

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 Counselor 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

Seasonal Head Start, Migrant Early Head Start, CalAIM Enhanced Care Management, CalAIM Community Support and Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). E Center's Head Start programs provide early childhood education, health, nutrition, and parental involvement services at no cost to participating families. Each year, E Center serves more than 1,100 families, with over 1,300 children enrolled across 83 local classrooms. In 2024, its WIC program celebrated its 50th anniversary, serving an average of 2,200 participants per month in Lake County with nutrition education and breastfeeding support. The organization also offers state-funded general childcare programs for working families, helping parents balance work and family responsibilities while ensuring their children thrive.

E Center's impact extends beyond education through its collaborative and community-centered approach. The organization fosters partnerships with local governments, schools, community organizations, and employers to expand access to health, education, and employment opportunities. In 2024, E Center expanded its Bird Center in Oroville and opened a new facility on Queens Avenue in Yuba City to better serve families across our region. Its CalAIM program, launched the same year, connects individuals and families experiencing homelessness to safe and stable housing resources, reflecting the organization's dedication to advancing equity, stability, and opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, E Center has honorably served our Northern California communities for more than five decades. The grand opening of E Center's new corporate office marks a milestone in the organization's growth and continued commitment to service, innovation, and partnership. It is fitting and proper to honor E Center here today for its enduring work to strengthen families and build healthier, more resilient communities.

HONORING DR. SESHADRI RAJU

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2025

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to recognize Dr. Seshadri Raju and his wife, Dr. Sybil Raju, as they honor his mentor, Dr. James Hardy. The Rajus donated one million dollars, endowing the Hardy-Raju Chair of Transplant Surgery at the University of Maryland Medical Center (UMMC).

Dr. Raju has made considerable contributions in the areas of transplant immunology, organ preservation, and small bowel transplantation.

Dr. Raju performed the first clinically successful double-lung transplant in America and the first successful heart transplant in Mississippi. Notably, Dr. Raju performed a successful double-lung transplant on my predecessor and mentor, the late Congressman Floyd Spence. Congressman Spence incredibly lived an additional 13 year thanks to Dr. Raju and then was able to serve his country as Chairman of the House Committee on Armed Services.

The work of Dr. Raju is possible because of his mentor, Dr. Hardy who welcomed him into

his warm car for a 9,000-mile journey to UMMC where he worked as research fellow. Dr. Hardy would soon become his long-time benefactor, steering Dr. Raju into a successful career of his own.

Both doctors have had an immense impact on the practice of medicine and have paved the road in the field of transplant surgery.

The funds that the Rajus donated will support clinical transplant services, serve as a recruitment tool to attract world-class faculty, drive innovation, and more.

The Hardy-Raju Chair of Transplant Surgery at UMMC will serve as a reminder of the dedicated work that both individuals have given to the community.

RECOGNIZING SERGEANT FIRST CLASS ALYN MICHAEL MACLEOD, USA, RETIRED, WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2025

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor retired USA Sergeant First Class Alyn Michael Macleod, of Pflugerville, Texas, by presenting him with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His persistent efforts in fostering beliefs of sacrifice and respect reflect his value as a leader during service and in retirement.

SFC Macleod devoted 27 years serving in the United States Army, serving in several key leadership roles including Operations Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge (NCOIC), Platoon Sergeant, First Sergeant, Army Instructor, and Public Affairs NCOIC. He served in multiple units, including the 138th Signal Battalion (Indiana National Guard), Delta Company 44th Signal Battalion, 50th Military History Detachment, Army Space Command, 91st Training Division, 5th armored Brigade, 99th Regional Support Command, and the 222nd Broadcast Operations Detachment.

SFC Macleod deployed in support of Operation Desert Storm, Operation Private Comfort, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Sandy in New Jersey. A highly trained professional, he completed advanced courses in leadership, public affairs, multimedia production, space and missile operations, communications, and emergency medical care. His extensive professional training included the Substance Abuse Program Prevention Course, Digital Multimedia Course, Instructor Training Course, Public Affairs Course, Combat Lifesaver Course, NBC Defense Course, Joint Tactical Ground Station Course, Space/Missile Warning Course, Multichannel Satellite Communication Course, PATRIOT System Maintainer Course, and Human Resources Course.

During his many years of service, his exceptional achievements had earned him several decorations, including the Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal (4th award), Army Achievement Medal (6th award), Army Good Conduct Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Korea Defense Service Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait), Southwest Asia Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Army

Superior Unit Award, German Weapons Proficiency Badge—Bronze Schutzenschnur, and the Indiana National Guard Commendation Medal. SFC Macleod's legacy is one of leadership, commitments to excellence, and unwavering service to his Soldiers, his fellow veterans, and his country.

In addition to his distinguished military career, he earned a Bachelor's in Business Administration in Program Management and is currently pursuing a Master of Business Administration. He currently serves as Adjutant for the Disabled American Veterans Chapter No. 4, as well as the Adjutant for the American Legion Kerlin-Lyerly Post 154. Recently, he played a key role in establishing the Pflugerville Veteran Task Force, a group committed to working with critical community organizations with the goal of uniting and supporting the veteran community of Pflugerville.

It is with great honor and respect that I present retired USA Sergeant First Class Alyn Michael Macleod with a Congressional Veteran Commendation from the 17th Congressional District of Texas. His exemplary service to our Nation and continued contributions to his community stand as an inspiration to us all.

HONORING THE DEDICATION OF THE CHARTERS OF FREEDOM SETTING IN MOORE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2025

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the newly dedicated Charters of Freedom setting in Carthage, North Carolina. This is the newest of over 70 settings spread across 17 different states and is sponsored by the nonprofit educational organization, Foundation Forward Inc.

Charters of Freedom settings are based on the rotunda of the National Archives and contain replicas of the founding documents of the United States. Each setting includes bronze replicas of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights, with newer displays adding key amendments regarding civil rights.

In showcasing the foundational documents of our country, these settings offer an important educational opportunity for visitors. In addition, a time capsule will be buried at the setting, set to be opened in 2087, on the 300th anniversary of the Constitution. As such, this Charters of Freedom setting will serve as a reminder of the most important milestones in the history of the United States for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the Charters of Freedom setting located in Carthage, North Carolina, and its mission to promote education, civics, and the preservation of American history.