

Presidents and two U.S. Attorneys General while leading national grassroots and communications efforts that achieved historic gains among minority, veteran, and faith voters.

Appointed by President Trump as Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of the newly created White House Faith Office, Jennifer works to protect religious freedom, ensuring Americans of all faiths have a voice in their government. She advises the President on matters of faith at home and abroad. Previously, she co-founded the National Faith Advisory Board, the largest faith coalition in the United States, representing leaders from every state, denomination, and ethnic background.

Her earlier career includes serving as Deputy Political Director at the Republican National Committee, Director of Hispanic and Women's Affairs in the George W. Bush White House, and Senior Advisor to two U.S. Attorneys General at the Department of Justice. As a She Leads America honoree, Jennifer believes leadership is a calling to serve others with both truth and compassion, empowering individuals, strengthening families, and preserving freedom for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this outstanding woman for her public service and leadership.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ALMA FAMILY SERVICES IN BOYLE HEIGHTS

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 2025

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the 50th Anniversary of Alma Family Services located in the Boyle Heights community of East Los Angeles.

Since 1975, Alma Family Services has been a steadfast advocate for families and individuals with special needs. Founded by parents in East Los Angeles with the mission of providing multilingual and culturally competent services to their communities, Alma Family Services has become a trusted service provider with 18 locations across Los Angeles County. Every year, the organization serves over 15,000 individuals with mental health services, substance abuse support, youth development, and many more resources.

Over the last 50 years, Alma Family Services has expanded their services to provide multigenerational support for our neighbors of all ages. Through an extensive network of connections spanning across various levels of government, businesses, and fellow organizations, Alma Family Services strives to address the unique needs of seniors, parents, and students across LA County. The impact of their efforts can be felt in every corner of California's 34th Congressional District, where our neighborhoods are revitalized and uplifted through the organization's crucial resources.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Alma Family Services on their 50th Anniversary.

HONORING DR. RALPH H. SEXTON, JR.

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 2025

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, it is an extraordinary privilege for me today as we gather to honor a remarkable servant of God, Dr. Ralph H. Sexton, Jr., a beloved pastor, evangelist, and community leader from Asheville, North Carolina, on this momentous occasion to celebrate his fiftieth year in ministry.

Fifty years. That's half a century of preaching the Word, shepherding souls, comforting the brokenhearted, celebrating life's joys, and standing firm in times of trial. From his very first sermon preached to his most recent prayer whispered, Dr. Sexton has lived out the calling described in 1 Peter 5:2, "Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them . . . not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be." And that is exactly what he has done—not out of duty, but out of love: love for God, love for the Gospel, and love for His people.

Dr. Sexton was born on January 17, 1947, to Ralph H. Sexton, Sr., and Jacqueline Sexton, and was educated in the public schools of Asheville, North Carolina. He graduated from Lee Edwards High School in 1965 and continued his education at Trevecca College in Nashville, Tennessee, the University of North Carolina at Asheville, and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He later received a Doctor of Divinity from Bethany Theological Seminary in Dothan, Alabama, and has been awarded multiple honorary degrees in recognition of his lifelong devotion to faith and service.

Ordained in 1975, he began his service at Trinity Baptist Church in Asheville, North Carolina, where he has faithfully ministered for nearly five decades. Let us commend him for mentoring his grandson, Winston Parish, who is destined to continue the legacy at Trinity. In 1980, he entered the field of full-time evangelism, leading crusades, revivals, and seminars across the United States and in nations including Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Honduras, Haiti, Germany, and the Bahamas.

Through the years, Dr. Sexton has done more than deliver sermons; he has built bridges between generations and nations. He baptized new believers, married couples, mourned with families, and stood as a steadfast presence in our community and around the world. He's taught us that faith is not just preached on Sundays—it is lived out every day, in every act of kindness, every word of encouragement, every prayer whispered on someone else's behalf.

Through that example, Dr. Sexton has strengthened my personal faith in God and motivated me to be a more effective and obedient public servant. We could fill libraries with the stories of lives touched by his ministry—the young person who found direction, the struggling soul who found hope, the family that found faith again. And yet, Dr. Sexton would be the first to remind us that all glory belongs to God. That humility, that unwavering focus on Christ rather than self, is part of what has made his ministry so powerful.

