

Senior Center's Meals on Wheels program. Calpine also sponsors numerous community events, including Windsor's Concerts in the Park, the Cobb Area Council's Cobbler Festival, and the Rotary Club of Cloverdale's Asti Tour de Vine.

The company has shown equal commitment to public safety and environmental stewardship. Calpine has partnered with the Northern Sonoma County Fire Foundation to install helicopter dip tanks that enhance wildfire response in The Geysers region. Calpine also supports the Lake County Sheriff's Foundation, the South Lake Fire Protection District Volunteer Firefighters Association, and the Lake County Silver Foundation. Calpine employees have collectively contributed over 23,000 hours of volunteer service, assisting with local trail restoration, food distribution, and community clean-up projects. The company also hosts annual educational tours for approximately 400 visitors, helping to inspire the next generation of clean energy leaders.

Mr. Speaker, for 65 years, The Geysers has produced clean, reliable power for our region, and Calpine Corporation has been a steadfast partner to our local communities. Their leadership in renewable energy and dedication to community service have strengthened both our regional economy and our shared environmental future. It is fitting and proper that we recognize them here today on this milestone anniversary.

RECOGNIZING CHRISTOPHER
AARON MCGOWEN WITH A CON-
GRESSIONAL VETERAN COM-
MENDATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2025

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct privilege to rise today to present Christopher Aaron McGowen of Nacogdoches, Texas, as a recipient of the 2025 Congressional Veteran Commendation in recognition of his outstanding service to both his country and his community.

Aaron, a proud son of Nacogdoches, answered his country's call to service in February 1992, when he entered the United States Army as a Combat Medic. During his military career, he distinguished himself through professionalism, courage, and selfless service. His commendable service was recognized with numerous decorations, including the Bronze Star Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Combat Medic Badge, the Parachutist Badge, the Driver and Mechanic Badge, and the Operation Enduring Freedom Campaign Medal. These honors stand as a testament to his steadfast commitment and the vital role he played in safeguarding the lives of his fellow soldiers.

Following his honorable discharge, Aaron continued his life of service by dedicating himself to veterans and his community. While living in Washington State, he became an active member of the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association, contributing countless hours to fundraising efforts that provided construction projects for disabled veterans, ensuring safe homes and greater mobility for those who sac-

rificed for our freedoms. He further demonstrated his compassion and solidarity by volunteering at local VA hospitals and participating in funeral escorts to honor fallen service members and veterans.

In 2022, Aaron returned to his hometown of Nacogdoches, reuniting with his high school sweetheart, Melissa Milford McGowen, and resumed his mission of community service. As a member of the Nacogdoches Lions Club, he has worked tirelessly in the Vision Screening Program and collaborated with the Nacogdoches County Veterans Service Officer to ensure local veterans receive the resources and care they deserve.

His commitment deepened further in May 2023, when he assumed leadership within the Nacogdoches Hero Foundation as Chair of the Action Committee. Through this role, Aaron has made significant contributions to projects that directly support veterans, law enforcement officers, first responders, and their families, improving lives and strengthening the bonds of community.

Christopher Aaron McGowen embodies the highest ideals of service, both in uniform and as a citizen leader. His legacy is one of valor, compassion, and unwavering devotion to others. It is an honor to recognize him today with the 2025 Congressional Veteran Commendation.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF WAYNE
MARTIN

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2025

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a Kentucky icon and longtime friend, Wayne Martin from Winchester, Kentucky. Throughout his career, Wayne built a stellar legacy of excellence in broadcasting, basketball and education, developing a wide network of fans, friends and business partners across our Commonwealth.

In Kentucky, basketball royalty is a highly coveted currency at the collegiate level, something that Wayne Martin obtained at multiple institutions. As head coach of the men's basketball team at his alma mater Morehead State University (MSU) from 1978 to 1987, he led the Eagles to two NCAA tournaments. During his stint as head coach and athletic director of then-Pikeville College, his teams earned three impressive national tournament trips, bringing great pride to the Kentucky Appalachian Mountains. He also served as assistant basketball coach at Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and head basketball coach and business teacher at Pikeville High School.

After investing 20 years in education and coaching student athletes, Wayne transitioned from earning a spot on the nightly news and sports highlights to broadcasting them for Gray Television stations in Kentucky. He began his broadcast news career as General Sales Manager and General Manager of WYMT-TV in Hazard, Kentucky. As a former successful coach, Wayne always had an effective game plan, and he used it to move up the ranks quickly in the television news industry. He served as President and General Manager of WKYT-TV from 1993 to 2013, where

he expanded news programming and earned Lexington's first Emmy Award for station excellence. He was also promoted as Regional Vice President of Television for Gray Television, Inc. and President of Gray Kentucky Television, Inc., operating WKYT-TV in Lexington, WYMT-TV in Hazard, WBKO-TV in Bowling Green and President of WVLT-TV in Knoxville, Tennessee.

