

believed to be the oldest in the San Joaquin Valley, as well as the original baptismal font and pipe organ.

Over the past 175 years, St. John's has hosted more than 9,000 Sunday services and an untold number of baptisms, weddings, funerals, and holy observances. Yet its mission has always reached beyond its walls. Through initiatives like the HUB—Helping Urban Bicyclists—founded by Deacon Rev. Stephen Bentley, the church provides refurbished bicycles to those without transportation. The program has grown to include mobile showers, laundry services, meals, medical care, and case management, offering vital support to Stockton's unsheltered community.

St. John's is a church where everyone is welcomed with dignity and joy. Whether attending Sunday service, receiving a meal, or arriving with a dog—who are greeted each week with a biscuit and a blessing—each visitor becomes part of a tradition rooted in compassion. Above the church doors, the words "Enter, Rest, Pray" offer a simple but powerful invitation—one that has endured through generations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church for 175 years of faithful service, inclusivity, and leadership in Stockton.

RECOGNIZING JAY VARNEY'S
RETIREMENT

HON. ADAM GRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2025

Mr. GRAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jay Varney, Madera County's Chief Administrator, for his service and accomplishments as he retires after four decades of public service.

Mr. Varney earned his Master of Science degree in Criminology from Fresno State and his Bachelor of Science degree in Resource Development from Michigan State University.

He went on to serve with the Dallas Police Department and the Lansing, Michigan, Police Department before becoming Police Chief and then City Administrator for the City of Chowchilla, California.

In 2014, Mr. Varney came to Madera and was elected to serve as the Madera County Sheriff. In 2020, the Madera County Board of Supervisors appointed Mr. Varney as County Administrative Officer, overseeing 25 county departments and a half-billion-dollar budget.

COVID hit almost as soon as he was hired, and Mr. Varney found himself navigating Madera County through one of the most challenging times in recent history. He played a vital role in helping Madera County survive and thrive through COVID. Thanks to his hard work, Madera County played an important part in the reopening of Madera Community Hospital.

Under Mr. Varney's direction and guidance, Madera County has seen significant growth in revenue, housing and business. Capital improvements flourished under his watch with the Madera County Justice Center as well as Fire Station No. 3 and the upgrading of Fire Station No. 11 through a cooperative, grant-funded project with North Fork Mono. He also oversaw Madera County's continuing expan-

sion along Highway 41 with the Riverstone and Tesoro Viejo developments.

Mr. Varney was instrumental in establishing the Sheriff's Foundation, which has raised more than a half-million dollars. The Sheriff's Foundation has secured vital search-and-rescue equipment like the county's Cessna 172 aircraft, giving law enforcement a better view from above, and the Screamer Seats first responders attach to helicopters, which has already saved one stranded hiker's life. The Sheriff's Foundation also helped create and build the county's K9 unit. Every dog on the road in Madera County today has been provided by funding from the Sheriff's Foundation.

Please join me in honoring Jay Varney for his dedication, commitment and public service for more than 42 years to the people of Madera County.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
JAMES M. BATZER

HON. JOHN R. MOOLENAAR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2025

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the life of Judge James M. Batzer, who passed away on August 28, 2025, at the age of 81.

James was born on December 14, 1943, in Manistee, Michigan, where he was raised and graduated from Manistee High School in 1961. He then attended Albion College and graduated with his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Michigan in 1968.

After college, he received his master's degree in criminal justice from Michigan State University, and his Juris Doctorate in 1978 from Wayne State University Law School, where he received awards for his writing and scholastic achievement. James went on to serve as the Assistant Attorney General for the State of Michigan's Division of Mental Health where he represented the state in various fields of law.

In November of 1984, he was elected to serve the residents of Manistee and Benzie counties as Circuit Judge for the 19th Judicial Circuit. Judge Batzer served his community in this position for 30 years until his retirement in January 2015. Judge Batzer dedicated his life to service and left a legacy on the bench of keeping his community safe and running a fair and fact-based courtroom.

On behalf of Michigan's 2nd Congressional District, I am honored to recognize Judge James M. Batzer for his lifelong commitment to the residents of Manistee and Benzie counties, and I extend my deepest condolences to his family.

CELEBRATING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF SEVEN STUDENTS FROM ARKANSAS'S 2ND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2025

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the remark-

able achievements of seven exceptional students from Arkansas's 2nd Congressional District:

Jack Koon, Ethan Chen, Fredrick Zawislak, Timothy Garrison, Yassin Bahgat, Jack Lowenthal, and Muhammad Younus.