A devoted friend of Israel, Dr. Sexton has traveled to the Holy Land more than fifty

times, has twice been honored as a guest of the Israeli government, and was invited to observe the Middle East Peace Talks in Washington, D.C. He received the prestigious "Tree of Life" Award and served on the Committee to Relocate the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem.

His service to the community extends far beyond the pulpit. In 1994, the City of Asheville honored him with "Ralph Sexton Day" for his disaster relief efforts. He is a recipient of the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, the highest honor a citizen of North Carolina can receive, and was named an Honorary Attorney General of the State. He has been an active member of the Asheville Kiwanis Club, a life member of the Downtown Optimist Club, and a certified special deputy with the Buncombe County Sheriff's Department for more than 30 years, where he now serves as Chaplain. He also organized the "Family Values March" in Asheville, which drew more than 20,000 participants.

Dr. Sexton's devotion to family and faith has been the foundation of his life. He shared over 50 years of marriage with his late wife, Muzette, and together they raised three children, were blessed with many grandchildren, and had great-grandchildren.

Today, let's thank Dr. Sexton for his sacrifices, his patience, his wisdom, and his unwavering belief in God's promises. Let's thank him for every late-night hospital visit, even wedding and funeral, every Bible study and mission trip. And we thank him for showing us, by example, what a life wholly devoted to God looks like.

May the Lord bless him abundantly in this next chapter of his journey, and may he hear those words we all long to hear one day: "Well done, good and faithful servant."

EXPRESSING GRATITUDE TO THE CITY OF BROWNSVILLE'S ENGINEERING AND PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT FOR THEIR SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 2025

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Brownsville's Engineering and Public Works Department for their exemplary service following the severe storms that struck Cameron County and devastated neighborhoods in Harlingen and surrounding areas last spring.

In March of this year, our region received more than 20 inches of heavy rainfall, which caused widespread flooding, damaged infrastructure, and left countless families in need of urgent support.

During this crisis, the Brownsville Engineering and Public Works Department deployed staff, equipment, and expertise to assist flood-impacted communities. Their crews worked tirelessly, operating pumps, heavy machinery, and other resources to help remove water from our streets and restore accessibility for residents. Their work provided not only critical relief, but also a sense of hope to our neighbors in Harlingen.

This effort was not theirs alone. The Brownsville Police Department served more than 600 hot meals to affected families at

Laureles County Park. Meanwhile the Brownsville Fire Department stood alongside residents to safeguard their health and safety. Together, these coordinated actions reflect the best of who we are in South Texas—neighbors helping neighbors, united through compassion and service.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of South Texas, I wish to extend my deepest gratitude to the Brownsville Engineering and Public Works Department, along with all the city staff who answered the call to serve. Their dedication and solidarity in times of hardship embody the very spirit of community that makes the Rio Grande Valley strong.

HONORING TERRI “WINDTALKER” CLAH AS A 2025 SHE LEADS AMERICA CHRISTIAN WOMAN OF DISTINCTION

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 2025

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Terri “WindTalker” Clah as a 2025 She Leads America Young Christian Woman of Distinction award.

Terri “WindTalker” Clah of the Diné (People of the Land) Nation and Ute Mountain Ute Tribe was raised in the Four Corners region on her ancestral lands, immersed in the beauty, resilience, and painful history of her people. Listening to the elders’ stories from a young age—some filled with hope, others scarred by struggle—shaped her deep understanding of cultural identity, spiritual strength, and the need for healing across generations.

Leadership is woven into Terri’s heritage. Her great-uncle, Deshna Clah, served as the second Chairman of the Diné Nation, while her uncle, Peter McDonald, was both a President of the Diné Nation and is one of the last living U.S. Marine Code Talkers. Inspired by her mother, Bessie Clah, who modeled a life of service, Terri embraced her own path of advocacy and reconciliation.

At age 26, she encountered Jesus Christ, whose message of love and restoration affirmed her Native identity and calling to bridge cultures. Through her Moccasins Across America Prayer Walk—from California to Washington, DC, May through October 2025—Terri has ignited a national movement for prayer, justice, and healing. Today, as a She Leads America Christian Woman of Distinction, she continues to inspire others to walk in faith and carry the love of God to the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this outstanding woman of distinction.

HONORING MAJOR GENERAL LAURA M. CLELLAN

HON. JASON CROW

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 2025

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize a truly remarkable leader and dedicated public servant, Major General Laura M. Clellan, on the occasion of her retire-

ment as The Adjutant General of Colorado. For over three decades, Major General Clellan has served our Nation and the State of Colorado with unwavering commitment, integrity, and distinction.