In addition to an Emmy Award, Wayne has earned a number of accolades, including Ohio Valley Conference (OVC) Coach of the Year in 1982, OVC Hall of Fame Inductee in 2004, MSU Athletic Hall of Fame Inductee in 1995, the 2017 MSU Distinguished Alumni Award, and most recently, the MSU Founders Award for University Service in 2025.

Wayne has used his legacy on the sidelines and the power of the airwaves to give back to the Commonwealth that he so deeply cherishes. He hosted annual fundraisers for the Cardinal Hill Rehabilitation Hospital in Lexington, chaired both the United Way board of directors and the annual campaign, and served as chairman of the Children's Advocacy Center board of directors. His expert gameplans have also been sought after by the Kentucky and the Greater Lexington Chambers of Commerce, Morehead State University Board of Regents, Kentucky Broadcaster's Association, Governor's Scholars Foundation, Central Bancshares, Baptist Health, Kentucky-American Water Company, and the American Heart Association.

Wayne has mentored young entrepreneurs, student athletes and journalists who have become respected leaders in their fields and established exceptional businesses across the state. His coaching success and business expertise have been of great value to Kentuckians, building an endearing and longlasting fan base that I am honored to be a part of. I salute Wayne for investing in the lives of countless student athletes and giving Eastern Kentucky so much to be proud of.

CONGRATULATING VISIONCORPS
PRESIDENT AND CEO DENNIS
STEINER ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2025

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor and congratulate Mr. Dennis Steiner on his retirement as President and CEO of VisionCorps.

VisionCorps is a non-profit organization that provides rehabilitative, preventative, educational, and employment services to the blind and vision impaired. Mr. Steiner's history with the company stretches back 41 years when he joined the agency in 1984 as a case manager. In 2008, he became President and CEO of the agency.

A strong advocate for the blind and visually impaired, Mr. Steiner shifted the focus of VisionCorps toward independence and autonomy. He introduced summer youth programming, implemented free rehabilitative services to clients, and utilized new technology such as smart glasses and magnifiers. He also oversaw the expansion of VisionCorps from one facility in Lancaster to rehabilitation and employment sites in Adams, Chester, Lebanon, and York Counties, as well as in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Additionally, Mr. Steiner serves as the North America/Caribbean World Blind Union representative for the National Industries for the Blind. He is a board member for VisionServe Alliance, the Pennsylvania Association for the Blind, UniqueSource, and the National Association for the Employment of People Who Are Blind, the last of which he served as the president from 2014 to 2016.

Under Mr. Dennis Steiner's leadership, VisionCorps has helped thousands of individuals lead independent and successful lives. Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District is grateful for Mr. Steiner's impact, and I wish him all the best in his well-earned retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE OF
LEVITTOWN'S OWN BERNADETTE
MARIE MORAN

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2025

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my constituent Bernadette Marie Moran, a beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and lifelong resident of Levittown, Pennsylvania, who passed away peacefully on October 7, 2025, at the age of 92.

Born in Philadelphia in 1932, Bernadette was a proud graduate of Little Flower High School, Class of 1950. She lived most of her life in Levittown, Pennsylvania, where she and her late husband, William M. Moran, Sr., raised their eight children. Her home was always filled with warmth, laughter, and the welcoming spirit that reflected her deep love for family and faith. For 66 years, she was a devoted parishioner of Queen of the Universe Church, where her faith guided every chapter of her life.

Bernadette embodied a joyful and adventurous spirit that inspired everyone who knew her. Whether she was parasailing at the Jersey Shore, whitewater rafting in Montana, or skydiving to celebrate her 80th birthday, she lived with courage, enthusiasm, and an enduring sense of wonder. She had a lifelong appreciation for music, especially the timeless songs of Frank Sinatra, and a special fondness for autumn, when she would take long drives with her children to admire the beauty of the changing seasons.

After raising her family, Bernadette continued to give back to her community. She volunteered for many years at Mary's Cupboard in Levittown, Pennsylvania, helping those in need with compassion and humility. She also worked for the Pennsbury School District beginning in 1983, first as an administrative substitute and later as a full-time assistant in the Pupil Services Office, where she served for over 15 years until her retirement in 2007. Bernadette treasured her work and the friendships she built along the way.