These students have demonstrated unparalleled dedication to their academic pursuits, earning them the prestigious U.S. Merit Scholarship. This \$2,500 award recognizes their hard work, intellectual curiosity, and commitment to excellence.

Each of these young scholars has proven themselves as leaders in their schools and communities, balancing rigorous coursework with extracurricular involvement and service.

Their achievements serve as an inspiration to their peers and a testament to the bright future of our district.

Please join me in congratulating these students on this well-deserved honor. We look forward to seeing all that they will accomplish in the years to come.

HONORING DARYL RICHARDS, JR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding Mississippian, Mr. Daryl Richards, Jr., for his dedication, leadership, and service to the elders of the Mississippi Delta as the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Director for the South Delta Planning and Development District (SDPDD).

Mr. Richards was born and raised in Greenville, the heart of the Mississippi Delta. A proud graduate of Greenville-Weston High School, Class of 2010, he went on to attend the University of Mississippi, where he earned dual degrees in Political Science and Business Administration. He later pursued graduate studies at Belhaven University, earning a Master of Business Administration.

During his junior year of college, Mr. Richards began an internship with the SDPDD. A few years later, after gaining management experience in the private sector, he was called back to serve his community. In 2019, at the age of 27, he was appointed as Director—becoming the youngest AAA Director in both the history of the District and the State of Mississippi.

In this role, Mr. Richards has embraced his calling to be a voice for Mississippi's elderly population. Under his leadership, the Agency provides critical services to seniors and their families across thirty-five municipalities and six counties. These include congregate meal sites, home-delivered meals, homemaker services, respite care, legal assistance, ombudsman services, adult day care, State Health Insurance Assistance, access to care programs, preventative health classes, elder abuse prevention, and a range of information and referral resources. Through these efforts, Mr. Richards and his team ensure that the most vulnerable members of our communities are not forgotten.

Mr. Richards is inspired by the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "What are you doing for others?" This guiding principle motivates him daily to advocate for those who cannot

advocate for themselves. His commitment reflects not only in his professional service but also in his extensive community involvement. He is actively engaged with Walking in Love Ministries, has served as Chairman of the Community Foundation of Washington County, is Treasurer of 100 Black Men of the Mississippi Delta, Presidential Director of Delta Council, a board member of the Washington County United Way, a Mississippi Aging TAC Member, and a board member of the Three Rivers CDE Advisory Board.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Mr. Daryl Richards, Jr., for his tireless service to the people of the Mississippi Delta. He stands as a shining example of leadership, compassion, and commitment, and he continues to make a lasting difference in the lives of our elders and their families.

RECOGNIZING UNITED STATES
ARMY MASTER SERGEANT
TOMMY J. KING AS SEPTEMBER
2025 VETERAN OF THE MONTH

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2025

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with profound respect and gratitude to recognize the extraordinary service and unwavering dedication of Master Sergeant Tommy J. King, a proud veteran of the United States Army and our distinguished Veteran of the Month for September 2025 from Michigan's 9th Congressional District. His exceptional military career and steadfast commitment to duty, excellence, and patriotism embody the very best of American service.

Master Sergeant King is a native of Houston, Texas, who answered the call to serve his country in February of 1994 at the young age of 18. He completed basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, followed by Advanced Individual Training at Fort Lee, Virginia, where he trained as an Automated Logistics Specialist (92A).

Over the course of 20 years in uniform, his service took him across the globe with assignments at Camp Casey, Korea; Fort Campbell, Kentucky; Fort Drum, New York; Kaiserslautern, Germany; and Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. He also served as an instructor for the Noncommissioned Officer Academy at Fort Lee, Virginia. While deployed to Iraq as a Platoon Sergeant and First Sergeant with the 65th Engineer Battalion, Master Sergeant King earned the Bronze Star for his leadership and valor. He personally planned and led 72 combat logistics patrol missions throughout Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, accomplishing each without the loss of a single soldier.

Later, Master Sergeant King deployed to Afghanistan as part of PEO Soldier Weapons and PEO Soldier Sensor and Lasers under the TACOM Life Cycle Management Command. There, he played a critical role in fielding and training troops on Individual Gunshot Detection equipment, ensuring the safety and effectiveness of our warfighters during Operation Enduring Freedom.

Following his retirement from active duty, Master Sergeant King remained with his family in Michigan. He supported the University of

Michigan's ROTC program before rejoining TACOM as a Logistics Management Specialist. Over the years, he rose through the ranks to become a GS-13 Team Lead for the Organic Industrial Base, demonstrating the same commitment to mission success that defined his military career. In August 2025, he concluded more than 35 years of combined military and civilian service to our Nation.

