

Ashley is from Hanover, Pennsylvania and was inspired to pursue welding by her father. Although she didn't know any welders personally, a high school welding course sparked her interest, leading her to enroll in the fabrication and welding program at Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology. At Thaddeus Stevens, Ashley has advanced her skills in Shielded Metal Welding, Gas Metal Arc Welding, also known as Metal Inert Gas welding, Gas Tungsten Arc Welding, commonly called Tungsten Inert Gas welding, and oxyacetylene welding.

Ashley placed 2nd at this year's Clash of the Grinders competition, an amazing achievement. For her great work, she was awarded a \$9,000 cash prize. Outside of welding, Ashley enjoys spending time with her family, friends, and dogs, cherishing the joy and memories they bring. Upon completing her program at Thaddeus Stevens, Ashley plans to start her career in a shop or field setting to build her skills and has an interest in Non-Destructive Testing.

I commend Ashley for her amazing work and her interest in pursuing a career in the trades. It is thanks to young people like Ashley, who will drive our Nation's economy for decades to come. It is important that we recognize and encourage young people to participate in the skilled trades and competitions like the Clash of the Grinders are crucial to increasing visibility for these in-demand industries.

I congratulate Ashley on her 2nd place finish. I wish her the best in all her future endeavors.

CELEBRATING THE LEGACY OF
DIRK KEMPTHORNE

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 30, 2025

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the extraordinary life and legacy of one of Idaho's most distinguished public servants, my dear friend of over 40 years, Dirk Kempthorne.

Dirk's career has been a testament to selfless dedication, from the halls of local government to the highest echelons of national service. Born in San Diego, California, in 1951, Dirk graduated from the University of Idaho in 1975 with a degree in political science, where he served as Student Body President, a fitting prelude to a lifetime of leadership. He began his public service as Mayor of Boise from 1985 to 1993, guiding our capital city through a period of remarkable growth and economic vitality. From there, he ascended to the United States Senate, representing Idaho from 1993 to 1999 with a steady hand and unyielding commitment to Western values. Elected Governor in 1998 and reelected in 2002, Dirk served until 2006, championing fiscal responsibility and environmental stewardship. Capping his tenure in elective office, he was confirmed as the 49th Secretary of the Interior under President George W. Bush, where he balanced conservation with economic opportunity across our vast public lands.

But to me, Mr. Speaker, Dirk has never been just "Mr. Mayor," "Senator Kempthorne," "Governor," or "Mr. Secretary." He is simply Dirk—a loyal confidant, a steadfast ally, and a

friend I was lucky to meet in the arena of Idaho politics more than four decades ago. We met in the mid-1980's, as I began my service in the Idaho State Legislature and Dirk launched his mayoral campaign. From those early days, our friendship deepened through shared battles and bipartisan collaborations on behalf of Idahoans. Dirk's endorsement and unwavering support were instrumental in my own 1998 campaign for this House seat, a debt of gratitude I carry to this day. He didn't just help get me elected; he helped shape the principled conservative I strive to be, always reminding me that public service is about people, not politics.

Mr. Speaker, our professional paths intertwined time and again, yielding results that strengthened Idaho and the West. As Mayor, Dirk and I worked together to tackle local challenges. When Dirk became Governor, I had the honor of being elected to represent Idaho's 2nd Congressional District. Together with the Idaho Delegation, we built a productive relationship with the State of Idaho, delivering federal results for Idahoans across the state.

I appreciated the priorities Dirk established while serving as Secretary of the Interior, and when I was Ranking Member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior and Environment. Although Republicans did not have the majority in the House, I had the honor of working with Dirk to advance priorities vital to Idaho. From working on the Endangered Species Act to protect property rights while safeguarding habitats, addressing water rights and tribal sovereignty, and promoting multiple-use policies for our public lands, Dirk's leadership ensured that federal policies respected the unique needs of the West.

Among these efforts, one stands out that holds a place closer to our hearts—that is, the Peregrine Fund and its World Center for Birds of Prey in Boise. Dirk has been its tireless advocate for this Center, just as he was during his time in public service. The Peregrine Fund has pioneered species recovery efforts, including the delisting of the peregrine falcon from the endangered list. I was proud to secure federal funding for the Center's vital work, and even prouder to do so alongside a friend who supported these efforts.

Through it all, Dirk has remained one of Idaho's fiercest champions. Even now, as he faces a personal battle with cancer with the same determination that defined his public life, Dirk continues to inspire us all. His story reminds us that true leadership endures beyond the ballot box, rooted in faith, family, and dedication.

I am grateful for Dirk's decades of service to our state and Nation, as well as his friendship all these years. I extend my deepest admiration and gratitude to Patricia, his wife, as she has also sacrificed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking and honoring Dirk Kempthorne for his decades of service, loyalty, and the lasting impact he has had on Idaho and America. May Dirk's legacy soar as high as the raptors he has so nobly protected.

