and Muslim faiths.

In South Carolina's 4th District, the Greek Orthodox community has been a vital part of our religious and cultural life. Families in Greenville and Spartanburg have shared their faith and traditions for generations, strengthening the bonds of community and enriching the fabric of our state.

On behalf of my constituents in South Carolina's 4th District, including the faithful at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Spartanburg, I extend a warm welcome to His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. His presence in Washington is a reminder of the enduring bonds of faith, freedom, and shared values that unite people of all backgrounds.

CELEBRATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROCK CHURCH OF TERRELL AND HONORING PASTOR GARY WEEMS

HON. LANCE GOODEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2025

Mr. GOODEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of The Rock Church of Terrell's 20th anniversary and to congratulate Pastor Gary Weems on his retirement and transition to a senior bishop role. Since its founding in 2005, The Rock Church of Terrell has been a symbol of love, hope, and faith to people from all walks of life in my hometown of Terrell, Texas.

Pastor Gary began his ministry in Terrell in 1996, immediately offering himself and his family to the enrichment of our community. Alongside his wife, Jodi, Pastor Gary has dedicated his life to the service of the body of Christ and full-time ministry for 48 years. His faithfulness and love have made a profound and enduring impact on the Terrell community. In his absence, The Rock Church of Terrell will welcome a new generation of pastoral leadership. Pastor Gary's son, Ben, will assume the role of Senior Pastor, continuing his father's legacy of dedicated service. I wish the best for Pastor Ben and his wife, Chelsea, and Associate Pastor Bodie Jones and his wife, Stephanie, as they embark on this new journey.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFFERSON SHREVE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2025

Mr. SHREVE. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 234, Perry of Pennsylvania Amendment No. 30.

HONORING PENINSULA FAMILY SERVICE AND COMMEMORATING ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. KEVIN MULLIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2025

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Peninsula Family Service and commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the founding of this impactful nonprofit, and its unique history and significance to my district.

Peninsula Family Service was founded on April 24, 1950, responding to a need to pro-

vide counseling for veterans who had returned from World War II and their families. The San Francisco Bay Area has evolved over many decades, and Peninsula Family Service has been there every step of the way—providing support, caring for neighbors, and becoming a deeply trusted part of our community. Peninsula Family Service is well-known for its ability to adapt and respond to local needs, and it provides support to program participants at every stage of life, from children and families to adults over 100 years young. The organization has more than 45 programs, sites, and services, reaching 10,000 of our neighbors in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties in California. Today these services are more relevant than ever. The priority program areas for Peninsula Family Service are early learning, employment services, financial empowerment, and older adult services.

The scope of Peninsula Family Service programs is broad: Older adults can participate in any one of numerous exercise classes, including Tai Chi and Zumba, or get a nutritious lunch, which is provided each day at the organization's Fair Oaks Adult Activity Center in Redwood City. The Fair Oaks Center is part of the Peninsula Family Service's comprehensive approach to health, wellness and overcoming isolation for our older adults, all key components of its Overcoming Loneliness Initiative, through which the organization is a San Mateo County leader. Parents of children from birth to 5 years old are served at Peninsula Family Service early learning centers, of which there are soon to be eleven around San Mateo County. Each learning center provides high-quality child development and family support. One of these centers also provides programs for youth ages 6 to 12 years. All Peninsula Family Service centers provide this care and early learning to children of low-income families and households in poverty. Some children are unhoused and some may have experienced other trauma. Peninsula Family Service also offers financial education workshops for adults, and now also for teens ages 13 to 20 years of age.

To honor its 75 years of unwavering service to the Bay Area, Peninsula Family Service is hosting a year-long celebration throughout 2025 to recognize, thank and engage past, current, and future members of the Peninsula Family Service family. At the core of its 75th anniversary is a commitment to celebrating the many generations of program participants, staff, leadership, volunteers, auxiliaries, donors, and corporate and community partners, and their impact on our community.

I am proud Peninsula Family Service is part of California's 15th Congressional District. The organization stands as a testament to the power of responsiveness to community needs and the importance of providing support for our community. Peninsula Family Service honors all those who have been part of its past and looks forward to serving where community need remains great. As I reflect on the journey of Peninsula Family Service, I am reminded of the profound impact of nonprofits, such as Peninsula Family Service, that keep our communities healthy and strong. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to please join me in celebrating Peninsula Family Service's 75th Anniversary and wishing continued success in all future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM BURCHETT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2025

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, due to an illness, I missed the vote series on September 3, 2025. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 224; YEA on Roll Call No. 225; YEA on Roll Call No. 226; YEA on Roll Call No. 227; YEA on Roll Call No. 228; YEA on Roll Call No. 229; YEA on Roll Call No. 230; YEA on Roll Call No. 231; YEA on Roll Call No. 232; YEA on Roll Call No. 233; and YEA on Roll Call No. 234.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE HARIDOPOLOS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2025

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 227.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2025

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 234.

RECOGNIZING THE SOUTH DAYTON DEPOT ON ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. NICHOLAS A. LANGWORTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2025

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a remarkable landmark of our history from my hometown of South Dayton. For 150 years, the South Dayton Depot has been a center of connection, culture, and community spirit. Since its founding in 1875, the South Dayton Depot has welcomed generations of travelers and neighbors, serving first as a vital hub for freight and passenger service, and now as a museum where history is preserved for generations to come.

The South Dayton Depot has not only preserved our community's railroad heritage, but has also become a gathering place where neighbors connect and visitors experience the rich story of our region. From its role in major motion pictures like *The Natural* and *Planes, Trains and Automobiles*, to its continued service through the *Movie and Rail Museum*, the South Dayton Depot stands as a living link between our past and present.

On September 6, 2025, the Village of South Dayton will celebrate the South Dayton Depot's 150th anniversary with a community celebration that honors both its historic legacy and its enduring role as the heart of the village. Thanks to the dedication of local leaders,