

abroad through five major operational deployments, including missions in Honduras, Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Storm, Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom, Joint Task Force Panama, and the Hungarian Stabilization Force. As a senior commander in the Colorado National Guard, Major General Clellan led during some of the most challenging times in our state's history. Whether responding to natural disasters, public health crises, or civil unrest, she ensured that the Guard remained a trusted force for stability and service in our Colorado communities.

Major General Clellan's remarkable career has had a lasting impact and has inspired generations of service members, particularly women pursuing leadership roles in uniform. Her service reflects the very best of our military.

In recognition of her outstanding contributions, Major General Clellan has been awarded the Legion of Merit with Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with two Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Parachutist Badge.

On behalf of the people of Colorado and the United States Congress, I extend profound gratitude to Major General Laura Clellan for her remarkable service.

HONORING DR. GLENN
COCKERHAM

HON. SCOTT H. PETERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2025

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Glenn Cockerham, a distinguished physician, veteran, educator, and leader in ophthalmology who has devoted his career to serving our nation's Veterans. Throughout his decades of service, Dr. Cockerham has led national efforts to improve eye care for Veterans, advanced ophthalmic policy across federal health systems, mentored future physician leaders, and exemplified integrity and professionalism in every role. After many years of service to our nation, he retired in June from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

After earning his medical degree, Dr. Cockerham completed his ophthalmology residency at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., followed by a fellowship in Cornea and Refractive Surgery at Harvard Medical School's Mass Eye and Ear Infirmary.

He obtained the rank of colonel while serving in the U.S. Air Force (USAF), and his military assignments included Senior Flight Surgeon with the 7th Special Operations Squadron, Chief of Flight Medicine, and Chief Consultant for Surgery at the U.S. Air Force Surgeon General Office.

Dr. Cockerham served as the National Program Executive Director for Ophthalmology Services and was responsible for the implementation of policies impacting eye care services throughout the Veterans Health Administration. His previous national leadership roles include Acting Deputy Director at the Department of Defense/Veterans Affairs (DoD/VA) Vision Center of Excellence and Acting Chief Consultant for VA Specialty Care Services. He is also a Clinical Associate Professor in both the Departments of Ophthalmology and Pa-

thology at Stanford University School of Medicine.

In 2009, Dr. Cockerham was honored with the Olin Teague Award for War-related Research Most Beneficial to Veterans, which he received alongside Dr. Gregory Goodrich. The award recognized their exceptional research on traumatic brain injury (TBI) and its impact on vision in Veterans. Their work focused on identifying and addressing vision problems associated with blast-related TBI, including the development of innovative screening tools and therapies. Dr. Cockerham's contributions led to the identification of critical TBI-related vision disorders and the generation of data that informed U.S. Department of Defense prevention efforts.

Dr. Cockerham is also a widely published academic, with peer-reviewed work appearing in *JAMA*, *Ophthalmology*, *Journal of Cataract and Refractive Surgery*, *Military Medicine*, the *New England Journal of Medicine*, and others. His research has informed clinical practices and contributed to national conversations on eye health.

Dr. Cockerham has played a key role in shaping the future of ophthalmology and advancing care for Veterans. His expertise has influenced health policy, clinical standards, and medical education, and he continues to impact both federal healthcare systems and academic medicine. He was and remains a strong advocate for patient safety, clinical excellence, and the needs of Veterans at the highest levels of government. It is an honor to formally recognize his remarkable service and enduring contributions to our nation and to the field of ophthalmology.

RECOGNIZING A MAGNANIMOUS
MEDIA MOGUL: MR. BYRON ALLEN

HON. KWEISI MFUME

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2025

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an accomplished media mogul, Mr. Byron Allen, who has embodied the ideals of persistence, innovation, and integrity throughout his life and career.

Born in Detroit, Michigan, Byron Allen's interest in the entertainment industry began at a young age when he was first taken to the NBC Studios in Burbank by his mother, publicist Carolyn Folks, who was—and still is—Byron's biggest supporter. At the tender age of just fourteen years old, he was already pitching jokes to show biz titans Jay Leno and David Letterman.

By 1979, at just eighteen years old, Allen had become the youngest comedian ever to appear on *The Tonight Show*. Following this historic and meteoric ascent in the comedy scene, Byron Allen became a host-correspondent on NBC's reality TV show *Real People* and secured a leading role in the 1988 film *Case Closed*. After both projects wrapped, Allen hosted *The Byron Allen Show*, a talk show that ran from 1989 to 1992.

Allen toured as a stand-up comic up until 1993, when he launched his production firm, CF Entertainment, which originally focused on low-cost TV programming. The company underwent a name change in 2003, re-emerging as Entertainment Studios, as Allen's extraor-

dinary business acumen and strategic moves were beginning to differentiate his business as a premier player in the entertainment industry.