RECOGNIZING THE PHYSICIANS AT
DALLAS ENDOSCOPY CENTER

HON. JASMINE CROCKETT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 30, 2025

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions of the physicians at Dallas Endoscopy Center (DEC) to the health and well-being of the residents of Texas' 30th Congressional District. For almost two decades, these dedicated healthcare professionals have profoundly impacted our community through their commitment to providing exceptional, cost-effective outpatient surgical services, including colonoscopies and endoscopies.

The founders' vision of delivering safe and effective surgical care through innovation and technology culminated in the opening of this critical facility in September 2005. Moreover, patients and employees have remained at the forefront of DEC's mission. As Susan Cheek, DEC's Administrator, put it: "Our longevity is a testament to our commitment to patients and employees. Multiple individuals, such as myself, have spent the majority of their careers here, directly impacting the lives of tens of thousands of patients. By prioritizing quality and efficiency, we've cultivated a strong, dedicated team that has been instrumental in our continued growth."

Ambulatory surgery centers (ASCs), such as DEC, are critical in delivering timely preventative care, including vital screenings like colonoscopies and endoscopies. These facilities offer efficient and accessible procedures, often with short wait times and low costs. By providing quick access to these screenings, ASCs can help identify potential health issues early, when treatment is most effective.

It is important to highlight the role of ASCs in serving underserved populations. These centers can offer increased accessibility for individuals facing barriers to care, such as lack of insurance or transportation difficulties. By providing convenient and affordable options, ASCs can help to reduce health disparities and improve overall community health.

I want to acknowledge the following physicians for their exemplary work specifically, Christopher J. Vesey, M.D. (Founder), W. Gregory Hodges, M.D. (Founder), Rajeev Jain, M.D. (Founder), Michael J. Nunez, M.D. (Founder), Kimberly M. Persley, M.D. (Founder), Esmail Elwazir, M.D. (Founder), Bhavani Moparty, M.D., Abrar Ahmed, M.D., Ben Kahn, M.D., Jason Martin, M.D., Jason Martin, M.D., William E. Stevens, M.D. (Founder), Robert Jacobson, M.D. (Founder), Paitoon Tulanon, M.D. (Founder), Peter Loeb, M.D. (Founder) in Gastroenterology as well as F. Clark Odom, M.D. (Founder) and Roberto Rodriguez Ruesga, M.D. (Founder) in Colorectal Surgery.

These physicians are invaluable assets to our community, and their dedication to patient care is commendable. By providing accessible and high-quality outpatient services, they have improved the lives of countless individuals in our district. I, again, proudly recognize the exceptional work of all the healthcare providers at Dallas Endoscopy Center.

CONGRATULATING THE MORENO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER

HON. MARK TAKANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 30, 2025

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Moreno Valley Unified School District for the opening of its new Health and Wellness Center, and to commend the district's leadership for their unwavering commitment to supporting students and families in need.

Last week, I had the honor of attending the ribbon-cutting ceremony for this Center, which will serve as a vital resource for students and their families who are experiencing homelessness, financial hardship, or foster care. Through the Department of Wellness, Mental Health, and Community Outreach, the Health and Wellness Center provides wraparound support to ensure that students can succeed both in and out of the classroom.

The Center offers a wide range of services, including washer and dryer access, showers, preventive dental care, eyeglasses, a food pantry, a clothing closet, tutoring, and more. It also provides emergency short-term housing and works with partners to connect students with youth specialists. These resources restore dignity and stability, ensuring that every student has the opportunity to thrive.

I want to especially recognize Superintendent Dr. Alejandro Ruvalcaba for his outstanding leadership in overseeing this project. His dedication, and the dedication of the entire district, has made this Center a reality and reflects Moreno Valley Unified's belief that education is not just about academics—it is about providing students with the foundation they need to build a brighter future.

Mr. Speaker, the opening of the Health and Wellness Center is a potent example of how schools can serve as hubs of hope and opportunity. I commend Moreno Valley Unified School District for their vision and commitment, and I am confident that this Center will have a lasting impact on the lives of many students and families in our community.

CELEBRATING EL DORADO IRRIGATION DISTRICT'S CENTENNIAL

HON. TOM MCCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 30, 2025

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the El Dorado Irrigation District's Centennial.

The El Dorado Irrigation District ("EID") was formed by a vote of El Dorado County residents on October 5, 1925 to secure and protect local water supplies, keep water rates reasonable, and increase the prosperity of El Dorado County; and from its nascent days of local governance and public service, EID has grown into a multi-service utility providing treated water delivery, wastewater treatment, recycled water services, hydroelectric power generation, and recreation to over 130,000 customers across 220 square miles.

