

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

hosts events, workshops, and educational programs that celebrate the blues and foster a sense of community among musicians and fans.

Joe Bonamassa's legacy extends far beyond his accomplishments as a musician. Through his advocacy work with the Keeping the Blues Alive Foundation, he has become a champion for the blues, ensuring that its rich legacy endures for future generations. His passion, talent, and generosity have earned him the respect and admiration of fans and fellow musicians alike, cementing his status as one of the genre's most influential figures.

As we celebrate Joe Bonamassa and his contributions to the blues community, we are reminded of the power of music to unite, inspire, and uplift. Through his music and his philanthropy, Bonamassa has touched the lives of countless individuals and left an indelible mark on the world of blues music. As we look to the future, we are confident that his legacy will continue to shine brightly, keeping the blues alive for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, Joe Bonamassa's dedication to the blues and his efforts with the Keeping the Blues Alive Foundation have had a profound impact on the music community. Through his music, advocacy, and philanthropy, Bonamassa has helped to preserve the legacy of the blues while also ensuring its continued relevance in the 21st century. As we honor his contributions, we are reminded of the importance of supporting music education and nurturing the next generation of blues musicians. Joe Bonamassa's legacy will undoubtedly continue to inspire and uplift for years to come.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2025

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, Minnesotans are feeling the heat, literally. The Twin Cities have experienced 10 days over 90 degrees this summer, and wildfire smoke has resulted in 18 air quality alerts, nearing the record of 22 days in 2023. This is not a fluke. It's a sign of a worsening climate crisis that threatens our life, health, safety and economic security.

Instead of investing in solutions to this crisis, the Republican majority in Congress is advancing legislation that would raise energy costs for American households and businesses, make us less competitive and weaken our national security.

Last month, the House Appropriations Committee passed H.R. 4553, the fiscal year 2026 Energy and Water Appropriations bill. As the only Minnesotan on the Appropriations Committee, I will vote against advancing this bill. Its cuts will harm Minnesota and our Nation.

Our global competitors like China are investing hundreds of billions of dollars in clean-energy development, but Republicans are choosing to cut U.S. investments that create high-wage jobs, drive innovation and lower energy bills for Americans. Republicans' bill slashes energy efficiency and renewable energy programs at the Department of Energy by \$1.6

billion, a staggering 47 percent cut. For Minnesota, this cut means we'll lose over \$6.7 million in federal funding if Republicans' Energy and Water bill becomes law.

If that wasn't bad enough, Republicans on the Appropriations Committee voted for a 44 percent cut to the Weatherization Assistance Program, which helps low-income households lower their utility bills by improving home energy efficiency. This program helps roughly 1,200 Minnesotans weatherize their homes each year, saving families about \$372 annually on their energy bills. While most U.S. households spend 3 percent of their income on energy costs, low-income households often spend 15 percent or more. Under the MAGA Republican plan, many senior citizens and families would be forced to choose between buying groceries or cooling their homes during record-breaking heat.

It could get even worse for these families. President Donald Trump has proposed eliminating funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Trump calls LIHEAP "unnecessary," but for thousands of Minnesotans, it is a lifeline that helps to keep the heat on during our brutal winters.

As House Republicans' Energy and Water bill increases Minnesotans' energy costs, their funding cuts will have a chilling effect on clean-energy jobs—a sector that has been growing five times faster than Minnesota's overall job growth. More than 62,000 Minnesotans work in clean energy, and more than 44,000 of them work in energy efficiency. More than 300 local contractors alone work on projects directly supported by the Weatherization Assistance Program.

Since taking office, Trump has been jeopardizing clean-energy jobs in Minnesota by terminating clean-energy incentives in his so-called "One Big Beautiful Bill," canceling grants and illegally withholding funds from state, local and tribal governments. These actions are stalling clean-energy projects and eliminating high-wage jobs.

The Trump administration is also attacking workforce development for clean energy. In May, the Department of Labor shut down Job Corps, closing the doors of the Hubert H. Humphrey Job Corps Center in St. Paul. For 44 years, Job Corps provided job training, education and housing for thousands of low-income, at-risk youth, preparing Minnesota's workforce to meet the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century, including jobs in renewable energy and efficiency.

We cannot afford to abandon these investments during a worsening climate crisis. American families are already struggling with high energy bills. But the need to develop our own homegrown clean and sustainable energy isn't just a matter of economic security; it's also about our national security.

The Department of Defense considers climate change to be a top national security concern. Climate change is making nations around the world more unstable and less safe. It's also hurting our military readiness here at home, with sea-level rise and extreme weather flooding our bases. Permafrost thaw is making Alaskan runways unusable. Radar stations are at risk of falling into the sea.

Mr. Chair, we don't have the luxury of ignoring the very real effects of climate change happening around us—especially when they're affecting our lives and livelihoods and our national security. Future generations will pay the highest costs of Republicans' failure to act.

As a Minnesota representative, I will fight to defend these critical investments because Minnesotans deserve better. The children deserve better.

RECOGNIZING SADIE PIREZ, CHEVROLET PLAY BALL PLAYER OF THE MONTH

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2025

Mr. KEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sadie Pirez of Readington, New Jersey, who has been recognized nationally as a Chevrolet Play Ball Player of the Month by Major League Baseball. This program highlights outstanding young athletes across the country who demonstrate exceptional talent, sportsmanship, and dedication to the game. Sadie has achieved remarkable success both on and off the field. She has been a part of three championship teams over the past three seasons and was selected for the Branchburg Recreation Spring 2025 All-Star Team. Sadie led her travel team to the Parkway League Spring Division Championship and was team leader in runs scored and RBI's, carrying an impressive .521 batting average and .662 on-base percentage this past spring.

Off the field, Sadie is a two-time Hunterdon Art Museum Young Artist Award recipient and has been featured in the Holland Brook School Bobcat Bulletin. She also maintains straight A's in all core subjects. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring Sadie and her remarkable achievements, and I look forward to seeing Sadie continue to be successful both on and off the field for years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID ROUZER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2025

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, I missed the Roll Call vote on H.J. Res. 106. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 225.

HONORING PROSTATE CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. JASMINE CROCKETT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2025

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize September as Prostate Cancer Awareness Month. Prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death among American men, with one in eight men receiving diagnosis in their lifetime. This disease also affects African American men at higher rates. Yet through early detection and effective medical treatment, many men can lead fulfilling lives. This month emphasizes the importance of regular doctors' visits and testing as well as reminds us of the need to normalize open and honest conversations with our loved