Entertainment Studios, once a small-scale television programming company in Los Angeles, is now a division of the larger Allen Media Group, and it has evolved into one of the largest cable network portfolios in the broadcasting industry, featuring ten, 24-hour HD television networks. The company has produced and distributed Emmy Award-winning shows while handling advertising for dozens of television programs. Its growth has continued through major acquisitions: In 2016, Allen Media Group acquired The Grio, a digital media leader creating compelling content for African American audiences. In 2018, Allen Media Group acquired the universally recognized Weather Channel, one of the crown jewels of cable television.

Still, Byron Allen's influence extends far beyond his business triumphs, and he has always worked to give back to his community. The Allen Media Group is the first African American owned media studio producing and distributing wide-release motion pictures and content for all platforms. In pursuit of racial equity in advertising dollars and channel carriage, he has successfully led lawsuits that secured settlements with the major corporations McDonalds and Comcast. Allen is also a noted philanthropist, helping to raise tens of millions of dollars for charitable causes.

Over the years, Allen has established himself as a prominent Black entertainment mogul who holds the principle of equity in extremely high regard. He recognizes the disadvantages that underrepresented communities face, and he has vigorously advocated for diversity and inclusion at all levels of his career.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Byron Allen in the hope of encapsulating a man who has left a lasting mark on entertainment without ever straying from his moral undertaking of corporate social responsibility. Byron Allen is a role model for us all and has led a trailblazing life dedicated to excellence and the molding of a better, more equitable future.

RECOGNIZING RICHARD REAGAN
HORN WITH A CONGRESSIONAL
VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2025

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to present Richard Reagan Horn, of Huntsville, Texas, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His servant's life reflects the hard work and dedication that exemplifies the best of our Nation's values.

Richard entered active duty at Camp Pendleton, California in May of 1966 at twenty-one years of age. He served with honor and heroism during the Vietnam War, serving in the Mortar Battery, 3rd Battalion 13th and 5th Divisions of the Marine Corps. His service instilled a resilience and commitment to mission and purpose he has carried all throughout his life.

Richard served 3 years in foreign service to our Nation in combat earning the following: Vietnam Service Medal with 3 Stars, Vietnam Campaign Medal, National Defense Medal,

Good Conduct Medal 1st Award, Rifle Sharpshooter Badge, Combat Action Ribbon, Good Conduct Award 2nd Award and the Presidential Unit Citation. Richard completed Artillery Chart Operations and Computer Course in 1966.

After his service in Vietnam in the Marines, Richard worked in a surveying crew for the Texas Department of Transportation in the early days of construction of Interstate 45 in 1970. He then moved on and entered an extensive career with Texas Instruments in their Facility Maintenance Division earning the following trade licenses before retiring in 2009: Master Plumber in 1981 and Journeyman's Electrician in 1995. Apart from work, he became a Master Mason in the Milam Lodge No. 2 in Nacogdoches, TX in 1972 and continues as an active Mason in the Huntsville Forest Lodge No. 19 as a Tiler. He is a self-taught Farrier working with Horses and Livestock and has devoted countless hours working with FFA students as a Board of Director with the Waller County Fair Association. He is also a Life Member of the world-famous Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo since 1975, serving on the Calf Scramble and Livestock Committees.

After moving to Huntsville in 2011, Richard and his wife Linda, have been supporting the FFA and 4-H youth of Walker County through the annual county fair auctions and fundraisers in conjunction with his service to the HEARTS Veterans Museum of Texas when and where as needed. It is this level of continuous hard work, service and devotion to his community and its youth that I proudly commend Richard Reagan Horn of Huntsville, Texas to his friends, family, community and country awarding him the 2025 Congressional Veteran Commendation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SISTER
FLORENCE STEICHEN, CSJ

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2025

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Sister (Mary Roman) Florence Steichen, a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Carondelet (CSJ), and her lifelong advocacy for peace, justice, and compassion. Born in South Minneapolis, Minnesota near Lake Harriet in 1928, the third child of five children, Sister Florence Steichen grew up in a family deeply rooted in social justice. Her parents instilled in her a strong belief in what she later described as "the two feet of justice": direct service and action for systemic change.

Florence graduated from the Academy of the Holy Angels in Richfield, MN, and earned a Bachelor of Science in Food, Nutrition, Chemistry, and Biology from Saint Catherine University, in Saint Paul, MN in 1950. She pursued her calling in faith and justice, by entering the novitiate on September 8, 1950, and professing her final vows on August 15, 1958. She further deepened her theological understanding with a Master of Arts in Theology from the University of Notre Dame in 1966. She had a long teaching career in several Province high schools including the Academy of the Holy Angels in Richfield, MN; Saint

Mary's Academy in Graceville, MN; Saint Mary's High School in Waverly, MN; Saint James Academy in Grand Forks, ND; St. Margaret's Academy, Minneapolis, MN; and St. Mary's Junior College in Minneapolis, MN. Florence also served her CSJ Community as General Councilor in Saint Louis, MO from 1978 to 1982.