Major General Clellan’s exceptional career began in 1989 when she was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant through the Army ROTC program. Her journey has been one of exemplary leadership and selfless service, marked by numerous key assignments and deployments that have taken her across the globe in defense of our freedoms. She has answered the call of duty in Afghanistan, Hungary, Panama, Saudi Arabia, and Honduras, leading our troops with courage and compassion.

Her command of the 193rd Military Police Battalion during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan stands as a testament to her leadership under the most demanding of circumstances. She has consistently demonstrated a profound dedication to the well-being and readiness of our Soldiers and Airmen.

In her most recent role as the 44th Adjutant General of Colorado, Major General Clellan made history as the first woman to hold the position. She has been a transformative leader for the Colorado National Guard. Assuming command in 2020, she expertly guided the organization through a period of unprecedented challenges, including the state’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic, devastating wildfires, and floods. Her steady hand ensured the safety and security of our communities while fostering a climate of excellence and inclusivity. As Executive Director of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, her strategic vision enhanced not only the readiness of our forces but also the support for our state’s veterans.

Mr. Speaker, Major General Clellan’s career is a shining example of a life dedicated to service. Her leadership has left an indelible mark on the Colorado National Guard and our Nation. On behalf of a grateful state and Nation, I extend my deepest gratitude to Major General Laura M. Clellan for her more than 35 years of distinguished service.

RECOGNIZING THE COMMISSION OF USS PIERRE (LCS 38)

HON. DUSTY JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 2025

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the officers and crew of the USS *Pierre* (LCS 38) as they prepare for the commissioning of their ship, the 19th and final Independence-variant Littoral Combat Ship of the United States Navy.

The USS *Pierre* is the second Navy vessel to bear the name of South Dakota’s capital city. Littoral combat ships are fast, agile, and mission-focused, built to counter 21st-century coastal threats while ensuring security and supporting joint operations across the globe. The men and women who serve aboard the USS *Pierre* will carry forward this mission with dedication and distinction.

For the people of South Dakota, it is a great honor to see the name of our capital city once again sail under the flag of the United States

Navy. This ship and her crew will continue a proud legacy of service that began with the first USS *Pierre* during World War II.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the officers and crew of the newly commissioned USS *Pierre* (LCS 38). We honor their commitment and thank them for their service.

RECOGNIZING FRANK ESTEN COOK III AND HIS SERVICE TO HIS COUNTRY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 2025

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Frank Esten Cook III and his service to his country. Frank was born in Washington, D.C. on March 25, 1963, and passed away in Richmond, Kentucky on September 13, 2025. He was an avid outdoorsman, boater, and hunter.

Frank was a U.S. Army veteran and served his country as a commissioned officer. His first love, however, was serving as a non-commissioned officer as a Blackhawk helicopter Crew Chief with the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (SOAR).

In 1994, Frank was awarded Night Stalker Soldier of the Year for Outstanding Individual Contribution to Army Special Operation Aviation. This award was sponsored by Robertson Research Group, Inc.

Frank was tough in every sense of the word, but he also cared deeply for his friends, family, and country. He would give you the shirt off his back, if you really needed it. He taught his family the value of being tough and rolling with what life gives you. He was fond of the saying “rub some dirt on it, you’ll be fine”, which carries weight with everyone who knew him.

Frank took immense pride in being a Night Stalker. These men and women are some of the best rotary wing aviator crews in the world. Frank’s attention to detail, his skills, and his tenacity drove him to join this elite regiment.

Frank was very proud of both of his sons, Frank E. Cook IV (Frankie) of Jersey City, NJ and Anthony Guidi of Aloha, OR. As Frankie says, “My dad wouldn’t want anyone to cry over him.” So today Mr. Speaker, we won’t cry over him but rather honor this man as a veteran, a father, a brother, a son, and an American.

HONORING CECE HEIL AS A 2025 SHE LEADS AMERICA CHRISTIAN WOMAN OF DISTINCTION

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 2025

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize CeCe Heil as a 2025 She Leads America Young Christian Woman of Distinction award recipient.

CeCe Heil is Senior Counsel and International Legal Director at the American Center for Law and Justice, specializing in public policy and global legal matters, including the