Bernadette was preceded in death by her husband, William Sr., her daughters Patricia Moran Simkanin and Bernie Moran Rossi, and daughter-in-law Barbara "Bobbie" Palmer. She is survived by her children William Jr., Thomas, Teresa, Kenneth, Kevin, and Cara, along with 19 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren who lovingly knew her as "Mom-Mom." Her family was the light of her life, and

she filled their hearts with stories, laughter, and unconditional love.

Mr. Speaker, Bernadette Moran's life was one of faith, family, service, and joy. She leaves behind a legacy defined by resilience, kindness, and a boundless spirit of adventure. May her memory continue to inspire all who had the privilege of knowing her.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Pennsylvania's First Congressional District's Bernadette Marie Moran, whose life reminds us that love, faith, and laughter are among the most enduring gifts we can give.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF MISS CANDIS KING

HON. EUGENE SIMON VINDMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2025

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Miss Candis King, an adored sophomore at Colgan High School in Prince William County, Virginia.

Candis, a lifelong resident of Prince William County and the cherished daughter of Virginia House Delegate Candi King and Fairfax Deputy Sheriff Joshua King, was a proud member of her school's Color Guard, a dancer, and someone who lit up every room with her kindness and creativity.

Her love for Transformers was more than just a hobby; it was a reflection of her cheerful spirit. Candis had a gift for bringing happiness to all those around her, and her presence made a lasting impact on her peers, teachers, and entire community.

Sadly, Candis passed away due to complications from sickle cell disease, a devastating and often overlooked condition that affects marginalized communities. This serves as a critical reminder of how much work still needs to be done in sickle cell research, treatment, and awareness. We need to invest more in medical research, expand access to care, and raise greater national attention to the seriousness of this disease.

I want to offer my deepest condolences to Delegate Candi King and Deputy Sheriff Joshua King. Your strength during this time of an unimaginable loss is inspiring. I hope you find comfort in knowing that Candis's light touched many lives and that her memory will live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved her.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Candis King. Though her time with us was far too short, her legacy of joy, creativity, and resilience will live on.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF KENT DOUGLAS WONG

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2025

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Kent Douglas Wong, who tragically passed away on October 8, 2025.

Mr. Wong dedicated his life to fighting for the rights of workers and immigrants, and his legacy will live on in the institutions he built, the progress he fought for, and the genera-

tions of leaders he fostered over his decades of work in California and across the country.

As the director of the UCLA Labor Center for 32 years, Mr. Wong brought it to national prominence as the leading institution for innovative research, advocacy, and leadership development on labor issues. He was instrumental in expanding and renovating a new headquarters for the center near MacArthur Park, which was named after his mentor, non-violent civil rights leader, Rev. James Lawson, Jr. Under his leadership, the University of California established labor centers at all nine campuses. Mr. Wong also led the establishment of such centers at three universities in Mexico and helped strengthen labor education programs overseas in China, Korea, Vietnam, Japan and the Philippines. Mr. Wong was the founding president of the United Association for Labor Education and a vice president of the California Federation of Teachers. His leadership within such a multitude of institutions demonstrated his lifelong dedication to advancing the rights and empowerment of immigrants and workers.

In 1992, Mr. Wong founded the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA), the first and only national organization of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islanders (AANHPI) workers. Under Mr. Wong's leadership, APALA gave AANHPI workers a stronger voice in the labor movement and developed a comprehensive strategy to address the unique challenges that AANHPI communities face nationwide.

As a fifth-generation Chinese American whose grandmothers were stripped of their American citizenship under the Chinese Exclusion Act, Mr. Wong believed every individual, regardless of background, deserves equal rights and the opportunity to succeed. From teaching in UCLA's Asian American Studies and Labor Studies programs to launching Dream Summer, the first paid, national fellowship for undocumented youth, he brought immigrant voices to the heart of labor and education. He authored and co-authored several books teaching lessons of immigrant and labor organizing as well as nonviolent philosophy, including "Dreams Deported: Immigrant Youth and Families Resist Deportation."

Mr. Wong was born and raised in Los Angeles and attended the University of California, Berkeley, before earning a law degree and beginning a career fighting for civil and workers' rights. He was the first staff attorney for Asian Americans Advancing Justice, which was then known as the Asian Pacific American Legal Center for Southern California, before serving as an attorney for the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 660.

Mr. Wong's courage, humility, and unwavering commitment to justice inspired everyone who had the privilege of knowing him, and I was fortunate to count him as a dear friend. I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating his life and recognizing his incredible legacy, which will continue to energize the next generation of leaders in the fight for equality and opportunity for all.