In 1987, Florence moved to Bethlehem, Palestine where she worked at Bethlehem University and became an outspoken advocate for Palestinian rights, supporting a One-State solution with equal rights for both Palestinians and Israelis. Upon returning to Minnesota from Bethlehem almost six years later, Florence worked for the Dispute Resolution Center in Saint Paul, MN and the Citizens Council in Minneapolis, MN. After retiring, she volunteered at Saint Catherine University in Saint Paul, MN, which was her alma mater. In 2017, Florence fully retired and moved into Carondelet Village located in Saint Paul, MN near the campus of Saint Catherine University, where she remained a strong and active voice of peace and compassion until her recent passing at the age of 97.

Sister Florence Steichen was very special to me and to the constituents of Minnesota's Fourth Congressional District. Over the years, I enjoyed many visits with Florence at St. Catherine University, my alma mater and the Carondelet Village. Florence exemplified "the two feet of justice" by dedicating her life to direct service and action for systemic change. Her passionate and unrelenting advocacy for peace and justice, along with her deep faith and respect for humanity, will live on through all those she taught, mentored and inspired.

It was an honor and a privilege to call Florence a friend. She will remain an inspiration to me and her legacy will continue to inspire many for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the remarkable life and the dedicated work of Sister (Mary Roman) Florence Steichen, CSJ.

HONORING THE REMARKABLE
LIFE AND LEGACY OF SISTER
JEAN

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2025

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Sister Jean Dolores Schmidt, known to many simply as "Sister Jean," the beloved chaplain of the Loyola University Chicago men's basketball team. Sister Jean was more than an icon of Loyola; she was its beating heart.

While she first captured national attention during the 2018 NCAA March Madness Tournament, her impact extended far beyond the basketball court and long before the headlines. For decades, Sister Jean inspired generations of students, athletes, and educators through her faith, wisdom, and joyful spirit.

Born and raised in San Francisco, California, during the hardships of the Great Depression, Sister Jean learned the values of perseverance and compassion early in life. The eldest of three children, she developed a lifelong love of sports and community. After graduating from high school, she answered her calling to religious life, entering the Sisters

of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in March 1938, fulfilling a dream she had since childhood.

Sister Jean began her career as an educator, shaping the minds and hearts of young people across the country. She taught elementary school at St. Vincent in Chicago and St. Charles Borromeo in North Hollywood, California, and later served as both an elementary and music teacher at St. Bernard in Los Angeles, where she also became principal.

She went on to serve as associate academic dean and an instructor in the education department at Mundelein College in Chicago, before beginning her 34-year ministry at Loyola University Chicago. There she held numerous administrative roles. Although she had planned to retire at the age of seventy-five after more than fifty years of teaching, she was asked to take on one more task: to help Loyola's men's and women's basketball players with their studies. That simple request became a defining chapter in her life. As team chaplain, Sister Jean brought faith, encouragement, and humor to every practice and game, earning the affection of players, coaches, and fans across the Nation.

It is rare for someone like Sister Jean to come into our lives, but when they do, we are all better for it. Her life was extraordinary not only for her accomplishments, but also for the way she inspired others to recognize the extraordinary within themselves. As she often said, "Being yourself is extraordinary, because each of us is a unique individual."

Mr. Speaker, Sister Jean's century-long life was a testament to joy, service, and faith. She reminded us that purpose is not found in fame or fortune but in love for others and belief in the potential of every person. Like so many whose lives she touched, I will always be grateful for her example.

HONORING E CENTER

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor E Center, an esteemed organization in our community. Their more than 50 years of dedicated service to our Northern California region and unwavering commitment to fighting poverty and building healthy communities demonstrate why they deserve recognition today.

Founded in 1973 and headquartered in Yuba City, E Center is a nonprofit agency serving eight Northern California counties: Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Lake, Sutter, Tehama, Yolo, and Yuba. For over five decades, the organization has strengthened the well-being and resilience of our communities' families, agricultural workers, seniors, and justice-involved individuals by providing essential services in education, nutrition, healthcare, housing, and environmental awareness.

E Center has rightfully earned recognition for its leadership in early childhood education and family support. Through partnerships with federal and state agencies, the organization administers a range of programs that serve as lifelines for families across our region, including Head Start, Early Head Start, Migrant and