Visionary leadership and several pivotal moments marked EID's evolution as the primary water supplier for El Dorado County residents:

In 1927, EID purchased the El Dorado Water Corporation's storage and distribution system, including key facilities and infrastructure dating back to the 1850s, such as Weber Reservoir and 70 miles of canals and laterals enabling EID to stabilize water deliveries; and In 1955, the first water deliveries from the newly completed Sly Park Reservoir (owned by U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and operated through agreement by EID) reflected a significant achievement in augmenting water supply for EID customers; and

From 1960 through the 1970s, EID acquired wastewater systems throughout Cameron Park and El Dorado Hills, establishing its wastewater and recycled water services;

In 1999, EID purchased Project 184 from Pacific Gas & Electric, adding to its portfolio and four water supply reservoirs, 21 megawatts of clean hydroelectric power generation, and associated water rights originally developed by pioneer John Kirk in 1856; and

In 2001, EID obtained Water Right Permit 21112, securing significant storage rights in Caples, Silver, and Aloha lakes as direct diversion rights from the Upper South Fork American River, which provide additional water supplies exercised at Folsom Reservoir; and

In 2003, through an act of the United States Congress, EID acquired ownership of Sly Park Reservoir, its associated water rights, Sly Park Water Treatment Plant, and all Reclamation-owned water delivery infrastructure, thereby conveying local control to EID of its largest supply reservoir, expanding recreational opportunities that drive economic growth for the region, and strengthening local water supply security.

Throughout its history, EID has navigated the challenges of severe winter storms, drought, wildfire, aging infrastructure, and changing laws and regulations with resilience and a deep sense of responsibility to the land and people it serves.

Over the past 100 years, EID has continuously modernized its infrastructure demonstrating a continual pursuit of innovation, reliability, and environmental stewardship; and the success of the El Dorado Irrigation District for a century is a testament to the vision of its founders, the leadership of its locally-elected Board of Directors, the dedication of its employees, and the enduring tenacity and trust of its customers.

We do hereby commemorate the centennial anniversary of the El Dorado Irrigation District and honor the legacy, achievements, and future promise of this extraordinary public agency, and recognize not only 100 years of infrastructure and service, but 100 years of partnership, stewardship, and unwavering commitment to the health and prosperity of El Dorado County and surrounding Sierra Nevada communities.

RECOGNIZING OFFICER RICHARD "RJ" HUDSON

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 30, 2025

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the remarkable career

and life of Officer Richard "RJ" Hudson, who devoted thirty years to serving and protecting his community through his work in law enforcement.

Officer Hudson began his law enforcement career with the Bedford Police Department in March of 1995. On January 4, 2005, he joined the Grapevine Police Department, where he served with distinction for two decades. In 2007, he became a member of the Grapevine Motor Unit, where his skill and passion quickly made him a beloved figure within the Police Motor Officer Community. As a skilled accident reconstructionist, Officer Hudson led the multi-agency C.R.A.S.H. team, dedicating himself to ensuring the safety and well-being of his community. His leadership, knowledge, and mentorship were deeply valued by colleagues, and his reputation for excellence extended throughout the state of Texas.

Over the course of his distinguished career, Officer Hudson achieved the rank of Master Peace Officer, accumulating nearly 1,500 training hours and earning numerous certifications, awards, and commendations. Among his many recognitions was the prestigious Governor Abbott's Star of Texas Award in 2021 after a serious on-duty crash in 2017.

While we are deeply saddened by his passing, we celebrate the extraordinary service and unwavering commitment of Officer RJ Hudson. His legacy will live on through his family, the countless lives he touched, and the example he set as a public servant.

HONORING DR. C. FREDERICK WILSON

HON. MICHAEL CLOUD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 30, 2025

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. C. Frederick Wilson, who is a U.S. Navy veteran and former police officer in Dayton, Ohio. In 1960, during his time in law enforcement, he committed his life to Christ. Sensing a call to ministry, he exchanged his badge for a Bible and entered full-time ministry in 1965.

Over the years, Dr. Wilson has served as an evangelist, area director for the Christian Broadcasting Network's 700 Club, and pastor of two churches. In 1977, he and his wife, Katrina, founded Christ Life Ministries in Kettering, Ohio, where he served as senior pastor for over 30 years. Today, he continues to serve as Bishop of the ministry, while Katrina, his longtime copastor, remains an integral part of their shared mission. Together, they have four children and eleven grandchildren.

Dr. Wilson earned a B.A. from Lee University and a Doctor of Ministry from Oral Roberts University. In 2008, he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Theology by Christ for India Seminary in recognition of his mission work in India and other nations.

A sought-after speaker, Dr. Wilson has ministered across the U.S. and internationally at churches, conferences, and seminars. He has also served as an instructor for Christian Life School of Theology, teaching the course Living by Faith, and is the author of *The Ultimate Money Plan for Followers of Christ*.

Dr. Wilson's deepest desire is to encourage and strengthen others to live a victorious