Master Sergeant King now plans to dedicate his time to supporting fellow veterans and strengthening the bonds of community that have guided his life of service. His journey reflects not only a lifetime of personal sacrifice, but also an enduring devotion to the United States Army, his fellow soldiers, and the freedoms we hold dear.

Mr. Speaker, let us extend our deepest appreciation to Master Sergeant Tommy J. King for his decades of selfless service to this great Nation. His legacy of leadership, sacrifice, and patriotism will continue to inspire generations to come, and it is my distinct honor to recognize him as our Veteran of the Month.

RECOGNIZING LEWIS M.
UNTERMAN

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary American and proud constituent, Mr. Lewis M. Unterman, who will reach the remarkable milestone of 100 years young on November 7, 2025. Born in New York on November 7, 1925, Mr. Unterman represents a generation of Americans whose courage, resilience, and unwavering commitment to freedom helped shape the course of history. At the age of 18, in the midst of World War II, Lewis answered the call to serve his country. On September 8, 1944, he enlisted in the United States Navy, where he served honorably as a Seaman First Class.

During his military service, Lewis demonstrated exceptional bravery and dedication. His valor was recognized through the awarding of multiple service decorations, including the Combat Action Ribbon, the American Theater Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Medal, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon, and the Victory Medal. These honors reflect his direct contribution to the global fight for peace and liberty during one of the most defining conflicts of the 20th century.

Following his military service, Lewis continued to embody the values of duty, service, and community. He now resides in Beverly Hills, Florida, where he remains an active and respected member of VFW Post 10087, continuing to advocate for his fellow veterans and keep the memory of their sacrifices alive.

Lewis and his beloved wife, Ellie, are shining examples of American patriotism and community spirit. Together, they have left an indelible mark on those around them, reminding us all of the strength and integrity that have long defined the American character.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Florida's 12th Congressional District and the United States House of Representatives, I am proud to honor Mr. Lewis M. Unterman for his lifetime of service and sacrifice. I extend my heartfelt congratulations on his upcoming 100th birth-

day and offer best wishes for continued health, happiness, and the gratitude of a grateful Nation. May his legacy continue to inspire future generations.

HONORING JOE BONAMASSA

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2025

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joe Bonamassa, a celebrated blues guitarist, singer, and songwriter, for his tireless efforts in preserving and promoting the blues genre. Through the Keeping the Blues Alive Foundation (KTBA), Bonamassa has become a beacon of hope for aspiring musicians, educators, and enthusiasts alike. Our Nation recognizes Joe Bonamassa's contributions to the blues community, the mission and impact of the KTBA Foundation, and the significance of his legacy in keeping the blues alive for generations to come.

Joe Bonamassa is a renowned figure in the world of blues music, revered for his exceptional talent as a guitarist and his unwavering dedication to the preservation of the genre. He is seen by many as the best guitarist of his generation. In addition to his prolific career as a recording artist and performer, Bonamassa is the founder of the Keeping the Blues Alive Foundation, a nonprofit organization committed to supporting music education and preserving the rich heritage of the blues.

Joe Bonamassa's love affair with the blues began at a young age, inspired by the music of legends like B.B. King, Eric Clapton, and Stevie Ray Vaughan. With his prodigious talent and soulful playing style, Bonamassa quickly established himself as one of the preeminent blues guitarists of his generation. His extensive discography, which spans over two decades, showcases his mastery of the genre and his ability to breathe new life into classic blues songs.

Beyond his achievements as a performer, Bonamassa has been a passionate advocate for the blues community. He has used his platform to raise awareness about the importance of preserving this uniquely American art form and has worked tirelessly to ensure its continued relevance in the modern music landscape. Through his music, Bonamassa pays homage to the blues tradition while also pushing the boundaries of the genre, attracting new audiences and inspiring future generations of musicians.

In 2011, Joe Bonamassa founded the Keeping the Blues Alive Foundation with the mission of providing resources and support to music education programs and aspiring musicians. The foundation offers scholarships, instrument donations, and grants to schools and organizations that are dedicated to teaching and preserving the blues. Through these initiatives, KTBA aims to empower young musicians and ensure that the blues remains a vibrant and thriving art form for years to come.

Since its inception, the Keeping the Blues Alive Foundation has made a significant impact on the blues community, funding music programs in schools across the country and providing instruments to aspiring musicians who may not have had access otherwise. In addition to its financial support, KTBA also